

# Weekly Perspective

## Other views

### Farm Bureau trip draws attention

**By JOHN SLEDGE**  
**N.C. Farm Bureau Federation**  
 Last spring, a delegation of Farm Bureau leaders went to Japan on a trade mission. Their task was to try to convince the Japanese to open up more of their markets to American beef, citrus and other products. On that trip, they found steaks selling for \$15 per pound in supermarkets and cantaloupes at \$20 each.

Although the mission may not have accomplished all it had hoped for, it did receive tremendous media coverage in Japan and it is believed that Japanese consumers began to take a look at just what their government was doing to them. Consumer attitudes in Japan as a result of that trip may be measured in a recent poll taken by a Japanese newspaper. The results of the poll were sent to this country by the American embassy in Tokyo to the U.S. Secretary of State. The three points of the poll are heartening to American farmers who desperately need more markets for their products.

(1) There was strong support for liberalization of farm imports. Fifty-two percent of those surveyed sup-

ported liberalization of beef imports, while only 23 percent were opposed.

(2) The survey also supports U.S. contention that lower prices would result in expanded consumption. There were 56 percent of those who had tasted U.S. oranges who said they would eat more if prices were lower, while 45 percent said they would eat more beef if it were cheaper.

(3) While previous results had shown strong support for protection of Japanese farmers, the recent poll shows that support is waning. While not a majority yet, 42 percent fully agreed with the statement, "Japan is freely exporting automobiles, TV sets, etc., to the U.S.; and, therefore, Japan should also liberalize the imports of beef and oranges from the U.S." There were 48 percent who felt that rejecting U.S. requests for liberalization would worsen U.S.-Japan relations.

It takes time to wear down old rules and tradition, but it just may be that there are better times ahead for Japanese consumers, and for American farmers who want to sell more of their products to Japan.

### Tariffs constant through history

In the continuing interplay of economic, social, and political concerns, there are some issues so basic and so constant they every period of American history has dealt with them.

One of those issues hinges on protective tariffs. Self-interest impels a manufacturer to support any measure which enlarges his market, raises his profit and stifles his competitors. Consumers, on the other hand, naturally desire whatever leads to less expense and greater choice in goods.

Perquimans county."

Thomas Long, a leading magistrate and Register of Deeds, was chosen to chair the meeting, while lawyer and legislator Joseph W. Townsend was appointed secretary.

The principal object of the meeting was the election of delegates to attend an Anti-Tariff Convention in Philadelphia in September, 1831. The delegates chosen from Perquimans were all men of note, including Genl. Jonathan H. Jacobs, prominent planter and legislator and Charles W. Skinner, the county's foremost Baptist layman.

The delegates included Miles Elliott, tavern owner and sometime Sheriff; Edmund White, planter; Josiah T. Granbery, planter and future legislator; and John E. Wood, Clerk of Superior Court.

Perhaps as a result of such organized opposition, a milder tariff was passed by Congress in 1832. This did not suit many of the agricultural interests, however, and a "nullification" crisis ensued. South Carolina, following a constitutional philosophy articulated by John C. Calhoun, declared its right to nullify any act of Congress and to prohibit its enforcement within the state's boundaries.

President Andrew Jackson was determined to enforce the tariff laws and to maintain the authority of the Federal government. (Jackson was not popular in Perquimans, where only about 20 percent of the electorate favored his Democratic Party.) South Carolina finally backed down, and the start of civil war tarried another thirty years.

Americans still face the tariff question whenever they must choose between goods made abroad and those made domestically. Jobs, balance of trade, price, self-interest, and national interest still compete as factors in determining attitudes toward tariffs.



During the 1820s and 1830s the U.S. experienced heated, often bitter, controversy on the tariff question. Pro-tariff elements, especially Northern woolen manufacturers, secured passage in 1828 of legislation so detested by Southern agricultural interests that it became known as the "tariff of abominations".

