

# Weekly Perspective

## Chemicals carry risks

By JOHN SLEDGE

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

Chemicals that are handled properly can be useful tools in almost every phase of our society — and agriculture is an important example.

Chemicals pose some risks, but if we eliminated every substance that might be hazardous under any circumstance, the world would be a barren waste. If we get real technical, nothing can be considered safe; risk is a way of life.

Water is a chemical that is usually considered safe, but the risk of drowning is still there. Digitalis, used properly, can help control heart disease; used imprudently, it can kill.

So the scientists have modified the word "risk" and prefer using the term "acceptable risk." This means that a certain degree of risk is permitted because the probability for harm is low or there is no alternative to fulfill the need.

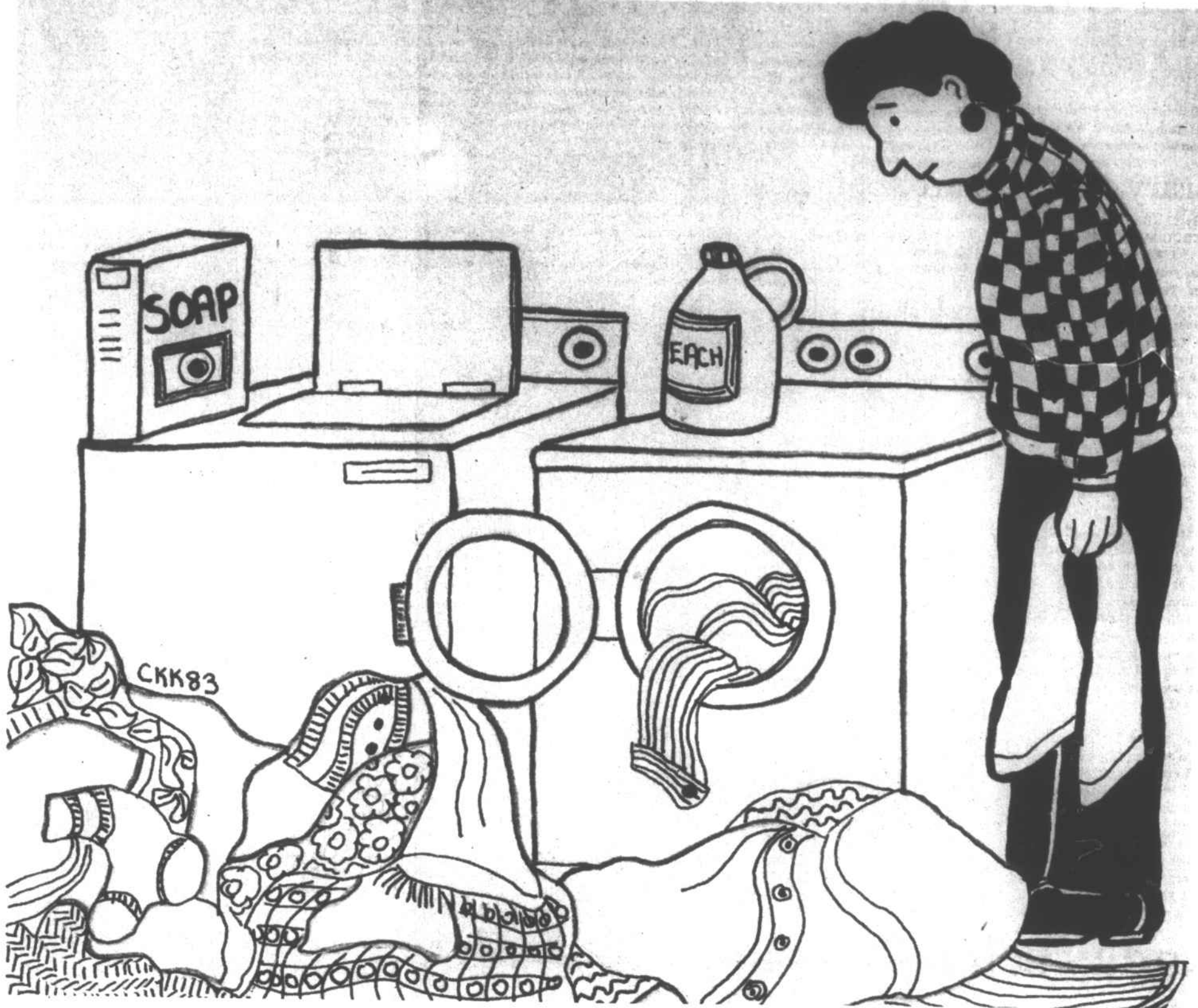
It is an unacceptable risk for someone who knows how to swim to go into the water. It is not an acceptable risk for a non-swimmer to dive headling into a deep pool. It is an acceptable risk to eat natural food which contains very small amounts of harmful chemicals. It is not an acceptable risk to pick and eat a wild mushroom if you are not an expert on mushrooms.

