

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 38, No. 17

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, APR. 29, 1982

20 CENTS



Getting stuck

Rufus Hudson get ready to be stuck while giving blood as the Red Cross Bloodmobile came to Hertford last Monday afternoon.

What does it mean? —

A guide to the flags of the Hertford Fife and Drums

Playing authentic reproductions of musical instruments used during the Revolutionary War, the Hertford Fife and Drums will re-enact the role of musicians and flag bearers in the history of Perquimans County and eastern North Carolina during the afternoon festivities at the Newbold-White House Living History Day Saturday.

The 21-member group, organized under the direction of Charlie Skinner in 1974, brings to 20th century viewers many facets of the lifestyle of this area and the nation as it moved from the 17th to the 18th century.

Actually, the Fife and Drums represent the citizen militia which made up our forces during that period. "Everyone 16 to 70 were in those forces," Skinner said. "Every group had a drums and fifes corps made up of boys 14 and 15 years of age and of men over 70. Although we have members in that wide in-between span, the Hertford Fife and Drums has a 14-year-old member, John Young, and others over 70."

The Fife and Drums will perform at 3:30 p.m. against the background of an encampment of a Revolutionary Regiment, which also will perform periodically throughout the afternoon.

Wearing "Carolina blue" uniforms designed by Miriam Haskett of Hertford, the flag bearers will display an evolutionary history of the American flag from the very beginning of settlers on the nation's soil to the present display of 50 stars and 13 stripes. Twelve of the 14 flags were also made by Haskett.

To appreciate the display of flags and the evolutionary history depicted, Skinner offers the following summary of each.

THE UNIT FLAG — Designed by William "Butch" Ward. In keeping with the corps' colors, the flag features a Carolina blue field, embossed with the corps' name in Stars and Stripes blue. The diamond-shape of 12 navy five-point stars represents

12 of the original 13 colonies. The white center star is the 13th colony, North Carolina.

THE CROSS OF ST. GEORGE — The first English flag to fly in North America. Used by John Cabot when he landed on the continent in 1497. The flag accompanied the first English colonists to Jamestown, Va. in 1607 and Plymouth, Mass. in 1620.

Many of the Puritans considered the cross to be an idolatrous symbol and demanded that it be removed from the flag. They brought this flag one step closer to our present flag by deleting the cross from their own flags, retaining the colors, but converting the flag into a red field with plain white canton.

THE BEDFORD FLAG — Capt. Nathaniel Page carried the Bedford flag with its bold motto, "Conquer or Die" at the Battle of Concord on April 19, 1775. This battle, where the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired, signaled the beginning of the American Revolution.

THE RATTLESNAKE FLAG — The image of the rattlesnake is a unique American contribution to flag history. The motto reflects the growing defiance of the American colonists. This first Navy Jack is believed to have flown on the ship commanded by Commodore Esek Hopkins, America's first Naval Commander-in-Chief, around 1775.

THE LIBERTY TREE FLAG — Popular during the early years of the American Revolution. A tree first became a symbol of liberty on August 14, 1765, when effigies protesting the Stamp Act were hung from an elm tree in Boston. Later, the Sons of Liberty met under this tree and similar trees in other parts of the colonies.

THE PINE TREE FLAG — This flag was never officially recognized but was employed as the national naval ensign in 1775. The motto appeals for a restoration to the colonists of the rights belonging to Englishmen.

This flag became familiar as the ensign of the cruisers commissioned by George Washington. The flag was officially adopted by the Massachusetts Navy in April, 1776.

THE GRAND UNION FLAG — Raised January 1, 1776, on Prospect Hill as the standard of the Continental Army under Washington. This was the first flag of the United States; however, Congress passed no resolution adopting it, yet it was our national flag until the adoption of the Stars and Stripes on June 14, 1777.

THE MOULTRIE FLAG — Probably the first distinctive American flag used in the South during the Revolution. It was designed in 1775 by Col. William Moultrie, who commanded the Second South Carolina Infantry.

On June 28, 1776, Fort Johnson on James Island in South Carolina, where the flag was raised, was attacked by the British fleet. The victory by Col. Moultrie's small garrison saved the southern colonies from invasion for two years. Following the battle, the fort was renamed Moultrie, in honor of its defender.