Dependent upon agriculture and virtually lacking manufacturing enterprises, Perquimans County not unexpectedly had many citizens opposed to tariffs. Why should a planter, often selling to a foreign market, be prohibited from getting a bargain on foreign goods? Why should he pay more for the items he must purchase, to the enrichment of manufacturers in other states?

Feeling against the tariff ran so high that a public meeting was held at the Courthouse in the town of Hertford on August 18, 1831. As reported by the "Edenton Gazette", the meeting was attended by "a respectable number of the citizens of

### Looking back

**20 Years Ago-1963**  
**By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU**  
**164 FARMERS SIGN UP IN COUNTY FOR '63 FEED PROGRAM:** Corn, barley and grain sorghum producers on 164 farms in Perquimans County have filed forms indicating their intentions to participate in the 1963 Feed Grain Program. In an effort to increase farm income and to stop the buildup of feed grain supplies, the program provides special payments to corn, barley and grain sorghum producers who agree to divert a portion of the acreage formerly planted to these crops to an approved conservation use.

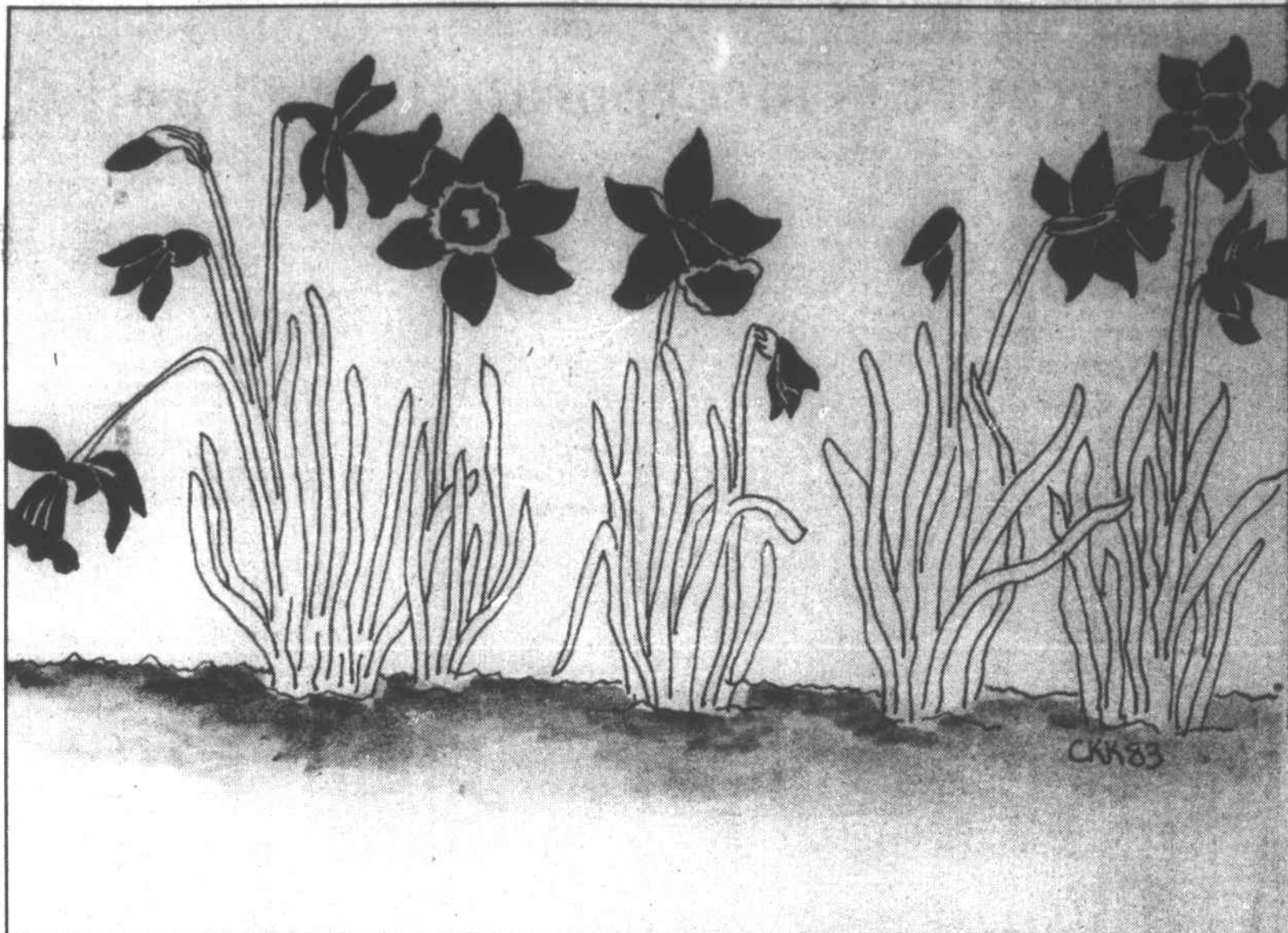
**JAY DILLON BREAKS ARM:** Jay Dillon, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Dillon, suffered a broken arm on Monday at the gym in Perquimans High School. Dillon was taken to Dr.

