



# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## School Committee Conducting Study Of Enrollment Drop

The Perquimans County Citizens Committee for Better Schools met at the Court House in Hertford on Saturday, December 13, with Mrs. H. C. Sullivan and Floyd Mathews as co-chairmen of the meeting. There was a general discussion of matters concerning the school's curriculum and testing program which had already been introduced publicly at the High School PTA program in December. The problem of students dropping out of school was discussed.

School Superintendent J. T. Biggers reported statistics on students who began with the present high school senior class in 1947 in the first grade. With 114 pupils in the first grades, fourteen of them dropped out of school from the first through the seventh grades. From the eighth through the eleventh grade, 38 pupils dropped out. From the eleventh grade to the twelfth grade, 26 dropped out. The class of 1959 now has 62 pupils listed on the roll. These figures show that 46 per cent of those originally enrolled in 1947 have now dropped out of school between the first and 11th grades.

The Committee for Better Schools is concerned to take steps that will result in more students taking advantage of their opportunity to finish their high school education. The Committee urged that an investigation be made of the causes for so many dropping out, in the hope that a remedy for this condition may be found.

Figures compiled by Superintendent Biggers revealed that a normal drop-out of pupils is noted beginning with the first grade through the seventh; increased enrollment is noted, usually in the eighth grade, due to the number of students failing to pass into the ninth grade. The largest percentage of drop-out occurs between the ninth and tenth grades and the eleventh and twelfth grades.

Average percent of drop-out in the present senior class is 46 per cent while the state average is about 50 per cent.

The Perquimans Board of Education is continuing a survey of the situation and hopes to determine the main cause of the problem, especially as it affects the high school level.

## Bloodmobile To Visit Here Jan. 19

Perquimans Chapter of the Red Cross is now making plans for the next trip of the bloodmobile, which will come to Hertford on January 19, 1959. The unit will be located at the Municipal Building on Grubb Street between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4:00 P. M. The county blood quota for this visit will be 70 pints, it was reported by Marion Swindell, chairman of the chapter.

In announcing the coming visit of the bloodmobile, Talmage Rose, Chairman of the project, stated: "Everyone is urged to come to the Municipal Building, in Hertford and make a donation of blood. Remember, as long as Perquimans County participates in the blood program you or any resident of the county will receive blood transfusions free, except for a \$5 fee charged by the hospital for administering the blood. If your county does not make its quota or a large percentage of it and as a result the blood program is lost the cost of the transfusion, when needed will cost much more. Do your share and urge others to come with you to contribute blood on January 19," says Mr. Rose.

## Hertford Stores To Observe Holidays

A majority of Hertford stores and business houses will observe a two-day holiday for Christmas and one day on New Year's. Many of the local stores will close Thursday and Friday of this week for Christmas and close again on Thursday, January 1. Local automobile agencies will be closed three days this week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

## THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

The U. S. has announced it will welcome a visit of Anastas Mikoyan, vice premier of Russia to this country for the purpose of a conference with the Russian ambassador. While in the U. S. Mikoyan will be given the opportunity to confer, unofficially, with a number of government officials. Washington reports state the Mikoyan visit is expected to lead to developments easing the cold war tension.

Naval installations in some 17 states are affected by the department orders for closing or curtailing operations during the coming year, it was reported Thursday. The Chincoteague NAS, in Virginia, is the only one in either North Carolina or Virginia affected by the order. The Virginia station is scheduled to close next July 1.

President Eisenhower announced late Wednesday night that the U. S. had placed into orbit an 8,800 pound missile, surpassing the feat of the Russian third Sputnik which weighed 2,919 pounds. The Atlas missile orbited this week was fired at Cape Canaveral, Fla., it varies in altitude from 115 miles to 920 miles, and is circling the earth every 100 minutes.

Fifteen NATO nations ended their Paris conference Wednesday by issuing a blunt statement denying Russian demands that the U. S. Britain and France get out of West Berlin. The conference voted a speed-up of plans for use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to Communist threats to seize Berlin.

