

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE UPBUILDING OF HERTFORD AND PERQUIMANS COUNTY

Volume III.—Number 7.

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Friday, February 14, 1936.

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## Mass Meeting Called For Friday Night, Feb. 21

### Rotarian In England Writes To Dr. Butler

Interesting Letter Received From Hertford, England

READ AT ROTARY

Gives Data Concerning Town of Same Name In England

Hertford Rotarians were so much interested in a letter which their president, Dr. Luther H. Butler, recently received from the President of the Rotary Club in Hertford, England, that they turned it over to The Perquimans Weekly for publication, feeling that the entire citizenship would also be interested to learn about that other Hertford. The letter reads:

The Old Rectory,  
Hertfordbury,  
Herts. Tel. Hertford, 471,  
20th January, 1936.

Dear Mr. Butler:

I thank you for your interesting letter of December 29th. I notice you address me as Reverend, this is an error brought about, I suppose, by my living in an Old Rectory. A great number of Rectories and grounds have been sold in England owing to the lessened value of money, income tax, etc. Also the greatly increased cost and difficulty in obtaining servants and other increased costs of living.

I am actually a toothbrush manufacturer with a factory situated in Hertford and I am a descendant of the maker of the first toothbrush, which was made in 1780. I am his seventh descendant and my son aged 30, now the principal of the business, is naturally the eighth.

My wife, Mrs. Councillor Addis, the first woman councillor in Hertford, (the council has been in existence under different forms and names for hundreds of years) and my son recently visited Hartford, Conn., for their tercentary Year.

I believe our town was first known as Haeford, Saxon for "through the ford" and its name is still pronounced Haaford. It was later known both as Hartford and Hertford and is now spelt Hertford.

It is situated 20 miles north of London and is on the River Lea, a small river navigable for 90 ton barges, practically a canal. The Lea Valley was in ancient times a valley from half to three miles wide running from Hertford to the present London Docks and Danish Ships used to travel up it and attack and rob the population of this district.

King Alfred, more famous for burning cakes, built a dam cutting off the tidal waters at the London end and leaving the Danish ships stranded in mud.

A great length of this valley right to London has been kept for public use but the greater part is built on now. Our end of the valley which is now 200 feet above sea level has hundreds of acres of glass houses on it for growing tomatoes, grapes, roses, etc. These are owned by English, Dutch and Danish gardeners who are much more prosperous than our farmers.

To give you an idea of the importance of these businesses, individual owners buy anthracite coal in 500 ton lots.

There is also an artificial river running from Hertford to London, which was built by King George and a city merchant named Myddleton about 300 years ago for drinking water, without this London could not have reached its enormous size.

Hertford and its adjoining town, Ware, were always malting and brewing towns but this industry owing to prohibitive taxes, has practically died out. At present the principal industries of Hertford, Building, Printing, Gloves, Toothbrush and Envelope Making.

Halleybury College, formerly the East India Company's College, is on the border of the town. The Blue Coat School (Christ's Hospital) for girls is in the center of the town. The boys, formerly in Newgate Street, City of London, are at Horsham, Surrey.

Before the war Hertford was the center of numerous estates owned by titled and wealthy men. The war has altered all this and many of these estates have become Dr. Bar-

### Candidate For Senate



MERRILL EVANS

Merrill Evans, of Ahoskie, the fifth to announce as a candidate for the State Senate from the First District.

### AHOSKIE MAN IN SENATORIAL RACE IN FIRST DISTRICT

Merrill Evans Announces Candidacy For Senator From First District; Five Now Running

What appears to be an interesting race in the coming primary elections will be the naming of the two senators for the First District of North Carolina. Merrill Evans, of Ahoskie, this week announced his candidacy for the office, which brings the number of candidates to five, as follows: Miss Ethel Parker, of Gatesville; Jerry Hughes, of Elizabeth City; W. I. Halstead, of South Mills; W. T. Brown, of Hertford, and Merrill Evans, of Ahoskie.

