

# Weekly Perspective

## Decade begins on dismal note

America limped into a new decade this week and needless to say, the 70s left some unfinished business for the 80s to deal with.

There is inflation that raged to 13 percent this past year, an energy crisis that offers no immediate solution, and the dangling fate of the American hostages in Iran.

With these kinds of problems, the poor fledgling 80s will hardly have a chance to create any problems of their own.

We've face worse difficulties as a nation in prior years and we've surmounted them, even profited from them in some cases.

But this time our nation seems almost listless.

Self interest has infested us, TV has lulled us, an overabundance of the good life has fattened us up.

We seem quite happy to allow Japan to outstrip us in technology and flood our markets while making it nearly impossible for us to ship our farm products into their non-agrarian nation.

On our own industrial front Chrysler workers demand a huge pay hike while the company staggers toward bankruptcy. They appear content to ride the third largest automaker into the ground and seek employment elsewhere.

Interest rates designed to curb inflation may also discourage investment and further retard our nation's economy.

Meanwhile most of us look for an easier job with less work and more benefits.

The list of symptoms could go on and on.

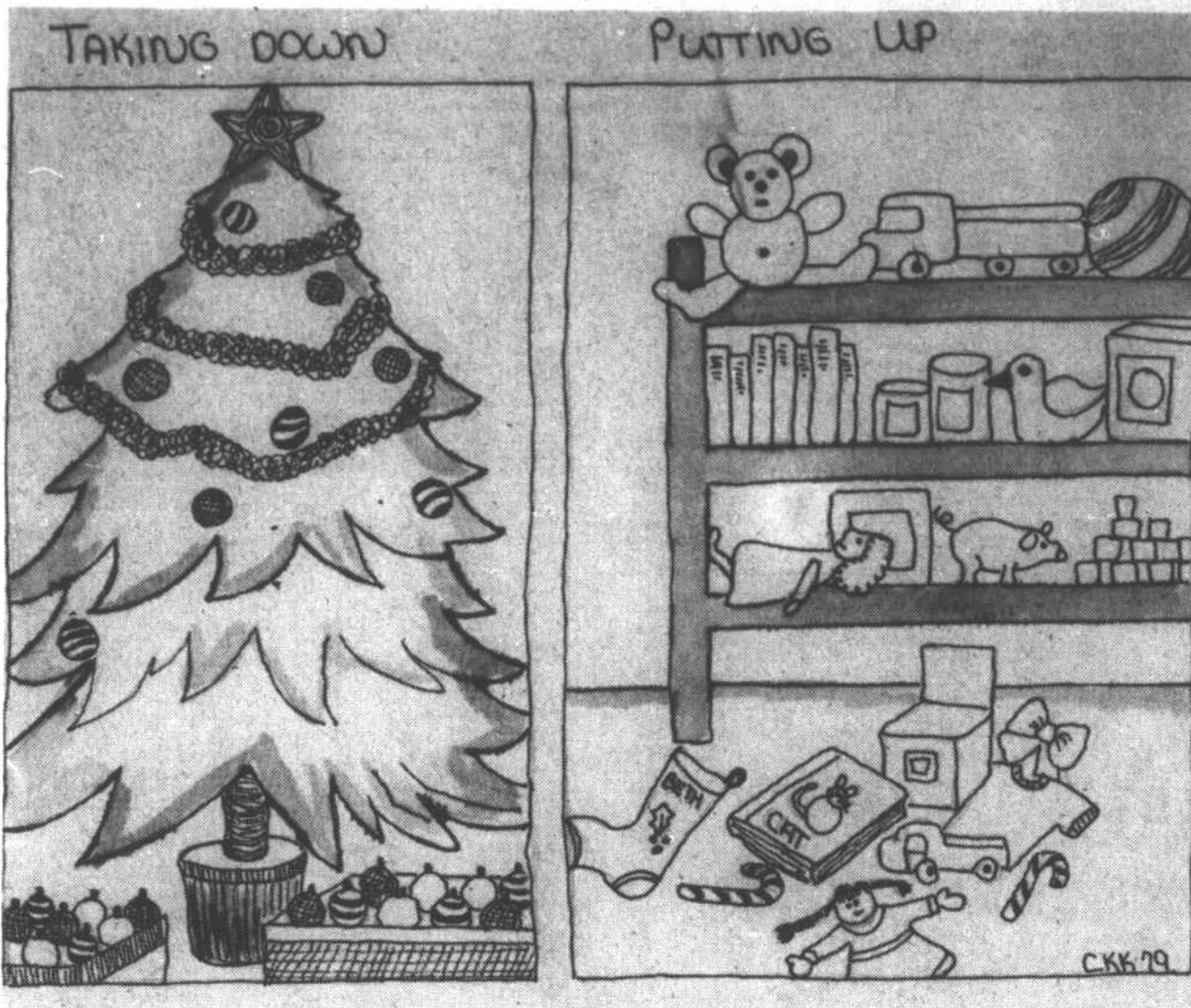
Still, we are asked to approach the 1980s with hope and optimism and for some of us, it's a difficult task.