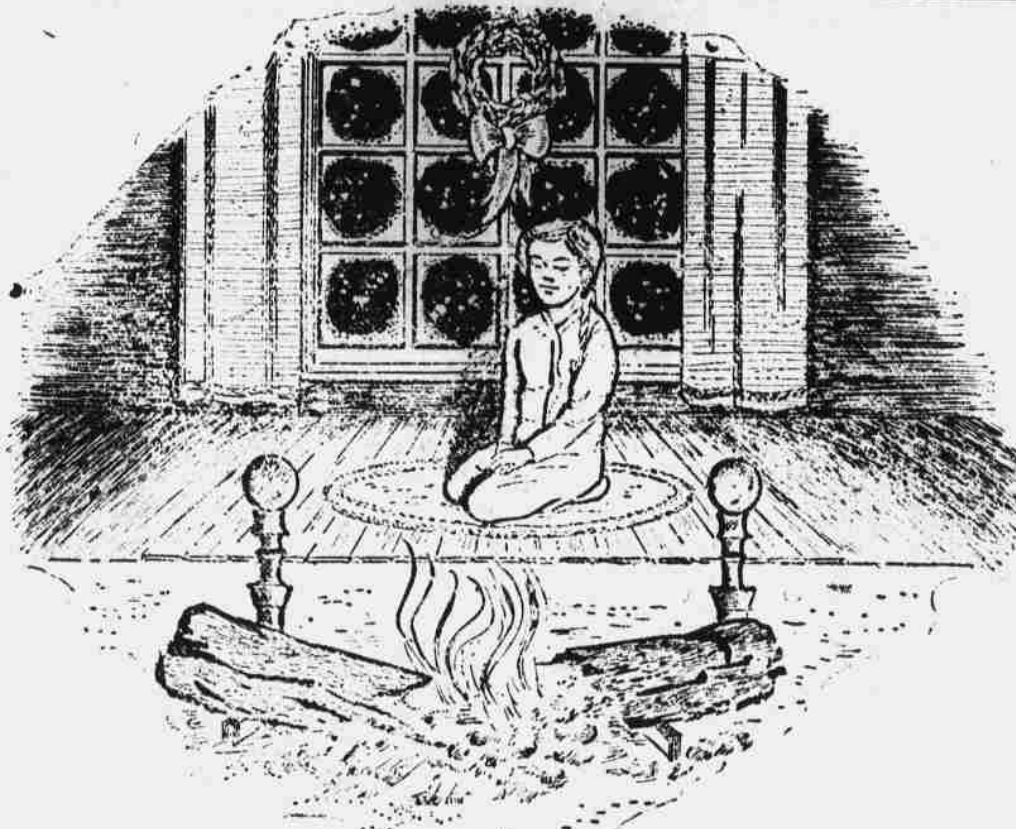
## Lions Club Holds Christmas Party

Members of the Hertford Lions Club entertained their wives at a buffet supper at the Hotel Hertford last Friday night. Claude Brinn, president of the club, presided as master of ceremonies. The program for the annual Christmas party was presented by R. M. Thompson, George Bellmon and Joe Tunnell.

At the conclusion of the party the members and guests exchanged Christmas gifts.

## Change Made In School Vacation

A change has been made in the Christmas holiday vacation schedule for the white schools of Perquimans County, it was announced Friday by J. T. Biggers, school superintendent. Originally, the schools were scheduled to reopen on Monday, January 5, but in order to make up a day's time, lost last week by weather conditions, the holiday vacation will end on Thursday, January 1, and the white schools will reopen on regular schedule Friday, January 2.



## Special Thoughts

at this Holy Season

If you've seen the faces of Children at Christmas, you've seen the Face of Christmas in its truest form. The eagerness, the breathless anticipation, the hushed reverence shows us the real meaning of the Holiest of Seasons. Perhaps this is why Christmas has such extra meaning for us all. Once again we see the world bounded with the spirit of Good Will, filled with unforgettable memories. We extend our sincere thanks for your past friendship, and a wish for a most memorable Christmas.

THE PUBLISHERS.

## County Agent Gives Views On Outlook For Coming Year

By R. M. THOMPSON

The outlook for 1959 for Agricultural Products is one in which most of the things that farmers have to buy will cost a little more and the things that are due to be sold are selling for a little less. The reason most of the Agricultural products are selling for a little less in 1959 is due to a large carry-over from 1958 of grain crops, soybeans, and a large number of brood sows that will be added to the products. Also the export of Agricultural products will decrease slightly in the coming year. Wheat, soybeans, and corn will all be supported along with peanuts, and the price on these commodities will be mostly around support price.

