

# Perquimans People

## County women offer swimming lessons

By SUSAN HARRIS

Perquimans County is surrounded by water: the Perquimans, Little and Yeopium rivers and the Albemarle Sound. Summer recreation in the area includes many water sports.

It's sad that drownings sometimes occur which could have been prevented if the people had taken the time to become water safe, say Fran Davis and Mary White, two local water safety instructors.

"One of the biggest things that bothers me is that in a county where there is so much water there are so few adults that swim," White said.

The instructors also expressed concern over the fact that many parents put life preservers on their children when they ride in boats, but neglect to show the children what to expect when they go overboard with the jacket on.

In both women's classes students go overboard in life preservers so that they will know what happens and won't panic in an emergency situation.

Davis' class also includes instruction on mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Davis teaches at the Holiday Island swimming facility, while White instructs from her backyard pool. Both are certified by the Red Cross as water safety instructors.

This summer, White will teach seven swimming classes ranging from beginner to swimmer levels. There are still several openings in her courses which begin on June 28 and run for two weeks.

Davis, who is the program coordinator of all pool activities at Holiday Island, will hold 47 classes with the help of water safety instructors John Hughes and Tricia Shields.

Swimming levels include beginner through advanced lifesaving offered through the Red Cross program, and infants and preschool programs which teach infants and young children, along with their parents, to be water safe.

The unsupervised use of floats, rings and tubes is a pet peeve of Davis'. She impresses upon parents

that they are for use only when an adult is near at hand.

Davis has had many years' experience working with very young children, and works with her own two, who, at ages 6 and 2, are well on their way to becoming expert swimmers.

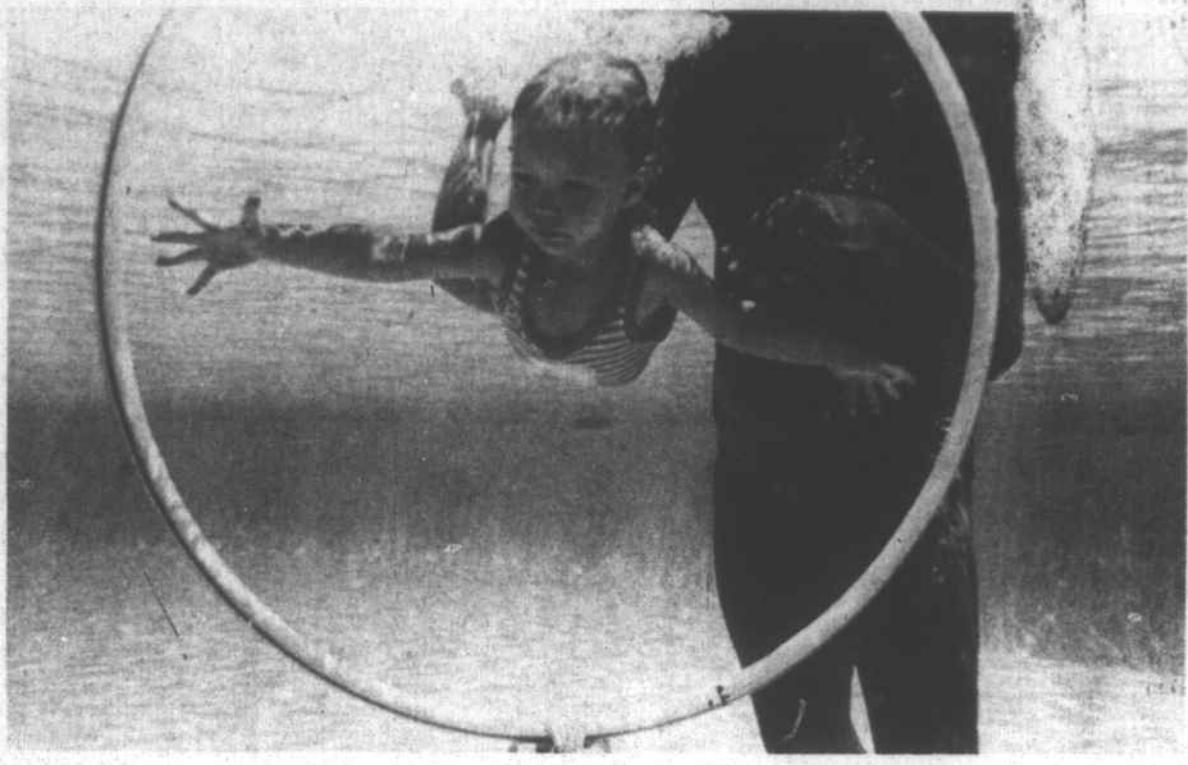
"We teach the parents how to teach the child," she said of her infant and toddler classes.

Davis also has some openings in the Holiday Island classes, and said, "Upon request I will teach other classes."

With two qualified, experienced swimming teachers in the county, it's easy for parents to help to make their children more water-safe.

Adults who are non-swimmers should also consider enrolling in a class. The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" can go a long ways towards halting drowning accidents.

"With all the waterways we have in the area it's a vital asset," Davis said of the availability of water safety instruction. White echoed those feelings.



