

# Weekly Perspective

## Local Hero

It's not every small town that has its own bona fide hero, but some of them do.

Plains, Georgia has Jimmy Carter, though some would argue that he's not much of a hero right now.

Hertford and Perquimans County have Jim Hunter, and even cold hearted New York City agrees that Hunter is a hero.

Last week the governor of New York and the mayor of New York City set aside a special day to honor the Yankee pitcher.

That's pretty heady stuff for a country boy born and raised on a farm in rural Perquimans County. But Hunter deserved every bit of it.

He is one of only four pitchers this century to win 200 games before his 31st birthday. Add to that the fact that he strung together five consecutive 20 win seasons, pitched a perfect game in 1968, and played in eight all star games.

Sounds like the record of a superstar, right? Well, Hunter is more than a superstar to the people of Perquimans County. He's a hero.

The Yankees management has called Hunter "one of baseball's premier pitchers and classiest gentlemen." The New York Police Department's Yankee Stadium detail gave him their "Good Guy Award" for 1978.

These are the qualities that make Hunter a hero to us.

Now Hunter is retiring from baseball for family life and farming in Perquimans County. The Yankee organization's loss will be our gain.

We want to thank Jim Hunter for giving us our hero, a baseball player and a gentleman we can brag about anywhere.

## Conservation

The United States, along with 19 other major industrial nations, is observing October as International Energy Conservation Month.

During the month our nation will be sponsoring and participating in special events, programs, discussions, technological demonstrations, and reports on progress toward energy conservation.

We here in Perquimans County can help out by doing our part to conserve.

This may include keeping our cars tuned up and with tires properly inflated, cutting down on unnecessary trips and keeping those extra lights switched off.

There is a \$300 federal income tax credit available for those who insulate or take other energy saving steps in their homes.

In this day of dwindling oil supplies and continually rising energy costs, conservation is one of the few bargains around.

## Editor's Note

Letters to the editor are welcome. Each must be signed and include complete address.

The subject matter should be of interest to the community, not a personal gripe. Letters may be edited for clarity and space limitations.

No more than one letter per person, concerning the same subject, will be published each month.

## Windmill

### Reproduction depicts its role in coastal history

The lure of history. Fascination with the coastal way of life. Hopes of making money. That's why there's a replica of a 19th Century windmill on Roanoke Sound at Nags Head.

It's authentic down to the hand-forged metal. That's

the way it had to be built, even though it meant a hefty price tag of more than \$250,000.

Lynanne Wescott of Manteo wouldn't stand for it any other way.

The 35-foot post-type windmill, just like the windmills

that once dotted the coast, was built in the Surry County, Va., shop of Derek Ogden, a professional millwright, using traditional millwrighting methods. The job of assembling the pieces at the sound began in early August.

All wooden parts were cut with old tools — no fancy electric power saws. The structure of the mill is joined with hand cut wooden pegs, not nails.

The main post of the mill is made of imported English oak, over 200 years old, carefully selected for its close-grained dense wood to provide strength. The interior machinery is simple, but efficient. The brakewheel, about six feet in diameter, drives a small lantern pinion which is fitted to a quant and overdrives a single pair of millstones. The windshaft is all oak construction with sail sticks morticed directly through the shaft. A tailpole with wooden wheel on the end allows the miller to turn the mill to face into the wind no matter what the direction, so a shift of wind doesn't

stop the milling process.

"Everything was done just exactly like it would have been done back then," Ms. Wescott said. "It's different, and I like to do things that are different. It's something that just really appealed to me so I did it."

She hopes the windmill will be a tourist attraction and a money maker. For a small admission charge, visitors will be able to view the entire milling process. The mill grinds corn, wheat, rye, oats and other grains when the wind blows.

It will be attended by Master Miller John Elsea and an apprentice who, dressed in period costume, will guide visitors, explaining the mill, its historical significance and how it works.

Milled grains and windmill related gifts and handicrafts will be on sale in a barn near the mill. Ms. Wescott said the handicrafts are selected for one-of-a-kind uniqueness. There's even going to be a windmill museum with old photographs and maps showing

Coastal mills of centuries past.

The windmill isn't at all like the electricity producing windmill that recently went up in the mountain town of Boone. The technology is all different. Wood compared to steel and fiberglass. Modern compared to old-timey. She wondered out loud what the English and Dutch settlers who brought the windmill to this country would think about how far their technology had reached.

Ms. Wescott had to secure loans from three lending institutions before the project could get off the ground.