If we are to make the 1980s a decade of positive change, though, this is exactly what we must do.

We must create an atmosphere of exploration and enthusiasm and a willingness to sacrifice for the future.

America, as a nation, must roll up its sleeves and get down to the business of reasserting itself as a world leader.

Otherwise, we hate to see the kind of problems the 1990s will inherit.



## My turn

MIKE McLAUGHLIN



W.C. Fields once said that he never went out on New Year's Eve because it is strictly amateur night.

Exhausted from the holiday whirl myself, and with Fields' immortal words firmly in mind, I decided to stay home myself. The quiet night gave me a chance to think, and, of course, the usual New Year's resolutions came to mind.

But this time it was a little different because a new decade was coming into being.

When you talk about a new decade your talking about a ten year plan. The usual self-promises to lose 10 pounds and stop oversleeping hardly seem appropriate when facing a span of time as long as that.

New decade plans require a little more thought.

Still, I decided to make a few, and shot for the moon with them on the presumption that if I failed, at least I would know my goals were well worth aiming for.

My first resolution was to get myself organized. That might not seem like much, but for a kid who was serious about the 279 times he told his teacher he lost his homework, it would be a monumental achievement.

I figure the two hours I would gain each day from not looking for lost car keys, light bills, and the notes for some story or another could be applied towards living up to my other, more noble ambitions.

That leads me into my next resolution, which is to be less selfish.

All of us could stand a good dose of unselfishness, if it means only reaching for a chicken wing instead of a breast.

Unselfishness can lead in all sorts of good directions and it led me right into resolving to be a better person.

I also thought about application of my God given talents and decided I could do a little better job—resolution number four.

All these noble ambitions are well and good but they boil down to one four letter word, and it isn't what those of you who know me think it's going to be.

The word is work and if I don't start now a decade won't be long enough to get these things done.

## 1980 auto registration underway

RALEIGH—North Carolina motorists should have received their 1980 vehicle registration renewal notices, according to Commissioner of Motor Vehicles Elbert L. Peters Jr.

Sales of 1980 validation stickers and license plates began January 2. All registration renewals, stickers or tags, must be displayed no later than midnight February 15.

State Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw pointed out that motor vehicle fees make up about 30 percent of the state's highway fund revenue.

Bradshaw said the vehicle registration fees will be the same as 1979 with fees for

each vehicle printed on the renewal cards. The fee for a private passenger automobile is \$16. Of that amount, \$3 is for driver's education expenses.

Perquimans County residents may purchase the stickers and tags from Ms. Nan S. Reynolds at the Municipal Building on Grubb Street between the hours of 9 and 5 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and between 9 and 12 noon on Wednesday and Saturday.

Renewal stickers may also be obtained by mail from the Motor Vehicles Division in Raleigh.

Vehicle owners who have not received a renewal card by Jan. 15, 1980, or who need to report a change of address

should notify the Vehicle Services Section, Division of Motor Vehicles, 1100 New Bern Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27697 or call 919-733-3025 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Peters said it will take 10 days to two weeks for owners to receive a card after notification to the division.

He said many cards which cannot be delivered, by the Postal Service will be forwarded to local license plate agencies.

Instructions on how to purchase the stickers or tags through the mail or in person at local agencies are contained in an informational folder which accompanies the renewal cards. In both in-

stances, Peters said, owners should remember to certify their insurance coverage by signing the card and make necessary address corrections on both sections of the card.

