

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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

Volume IV—Number 27.

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Friday, June 25, 1937.

\$1.25 Per Year

## Library Opens Doors To The Public Today

Is Project of Ladies of Hertford Woman's Club

### BOOKS WANTED

Open Every Day Except Saturday From 9 to 5 O'clock

The Hertford Public Library will open on Friday of this week. The library, which is a project of the Hertford Woman's Club, is located in the Woman's Club Room of the Community House. It will be open every week day, except Saturday, from 9 until 5 o'clock.

There are more than three hundred volumes on hand at the present time, and the State Library commission will loan the library a lot of books for children this summer.

The women who are back of the work feel that the books they have on hand are a small beginning from which they are anxious to build, and it is the hope that public spirited citizens of the town will take an interest in the library and give such aid as they can afford. Donations of books will be gladly received.

## Home At Chapanoke Destroyed By Fire

Fire destroyed the old Towe home place at Chapanoke on Monday afternoon. The house, a frame building, was owned by Forest Towe, of Charlottesville, Va., and was occupied by his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Quincy as a residence.

Some damage was done to the nearby dwelling of Mr. and Mrs. John Asbell, which is owned by Mrs. Kate Jackson, but the timely arrival of help from the Elizabeth City Fire Department saved this house and probably others.

The fire was reported to have originated from a spark from burning trash in the yard of the Towe Home. There was considerable excitement in the village, as there was some wind and the village was threatened.

## Miss Maywood Pierce Wins Beauty Prize

Miss Maywood Pierce of Hertford, won first prize in the bathing beauty contest which attracted a large crowd at the State Theatre on Friday night.

The second prize was won by Miss Freda Hobbs of Tyrer and Miss Ruth Hollowell of Hertford was the winner of the third prize.

The prizes, which were donated by the following firms: J. C. Blanchard & Company, Hilda's Beauty Shop, W. M. Morgan, Walker's, Simon's, and One Stop Service Station, consisted of silk hosiery, a permanent wave, candy, a beach chair, beach attire and car service.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thach of the Yeopim section, Thursday, June 17, a daughter, Marjorie Ann.

Miss Sarah Ferguson Blanchard, whose marriage to Mr. Marcus Edwin Hobbs, of Durham, has been announced to take place on July 3, and who has held a position in the library of Duke University for the past two years, is at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Blanchard, until after the wedding.

## Community Houses Assured In New Hope-Belvidere Sections

New Hope Building Costing Almost \$3,000 Will Be Begun on July 1; When Completed Another Will Be Built at Belvidere

Construction of the community house at New Hope is to begin on July first, according to L. W. Anderson, County Agent, who, together with Miss Gladys Hamrick, Home Agent of Perquimans, has led the movement to secure community buildings for this community and for Belvidere. The Belvidere community house will be built as soon as the one at New Hope is finished.

## New Service For Perquimans Weekly

Beginning with this issue, The Perquimans Weekly offers to its readers and advertisers a Question and Answer column on Social Security.

Through the column, this newspaper will answer inquiries from its readers on the Social Security law. All—workers, employers, housewives, others—are invited to use this service. It is not a legal service. It is an informational service. Answers will be authoritative.

The Social Security Board, through Mr. George N. Adams, Manager of the Board's office in the Post Office Building at Rocky Mount, N. C., has consented, as a special service to The Perquimans Weekly and its readers, to answer all questions on the Social Security law submitted to this paper.

Make your questions brief and to the point. Because of space limitations The Perquimans Weekly must condense questions and answers. Questions will be answered as quickly as possible in the order received. Address your inquiries to The Perquimans Weekly. In keeping with the Social Security Board policy names will not be published.

## WHAT'S WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

As another service to its readers, The Perquimans Weekly each week will give authoritative answers to questions on the Social Security Law. By special arrangement with Mr. George N. Adams in Rocky Mount, N. C., the Social Security Board has consented to pass on the accuracy of answers to questions on Social Security, which may be asked by employers, employees, and others, through The Perquimans Weekly Address inquiries to the Editor. Answers will be given here in the order in which questions are received. This is an informational service and is not legal advice or service. In keeping with Social Security Board policy names will not be published.

**Question:** Does a high school student have to get a social security account number if he gets a job during the summer vacation?

**Answer:** He does, unless he engages in one of the few employments specifically excepted by the Social Security Act itself.

