

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Edwards House

This house was built in early 1800 and was lived in by Dr. J. A. Harris, who was one of the first dentists in North Carolina. A number of interesting features include dentile moulding, unusual fireplace, and old andirons.



Charles Whedbee House

Some sections of this house is 200 years old. The house comprises one of the oldest buildings still standing in Hertford. The double front doors are typical of the homes of that era. This home, along with the Erie Haste home and Berry-Mullen-Edwards House will be on the April Museum of the Albemarle Tour. The time is 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from Mrs. Marion Swindell, Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce or any Perquimans County member of MOA.



Erie Haste House

This lovely home on 300 W. Grubb St. has one of the loveliest fireplaces in the county. It is said that Confederate soldiers stopped the Haste home during the Battle of Hertford. Much of the work and renovation of the home was done by Mrs. Erie Haste and her husband, a treat to see this home.

Perquimans County Member

Alliance For Progress Formed

BY FRANCINE SAWYER

Alliance for Progress, Inc., a unique grouping of six northeastern North Carolina counties has been properly chartered after much footwork.

The consortium, formed from Perquimans, Chowan, Hertford, Bertie, Martin and Gates County will work jointly with all governmental and private planning agencies in assessing area needs including but not limited to educational, economic, health, nutrition, social, and recreational needs of the six counties.

Its function will be to identify and seek out the availability and sources of funds from, but not limited to governmental agencies,

private foundations, individuals and corporations, which funds are to be directed to the county governments, boards of education, municipalities, non-profit chartered organizations functioning to preserve the area heritage, promote education, promote area economic development; and to receive and disburse funds as a fiscal agent.

The idea was a brainchild, from indicated sources, of school superintendents, comprising some of the six counties.

The first meeting was held Nov. 9, 1972. Its purpose was to discuss the possibilities of organizing a six-county regional consortium for the purpose of securing

educational discretionary funds that are not channeled through the State Department of Public Instruction and integrated services (not to do with race) or moneys that are available from other various agencies. Such agencies include: Departments of Labor, Interior, Commerce, Transportation, HUD, Fish and Game, Parks Commission, OEO, Law Enforcement Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and other agencies under HEW.

From that point on, meetings were held in Raleigh, Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Letters were written to foundations, seeking support. One such foundation which voiced approval and

possible support was the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., Winston-Salem.

The six county collection is based on what these counties have in common and why they are similar in problems and needs. All six counties have declining population, declining tax base, low family and individual income, high percentage of welfare recipients, economically depressed area and educational deprivation.

Data for Perquimans County show the total population in 1960 at 9,178 with the 1970 population slumping to 8,351. This shows a -9.0 per centage change. The 1968 per capita income for the county was \$1,425. This ranks 81st in the state. The 1970 family income was \$5,832. There are 543 persons on welfare with Perquimans

being 13th. The total enrollment of school aged children is 2,041 with 57.1 being colored.

The Alliance for Progress, Inc. will also identify and recruit supportive services, personnel and consultants, or any and all other services from businesses, individuals, governmental agencies, or private organizations which might help to identify and meet regional and individual district, county or municipal development and educational priorities within the six-county area.

There are 12 boards of directors, those from Perquimans County are: Riley Monds, Jr., Clifford S. Winslow, and C.C. Walters.

The second installment of Alliance For Progress, Inc. will run in the next edition of The Perquimans Weekly.



PERSONS APPOINTED—Chairmen of the Alliance For Progress are from left, Alton Elmore, Chowan County; Dr. J.H. Horton, Edenton-Chowan Board of Education; Richard Baker, and Bob Spivey of Bertie County. (Photo Courtesy of Bud Amburn)

Perquimans Personality

Mrs. Eldora Eason

TEXT & PHOTOS

BY FRANCINE SAWYER

SMITHTOWN — Mrs. Eldora Eason has to travel down two dirt roads and several secondary roads when she is called to help bring a child into the world.

Mrs. Eldora, as she is known, is the only active midwife in Perquimans County.

Mrs. Eason, who says she is 65 years-old has been a midwife since she was 20 years-old. "My mother was a midwife and she wanted me to be one. At first I didn't want to be a midwife. I didn't like the idea of getting up at all hours of the night," she said.

Her first case was by sheer luck. Her mother had to attend to her sister in another state. Mrs. Eason had to take the place of her mother and "wait on" a lady who could not locate a doctor. The baby came into the world and Mrs. Eason became a midwife.

She has overseered more than 500 births. "It would take some room for them to stand if they were all here now," she said.

Mrs. Eason was called on to tell The Perquimans Weekly about her midwife activities late Saturday afternoon. "Come in child, and sit down," she said. "I am waiting right here, someone sent me word that one of my ladies is in labor. I may be going soon," she said.