Beef cattle will bring around the same price that they brought in 1958 as feeder steers, with hog prices remaining steady or slightly lower for the first part of 1959 and decreasing in the fall below the price brought in the first part of the year. Feeder pigs will bring a good price throughout the year due to pig parlors, garbage feeders, and contracts between Feed Companies and farmers. Egg prices will be lower than they were for the year 1958. Efficient farmers will find that labor saving devices used on the farm will mean much in a financial way for the year 1959, and this would be a good year to change to enterprises that you can do most efficiently using, if possible, grain or other feed crops that you produce on the farms. The trend for the past several years has been the same as it is predicted for 1959 and that is that the farmer will be caught in a cost-price squeeze.

## MASONS TO MEET

The Perquimans Masonic Lodge No. 108, A. F. & A. M., will meet Tuesday night at 7:30 o'clock.

## Exemption Change In Wage-Hour Law Effective Feb. 2nd

On February 2, 1959, new salary requirements for the exemption of executive, administrative and professional employees from the Fair Labor Standards Act will go into effect, it was announced today by Clarence T. Lundquist, Administrator of the U. S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions.

Under the revised salary tests, an executive employee, to be exempt from the Act's minimum wage and overtime provisions, must be paid a salary of at least \$80 a week instead of the \$55 now required. Administrative and professional employees, to be so exempt, must be paid at least \$95 a week instead of \$75, as at present. This amended scale will apply in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, Guam and American Samoa.

A special proviso for employees qualifying for the exemption under shortened duty tests will be increased from \$100 to \$125 a week, and will be applicable everywhere. The Fair Labor Standards Act exempts executive, administrative and professional employees from its minimum wage and overtime pay provisions, if they meet tests specified in the Divisions' regulations, Part 541. In addition to salary requirements, the regulations contain tests on duties and responsibilities. Except for the higher salary tests, the exemption requirements remain unchanged.

Lundquist emphasized that the regulations do not require employers to pay these salaries to persons doing executive, administrative or professional work. The new salary tests are for exemption purposes only. If an employee who is covered by the Act

## Indians - Squaws Lose Double Bill To Ahoskie Cagers

Ahoskie High School scored a double victory over Perquimans Indians and Squaws in games played last Wednesday night at Ahoskie. The contest marked the end of the pre-season games for the locals. Following the Christmas vacation the Indians and Squaws will play their Albemarle Conference schedule.

The Ahoskie girls nosed out the Perquimans girls by a one point margin, 36 to 35 in a hard-fought contest. Ahoskie had a 5-4 lead at the close of the first period and led 12 to 10 at half time. Perquimans tied the count in the third period but Ahoskie outscored the Squaws 17 to 16 during the final quarter. Monk led the Ahoskie scoring with 18 points while Letitia McGoogan, with 16 points, was high scorer for the game.

Other scoring for Perquimans included 13 points by Spears, two by Brown and one by Phthisic. Despite a 21 point shooting spree by Daver Burton, the Ahoskie boys edged the Indians 53 to 4 in another close game. The teams played even during the first quarter 8-8 but Ahoskie pulled ahead 23 to 14 in the second period and increased its lead another five points in the third period. Perquimans rallied in the fourth to outscore Ahoskie 23 to 15 but was unable to overcome the Ahoskie advantage.

Three Ahoskie players scored in double figures, led by Osbourn who sank 15 points. Burton hit for 21 for Perquimans, Tucker got 12, Chesson and Nixon had five each, Colson hit for two and White had one.

## At Watts Hospital

Dr. C. A. Davenport, who was operated upon at Watts Hospital on Friday, is getting along fairly well.

## Navy Changes Date For Commissioning Harvey Point NAS

### Conference Held On School Project

Following a report filed with the local Board of Education by Harvey K. Winslow, Engineer, Division of Insurance of the State Board of Education, relative to the electrical installations at Hertford Grammar School, a conference was held here Tuesday, December 30 at which time Preston Godwin, representing the electrical contractor, conferred with the architect, J. W. Griffith, and a committee of the Board of Education regarding correction of faults found by Mr. Winslow.