**Question:** Does a woman lose her old-age benefits rights if she gets married and gives up her job?

**Answer:** She does not. The wages she earned while employed are recorded in her individual ledger account by the Social Security Board. This wage record determines the amount of the benefits she will receive. (Continued on Page Five)

## Cooling System At Theatre Repaired

Corrections to the cooling system of the State Theatre, which were conducted early in the week, have been completed, and the place is delightfully cool throughout.

Workers were engaged in this work for several days this week and whatever the trouble was which failed to make the interior of the building cool enough for comfort has been corrected.

## HOLLAND HURDLE IS DISMISSED ON CHARGE OF RAPE

Judge Oakey Fails to Find Probable Cause By Testimony

### MANY PRESENT

Curious Spectators Ordered to Scat From Court Room

No probable cause was found against Holland Hurdle, the young white man of the Hickory Cross section of Perquimans who had been held in jail since June 11, when he was given a hearing in Recorder's Court on Tuesday upon the charge of the capital crime of rape, and the case was dismissed.

Representing the young man in court were Whedbee & Whedbee, of Hertford, and P. W. McMullan, of Elizabeth City, with Hubert Eason, of Gatesville, assisting Charles E. Johnson in the prosecution.

The courtroom, which was packed to capacity with a crowd of curious spectators, was ordered cleared of all except the witnesses in the case, court officers, relatives of the principals and the representatives of the press.

The prosecuting witness was Thelma Modlin, seventeen-year-old Hobbsville High School junior, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Modlin, of Gates County.

Obviously nervous, the young girl spoke clearly and distinctly in answer to the questions put by the attorneys. She testified that she had known the defendant about three years; that he had been in the habit of visiting at her home at intervals for some time, that before the alleged crime was committed he came about once a week for some three weeks; that on Sunday, May 30, he drove up to her home at about 10 o'clock in the morning and asked her to go down to the filling station a mile from her home and have a Coco Cola; that she told him no, that she was baking pies and couldn't go; that later, in about an hour, he returned and again asked her to go with him for a Coco Cola; that she asked her mother if she might go and was told yes, but to come right back; that he did not stop at the station but took her farther; that he drove up a woods path; that he had previously made improper proposals to her which she had rejected; that she tried to turn the steering wheel from the wood's path but was unable to; that he drove into the woods and stopped the car; that he threatened to "draw a gun" on her; that she was crying and that he told her she wasn't the first girl he had done that way or the first one who had cried; that he intended carrying out his purpose. She testified he locked her in the car, got out and went to the other side of the car and unlocked the door and got in; that he told her he would draw a gun on her and that he reached in the side pocket of the car and she turned her head away because if he shot her she didn't want to see it, and that she didn't know whether he took out a gun or not. She further testified that he forcibly held her and accomplished his purpose. She said this was the first time she had ever been alone with the young man.

She testified that she did not tell her mother until 11 days later; that her reason for not telling was because he had threatened her; that her mother was nervous and she had to upset her.

Her mother took the stand and testified that she noticed her daughter did not eat or sleep and that she kept insisting that she tell her what was the trouble, whereupon she told all, and the arrest of the defendant immediately followed.

Dr. T. W. Blanchard, of Hobbesville, testified to making an examination, on June 11, but his testimony failed to incriminate the defendant.

After all the State's testimony was in and the defense had indicated they did not intend to offer any evidence, Judge Oakey called the young girl back to the stand and asked her if she did not know, as a matter of fact, that there is no pocket on the side of the door of a Plymouth Sedan such as she described was driven by Holland Hurdle, and also that it was impossible to be locked in the car so one could not get out. She said she tried to get out and couldn't, and also said there was a pocket in this particular car.

In digesting the case Judge Oakey said "I am going to depart from the usual practice of this court to say that I have nothing but the utmost pity for both families in this case." (Continued on Page Five)

## INJURY EXPOSES GAMBLING DEN IN LOCAL HOTEL

W. T. Brown Confined to Bed as Result of Blow On Head With Chair

### NINE ARRESTED

Harrell Thach Misses Road Sentence But Costs Him \$90

Those patrons of the gambling place in the Hotel Hertford, which witnesses swore in Recorder's Court on Tuesday they had been in the habit of frequenting, who happened to be among those present on the occasion when W. T. Brown received a severe head injury, at the hands of Harrell Thach, as he caught a blow from a chair aimed at H. R. Winslow, were summoned into court by a bench warrant charging gambling, after some half a dozen had testified in the case charging Harrell Thach with assault with a deadly weapon.