THE "76" BENNINGTON FLAG — Oral tradition related that this flag was carried in the battle of Bennington, Vt. on August 16, 1777. Many experts consider this flag the oldest known version of the Stars and Stripes.

The striking "arch" formation and the use of seven-pointed stars may have been of Masonic influence. The stripes were alternate white and red, instead of the modern custom of red and white. This flag has become the unofficial flag of the Bicentennial celebration.

THE BETSY ROSS FLAG — Traditionally, Betsy Ross, a young needlewoman of Philadelphia, constructed the first Stars and Stripes from a design by Washington. Historians negate the possibility that

(Continued on page 2)

Festival fever

PCRA conducts Living History Day

A packed afternoon of festivities and historic craft demonstrations will celebrate the county's heritage at the Living History Day festival at the Newbold-White House Saturday beginning at 1 p.m.

Time will turn back through the centuries to honor the state's oldest house during the celebrations, sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association.

While visitors observe crafts ranging from 17th century canoe digging, black-gum broom crafting, bowls and shingles, candle-wicking, spindle-weaving and potting to the highly specialized, wheel-thrown Raku pots.

The program will feature more than 40 area artisans, including

Perquimans County school children, grade one through six, who will perform in folk dances, the Hertford Fife and Drums who will play and exhibit their flags, and additional concerts by the Albemarle Pops and the Eighth Grade Band of Perquimans County High School.

A Civil War encampment will move time forward to a later period of the county's history.

According to Anne Young, chairman of the fair committee, "involvement in the first Living History Day activities has been beyond expectations and will be the basis for many other historical events."

Robert Murray, a Hertford native and news assignment editor for WITN-TV in Washington is

"brushing off his camera shoulder" and returning home to cover the event, along with other area news media.

While the pageantry is underway at the Newbold-White House, an estate auction and flea market will be held at the Hertford Grammar School to benefit the restoration activities and expenses for the historic house.

The two benefit events will begin at 1 p.m. and will be followed by a barbecued chicken supper (\$3 per plate) from 4 to 7 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

There will also be a drawing for a color television set (\$1) at 7 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

School bands hold festival May 8

By SUSAN HARRIS
"Carolina Moon" is the name of this year's band festival sponsored by the Perquimans Band Boosters and Hertford Saddle Club.

The festival has traditionally been a smashing success, and this year's May 8 date promises to be the best ever.

Expanded from previous years, band director David Ziemba says the day's events will be "like a carnival going on" at the high school all day.

Kicking off the day's activities will be the first "Run for the Moon" Perquimans 5K run and Fun Run beginning at Hertford Grammar School at 10 a.m. Race sponsorship is a joint effort of the Perquimans County Recreation Department and the band boosters.

Area joggers will get the chance to show their stuff in competition as they run on several types of terrain over the 3.1 mile route.

Another new event this year will be concert and jazz band competitions. Concert bands from Currituck, Northampton and Perquimans counties will vie for the win, while Manteo, John A. Holmes, Gates, Bertie and Perquimans will enter jazz bands in competition. Admission to the competitions is \$1.

Activities will include video games (a favorite of every youngster), a duck pond, basketball, penny pitching and wet sponge, as well as the ever-popular dunking machine and car smash.

Scheduled for 1:30 are stomper races, 3:00 — bingo, 4:00 — pie in the face (get your enemy) and 5:00 — a raffle drawing for a microwave oven and a reproduction of a Baby Hilda doll and cradle.

Canned goods, crafts, baked goods, plants, toys, and flea market items will be on sale.

Food, also popular with youngsters, will be available all day. Featured will be barbecue sandwiches, hamburgers, French fries, hot dogs, homemade ice cream and soft drinks; all the trimmings to add fun to any day.

A horse and pony show is planned by the Hertford Saddle Club to be held at a location on the high school campus.

Fish fry plates will be served from 4-7 p.m. at a cost of \$3.50 per plate.

The day will end with free outdoor concerts from all four county bands — high school, junior high and both grammar schools — at 7 p.m., which are sure to be a treat.

