

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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10 CENTS



**HITS PORCH** — A log truck loaded with logs spilled into a Winfall front yard, last Wednesday. The accident hap-



pened after a truck, driven by Arthur Blount Harrison of Hertford, load shifted while in a curve on N.C. 37.



According to N.C. highway patrolman, Ben Chappell, no charges were made. The truck was leased by Cliff



Stallings of Belvidere. There were no injuries. (Francine Sawyer Photos)

## Doctor Recalls Life As Boy In This Area

By KATHY M. NEWBERN  
Staff Writer

Sooner or later the time comes when all of us will look back with fond memories of the carefree days of childhood. A one time resident of the Albemarle area has been doing just that and a book resulted.

Dr. Marion T. Plyler, Jr. has taken the time to remember the growing pains from the early twentieth century through the mid 1930's in his book, "My Life as a Minister's Son". Plyler and his family moved to Elizabeth City when he was a baby of 15 months, but his book recalls his summer visits to Gatesville as being the fondest memories.

From 1916 to 1923, his happy summers were spent at his grandmother's Gatesville home where he enjoyed hunting, fishing, frog-gigging, and helped build an ice plant. He also recalls with a chuckle the many experiences he and his brother, Leroy had with horses and mules. One such incident happened when a balking old "Betsy" refused to move. The two boys tried tickling her ears with a twig. And the result was an unexpected reaction. Old "Bet" laid three solid kicks against the foreboard of the cart thus splitting it. Plyler's brother immediately replied, "I don't think tickling her ears helped any." According to Plyler, this is definitely an understatement.

Little incidents such as those make up the book of nostalgia. Plyler's descriptions and characterizations will bring a twinkle to the eye of those who were brought up during those yesteryears.

Although the author, who is still a practicing doctor at 64, is an educated man, his style is not so sophisticated that the average reader cannot enjoy it. He said "This book could be an insight to those of future generations of what the ideal American boyhood should have been for all boys of that day, but was not."

In the foreword of "My Life as a Minister's Son," Plyler states that the book is not intended to be an autobiography, but merely a group of incidents. A second book has been completed by the author in longhand and is ready to be typed for publication. It will tell about his life as a doctor.

Dr. Plyler continues his general practice in Whaleville, Va. just 17 miles from the happy memories he has of Gatesville.

He doesn't expect "My Life as a Minister's Son" to be a best seller and that was not his intention. He got the idea to write the book while talking about family happenings with his sister in March of 1973. He completed the book in his spare time in a few months. He then paid Teagle and Little of Norfolk \$4,100 to print it. He doesn't expect to make money from his literary venture, but does hope to break even. The 114-page illustrated book is in hardback and sells for \$5.95. It's on sale at the Museum of the Albemarle, Roanoke Island, Dot's Coffee Shop in Gatesville, Washington Square Mall Gifts and Bradshaw's Picture Shop at Suffolk, and Walden Books at Tower Mall, Portsmouth.



**AUTHOR AT WORK** — Dr. Marion T. Plyler busily works at his desk during his limited spare time. He has written a book titled, "My Life as a Minister's Son" which reflects back on fond memories of boyhood and summer visits

## Schedule Of Events

### SECOND ANNUAL FARM FESTIVAL

**Wednesday, July 31**  
Noon — Ribbon Cutting  
3:00 p.m. — Watermelon eating contest and seed spitting contest  
5:30 - 8:00 p.m. — Fish Fry sponsored by Perquimans County Jaycees  
8:00 p.m. — Tractor trailer backing contest  
9:00 p.m. — Close

**Thursday, August 1**  
9:00 a.m. — Open  
10:00 a.m. — Sack race  
1:00 p.m. — Drawing for \$50 savings bond (sponsored by local banks)  
3:00 p.m. — Game or contest (to be announced)  
8:30 p.m. — Close

Anyone wishing to enter items to be judged must bring their entries to the Perquimans County High School gymnasium between noon and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30. All items must be removed Friday, August 2.

## Nonfarm Climbs

Nonfarm employment climbed 18,000 in North Carolina during June to a total of 2,041,800. State Labor Commissioner Billy Creel reported today.

## Examination

The United States Postal Service announces an examination for substitute rural carrier of record at the Hertford Post Office. Opening date — July 22 - Aug. 2.

Anyone interested may pick up applications at the Hertford Post Office.