The nine men, who Mr. Brown and other State's witnesses testified were playing poker, and who had been subpoenaed as witnesses in the Thach case, were W. T. Brown, H. R. Winslow, Atwood Lassiter, Raymond White, Ellis Miller, Tom Gregory, Wallace Umphlett, Roy Chappell and Harrell Thach.

All nine submitted and all but three were fined five dollars each. The three who did not leave but aided Mr. Brown in receiving the attention of a physician, who included Winslow, Miller and White, were fined only \$2.50 each.

Harrell Thach was tried first, on the charge of assault with a deadly weapon, to-wit, a chair, and the first witness, placed upon the stand was Mr. Brown. He testified that he, together with the other eight, were in a room in the Hotel Hertford on the night of June 12, playing cards; that a controversy arose between Mr. Winslow and Mr. Thach, with Mr. Winslow accusing Thach of taking too much change, whereupon each called the other a vile name, and that Thach struck at Winslow with his fist, missed and grabbed a chair; that he swung the chair and the blow landed on his, Brown's head. Mr. Brown's head was still bandaged and he appeared to have been very severely injured. He had, he testified, been knocked out by the blow, had lost a good deal of blood, and was confined to his bed for three days. He exhibited a doctor's bill for \$10.50.

He further testified that Thach had threatened to kill him if he, Brown, testified to anything which would send him to the roads. He testified he said: "We were gambling when H. R. Winslow took the chair to practically the same happening that Brown had testified to. Asked about how the hotel room was rented, the witness said it was not rented, that the players chipped out, explaining that this meant taking a certain amount out of each pot for the hotel; that Roy Chappell was chipping out that night. Asked how much was taken out for the room rent during the 20 or 30 minutes he testified he played, he said "I reckon half a dollar." He said that he thought that about ten years ago a bunch used to rent a room in the hotel for the purpose of playing poker, but that they do not do so now, hadn't for the last three or four years.

At this point a bench warrant was asked by Prosecutor Charles E. Johnson for Harry Williford, charging him with operating a gambling place. Mr. Williford plead not guilty and asked that his case be taken up later. He was represented, when his case came to trial, some hours later, by Silas M. Whedbee and was found not guilty, there being no evidence that Roy Chappell, who was alleged to have been looking out for the room rent, had ever paid anything to Mr. Williford, or had agreed to.

Harrell Thach was not placed on the stand in his own defense in the assault case against him, but allowed by the court to make a statement without being sworn, at the time sentence was passed, he denied that he had threatened Mr. Brown. The defendant had plead not guilty through his attorney, C. R. Holmes.

"I was disposed to send this boy to the road," said Judge Oakey. Remarking that he was sorry there were not better weapons than the roads for fighting crime, he said that if he thought it would help him he wouldn't hesitate to send him to the road, but that while he thought he needed improvement he doubted if a (Continued on Page Five)

## Plans Outlined For "Hertford Council"

Old Age Assistance Blanks Now Ready

Blanks for making application for Old Age Assistance under the Social Security Act have been received at the local Welfare Office and Miss Ruth Davenport, Superintendent of Public Welfare for Perquimans, wishes to notify all those who wish to make application that they may now do so. Many have applied to Miss Davenport and were told that they would be notified through The Perquimans Weekly when the blanks for making formal application, as is required by law, were in hand.

## Former Resident Weds In Richmond

Of interest to the many friends of the bridegroom, a former Hertford resident, was the marriage of Miss Etta Whitehead to Henry Dudley Nachman, which took place in Richmond, Va., on Monday, June 21, at the home of the bride's parents, at 11 o'clock in the morning.

The ceremony was performed before an improvised altar of palms and white flowers, arranged in the living room of the home, in the presence of about 60 guests. Rev. W. C. James, pastor of the Grove Avenue Baptist Church, of Richmond, who also married the parents of the bride, performed the ceremony.

Miss Hazel Moses, of Richmond, at the harp, played the wedding music, rendering several appropriate selections before and after the ceremony. The Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin was used as a processional and the bride entered the room on the arm of her father, by whom she was given in marriage.

The bride wore her mother's wedding gown of white satin, trimmed with rose point lace from her grandmother's wedding gown, her flowers being an arm bouquet of Bride's roses and valley lilies.

