

PERSPECTIVE

Property disposition brought new 'leading' family to county

When Hertford's postmaster Sarah Decrow died in the spring of 1795, the disposition of her tavern property in the town became a primary concern of those persons entrusted with the care of her estate.



(Tavern did not then have the restricted meaning of saloon or drinking place. The eighteenth-century tavern was more like a hotel and boarding house. Many taverns were operated in private homes, the essential element being that the homeowner was licensed to charge government-regulated fees for room, board, and services offered the public.)

Decrow's tavern stood on the north side of Market Street and the west side of Church Street. It actually consisted of several buildings, principally the dwelling house (which had a piazza or porch on the Market

Street side) to receive travelers and the barn to receive travelers' horses.

General William Skinner and John Skinner, the executors of Mrs. Decrow's last will and testament, drew up a document of "Terms of Renting the Houses and Lotts in the Town of Hertford Belonging to Eliza. Decrow, Orphan of Sarah Decrow Deceased."

Dated May 21, 1795, the rental terms illustrated the rural character of the town. "The Houses with four Lotts thereto Belonging is to be rented until the first day of January in the year 1801.

"The Houses of Every king, The Garden and the yard Pailing (fencing), are all to be kept in the Same good order they now are, and are to be Surrendered at the Expiration of the term in the Like good order.

"The Crop that is now growing on the ground is to go with the Houses and Lotts, Except the one half of the Potatoes and half the flax now growing, which is reserved for Salley Decrow.

"The Dwelling House about the Middle of the Term is to be Painted all over the outside with Paint and oly at the Expenche of

the Tennant. The inside work of the Dwelling House is to be finished by the Tennant. The Expense to be admitted in Part Payment of the rent."

"A New Necessary House (privy) is to be Built in the Garden by the Tennant, the Expense to be admitted in Part Payment of the rent.

"The Possession of the Houses to be Given the 23rd day of this Month; Bonds with approved Security are to be Executed immediately. That is to say one Bond with Security are to be Executed immediately. That is to say one Bond with Security for Each Year, Payable at the Expiration of that year, The Persons offered as Securities are to be residents of Perquimans County."

The terms also took into account the possibility of disputes arising, leaving them to "be Decided on by Three Men Chosen by the County Court of Perquimans."

On those terms Decrow's tavern property was rented at sixty pounds per year to James Wood of Tyrrell County. Within a few years the Woods would become Hertford's leading family.

News story causes mother's fury toward press

It is expected in the newspaper business that a story published will, from time to time, cause an angry response from a reader, especially when that reader is personally involved.

Point of View
by: **BILL NIXON**

Such happened last week, and while I could understand the parent's displeasure with the publishing of the story, I couldn't help but feel she was missing the most important point.

Let me tell you a bit more. A short time ago, two schoolgirls, both minors, were caught in an area school having alcoholic beverages on school property. Both children were expelled from school, based on a code of conduct included in student manuals.

One of the parents, represented by council, appealed the decision of the school administrator to the local board of education. After a closed session on the matter, the decision of the administration was upheld.

Details of the case, as is often true in any small community, had been the topic of discussion for weeks. To dispell rumors, and as part of our obligation to keep the public informed, one of our publications printed the story surrounding the decision of the school board, to include the names of the children involved.

A very angry Mother soon called my office, demanding to know why her daughter's name had been published, indicating she felt a violation of the law had been committed since her child was a minor. After listening to her side of the story, I informed her there was no violation, and the story was printed as submitted by school officials. I did agree with her that publication of the story was probably embarrassment to the

child, and I was sorry the child was subjected to such. However, I noted, the child had violated the rules, and should be made to understand the severity of her actions.

The parent all but dismissed this idea, believing instead that the child had really done nothing wrong, and that the punishment was too severe.