All proceeds from the day's events will help to defray the costs of "everything it takes to keep a band running," according to Ziemba. These items include band camp, transportation, equipment and music.



Perquimans Pirate Donnie teammates after he hit a Currituck, 7-5, last Friday in Parker, 15, receives grand slam home run to beat Barco.

A little pushing improves the lives of county senior citizens

Rest home care has been something that people have often taken lightly. Or, more accurately, rest home owners have considered their duties to be very simple and basic.

In years past, rest homes took in elderly people and offered them little more than a roof over their heads, and saw to it that they got three meals every day. The "rest" part of rest homes was emphasized, and not the "home."

But then it's hard to fault the rest home owners. State law requires some activities in rest homes, but it was never enforced. And that seemed to be the way that the old folks in their care wanted it. If you ask most elderly people what they want to do, they'll tell you that more than anything else, they would just like to sit. But they were not really telling the truth.

It's part of the psychology of being old. Senior citizens usually don't want to impose on younger people, ev-

when they know they are not really imposing. They often let age become a greater burden than it already is, exaggerating the small handicaps they've acquired over the years.

They allow themselves to feel helpless, and the rest home owners, who are there to please, are happy to oblige them. So the elderly sit in the homes and stare at the walls, the only activity being visits from friends and relatives. They may pretend this is the way they would rather have it, but they aren't really happy with it.

That is beginning to change a great deal as rest home owners discover that it's not enough to ask the folks in their care what they want to do. You have to push them a bit; instead of "What do you want to do?", say "Let's do this."

Audrey Jones, who operates the New Hope Rest Haven, has worked extra hard to get the ten women in her care to stay active. She plans a

calendar of activities for her group, with something to do each day. And she pushes her women to participate, because she has found that they have a good time in spite of themselves. "You do have to push them some," she said one morning at the home.

She spent a couple of hundred dollars and bought several different games, horseshoes and darts, for example. When the weather is nice, she encourages them to get outside and take a short walk. With a foam-rubber ball and wooden bat, they play baseball. Croquet is the next game on the list.

They go on trips to the circus and gospel performances, and just around the county to see how the crops are doing.

They fly kites. They sing; it's fun and good for the lungs. Some days they have a sort of storytelling time, recalling events of their past — the first time they went to the movies or a

fair, for example. "When we first begin, they can't remember much or don't say much," Jones said, "but after we get started they begin to talk."

The health of the people there has improved, Jones reports that save for their annual check-up, a doctor seldom sees the ladies there.

The same is true at other rest homes. The recently-started county rest home paper, the "Rest Home Reviews," chronicles the activities of other homes in the Perquimans County.

The folks take their limitations with a little humor also. On the bulletin board at New Hope Rest Haven there is a notice that says that the women there are not "lonely widows." In fact, they have four men in their lives: they get up in the morning with Charlie Horse, they eat lunch with Arthur Itis, they spend the day with

Will Power, and they go to bed with Ben Gay.

Much of the impetus for this change came from Janice Hobson of the county Social Services Department and Patty Lorick, focal point director at the county Senior Citizens Center. Both have been enthusiastic in pushing the elderly to get moving, as well as teaching home operators how to keep them active.

"We've had activities all along, but not from in the home," said Jones. "People would come in here and do them. When Patty came along, we learned to be self-sufficient."

Unfortunately for the county's senior citizens, both of them will leave or already have left their jobs, Hobson to take a position in the Pasquotank County Social Services Department, and Lorick because the state funding for her program has run out. Hobson has been replaced by Debbie Spence, but as of now, Lorick's job is gone.

Hobson and Lorick set the tempo for activities, getting them to exercise, and starting up such things as a rhythm band — playing bells and triangles to recorded music. It's fun, but Jones said, "People come up the road and they wonder what's going on here."

The rest homes have been left in good hands after all this work. Now they have to change the attitudes others. People who visit the homes still think the folks there are helpless, and that has to change.

"We have to get people more aware," Jones said. She gives the example of groups that come in for the holidays, bringing gifts that they made for the seniors. "I'd like for the ladies to do the craft, invite people in here to show them how to do it, and then let them do it, instead of giving them the finished product."

They'll just have to push the younger people a bit.