Mrs. Eason has a

comfortable home in this section of the county. The livingroom has pictures of her seven children and "about 42" grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. There is also a number of pictures of Jesus Christ, one of which is lighted up.

Mrs. Eason has heavy faith in "The Lord." "He has helped me on these rainy, snowy nights to get where I got to be going," she said.

A total of 15 sets of twins has been delivered by Mrs. Eason. But, as Mrs. Eason says, it hasn't all been delightful.

"Women get in so much pain and kick and curse me," she said. "But I know it's because they are hurting so badly," she said.

Another reason for Mrs. Eason's dedication to her job is the fact, that she knows how it is to be

poor and not be able to afford a doctor. "I go to these homes 'cause I know they can't afford a doctor," she said. Mrs. Eason charges only \$40. Some people think this is not enough.

It takes approximately eight hours for a woman to deliver. Younger mothers take longer. Mrs. Eason stays with the mother and child until everything is "okay."

When asked why boiling water is always required for birth scenes, Mrs. Eason said, "All things must be clean and sterilized."

Mrs. Eason said she would not give anything for her journey through life.

With that, the phone rang, and it was time to travel down two dirt roads and several secondary roads to "wait on a lady."

Important PTA Meeting Tonight

The next meeting of the Hertford Grammar School PTA will be one of its most important, particularly to parents of children not yet in school. It is scheduled for tonight at 8 p.m.

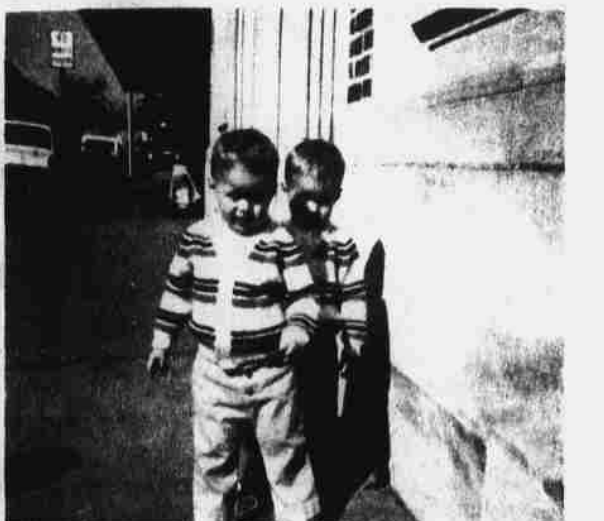
There will be a discussion of the state-supported kindergarten that will be operative at the school beginning this fall. All PTA members as well as those whose children are not yet in school, are invited to attend this meeting.

Speakers for the occasion will be Bill Britt, director of the Eastern Regional Education Center, and Ms. Zelma Smith who is early

childhood consultant for District I.

They will discuss how the kindergarten works, its purpose, its import for the children, its value to the community. If you are a parent concerned about this important aspect of your child's education, this special PTA meeting is a must.

PTA President Frank Roberts reminds all PTA members that this meeting will be in lieu of the one regularly scheduled for later in the month. It will include installation of new officers for the next school terms.



TWO CUTIES — Twins, Steve Thacker, rear, and Jim, front, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thacker of 509 Dobb St., enjoy going along with mother to downtown Hertford to shop. Mrs. Thacker says the little fellows behave real well for two-year-olds. (Staff Photo By Francine Sawyer)

Farmers' Day Saturday

HERTFORD — The Hertford Merchants Committee in co-operation with the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce is planning a special salute to Perquimans County Farmers, Saturday from 9 a.m. until.

Activities include special sales by participating merchants, display of special farm machinery and mer-

chandise, a fish fry, hot dogs and hamburger sale sponsored by the Hertford American Legion post, and a fine blue grass band from Williamston.

It will be a special Saturday with farmers getting a royal welcome downtown and at Harris shopping center.

The farmers are the backbone of the community. Support April 7.

New East Off Press

The New East magazine off the press recently with its March-April edition is a good product.

The magazine, dedicated to the progress of Eastern North Carolina, contains a travel story of Portsmouth Island, an architecture piece on the house at No. 1, Doctor's Creek, a science article on industry collaborating to move nuclear power plants offshore, an art article on the defined art of wood carving. The wood carving piece is the cover story and is about an Elizabeth City couple,

John and Clara Sawyer.

A visit to Columbus County is featured. Dr. Joe Pou looks at irrigation's role in farming. The profile this month features Dare County's own Aycock Brown, the development story features a pollution-free method of extracting pure water from the sea and an industry story on the franchised food business.

The cover, which features a Canadian geese with striking color, is one of the best covers the magazine has produced.



Mrs. Eason And Her Favorite President