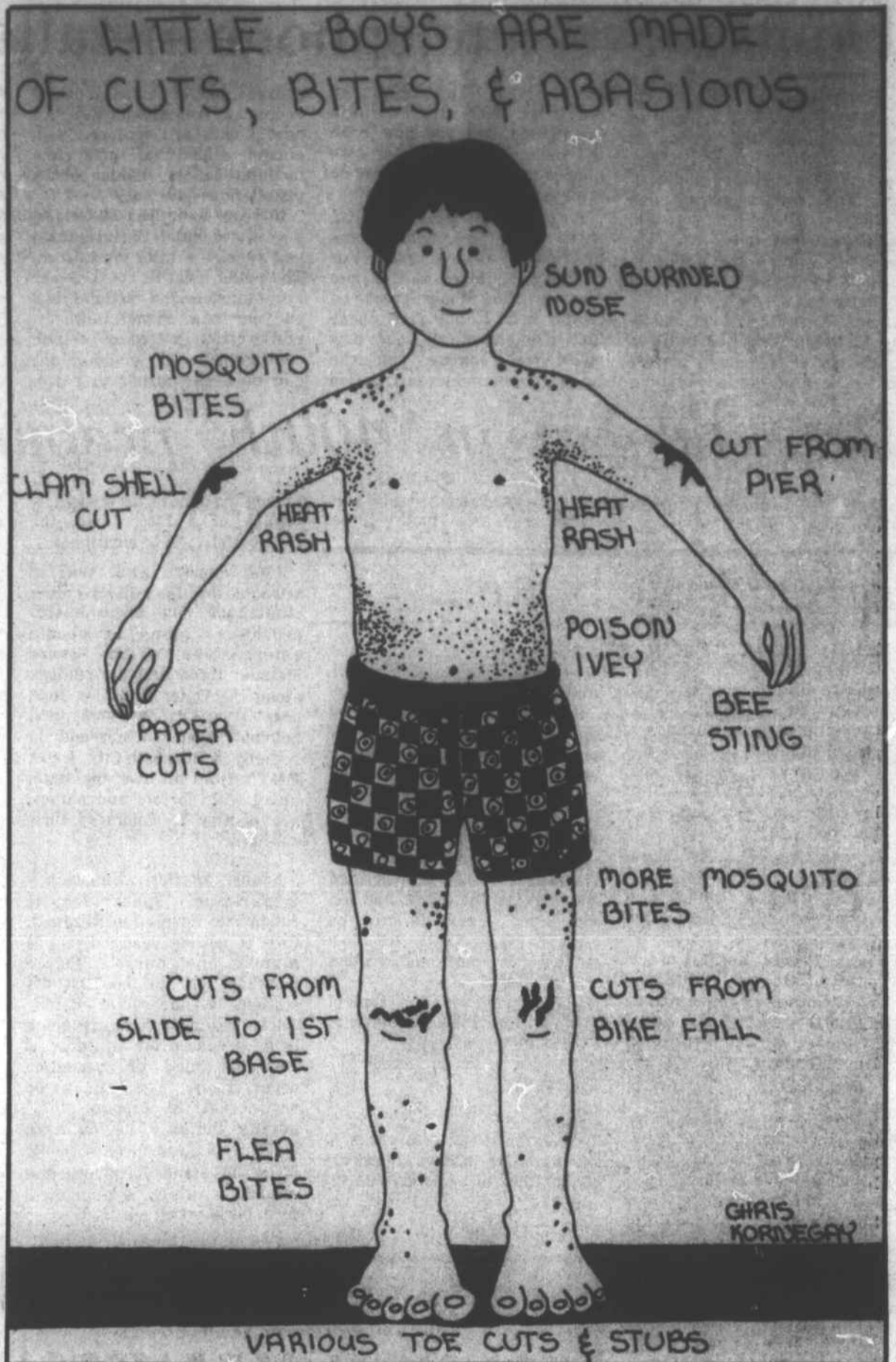
She could be right. To expell any student is a serious matter, and can create a great deal of hardship on a student that has average or below average grades. But again, the child, who is certainly old enough to know better, did violate the rules, and as such, must pay the penalty.

While no parent likes to see their children subjected to such events, it is an important lesson in life to learn, at an early age, that those who decide to violate the rules of society must be punished. Perhaps this particular incident, one that appears very large in this child's life at this point, will serve as a reminder to her in years to come.

Parents have a right and an obligation to protect their children, and a part of this obligation is teaching them respect for rules and authority, along with an understanding of the rights of others. When parents use an event such as mentioned to cover up the real issues involved by blaming others, then the only lesson learned is a dangerous one; that no matter what happens, someone will come along and get things worked out. This is very wrong.