Corrections to be made, according to the report of Mr. Winslow, are termed of a minor nature and can be made, partially, without disrupting the school schedule.

## Monogram Club To Sponsor Junior Basketball League

The Monogram Club of Perquimans High School has voted to sponsor a Junior Basketball League for youngsters of this area, it was announced today by E. C. Woodard, principal of the school.

Plans call for the league to begin operations on January 8, and all games of the league will be played on Thursday night during January and February. The Monogram Club hopes, through this program, to develop interest in the game among the youths and adults.

Regulations governing sponsorship of a team require that a team be sponsored by a church or civic organization; an adult must be in charge of the team; a complete list of names of players must be submitted prior to participation; the age limit for players is 15 years. Plays must furnish their own uniform and equipment including towels.

No admissions will be charged for the Junior League games but donations by spectators will be accepted. Some type of an award, to be decided upon by the sponsoring agencies, will be awarded at the conclusion of the season of play.

Churches or organizations desiring to enter a team in the league are requested to contact Mr. Woodard not later than January 8.

## Teen Center To Be Closed On Christmas

Miss Thelma Elliott, Chairman of the activities committee for the Perquimans County Youth Center, announced today the Center will be closed all day Christmas. The committee, however, will hold a dance for teenagers at the Center on Friday night, January 2, with music furnished by Johnny Broughton and his orchestra.

## Town Auto Tags On Sale Jan. 1st

Automobile license plates for the Town of Hertford will go on sale January 1, it was announced today by R. C. Elliott, Town Clerk. The tags may be purchased at the town office and must be displayed on motor vehicles owned by residents of Hertford by the deadline date in February.

## ROTARY CLUB TO MEET

The Hertford Rotary Club will meet Tuesday night, December 30, at 6:15 o'clock. President Charles Payne urges a full attendance.

The commissioning date for Harvey Point NAS, Hertford, has been advanced by a six months period, it was reported to The Weekly by LCDR. D. F. Dalton, resident officer in charge of construction at the local base. LCDR. Dalton stated original plans called for the NAS to be commissioned during October 1959 but this date has been advanced to March of 1960, some 15 months away.

Construction work in the amount of \$97 million has been under way at the station since last January, and is proceeding on schedule. Although plans for the station are expected to be somewhat due to the cancellation of orders for the SeaMaster class additional contracts for construction are expected to be awarded between January and July of next year.

LCDR. Dalton is a reporter present Navy plans call for 14 SeaMaster planes to be based at Harvey Point and so far as is known at the present time personnel for manning these planes will be assigned to Harvey Point.

A report issued Thursday stating the Navy now considers some reduction at Harvey Point in line with the order cutting the number of planes to be based at the NAS from 21 to 14. It is reasonable to expect original plans for personnel and buildings based on 21 planes will not be needed for the number of planes actually to be based at the station.

When it was announced to cut orders for the SeaMasters, the Navy said it was diverting some 60 million dollars from this project to other programs, and while the order cut stirred confusion regarding the Harvey Point base, Naval aviation experts have stated the jet airplane program is still of sound concept.

A local official, after studying the navy announcement of Thursday concerning reduction of a large number of installations throughout the country, believes present plans for Harvey Point will go through, otherwise those plans might have been shelved in that announcement.

## Jaycees Announce Nominations Being Received For Award

Preparing for the observance of National Jaycee Week, next January 13-25, the Hertford Junior Chamber of Commerce is starting its project of selecting the Young Man of the Year for Perquimans County, it has been announced by D. F. Reed, Jr., chairman of the Jaycee committee for this project.

Mr. Reed said today that nomination blanks will be sent to each organization within the county giving them the opportunity to nominate a candidate for this award. He stated the nomination blanks should be filled out and returned to him not later than January 14, 1959.

Eligibility for this award requires that the voting man be a resident of Perquimans County and not over 35 years of age. The selection is made by a group of judges, all over the age limit, and is based upon rules set forth by the National Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Reed stated any individual wishing to nominate a candidate for this award may secure a nomination blank from him or Keith Haskett, president of the Hertford Jaycees.

DON'T FORGET TO BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS SEALS!