The motor vehicles commissioner said validation stickers will be used to renew the registration of the following types of vehicles: private passenger cars, 4000-pound trucks, motorcycles, trailers, and rental or leased cars. All other vehicles will receive license plates.

The 1980 validation sticker will be black and white. It should be placed in the upper right hand corner of the owner's current license plate on top of the 1979 sticker.

## Looking back

JAN. 1942

By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU

DEFENSE CHAIRMAN NAMES TIRE BOARD FOR PERQUIMANS: Charles Whedbee, chairman of Civilian Defense Board for Perquimans County, this week named E. Leigh Winslow, George W. Nowell and G. W. Reed as the tire rationing board for Perquimans. Mr. Whedbee announced the appointment of this board following the plan of OPM to carefully conserve the rubber supply now on hand in the United States, sale of tires was banned the middle of December and later the OPM listed doctors, visiting nurses and those caring for public health as those able to purchase tires.

MISS MARY LAYDEN WEDS LEE RIDDICK: The marriage of Miss Mary Layden, daughter of Mrs. Mamie Layden of Hertford and the late Calvin S. Layden, to Lee Riddick, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Riddick and the late Simon Riddick of Hobbsville, took place Wednesday afternoon, December 24, 1941, at 6 o'clock, at South Mills.

MARRIAGES ANNOUNCED: Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Lane announced the marriages of their daughters. Miss Audrey Lee Lane and David Leroy Nixon were united in marriage on December 13, 1941. Miss Ethel Louise Lane and Luther Leroy Whedbee were married on December 20, 1941.

JONES-STEPHENS: In a ceremony December 16, 1941, at the Methodist Church of Anniston, Alabama, Miss Ona Mary Stephens became the bride of William Thomas Jones, of Holland, Va. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Creighton G. Stephens, of Hertford. Mr. Jones is the son of Mrs. Brock Jones and the late Mr. Jones of Holland, Va.

NIXON-WHITE: A quiet home wedding was solemnized Sunday morning at nine o'clock, when Miss Marian Virginia White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman E. White, became the bride of Wilson Irvin Nixon, son of Mrs. Thomas J. Nixon, Sr., and the late Mr. Nixon.

CELEBRATES SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whedbee entertained at a tea on Sunday afternoon, the occasion being their 25th wedding anniversary. Guests were greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Whedbee and Miss Jocelyn Whedbee showed them to the cloak room. Mrs. R. M. Fowler and Mrs. T. J. Nixon poured tea, and Mrs. Silas Whedbee, Mrs. W. G. Wright, Mrs. J. S. Vick and Mrs. R. S. Monds, Jr., assisted in serving.

## Excise tax down

Thrifty consumers have a special reason to be cheerful this holiday season. They saved an estimated \$429 million because the federal excise tax on telephone bills declines on Jan. 1, Carolina Telephone announced last week.

In an annual process set in motion by Congress several years ago, the tax has been declining by one percent each January. This time it drops from 3 percent of the phone bill to 2 percent. The levy will be eliminated on Jan. 1, 1982.

The estimated difference between what telephone customers would have paid at the 3 percent rate, and what they actually will pay at the new 2 percent level, makes up the tax savings for consumers.

Some \$69 million of the total \$429 million will be saved by customers of the nation's 1,500 independent telephone companies, according to estimates by the U.S. Independent Telephone Association. The remainder of

the savings - some \$360 million - will go to Bell System customers. The independent companies serve more than 33 million telephones - one of every 5 in the country.

Congress first imposed the excise tax during World War I as a "temporary" measure. It was repealed briefly after the war, but was reinstituted during the Depression. It has continued ever since with rates as high as 15 percent on local calls and 25 on long distance calls.

## Clarification

Two weeks ago, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY carried a letter to the editor from Jesse Harris. We added, "Hertford Town Councilman" under his name to clarify his identity. However, Mr. Harris would like to stress that his letter was not intended to be a reflection of the council, but was written in the interest of a private citizen.



## Renewal notices

Angel Godwin, an employee of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicles Division in Raleigh, prepares 1980 vehicle registration renewal notices. Sales of 1980 validation stickers and license plates began January 2. The 1980 stickers or tags must be displayed no later than midnight, February 15.

## Marching unit slates bottle drive

The Perquimans County Marching Unit will conduct a door to door bottle drive this weekend to help finance it's February trip to Winter Haven, Florida to participate in the Florida Citrus Parade.

