

# Homemakers Forum



**SPECIAL WEEK** — Homemakers clubs in Perquimans County celebrated National Extension Homemakers Week recently. One activity was a homemade

ice cream booth on the courthouse lawn Friday sponsored by the Belvidere Homemakers Club.



**ITEMS ON DISPLAY** — Window displays in Hertford, such as the one above, reminded the public of the many

talents such as sewing, crocheting, and craft-making that are developed in homemakers clubs.



**ENTERTAINMENT** — A bazaar and bake sale was sponsored Friday by local homemakers clubs. One highlight of the afternoon was entertainment provided by the Eighth Grade Chorus from Perquimans Union School directed by

Danny Meads, county music teacher. The group will also be appearing in Raleigh on May 23 performing on Capital Square as part of a special week-long music celebration. (Staff photos by Kathy M. Newbern)

By MRS. M.B. TAYLOR  
Home Extension Agent  
**YOUR RIGHT TO SAFETY**

How safe is your world? Have you or anyone in your family had an accident in the last year? If so, was it due to a danger you could have avoided or was it the result of some unforeseen danger such as a product you purchased for personal use?

Living safely requires that we be alert in our everyday activities:

Using appliances or equipment in the appropriate way, following correct instructions in regard to cutting edges and electrical connections.

Using motor vehicles of all sorts with due regard to speed laws and in properly maintained condition.

Working or playing above ground in such a way that falls will not occur, consuming only foods, beverages and cosmetics that are free of contamination and wholesome for the body.

Wearing appropriate clothing to protect the body against danger when necessary, observing the activities of others that could endanger us, especially in regard to the possibility of moving or falling objects.

Having an attitude of caution in hazardous situations and respect for all safety precautions.

In spite of your following such general advice, and specific advice when needed, accidents causing pain and injury can occur. Recognizing the complexity of your daily life, and especially the numerous sophisticated products you may purchase, legislators in your state and federal governments have provided some measure of protection against dangerous and harmful products.

Two recent decisions by agencies of the federal government highlight the current concern of government for your personal safety. The two events were: (1) proposed banning of a saccharin as an artificial sweetener by the Food and Drug Administration, and (2) banning of children's nightgowns and pajamas that had been treated with TRIS by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In each of these cases the products involved, saccharin and TRIS, were chemicals believed to cause cancer in humans.

### THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

This agency is responsible for enforcing laws covering the labeling and advertising of food, drug and cosmetic products. It also checks on the safety of chemical additives to food, and the safe use of medical devices and products that

emit radiation such as X-rays. It can: (1) prevent unproven products from ever being sold, (2) require products to be redesigned, reformulated, relabeled, or packaged in a safer way, (3) remove products from the market when new data reveals risks that are not acceptable, (4) protect your pocketbook against substandard products and misleading advertising, (5) go to court to seize illegal products and prosecute manufacturers, packers, or shippers who violate the law.

### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

The Consumer Product Safety Act of 1972 extended federal control over general consumer products and granted the government authority to set safety standards for and to ban those products which present real hazards to consumers. The commission has authority over all retail products used by consumers in or around the home, except those covered by other agencies such as the FDA. CPSC collects information about injuries, conducts studies and tests on products, and develops and promotes consumer products safety standards. Where no standard will provide protection and unreasonable risk exists for consumers, the agency can ban a product. The public has an opportunity to be involved in agency decision-making.

### RISKS VERSUS BENEFITS

Government can never completely protect consumers because nothing can ever be completely safe. What may be safe for one person is not necessarily safe for another. Any product, if used incorrectly, has the potential for harm. For an agency to consider a product safe, the product must have more benefits than risks, and any risk must be justified. The agency's job is to set the conditions under which a product's benefits outweigh any possible risks. If such conditions cannot be set, then the agency can seek to prohibit the sale of the product.

How safe is "SAFE?" How safe do you want to be? Although governmental agencies try to protect you against unseen or unknown dangers, you have the major responsibility for personal and family safety. Read all you can about new products before you buy them, use them as directed and let authorities know when you feel you have been injured or cheated. Safety is everybody's business!

**STAYS FRESHER**  
Cooked chicken stays fresh longer in frozen storage if covered with broth, gravy or sauce. Package airtight in rigid freezer containers with tight-fitting lids.

than 30 pounds of hamburger this year.

**PREDICTABLE**  
A pound of most greens will cook down to about four servings.

**SOLUTION TO DISCOLORATION**  
Discolored aluminum pots and pans can be brightened by boiling apple peelings in them for a short time.

**NUTTY**  
When buying shelled nuts in a transparent package, look for nutmeats that are plump and fairly uniform in color and size. Limp, rubbery, dark or shriveled kernels may be stale.

**NOW YOU KNOW**  
According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans will eat more

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THE GRAY 99 WOL SAYS  
By NELLIE M. SANDERS  
Director, Pettigrew Regional Library

**HOOTS**  
PHASE III — Another milestone has been passed in the statewide effort to obtain detailed evaluations of the public libraries and the communities they serve. Four months ago, the State Library launched the program with an intensive 5-day briefing session at Apex — Phase I. Three expert teachers, from different parts of the nation, instructed librarians from a majority of the library systems in the state.

The second phase of the Community Analysis was conducted by the "students" — in our case, Perquimans County Librarian Wayne Henritze and myself. Calling on the assistance of the entire staff of the Pettigrew Regional Library, Wayne has accumulated a mountain of facts about Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties with the main emphasis on library service. Assembling the information and arranging the statistics in meaningful patterns is an important step in the effort to evaluate the quantity, quality and appropriateness of library service.

PHASE III was a combination class reunion and testing situation. We met again last week, in Apex, to exchange experiences, to receive further instruction, and to exhibit the results of our efforts. Progress ranged from a completed survey in one county to minimal data-gathering in others. The Pettigrew Region reported to the Director of the Institute, Roger Greer, in a one-hour individual conference. Our progress was judged satisfactory and we were given handsome certificates of recognition.

The State Library distributed the certificates and the checks to cover travel expenses (from special LSCA — i.e. federal — funds for training) and announced the next deadline. A final report on the analysis is due by December 1st. It is a formidable task, with four counties to cover, but our best efforts will be devoted to it because of the importance for future plans.

**SCREECHES**  
PHASE-IN — Taking advantage of the presence of several committee members in Apex, the Advisory Council for the Processing Center held a special meeting last week. One subject of discussion was the use of computer terminals for cataloging new books. The State Library has a limited number of them which are in almost constant use during regular hours. One suggested method for taking advantage of them was to phase-in extended, swing-shift, hours for the Processing Center staff. This would speed up the handling of the catalog cards and make better use of some very expensive equipment.

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## Special Week Celebration

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