T.P. Brinn who sent him to the Albemarle Hospital where his arm was set and put in a cast.

**BROTHER OF LOCAL RESIDENT BURNED:** Frank Biggers, vice president of Gast Heat Engineering Corp. of Charlotte, N.C. and brother of J.T. Biggers, was critically burned in an explosion at an industrial plant in Charleston, S.C. last Sunday.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:** Mr. and Mrs. Ray Perry, Jr., announce the birth of a son born Tuesday, February 19, 1963. Mrs. Perry and new son have returned to their home on Route 3 from the hospital.

**ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED:** Mr. and Mrs. Ackles L. Gregory of Route 2, Elizabeth City, announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Helen Fay, to Arland Winslow.



Joy for winter weary souls!

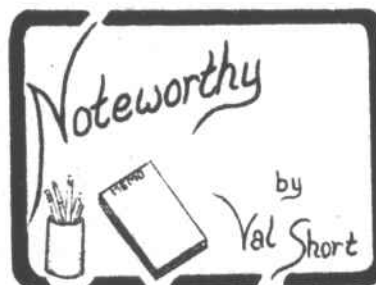
### Chamber requires strong commitment

I had the pleasure last week of attending a meeting of the merchants of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce out at Angler's Cove.

I'm sure I was among many of the 50 in attendance who left the meeting with feelings of unity, excitement, hope and enthusiasm about the future of Perquimans County.

If the merchants and Chamber can move forward with the same momentum that was created at the meeting, Perquimans County will have taken a giant step toward progress.

Mary Livengood, director of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, led an enthusiastic brainstorming session which highlighted the needs of the merchants in Perquimans County. The technique was effective and helpful in stimulating



thought and discussion as well as enthusiasm in the crowd.

Goals were established and priorities set, giving the Chamber a direction and strategies for action for the future.

Livengood stressed to the group that the Chamber of Commerce is not a charity or a civic group — but a volunteer organization in which members invest in the future of Perquimans County.

Membership in the Chamber calls for an investment — not a donation.

Some of the needs mentioned by merchants at the meeting last week included beautification, jobs, promotion of the waterfront, brochures and historic materials, unity and loyalty among retailers and consumers, advertisement and promotion, communication and more.

But the one idea mentioned which really made an impression upon me was simply and aptly expressed in this way by one Chamber member — "You've got to start with yourself — the biggest potential industry is the people."

To say it another way, what we have to do first is sell Perquimans County to Perquimans County people. This is easier said than done and requires commitment,

accommodation, caring, communication and investment on the part of the consumer, the retailer, the Chamber — everyone involved.

