

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

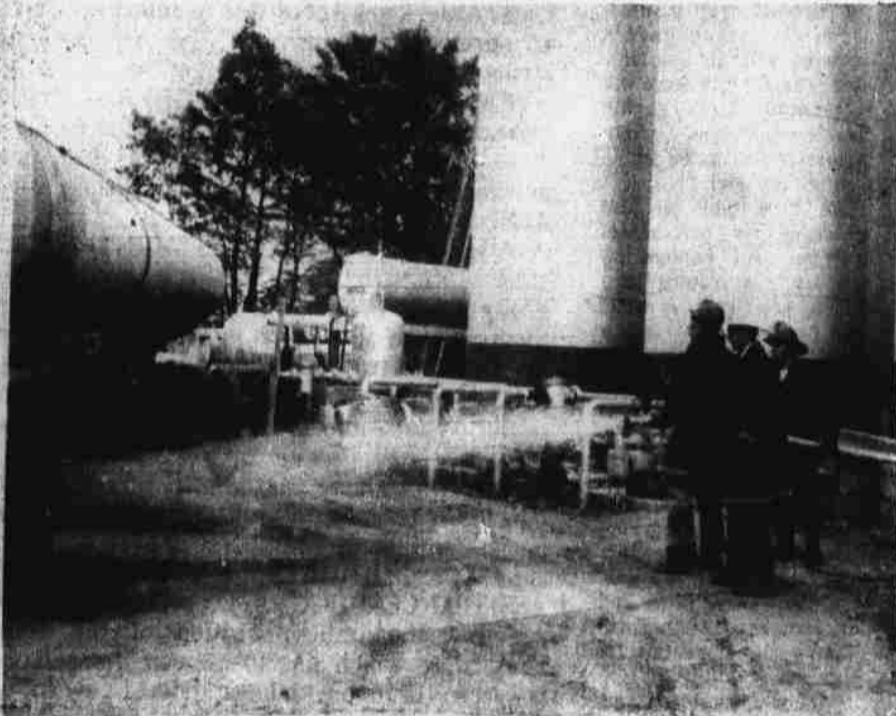
Volume 29 No. 17

Hertford, Perquimans County, North Carolina, Thursday, May 3, 1973

10 Cents Per Copy



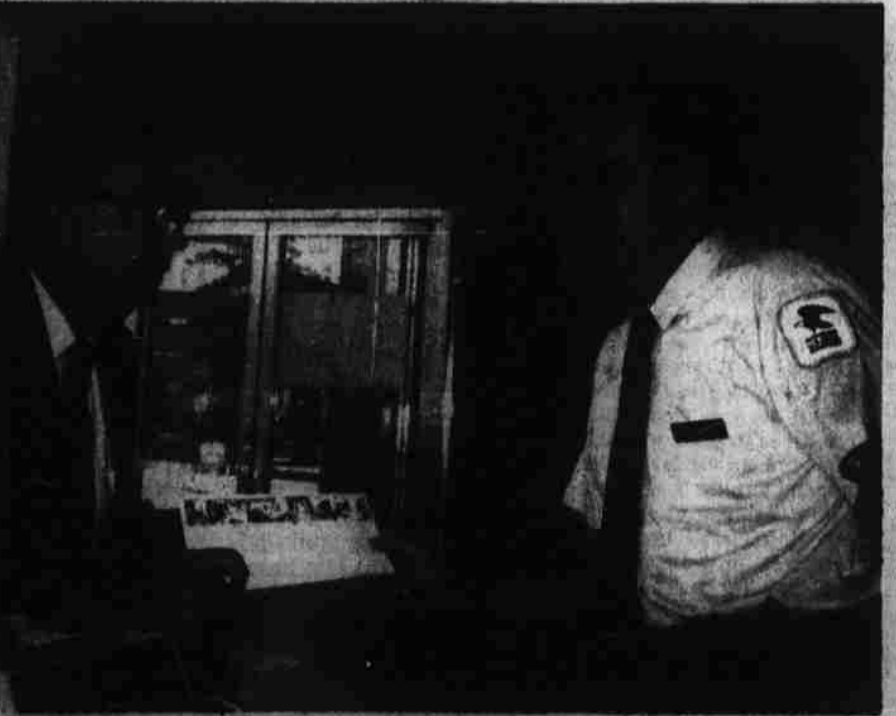
GOING MY WAY?—Ms Mary Helen Newby, of East Grubb Street, Hertford, uses a bike to run errands and get exercise. Ms Newby finds the fresh air and sunshine sensuous. (Staff Photo by Francine Sawyer)