Mr. Evans, a native of Currituck County, has spent the past five years in Ahoskie, and by business association has become well and favorably known all over the district. He is in the fertilizer business and has traveled extensively over the eastern section of the State, being in Hertford Monday when he informed friends that he would enter the senatorial race. It is Mr. Evans' first attempt at public office, and though a young man, he is thoroughly acquainted with the district and promises to work unceasingly for the welfare of the district as a whole if elected.

### New Beauty Parlor In Blanchard Store

A modern and up-to-date beauty shop will be opened in the store of J. C. Blanchard & Company about the first of March.

Miss Elizabeth Nowell, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nowell, and who lives near Winfall, will be the operator of the shop. Miss Nowell is a graduate of the Marshall's School of Beauty Culture, in Norfolk, Va.

The shop, which will be located on the second floor of Blanchard's will be equipped with the latest thing in modern equipment and appliances, according to J. C. Blanchard, who stated this week that immediate arrangements were being made for the opening of the shop and that he hoped to have everything ready by the first of the month.

### Mrs. Tucker Injured By Fall On Tuesday

Mrs. G. R. Tucker was very painfully hurt when she slipped and fell on the front steps of her home in Hertford on Tuesday. A physician was summoned at once and while her injuries were found to be very painful, it was reported that no bones were broken. Mrs. Tucker was reported as resting fairly comfortably on Wednesday.

### CONCERT TO BE GIVEN BY PIANO AND RHYTHM CLASS

Mrs. R. M. Riddlek announces that her piano and rhythm class will give a George Washington program at the Hertford Grammar School on Friday evening at 8 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### COUNTY SCHOOLS BADLY CRIPPLED BY BAD WEATHER

Hoped to Resume Regular Schedule Next Monday

ROADS BAD

School Busses Have Difficulty In Covering Route

No schools have been held in Perquimans, except for three half day sessions last week, in more than two weeks, due to the extremely disagreeable weather conditions.

The schools opened last Tuesday, after having been closed for several days, but there was a great deal of difficulty in some of the school busses making the trip to Hertford and the weather continued very cold and disagreeable. Only half day sessions were held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of last week, in order to allow the children traveling in the busses to reach their homes before nightfall. On Thursday night there was a very severe snowstorm, and all day Friday there was snow and sleet, and schools were not opened that day. It was announced that the schools would open on Wednesday of this week, but on Tuesday Superintendent F. T. Johnson announced that the opening would be postponed altogether until Monday of next week, when, if weather conditions improve, the schools will resume normal activities.

### Large Crowd Attends Womanless Wedding

"Just Before the Battle, Mother," was the song they chose to sing immediately before the wedding, and if there hadn't been another funny feature of the Womanless Wedding which took place at the Community House in Winfall on Thursday night, it would have been worth twice the price of admission to see and hear the singers. Durwood Barber, looking like "a perfect lady," never once changed his expression while he sang in a high soprano voice, with Jesse Stanton, pretty and demure in a drooping pink hat singing a soft alto.

The whole thing was so funny that, even though the crowd had to travel through the heaviest snowstorm of the winter, they felt it was well worth the trouble. The costumes couldn't have been more perfect and most of the characters were "good looking women."

There was a full house, and the sum of fourteen dollars was cleared.

### Echoes From Recorder's Court

"No, sir, I have just been in court so much seems like I have just got clean against it," explained Pinky, which goes to show just what satiety will do.

Pinky, sometimes called Panky, who must have grown too fast for her years, is tall, and lank, and angular, utterly without self-consciousness and somehow always stumbling into trouble.

It isn't that she tries to evade the truth. Pinky is the soul of candor. She tells it all, with trimmings, and if the trimmings happen sometimes to be more profane than polished, that is a matter for the listener to worry about, not for Pinky.