Her only attendant was Miss Gertrude Dyson, of Richmond, who wore an old fashioned dress of aqua marine dotted swiss, made in the style to match the period of the bride's dress. She also wore a bandeau of flowers in her hair and carried an arm bouquet of daisies.

The bridegroom had as his best man Richmond McDearmon, of Richmond.

Immediately after the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served and the newly wedded couple left shortly after for a trip north. Upon their return they will reside in Richmond.

The bride is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard G. Whitehead, of Richmond. She was graduated from Westhampton College for Women and is a popular member of the young social set in Richmond.

The bridegroom is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nachman of Hertford. He was graduated from Perquimans High School and attended Duke University for three years, at the end of which period he took a position with the First & Merchants Bank of Richmond, with which he is still connected.

Among the out-of-town guests present at the wedding were the following members of the bridegroom's family: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nachman, Miss Ruth Nachman, of Hertford; Miss Leah Nachman, of Richmond; Mrs. Fred Morrell and her daughter, Anne, of High Point.

Objective Will Be To Make Better Place To Live In

### YEARLY DUES \$1.00

Organization Is Out-growth of Agitation In Rotary Club

An organization, not to be a chamber of commerce, but The Hertford Council, perhaps, which organization shall have for its objective making the Town of Hertford a better place to live in, and incidentally to promote progress, is in the process of evolution, the plan for which was outlined at a public meeting held in the courthouse on Friday night of last week.

The movement started when the Hertford Rotary Club called a public meeting of the citizens of the town on Friday night of June 11, for the purpose of forming a chamber of commerce. At that meeting there was some discussion and comment and the chairman, Silas M. Whedbee, appointed a committee, composed of A. W. H. Freeman, E. C. A. Davenport, Rev. E. T. Jilison, Judge Walter H. Oakey, Jr., W. T. Elliott, Simon Rutenberg, and Mrs. Mattie Lister White, requesting that they decide on the type of organization desirable for the welfare and upbuilding of the community and bring to a meeting to be held on the following Friday night a definite plan of organization.

Rev. E. T. Jilison was chosen to present the plan and on last Friday night, when a fairly representative group met, he made the report of the committee, which was, after some discussion and a few questions from the floor unanimously adopted.

Mr. Jilison stated that the committee had decided that a chamber of commerce is not desirable or adaptable for an agricultural community such as this, pointing out that, even if a chamber of commerce, which is better suited to an industrial community, were desirable, it would be impossible to secure a paid secretary for less than five hundred dollars per year, which is too expensive a proposition for Hertford at the present time.

"We are not and never will be an industrial community," said the spokesman. "However," he continued, "there will always be industry here, and if the men who are to be at the head of the organization which the committee proposes are in the alert we will have more industry here, of the desirable kind."

It was pointed out that Hertford is primarily an agricultural community, existing to serve one purpose, and that to supply the needs of an agricultural community, to-wit, Perquimans County, and that if we are to make the community a more satisfactory place to live in we must make it one which better serves the farmer.

With respect to the proposed organization, the speaker said "We feel the need, and have felt it for a long time, of a group of men who are honestly and sincerely interested in the community and who are willing to do something to see Hertford made a better place to live in, and during the thirteen years that I have lived here I believe there has never been a more opportune time to improve the town."

It was suggested that an organization be formed, with the tentative suggestion that it be called the Hertford Council; that at the head of the organization there shall be a com- (Continued on Page Five)

## Library At Whiteston Boasts Over 1500 Volumes On Shelves

Located In Section Where Education In Perquimans Got Its Start; Rev. Charles E. Peaslee Liberal Contributor

Perquimans County has a public library which boasts already over 1,500 volumes, and a donation of fifty dollars has recently been made for the purchase of more books.

This is not the new library which the women of the Hertford Woman's Club recently organized and which opens this week in the Community House in Hertford.

It is the Whiteston Public Library, located on the grounds of the Upper River Friends Church, in the Whiteston Community, in the section where education in Perquimans got its start, some five miles from the location of the old Belvidere Academy, the institution begun over a hundred years ago by the Quakers, or Friends the seat of learning in the Albemarle section for many years.

The Whiteston Public Library is about four years old, though few outside of its neighborhood are aware of its existence. Never before has one word ever appeared in print about the institution. The people of (Continued on Page Five)