## REVIVAL SERVICES SET

Revival services have been set for Mount Sinai Church, Route 2, Hertford, to be held August 4th through 9th. Services will begin at 8 p.m. each night.

The guest speaker will be Rev. Bill Pruitt of Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabeth

City. Rev. Charles W. Duling and the Mt. Sinai congregation cordially invite the public to attend these services.



Perquimans County Courthouse

## Records Are Saved If Courthouse Damaged

What do you do if your local courthouse burns down? First of all, of course, you call the fire department, but then don't worry, because there is a microfilm copy of your county's records stored away in a safe vault in the state archives section of the Department of Cultural Resources.

## Attending Institute

Daphne Higgins of Perquimans County Schools will be among some 100 teachers of learning disabled children attending a week-long institute at UNC-Chapel Hill, July 28-August 2. The purpose of the session is to provide the State's teachers of learning disabled children an intensive study in evaluation techniques, materials and methods, program organization, and classroom management.

knowledge or money to see that their records were properly stored and cared for.

A local records section was established in the division of archives and history in 1959 to aid local counties in the preservation of records. Soon thereafter, two teams of microfilmmers began recording all available records in the state's counties.

The program continued for 11 years. During 1971, the task of microfilming all past available records in all 100 North Carolina counties was completed. During this

period more than 80 thousand record books containing deeds, court records and other information were filmed; more than 42 million pages of local county records were recorded.

Forty thousand reels or 750 miles of microfilmed records are now in storage in a special vault in the Archives and History Building for use if local records are destroyed.

As the program continues, the teams of filmmers will visit a county approximately every three years to update all records.

While the teams film the local records, they also appraise and arrange them. Consequently, many old documents are given to the state archives by the counties. These documents are transferred to Raleigh where four specially trained archivists evaluate them for historical information.

These records, deemed valuable to history, are then preserved in the state archives to be used by those tracing their families, history students and others in search of historical information.

By searching through a local county's records, many old deeds, wills, civil papers, slave records, military records and court records can be added to the archives. Many times vacancies in a past governor's papers can be filled by recovering copies of documents he sent to a county.

The preservation and recording of local county records will continue. The filming teams and record preservation experts in the Department of Cultural Resources will continue to advise Tarheel counties on

preserving their own valuable documents. Such things as the proper types of paper to use for record keeping and inks that will last for many years



**CLUB VISITS** — Members of the Tidewater area's Sixty Plus Club enjoy lunch at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward (Bud) Miller. This is the second time the club has visited Hertford. (Sawyer Photo)



John Rogerson

## Porch Sitting Little Scary

By FRANCINE SAWYER

**WINFALL** — The logs have been cleared and all that remains for John Rogerson is memory of the accident and a damaged porch.

Last Wednesday, the 82-year-old gentleman was doing what he always does, sitting on his porch, watching the cars and trucks travel by his home which sits in a curve.

Mr. Rogerson doesn't get around, sitting is his pastime. He had a stroke back in July 1, 1941. (His memory is excellent.) He uses a crutch to get about.

So last week at 10:30 a.m. a log truck overturned as it rounded the curve in front of Rogerson's house, and logs crashed through his front porch, with some coming to rest only a foot away from Rogerson.

"I didn't think anything when it happened, it happened in less than two seconds," Rogerson said. As a matter of fact Rogerson just continued to sit in his chair; he didn't even move. He watched as the clean-up operation continued.

His wife usually sits in the glider next to him. She was at a church meeting this particular day. A log crashed into the glider.

Maybe the reason Mr. Rogerson was unruffled is because 11 other times, cars or trucks have hit his steps or his porch.

Mr. Rogerson, sitting in khaki pants with suspenders, told those around him, "this isn't going to stop me from sitting on my porch."



**FIRE FIGHTERS** — A woods fire which got out of control Monday at about 2 p.m. was quickly extinguished by members of the Hertford and Winfall Volunteer Fire Departments. The fire occurred near the New Hope Community. Above, Ronald Wilder (left) and Bob Reed of the HVFD put out an isolated blaze. (Staff Photo by Kathy Newbern)

## Hefty Benefits

Social security benefits were being paid to residents of Perquimans County at a rate of \$183,000.00 a month

Of the social security beneficiaries living in Perquimans County, 1035 are retired workers and their dependents. Another 406 are receiving benefits as the survivors of workers who have died, and 185 are getting benefits.

at the close of 1973. Mr. Robert W. Alford, social security branch manager in Elizabeth City said today