The Perquimans Weekly has made an investment in the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce and is committed to the growth, progress and development of Perquimans County. We have a representative on the Chamber merchant's committee and both the advertising and editorial departments actively promote and participate in Chamber activities.

We have made the investment and the commitment and we challenge you, the retailers, the consumers, the citizens of Perquimans County to also make a commitment for a prosperous, progressive Perquimans County.

### Facing South

a syndicated column:  
 voices of tradition  
 in a changing region

During the racial upheavals in the Watts community of Los Angeles during the 1960s Ross and his wife served as peacemakers by "Reporting both sides of the story," Ross recalls. "The Watts people needed someone to believe in, and Willa and I went out and broadcast live from the scene." He went on to comment, "Sometimes you need to get both black and white together and spank them!"

Part of Ross's effectiveness as a reporter came from the network of unpaid reporters he established on both state and national levels-people who would call him with news of otherwise unreported events, or whom he could call to get another perspective on a news story. "I scorched a lot of people in my career," the white-haired journalist admits, "but most of them needed scorching."

Ross also served as a sports broadcaster; he broadcast the first report in the state of a black football game. During the game he coined a new term, "self-tackle-ization," for which he received a \$25 bonus and a good ribbing.

Another important aspect of Abram Ross's career is that he was among the first DJs to back rhythm and blues musicians. A number of them appeared as guests on his show, including Louis Armstrong, B.B. King, Little Richard, Duke Ellington and Ross's favorite, Nat King Cole — "a marvelous person," he says.

During this show, he held "name that tune" contests in which the winners received clothing from a downtown merchant. At one point, Ross remembers, so many calls came in that the switchboard started

blowing fuses. "The telephone company expressed concern," he says. "Things got so bad that Ma Bell finally asked me to close down because I was playing havoc with her system."

Today, Abram Ross is still on the air with a program focusing on religious music and his "Negroes in the News" show. A clown at heart, he is constantly pulling someone's leg. Every year he gives himself a "surprise birthday party" attended by hundreds of friends and fans; like Jack Benny, Ross always claims it's his 39th.

Oklahomans recently acknowledged Ross's contributions to the state by changing the name of his street to Abram Ross Avenue. He has seen many changes during his long and active career, and he explains his ability to maintain his serenity through thick and thin by commenting, "Peace and happiness come to those who look for it. I carry mine with me."

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK —** Abram's Ross's broadcast signature is "The Sweetest Thing This Side of Heaven." The 72-year-old self-proclaimed "old youngster" has been blazing new trails in radio journalism for 35 years, winning many awards and gaining national recognition as one of the first black radio newscasters and an outstanding professional in his field.

The Oklahoma-born Ross grew up planning to be a minister like his father. But during his education at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas, he recognized another field in which strong black leadership was needed, and began studying jour-

nalism in stead of theology. He says, "the black man needed someone to focus on his day-to-day fight against a hard way of life."

After finishing his studies Ross moved back to Oklahoma to look for a job. He got his start in 1948 working for Oklahoma station KLPR, now mostly a country and western station. Ross was the first to realize he was the only black man on the air in Oklahoma. He pieced together his format-which he still used today-focusing on "the little man and the whole community."

Keeping his show on the air proved harder than getting on in the first place. Ross's program ran into the red the first year. But then he talked a local sponsor into giving him a one-month trial. After only a week they were ready to sign a year's contract. Ross's popularity grew and in 1954 he

was named one of the top ten black DJs in the nation.

Ross's show included an unusual news segment call "Negroes in the News" which gave a daily up date of news in the black community, both local and national. "I found that any time a black man hit the news, it was spread all over the front page, and a lot of the time without much attention given to detail and truth," he explains. Aside from listing church activities, most news coverage of the black community focused on violence or other negative images of blacks.

Ross's wide-ranging career as a news reporter has taken him across the nation. He has interviewed national leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr.; after King's assassination, Ross kept his listeners posted with bulletins telephoned directly from Memphis.

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