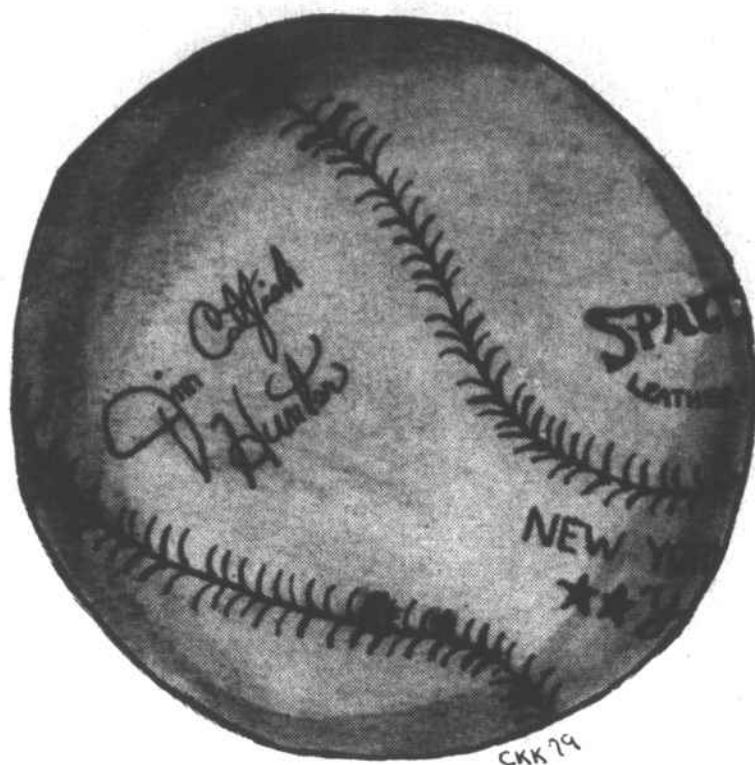
"Each felt the windmill was not only a good business venture, but also a significant addition to the historical scene of the Carolina coast," she said.

Windmills have been a part of life on the North Carolina coast since the early 1700s. During the Civil War, Union troops used them as lookout posts. They were used as landmarks by ships rounding treacherous Cape Hatteras long before any lighthouses were built. But most of the windmills

fell into disuse by the end of the 19th century.

It is thought by many that early windmills were probably built by seamen and shipwrights since many of the fundamentals of sailing apply to the functions of windmills. The windmiller would need to know not only the particulars of grist grinding, but he would have to have knowledge of the construction, repair and use of sails, which necessitated an understanding of wind dynamics, carpentry, mechanics and engineering as well as an eye for the weather.

The attraction of a mill is easy to understand. They harness the natural element of wind to turn raw material into usable form. Because our most basic need is food, mills that ground grain were the first to make the crucial advance that substituted natural power for human labor. A mill seems such a charming anachronism that it's easy to forget how essential they once were to community life and the expanding economy. (Reprinted from CAROLINA COUNTRY, September 1979).



A must for any Perquimans Co. collection



## Growth?



MIKE McLAUGHLIN

It didn't surprise me a bit when I got the news that the town of Hertford had gotten the governor's Community of Excellence Award.

I knew there was something excellent about the town the first time I came across the drawbridge and saw all those beautiful old homes hugging the banks of what they said was a river but looked more like an inland sea.

Here was a town that was different from the monotonous parade of small towns that line the four-lanes of North Carolina. It looked like, and so far has proven to be, a comfortable, slow-paced place to call home.

Those who carried out the extensive preparations necessary to qualify for the award deserve to be commended, and that's part of the purpose of this column. The other part is to warn against the perils of too rapid growth, the kind that can destroy the character of a historic old town.

The award indicates that we are adequately prepared for, and are actively recruiting industry. But all this talk about the need for growth scares me a little.

Of course we may not have anything to worry about. It may be that it will take a whole lot of coaxing to attract just a little bit of industry to our area.

This much could be used. We need to improve the living standards of many of our county residents, and we need to be able to offer job opportunities that will keep our young people from being siphoned off by more promising vocational prospects elsewhere.

I just don't want to see us get in too big of a hurry. Traffic problems and unsightly, misplaced development are just two of a whole host of problems brought on by too rapid development.

We need to anticipate these problems before they become reality and plan for slow paced, orderly growth.

This town is built of sturdy but fragile old wood. Brick and clapboard don't mix too well and plastic goes along even worse.

In our rush to expand, there is always the chance that we will destroy a characteristic of Hertford extremely important to most of us...the living sense of history that prevades the town.



18th century windmill near N.C. coast



Nearly completed reproduction

## ACT to play role for many pupils

The 1979-80 school year is just beginning, but juniors and seniors at Perquimans County High and other high schools across the country are already facing some big decisions.

One of these decisions is what to do after graduation...whether to go on to school, to get a job, or to try to do both.

Parents, guidance counselors and friends will play an important role in the student's postsecondary education and career planning. So might a

national service called the ACT Assessment Program.

Designed to provide guidance information for education and career planning, the widely used program is recommended for use by student applicants at more than 2,700 colleges and universities.

PHS student will have five opportunities during the 1979-80 school year to make use of the program, which consists of four tests and a two part questionnaire.

Students complete the questionnaire at home as part of the registration process, and then take the battery of tests at area test centers on any of five weekend national test dates, explained James S. Midgette, PHS counselor.

The five 1979-1980 test dates and their corresponding registration periods are: Oct. 20, with a registration period from Aug. 6 to Sept. 21; Dec. 8, with a registration period from Oct. 8 to Nov. 9; Feb. 16, with a registration period

from Nov. 26 to Jan. 18; April 12, with registration from Feb. 4 to March 14; and June 14, 1980, with registration from March 24 to May 16.

It takes students about three hours to complete the ACT Assessment's four exams covering subject areas of English, math, social studies, and the natural sciences. On any of these test dates, most PHS students will take the test at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.

### The Perquimans Weekly

Court House Square, Hertford, N.C. 27944. Entered as second class matter November 15, 1934 at Post Office in Hertford, N.C.

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PAIGE EURE, Circulation Manager  
Monday Thru Friday Phone 426-5728

News and advertising deadline: 9:30 a.m. Tues.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ONE YEAR IN COUNTY ..... 7.50  
OUTSIDE COUNTY ..... 8.50

"ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE"

Published By  
Advance Publications Inc.  
Elizabeth City, N.C.