It is, however, difficult to get the truth from Pinky if the regular procedure of questioning is followed, for Pinky becomes incoherent when confined to merely the answering of questions, Judge Oakley has learned from long experience with Pinky, for Pinky, be it said, is a repeater, that the only way to make any headway whatever in the examination of Pinky is to allow her to tell the tale in her own way, which may or may not mean going back to the beginning.

Pinky is at her best when she relates the details of the quarrel which led up to the trouble and quotes verbatim the cursing the other party did, which invariably is a part of the story, and Pinky's gestures are far more expressive than the string of

### WORST WINTER IN MEMORY OF OLDER RESIDENTS

Siege of Wintry Blasts And Snow Since December

WAVE GENERAL

Stephen Elliott of Bethel Says Worse Than In Winter of 1892

The fifth heavy snow fall of the winter came on Thursday and Friday of last week, and though there has been considerable rain since, and two days of sunshine, the temperature has remained so low that there is still at this writing a good deal of snow on the ground.

Never in the life-time of even the oldest inhabitants of this part of the country have we had a winter like this one. A great part of December, all of January and thus far into February we have had bitter cold weather, with snow, ice and sleet.

That the winter of 1917-18 was a severe winter, is remembered by many. Older residents recall other cold winters. Stephen Elliott, who lives in the Bethel community, and who has seen seventy winters in Perquimans, many cold ones, said this week, that the winter of 1892, which others have recalled as a long, cold winter, was indeed a severe one, but that could not compare with the weather we have had this year, and that in all his life he had never known one as severe as this has been.

The cold weather has prevailed over practically the entire United States. The recent cold wave which swept the Middle West was described as the worst blizzard which has occurred within the past century. In many of the states of the Middle West roads were impassable, trains were tied up and travel of any kind impossible. Snow drifts of five feet depth were described in some places.

### Officer Owens Uses Fingerprint Device

The new fingerprint equipment recently furnished the local law enforcement officers, was put into use this week by Officer Melvin Owens, who believes that the chicken thief he apprehended this week in Hertford is wanted somewhere for a more serious offense.

Mr. Owens arrested the man, a Negro, who gave his name as Charlie Williams, and who says he is from Birmingham, Alabama, and that he has lived in various places, including Charlotte, as well as Miami, Florida. The fingerprints will be sent to the United States Department of Justice this week.

### City Improvements Will Be Considered

#### Chowan High School Destroyed By Fire

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Chowan High School building on Wednesday night.

The Chowan High School is located at Small's Cross Roads, twelve miles from Hertford, and the light of the blaze was plainly visible here.

The fire was discovered at about 8 o'clock and appeared to have originated in the roof above the office occupied by Principal Pearly Baumgardner.

The Edenton fire department responded to a call but were powerless to save the building because of lack of water supply. They did succeed, however, in saving a small frame building nearby.

The school was re-opened on Wednesday after having been closed for several days because of weather conditions.

The building, which was erected more than ten years ago, was insured in the amount of twenty thousand dollars.

The Chowan High School was a consolidated high school, with 378 pupils enrolled.

Miss Marjorie Hefren, of Hertford, was a member of the faculty.

#### American Guide Seeks Information

What has your locality to offer that may be of special interest to travelers or students?

What points of historic, natural, scenic, legendary, unusual or amusing interest are found in your locality?

Have you any folk customs, festivals, fairs, singing schools, traditions, stories, colloquialisms, dishes, etc., that are particularly characteristic of your neighborhood?

Above are the questions which newspapers are asked by Edwin Bjorkman, State Director of the Federal Writers' Project, to print, in an effort to secure information to be used in the American Guide.

The American Guide, which is an undertaking of the Works Progress Administration, is to be printed in five volumes of 600 pages each, and will carry, insofar as the workers are enabled to secure the information, scenic, historic, racial, botanical, geological, commercial, and other facts about every section of the country. The original verified articles—which, of course, will be greatly condensed for the national publication—will be left with maps and illustrations for the localities to use in compiling local guides.