IN CASE OF FIRE—Members of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department answered a call Tuesday at 7:15 a.m. for Reed Oil Co. The oil distributor noticed a leak from a tank and called on the fire department to water it down. No damage or fire resulted. (Staff Photo by Francine Sawyer)



THE HOUSE TOUR—The rains came off and on for last Wednesday's Museum of the Albemarle sponsored tour of Perquimans County homes, but the people came and enjoyed it all nonetheless. A good turn-out and a great success it was. (Staff Photo by Francine Sawyer)



NEWS ISSUE—Mayor Bill Cox, purchases the first day issue of Postal People Days, being observed locally by the Hertford Post Office. Acting officer Henry Stokes sells it to the mayor.

Peanut Seeds Scarce In Area

By FRANCINE SAWYER

The seed situation looks critical for peanuts, according to Perquimans County farm agents Billy Griffin and Richard Bryant.

The quantity and quality of seeds is the major problem.

The reason for the small amount of seeds available is due to an immature crop last year and low shell out of seeds from pods.

Many seed dealers are reporting that only 40 to 50 per cent shell is received whereas a normal year runs about 60 per cent shell out.

The seed testing laboratory in Raleigh reports that of 2,900 samples tested for germination only 62 per cent have germinated high enough to be sold legally.

To be sold legally in the state the minimum germination has to 75 per cent.

Perquimans County farmers put in 3,200 acres of peanuts a year.

Some 80 to 120 pounds of seeds are required for each acre.

The situation was one that the board of agriculture met Monday to consider what type of action on lower germination standards in order to increase quantity.

Farmers who have saved seeds should have them tested.

Junk Cars Are Leaving Town

HERTFORD—The drive to move old junk and abandoned cars from Hertford is on.

Some 38 cars in Hertford are considered abandoned, and the cars will be removed.

With the assistance of the three local car agencies in the county as well as Edenton tower John Perry the cars will go.

The junk cars will be placed on Jesse L. Harris' property. After an amount is collected, the autos will be picked up by John Perry, a junk dealer in Edenton.

North Carolina law reads like this on abandoned autos: A vehicle is abandoned in the state when it is left on private property without consent, left on public grounds for at least seven days, fails to display a current license plate, is partially dismantled or wrecked or is incapable of self-propulsion. In addition, it is legally termed a junk automobile when it is more than five years old valued at less than \$50.

A junked or abandoned vehicle can be legally moved when: (1) a written release has been obtained from the owner, leasee or occupant of the premises or (2) the board of county commissioners has declared the vehicle to be a health or safety hazard.

Any junk vehicle removed shall be held at least 15 days (30 in some cities) in case the owner wishes to prove ownership, pay costs of removal and storage and reclaim the vehicle.

After waiting the required period, the vehicle may be disposed of as the committee sees fit. Or with the consent of the owner, it may be disposed of regardless of age or value without waiting a single day.

A clean up beautification meeting was held Thursday night at the county office building with this information related to the public.

Observance Fire Report Set By Men Issued Today

The North Carolina State Firemen's Association will, as usual observe the week of May 6 to 12 as Volunteer Firemen's Week in North Carolina.

F.B. Nixon, chief of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department had this to say about painting and mowing the fire-safe way.