It is an acceptable risk to use a toxic chemical substance, provided it is safely and properly handled and controlled. It is not an acceptable risk to use just any chemical substance for just any purpose.

Gasoline works well in an automobile engine; it is dangerous as a cleaning fluid, as many hospital files can attest. And, just as two sleeping pills may be prescribed by a doctor, 20 or them could be harmful to your health.

So, the whole point is that there is a risk in everything. But, the greatest risk of all is the risk of not being able to use needed chemicals on the farm. The result would be an insufficient amount of high-quality food for all of us.

The age old question: "What happens to the clean clothes?"



## Isaac White story

The story of the Isaac White House near Bethel concludes.

Once a self-sustaining plantation, the land formerly owned by Isaac White was auctioned off in September 1869 to pay the debts of John W. White's estate. The property was purchased for \$350 by Robert B. Cox, who within three months gave it to Anderson White in exchange for \$200 and another parcel of land.

Anderson White, who was collaterally related to the Isaac White family, was born in 1838. He enlisted in the "Perquimans Beauregards" on September 1, 1861, and was captured at Bristoe Station on October 14, 1863.

After the War, in February 1866, Anderson married Lucy Williams. In 1870 he informed the census enumerator that he owned or produced 30 acres improved land, 32 acres woodland, 60 acres other unimproved land, \$10 worth of farming implements and machinery, 1 horse, 2 milch cows, 16 swine, 150 bushels of Indian corn, 25 bushels of oats, 1 bale of cotton, 50 bushels of sweet potatoes, 1½ tons of hay, 105 gallons of molasses, and \$80 worth of animals slaughtered.

In 1870 Anderson's real estate was worth \$600, his personal estate \$60, and the productions of his farm \$375. He had paid \$100 in wages during the census year. His household included himself, his wife, his two infant sons, his friend Isaac N. White, a black female domestic servant, and a black

child.

By 1880 Anderson had added another son and two daughters to his family. He had increased the value of his land to \$1000. His land usage was varied: 28 acres yielded 250 bushels of Indian corn; 8 acres, 100 bushels of oats; 12 acres, 80 bushels of wheat; another 12 acres, 6 bales of cotton; 1 acre, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes; and unspecified acreage yielded 25 bushels of cow peas.

Ray Winslow

From an acre with six bearing trees, five bushels of apples were produced. Anderson had hired labor for 33 weeks of the census year 1880, paying \$80 in wages, and his farm productions reached the value of \$650. In addition to crops, the farm produced 10 pounds of butter, 300 eggs, and 25 pounds of honey.

Lucy White died in 1881 and Anderson married the much younger Martha Pratt three years later. In the next decade he became a member of the Board of County Commissioners, serving from 1891 through 1896 and from 1899 through 1902.

In the early years of the twentieth century White turned his attention away from the farm to the town of Hertford, from agriculture to business. He purchased a number of town lots, with four stores and two houses; one of his store buildings housed a printing office. He became a stockholder of Eastern Cotton Oil Company.

Anderson White died in 1922, and the old family home was acquired in 1924 by his son Thomas Skinner White. T.S. White was captain of a tugboat for Major and Loomis Lumber Company, a storekeeper, and a maker of skiffs. Captain White's daughter Virginia Transeau became editor of the "Perquimans Weekly".

Probably built by Jonathan Skinner about the time of the American Revolution, the historic Isaac White House now belongs to descendants of Capt. T.S. White.

## Spaces provided for handicapped

By VALSHORT

Most of us are guilty of it. At the time, I'm sure it seems quite harmless and quite justifiable.