## People briefs

Miss Judy Long of Raleigh was a weekend guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Long.

Dr. Price Monds of Johnson City, Tenn. is a guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Monds.

Jack Babb of Whiteville spent a few days this week with Mr. and Mrs. Julian Matthews and Mrs. Jack Stafford.

Mrs. Mary Lou Sutton, Miss Helene Britt, and Carl Britt of Shelby are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fenton Britt.

Dr. and Mrs. Joe Haskett, Jr. and family of Newport News, Va. spent the weekend with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Haskett, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Chappell, Jr. and son, Brian, of Richmond, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. N.W. Chappell, Sr. on Saturday at Belvidere.

Mr. and Mrs. Sid Harmon of Wilson were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nixon.

Royce Vickers, Jr. of Virginia Beach, Va. spent the weekend with his mother, Mrs. Ellie Vickers.

Mr. Julian White spent several days last week with his daughter, Miss Sue White, at Virginia Beach, Va.

Mrs. Cleo Whitley of Williamston

was a weekend guest of Mrs. Dick Brewer.

Mrs. Jackie Bowles of Norfolk, Va. spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Williams, III.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Britt and daughter, Joy, of Newport News, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fenton Britt on Saturday.

Miss Donna Thach is a guest of Mrs. Jill White and Miss Susan White at Winter Haven, Fla.

Mrs. Edwin White of Belvidere spent several days last week at Suffolk, Va. with Mr. and Mrs. Al Felton.

Miss Martha McNeill of St. Pauls was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harrell Thach.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Williams of Belvidere were guests of Eddie Williams at Manteo for several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Reames of Virginia Beach, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Layden Sunday at Belvidere.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrell Thach, Lee Thach, Miss Martha McNeill, and John McNeill visited relatives in Raleigh on Sunday.

Mrs. Riley Williams and daughter, Sheila, of Belvidere spent a few days

last week with Whit Williams at Manteo.

Miss Dee Nixon from Wilmington and Mark Willis, student at E.C.U., Greenville, spent last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Hudson and Mr. and Mrs. Preston Nixon.

Mrs. Arvin Hudson was a guest of Dr. and Mrs. Billy Nixon last week at Wilmington and was accompanied home by Mrs. Nixon, who spent the weekend here.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Henry Riddick had as their house guest for the Memorial Day weekend. Their children from N.Y., Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rankin and children, Joy, Andre, Aisha and guest Debbie, of Kempstead, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Forney and children, Sheila, Reggie, Tonya and Cherrille of Jamaica, N.Y.; Rev. and Mrs. Reginald Greene and daughter Gail, of Roosevelt, N.Y. Mrs. Cheryl Canton of Freeport, N.Y. and guest, Mr. Troy Jones of Columbus, Ohio; and Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Riddick and Sherron Walker of Brooklyn, N.Y. Also, from Woodside, N.Y. niece Mrs. Evelena Newton and girls, Monica, Vanette, Darlene, Damelia, and three grandchildren. They reside with their aunt in Hertford, Mrs. Mary Felton.

## Library News

JUST OPEN A BOOK is the theme for Perquimans County Library's summer reading program. Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to sign up.

The local kick off time will be on June 18 at 3 o'clock at the library. Mrs. Evelyn Neptune will present a special program with story telling and a puppet show.


Reading lists and game sheets featuring Joab (Just Open A Book) Frog and his friends will be given to each participant. Those children who complete the reading requirements will receive a certificate signed by Governor Hunt, decals and other material featuring Joab Frog.

"There is not a better way to prepare our children for the coming school year than to encourage them to practice their reading skills," says a library spokesperson.

**VOTE FOR**  
**George N. Reid**  
 for  
**Commissioner**  
**District 1**  
**Perquimans County**  
**Primary Election**  
**June 29, 1982**  
**YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT**  
**WILL BE APPRECIATED**



**ELECT**  
**MARSHALL MERRITT**  
**SHERIFF**  
**OF PERQUIMANS COUNTY**  
 June 29 - Democratic Primary



**BACKGROUND**

Born - September 3, 1942 New Hanover Co., N.C.  
 1948-1959-Attended school and helped on father's farm  
 1960-1963-Served in United States Navy; Primary duty - Aviation Ordnance - Secondary duty - Shore patrolman.  
 1964-1967-Served in United States Army Military Police Corps at Harvey Point Base in Perquimans County  
 1968-1973-Chief of Police at Harvey Point Base, Perquimans Co.  
 1974-June 1977-Patrolman, Hertford Police Dept.  
 July 1977-Present-Chief of Police-Hertford Police Dept.

**EDUCATION**

1960 High School Graduate  
 1977 Graduate Beaufort Co. Technical Institute - AAS Degree in Police Science Technology  
 1964 Graduate of U.S. Army Military Police School  
 1974 Graduate of Elizabeth City Police Academy  
 Completed the following short courses:

- Applied Management - N.C. Justice Academy
- Effective Management for Law Enforcement Agencies - N.C. Justice Academy
- Other Police related courses too numerous to list

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**JUNE 20th**




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