Paint brushes and power mowers usually go into action during Spring Clean-Up, and if either or both figure in your plans, he suggests you keep these fire safety pointers in mind:

For paint removing and brush cleaning, solvents labelled "non-flammable" are safest. If you must work with flammable ones, better use them outdoors. Indoors, be sure windows are open; stoves, pilot lights and other ignition sources are off; and no smoking.

In storing paint materials, keep them well away from furnaces and also away from exits or under stairways—so you will not be blocked from escaping should these highly combustible materials catch fire.

Get rid of old paint and solvent containers and those with small left-over amounts. Store paints and solvents only in capped metal containers—glass jars and bottles break easily, creating a definite fire hazard.

MEETS TONIGHT
The American Legion Auxiliary of Post 136 will meet tonight at the Legion Home at 8 p.m. All members are urged to be present.

During 1972, the Hertford Fire Department had 50 fire calls. Of these 50 calls, 28 were county calls and 22 town calls. There has been an average of 15 firemen responding to each fire call. The 50 calls received by the department were of the following types: 10 structural dwelling fires, seven dwellings contents only, 2 mobile trailers, four commercial building fires, one farm building, two grass fires, two woods fires, two vehicle accident, eight vehicle motor and content fires, two flammable liquid fires, five community service calls, and five mutual aid assistance calls. Total firefighting man hours is over 500 hours. There has also been approximately 1,083 man hours of training put in by the members of the fire department this year.

Bill Passes

The bill to limit hunting in Perquimans County was ratified on April 26 by the state legislature.

The amendment was adopted in the senate April 23 and makes prohibition effective only in absence of written permission of the land owner.

The controversial bill brought a round of objection from some local hunters who submitted petitions to the county commissioners.

However, the bill with some modifications is official.



Perquimans Personality

Chief Ben L. Gibbs

Text & Photo
By FRANCINE
SAWYER

HERTFORD—Ben L. Gibbs is "The Man." Serving as police chief since 1966, Gibbs knows his town and his people. The people know the man.

Gibbs is a high-tider by birth, and a Perquimans resident by choice.

It's been a long way for the 61-year-old man, who does not look his age.

Born in Manns Harbor, the son of a fisherman, he moved with his family at the age of six to Elizabeth City, after his father became a merchant.

In 1937 Gibbs came to Hertford as manager of the State Theater. Gibbs managed the theater, which showed movies of soldiers and sailors, leaving their loves behind and heading for "The War."

In 1944 this stopped. Gibbs put on his uniform and had an exciting career for two years in the service. He supervised a prisoner of war camp while in the service.

After the war, he came back, and managed the same theater. The movie house was showing post-war films, comedies and westerns. It was a different time, a time which would never be recaptured.

In 1959 Gibbs became a Perquimans County deputy, the Sheriff was Kelly White.

In May of 1960 Gibbs joined forces with the Hertford Police depart-

ment as captain.

The mayor was the police chief, as well as the fire chief, town manager and a host of other things. However, the captain really had chief duties and it became official for Gibbs in 1966.

Gibbs said he felt Hertford was and is a safe town. "Of course all towns were safer once, more than today, but Hertford isn't terribly unsafe."

The only trend Gibbs sees as different in the law enforcement work is the lack of respect the public has for law officers and law in general.

"It wasn't like that at one time, now a number of people have nothing but contempt for law officers," he said.

Being a police chief in a

small town has a number of advantages. Gibbs knows his town and the people by name and face. By knowing the people so well, Gibbs does not have to get super technical in investigating a crime. He knows the people's habits and ways. It makes law enforcement work easier.

Gibbs was chief back in the late '60s when Golden Frinks and his gang came into Hertford, and nearly held the town at bay, issuing complaints and demands. It blew over.

So Gibbs is celebrating his 13th year with the Hertford Police Department.

He is married and the father of three boys.

In his spare time Gibbs enjoys fishing when he can get to it.)



CHIEF BEN L. GIBBS