You're in a hurry. It won't take but a minute to run in and run out and you'll be on your way. So you pull in and park at the handicapped parking space that is so conveniently located at the front door of the store or the post office or the bank or whatever.

There were times during my pregnancy three years ago that I FELT handicapped and felt justified in taking a handicapped parking place that was so enticingly close to where I wanted to go. Carrying my dear, but

weighty burden across the entire length of a parking lot was almost too much to bear!

But then I realized what a blessing my health and my mobility was and I thanked God that I had legs and that I COULD walk. Furthermore, I had been given orders to walk from my obstetrician so I therefore resisted (many times) the handicapped parking temptation.

It's still tempting, especially in this busy, bustling world we live in, to forget good behavior and simple courtesy when there's so much to do, so many appointments to keep, and so little time to get everything done.

You may have noticed that

there are now handicapped parking spaces sprinkled around Hertford...at the corner of Market and Church streets (in front of Woodard's,) and in front of the Methodist Church. There may be others that I haven't noticed yet.

I know those who are handicapped and in need of such parking facilities are very grateful and consider this another progressive step toward public awareness and appreciation of the problems of the handicapped and disabled.

According to Captain Marshall Merritt, of the Hertford Police Department, in order to legally park in a handicapped parking space, you must have either a

licence tag or a placard, which indicates you are eligible.

Applications are available at the License Bureau at the Perquimans Chamber of Commerce office in the Town Hall and must be approved by the state Department of Motor Vehicles. A doctor's signature is required on the application, according to Mary Sue Roach, clerk at the License Bureau.

If you are handicapped or disabled, take advantage of this courtesy the Town of Hertford is providing. But those of us who are not, let's not make life any tougher on the handicapped than it already is.

After all, it is illegal.

## Facing South

a syndicated column: voices of tradition in a changing region

JASPER, Ark.—"I remember a time as a lad of five or six when my mother was ill. I leaned against the fireplace of the old cabin and watched Dr. William T. Bradley, the family physician, treat her. When he finished he turned to me and said, 'Willy, what are you going to be when you grow up?'"

"A doctor," I replied. I was committed."

Willy Hudson's sensitivity to human suffering never waned. But to fulfill his dream of going to medical

school, he needed a high school education—a problem in Jasper where there were only eight grades.

"At my father's urging," he explains, "I arranged to board and work on a farm near Sedalia, Missouri, where I could attend high school. In the fall of 1914 I finally entered pre-med school at Washington University, waiting tables and mopping floors to pay the first year's fees."

While he was still a student William Hudson's growing medical

curiosity led to his discovery of irregularities in the subclavian arteries of about thirth cadavers used in anatomy classes. He performed additional research and published a paper on his findings. Then he began experimenting to perfect bone transplants in laboratory animals. By the time he graduated, he had published his second medical paper—an unusual feat for a student.

Dr. Hudson married his college sweetheart, Benta, a nurse. Together they studied the diet's effects on iodine levies in the blood. Low iodine levels were common in dwarfs, and Hudson discovered that adding iodized table salt to the diet alleviated the problem. "As a result," he recalled, "the condition is now quite rare."

(Part 2 Next Week)

## Letters

The PERQUIMANS WEEKLY welcomes the opinion of its readers. We print letters to the editor on subjects of local, state, national and international interest.

Letters should be limited to 300-350 words and should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer. Only the name and address will be published with the letter.

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

Mail letters to: The Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944, or drop them off at our offices at Courthouse Square.

## Letter to the editor

Editor, THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY:

I am filled with mixed emotions as I write this letter to the residents of Perquimans County and the surrounding area.

I have been offered and accepted the position of Vice-President, Executive Officer of the Consumer Loan Division for First Financial Corp. out of Kinston.

I have enjoyed being a part of Perquimans County and getting involved in the various committees. Most of you know, I made a commitment to Bank of N.C. when I came to Hertford and now, 9 months

later, the bank is doing real well.

My leaving is no reflection on the new NCNB merger, as they will only offer more services and make the bank all the stronger.

To all of my friends who are too numerous to mention here, but you know who you are, thanks for all the help and for accepting me into your community. I trust you will show my replacement the same courtesy. Thanks to all of you.

May God Bless,  
Allan B. Asbell, V. Pres.  
City Executive  
Bank of N.C.

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