The drive will be held from 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 5 until sometime that afternoon. Marching Unit members will collect returnable soft drink bottles and sell them to the Pepsi Cola and Coca-Cola distributor in Elizabeth City.

Bottles may also be brought to the Nationwide Insurance building on Edenton Road Street, or phone 426-5427 and ask for Lois Jennings or any

marching unit member and your bottles will be picked up at your home.

Last year the unit was able to raise approximately \$450 through its bottle drive.

Mrs. Jennings said that fund raising activities are planned every weekend prior to the trip, which is scheduled for the second weekend in February.

The Citrus Parade performance will be the last ever for the 17 year old Marching Unit.

The Unit is expected to merge this year with the new Perquimans High School Marching Band.

TARBORO—On Thursday, December 27, the North Carolina portion of Norfolk Carolina Telephone Company merged with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, headquartered in Tarboro.

Both companies are members of the United Telephone System whose parent company, United Telecommunications Inc., is located in Kansas City, Mo. Norfolk Carolina was merged with United Telecom on April 26, 1978. Soon after that Carolina Telephone assumed management responsibilities for the Elizabeth City-based company.

With the acquisition of Norfolk Carolina, Carolina Telephone is serving an additional 32,000 customers and 50,000 telephones. Since their merger, Carolina Telephone operates in a total of 50 counties through 146 telephone exchanges.

Besides serving seven counties in northeastern North Carolina, Norfolk Carolina also served a small portion of southeastern Virginia. The Virginia properties of the company will be sold to United Intermountain Telephone Company subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission.

The Norfolk Carolina exchanges involved in the merger with Carolina Telephone are Buxton, Coinjock, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Gatesville, Hertford, Kill Devil Hills, Mamie, Manteo, Moyock, Piney Woods, Shiloh, South Mills, Sunbury, Waves, Weeksville, Welch and Woodville.

Carolina Telephone will continue to have an economic impact in North Carolina. Since the transition, the company has some 5,600 employees. The company expects to have a 1980 annual payroll of \$80.6 million, which will contribute to the economics throughout our

service area wherever our employees reside. Plant investment for 1979 was nearly \$856.4 million; that includes investment in land, buildings, technical and office equipment and furniture, cable and poles, vehicles and other work equipment.

Carolina Telephone, including its newly-acquired service area, budgeted more than \$108 million for new construction in 1980 to expand and improve service to telephone customers.

Both companies paid nearly \$7.3 million in county and municipal taxes for 1979, and more than \$21.6 million in all state and federal taxes.

## Funds to aid handicapped

RALEIGH — The Office of the North Carolina Employment and Training Council has signed a \$95,710 contract with the Eastern Carolina Vocational Center, Inc., in Greenville, that will

serve handicapped people in Perquimans and surrounding counties.

The contract, under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), will run from Dec. of 1979 to September of 1980.

The vocational training project will serve approximately 16 persons in the following categories: mentally and physically handicapped, socially and culturally deprived, emotionally disturbed, alcoholics and ex-offenders.

The 16 persons in the program will be placed in such areas as piano tuning, piano refinishing and repair, secretarial positions and other areas in need of skilled and semi-skilled workers.

Referrals for the project will come through the N.C. Division of Vocational

Rehabilitation, which also will provide vocation evaluation of each person entering the program.

But because only 16 slots are open in a 24-county area, Bernadine Duncan of the Division of Community Employment in Raleigh, said that just how many handicapped Perquimans County residents would be helped by this program was hard to say.

"We base our selection on need, eligibility, and estimated chance of success," said Ms. Duncan.

Other services to be offered participants are personal and social adjustment classes, job development and placement services and GEC certificate instruction if needed.

The office administers the Governor's Coordination and

## Farm-Home funds allotted

James T. Johnson, Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) state director, announced last week the allocation of FmHA Section 8 subsidy funds for fiscal year 1980.

The allocation for 13 counties in Northeastern North Carolina is for 64 units with contact authority of \$248,272. The counties include:

Bertie, Beaufort, Hertford, Martin, Camden, Chowan, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

Parties interested in utilizing the Section 8 subsidy in connection with FmHA rental housing loans should contact Melvin Howell at the Farm Home Administration Office.

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