I don't believe that the consumption of a single bottle of beer by several students following a sporting event is reason to cry for capital punishment. But it is a very serious offense, one that parents should recognize as such, and one that parents should be willing to address. We've all heard the statistics concerning alcohol and teenagers, and we know it is a very serious problem. Cases of alcoholic children, as young as seven and eight years of age, are not uncommon. It is a real problem that parents must be aware of.

Perhaps the mother in question was feeling a bit of guilt since the beverage in question probably came from her own home. Or there may have been other reasons. By failing to realize the real issues involved and attempting to place the blame on every possible reason other than the real one indicates a severe weakness on the part of the parent. I'm willing to bet her problems have just begun.



Predicting changes in weather

Writing a column every week can be a lot of fun. But, it can also be a tedious chore.

Under the best of circumstances, column writing is time consuming, and keeping your audience entertained is a challenge.



Sometimes, after I have written my column, I feel pretty good about the way it turned out. Other times, especially when I'm running way past deadline and I've hurriedly typed something in, I'm not at all pleased with the results.

Many of you are very complimentary about my columns. And the funny thing is, the columns that I feel are absolutely the worst are the ones that I get the most compliments on.

Lately, I've dealt with the weather quite a bit as the topic of my column.

When I complain about how hot it is, as I did last week, the weather seems to cool off on Thursday, just as you're reading the column that I wrote several days earlier.

Last winter, after that cold

snap in late December, I complained about the cold weather, only to have it warm up by the time the paper was published.

I gave it a lot of thought last week, and decided that no matter what I wrote about, so far as the weather was concerned, the situation would change drastically by the time the paper was printed. So, I decided to write about how dry it has been, in hopes of a much needed rainfall.

Well, just after I finally got the column finished, and headed out for a week-end of sun and fun, the clouds drifted over Perquimans County.

Saturday, when I hadn't really planned to do anything much, they just sat there, looking very forboding, but not accomplishing anything.

"Okay," I said, "It's not really going to rain, it just looks that way. I won't really have to sit down and write another column."

Then Sunday came. Sunday was the day that I had planned to drag out the swimwear and the lounge chair and head down to Durant's Neck for an afternoon of sun and swimming on the Albemarle Sound.

Again the clouds were there, but I really didn't think anything would come of it.

Just about the time the kids hit the water, and the suntan lotion

was applied, the rain came.

We packed up the chairs, cooler, towels, etc. and headed for the dryness of the porch. Not too terribly long after we got settled on the porch, the rain stopped.

The sun was trying to make an appearance, so we grabbed all of the necessities for an afternoon on the Sound, and headed back down to the shoreline.

No more than 20 minutes later, the bottom fell out again. We were at it again. Packing up all the essentials, and heading back to the porch.

It was about this time that I decided the best thing to do would be to wait for a break in the rain, pack up the car, and head back to Winfall.

After I got all our things together, and bid my goodbyes to the gang patiently waiting for the sun to return, I headed for the car and the sun came back out.

Naturally, there wasn't a drop of rain falling by the time I started home, but I figured I might as well go, because if I stayed the rain was sure to come back, and the least I could do was leave and let the rest of the gang have a good time.

We still didn't get all the rain that we needed for the farms and gardens throughout the county. But, farmers, hang in there. I'm planning an outing to the beach one afternoon this week, so you're sure to get a good rainfall soon.

Looking back

By Virginia White Transeau

JIMMY HUNTER, ACE PITCHER FOR INDIANS, ACCEPTS \$75,000 BONUS OFFER FROM KANSAS CITY CLUB: Jimmy Hunter, 18-year-old Perquimans County High School ace pitcher, who has made himself quite a name in baseball, has been signed by Kansas City Athletics for the sum of \$75,000. Hunter pitched five shutout games in the past two seasons with the Perquimans team. In a 12-inning game this spring Hunter struck out 29 batters. His over-all record is 26-2. Hunter, a right hand pitcher, is 4-1 and weight 190 pounds. He

will join the club during its current road tour and probably will be assigned to a farm club later. Hunter is possessed of good speed, a firm curve—"just everything a pitcher could be expected to have." He is a natural athlete, having been an

All-Conference linebacker for the Perquimans football team last fall. Last November, while hunting with his brother, Jimmy was accidentally shot in the foot. He lost the little toe on his right foot in the mishap and still carried 25 No. 2 shot in his foot. Because of this, he was not able to begin pitching until the 1954 season had accuatly begun in early April.

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