Relief labor is being employed in the writing of the American Guide, but there has been no provision made for any of the work to be done by any one in Perquimans, and if the county is to be represented as it should be it will have to be done by the voluntary contributions of those persons in the county who are interested in the matter.

Mr. Bjorkman has requested this newspaper to either print the contributions which may be made on the matter and send him clippings, or to transmit the articles to him.

As it is pointed out in a recent letter from the WPA at Washington, there are some communities richer than others in scenic, historic, commercial or other resources. Perquimans happens to be one of the counties rich in history, and there are stories and traditions which should be kept alive.

All data or stories sent to The Perquimans Weekly will either be published in this newspaper or transmitted to the State Director to be used as he sees fit. The clippings of any published will also be sent to him.

#### Seven Employed By New Rose Store

The following young ladies compose the corps of clerks at the new Rose's 5, 10 & 25 Cent Store: Miss Hazel White, of Belvidere; Miss Myrtle Monds, of Tyner; Miss Pattie Dimmette, of Winfall; Misses Patricia Stephens, Bennie Wood and Edna Ruth Cannon, of Hertford. Miss Ruby Keaton, of Bethel, is bookkeeper.

#### All Necessary Information Will Be Placed Before Citizens

7:30 O'CLOCK

#### Taxpayers Urged to Be Present and Express Their Views

A mass meeting of the citizens of the Town of Hertford is called for Friday night of next week, February 21, by the Board of Town Commissioners, in order that the town officials may learn the sentiment of the tax payers as to whether or not certain sidewalks of the town shall be paved, and probably other public improvements made, if WPA grants can be obtained.

R. N. Hines, Commissioner of Public Works, stated Tuesday that by the twenty-first all necessary information regarding the matter would be in hand, and will be set forth in a statement to be made at the mass meeting, when every interested citizen is urged to be present.

The basis on which these grants have been made in the past has been that the government will furnish all labor and one third of the cost of the material, provided the material used does not exceed in cost thirty per cent of the total labor cost.

Corbin Dozier, who is in charge of the local WPA office, and who is an experienced engineer, is making surveys and preparing estimates on the proposed projects and acquiring such additional information as may be necessary.

The meeting is to be held in the courthouse at 7:30 o'clock.

#### Miss Frances King Voted Popular Girl

Of interest to her many friends in Hertford will be the following, clipped from the Weldon News:

"Miss Frances King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. King, was voted the most popular girl in the Junior Class at Greensboro College when the junior class superlatives were selected at a recent class meeting. Miss King is president of Greensboro College Riding Club, member of the Irving Literary Society, a Greensboro College Player, and is in charge of the Dramatic wardrobe at the college.

"She was a graduate of Weldon high school in 1933. This article was sent to us this week by the Greensboro College News Dept."

The King family lived in Hertford for several years, where Frances was very popular.

#### Double Wedding At Home Baptist Pastor

Two young couples figured in a double wedding which took place at the Baptist parsonage in Hertford on Sunday morning, with the Rev. D. S. Dempsey, pastor of the Hertford Baptist Church, officiating.

Miss Thelma Stanton, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stanton, of Winfall, and Mr. Thomas Harrell, who live near Edenton, were joined in matrimony, and Miss Eva Mae Harrell, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Harrell, and Mr. Luther Barrington, who lives near Edenton, were also married.

Immediately after the ceremony the two couples left for a wedding trip to Raleigh and other points.

#### Improvements Being Made At Simon's Store

Extensive repairs and improvements are being made in the Store of Simon's. A re-arrangement of cases and shelves is being made to allow more room to be utilized, and other improvements are being made and the store is being painted.

#### HAVE CHANGED RESIDENCE

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lordley and family, who formerly occupied apartments in the residence of Mrs. R. T. White, have moved to the boarding house of Mrs. J. E. White.

#### GOES TO FLORIDA

D. S. Darden, Hertford merchant, left Monday to spend a couple of weeks in Florida.