

Weekly Perspective

Episcopal Church suffered shock

The Episcopal Church in North Carolina suffered a severe shock in 1853. The source of the diocese's crisis was its bishop, the Right Reverend Levi Silliman Ives.

Ives was a native of Meriden, Connecticut, born on September 16, 1797.



He became the second Bishop of North Carolina after his consecration to the episcopate on September 22, 1831. (One of his consecrators, Henry U. Onderdonk, wrote the familiar hymn "How wondrous and great thy works, God of praise.")

During the twenty years of his pastoral labors in North Carolina, Bishop Ives regularly visited Perquimans County. His first visit was on May 11, 1832, and he preached and conducted services in Hertford.

He reported in 1834: "On the 4th of March, I went to Hertford, and preached at night in the Court House, to an unusually attentive congregation."

"The next day, proceeded to Old Neck, and preached in a School House, to an assembly of apparently devout and interested worshippers."

After his visit to Hertford on May 24, 1836, the Bishop expressed the hope "that a union of this place with Old Neck, may secure the erection of a Church edifice."

The Bishop found three clusters of people in the county interested in the Episcopal church. There was a small group in Hertford, primarily doctors and teachers; a group of planters in Old Neck north of Perquimans River, principally the Skinners and Nixons; and by 1846 a planter group near Woodville dominated by Josiah T. Granbery of Stockton plantation.

In 1848 Bishop Ives assigned the Rev. William E. Snowden to organize a congregation in Perquimans. Accordingly, the parish of the Holy Trinity was founded; this congregation still exists.

During his visitation in April, 1849, the bishop learned that a church would soon be built in Hertford and a chapel near Woodville. Two years later both edifices were complete and Ives consecrated them to God's service under the name Church of the Holy Trinity and Church of St. Barnabas.

Bishop Ives paid his last visit to Perquimans in March, 1852. By the end of that year this Shepherd had done a thing which would daze his flock: he went, literally and figuratively, to Rome.

For some years Ives had been drawn to the Oxford Movement, which began in England as a rediscovery of the catholicity of the Anglican churches. At that time the lines between Protestant and Catholic were sharply, and often acrimoniously, drawn.

Many Episcopalians in North Carolina were alarmed by their bishop's interest in things Catholic. Ives felt it necessary to reassure his diocese in 1850 that he did not hold or teach obligatory private confession, transubstantiation, adoration of the Eucharistic elements, and mediatory invocation of saints.

In an uncomfortable and divisive situation, Bishop Ives eventually followed his conscience into membership in the Roman Catholic Church. He resigned his see in a letter from Rome on December 22, 1852; he was deposed the following year.

In Perquimans, where he had done so much for the Episcopal church, a bitter churchman remembered this act as Ives' "perversion to the Roman Church."

The unhappy Levi S. Ives, of whom it might almost be said that for a brief time the Episcopal bishop of North Carolina was a Roman Catholic, died on October 13, 1867.

Looking back

20 Years Ago
By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL BOOSTS WATER RATE FROM \$1.50 MINIMUM TO \$3.00: The Hertford Town council in its September meeting voted to raise the water rates in the Town of Hertford from a \$1.50 minimum to \$3.00, the increase effective November 1 for water used September 14 through October 15.

Following considerable thought by the board, the increase in the water rate was voted.

It will provide an estimated \$12,000 a year to be set aside as a reserve for the financing of the building of the sewage disposal plant, which the Town of Hertford has been ordered by the N.C. Department of Water Resources, State Stream and Sanitation Committee.

The treatment plant and lines will cost an estimated \$450,000, and will require a bond issue.

The Town made application for a temporary permit to continue discharging untreated wastes until the necessary facilities can be provided, and have already had an

extension and are operating on temporary permit.

HERTFORD TARGET FOR CRIME WAVE: Hertford has been the victim of four robberies in two days of this week. The first three occurred either Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

These occurred at the Harris Super Market, which was entered through a side window used for fan ventilation to cool the refrigerator room. Missing about \$25.

Reed Oil Company was entered through a window. To date nothing has been reported missing there. Winslow Oil Company, a neighbor of Reed Oil Co., was entered and some change amounting to about \$2.40 was reported missing.

The latest robbery occurred Wednesday morning in the early hours at Riverview Esso Station located on U.S. 17 north of Hertford on the Elizabeth City highway.

The place was entered by breaking the glass in the front door. The cigarette machine was broken and money taken from there, also some money out of the cash register.

Letter to the Editor

EDITOR
THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

The State and National Federations of Business and Professional Women's Club are asking that local club members let the general public know their reasons for membership in and loyalty to the local club as well as the State and National Federations.

When I look back through the years, I can see a good deal that our little club has done to help our community and especially our youth. To enumerate a few; our scholarships for high school seniors, our sponsorship of the Health Careers Club and Candy Stripper Classes as well as our Young Careerist Program that honors young women

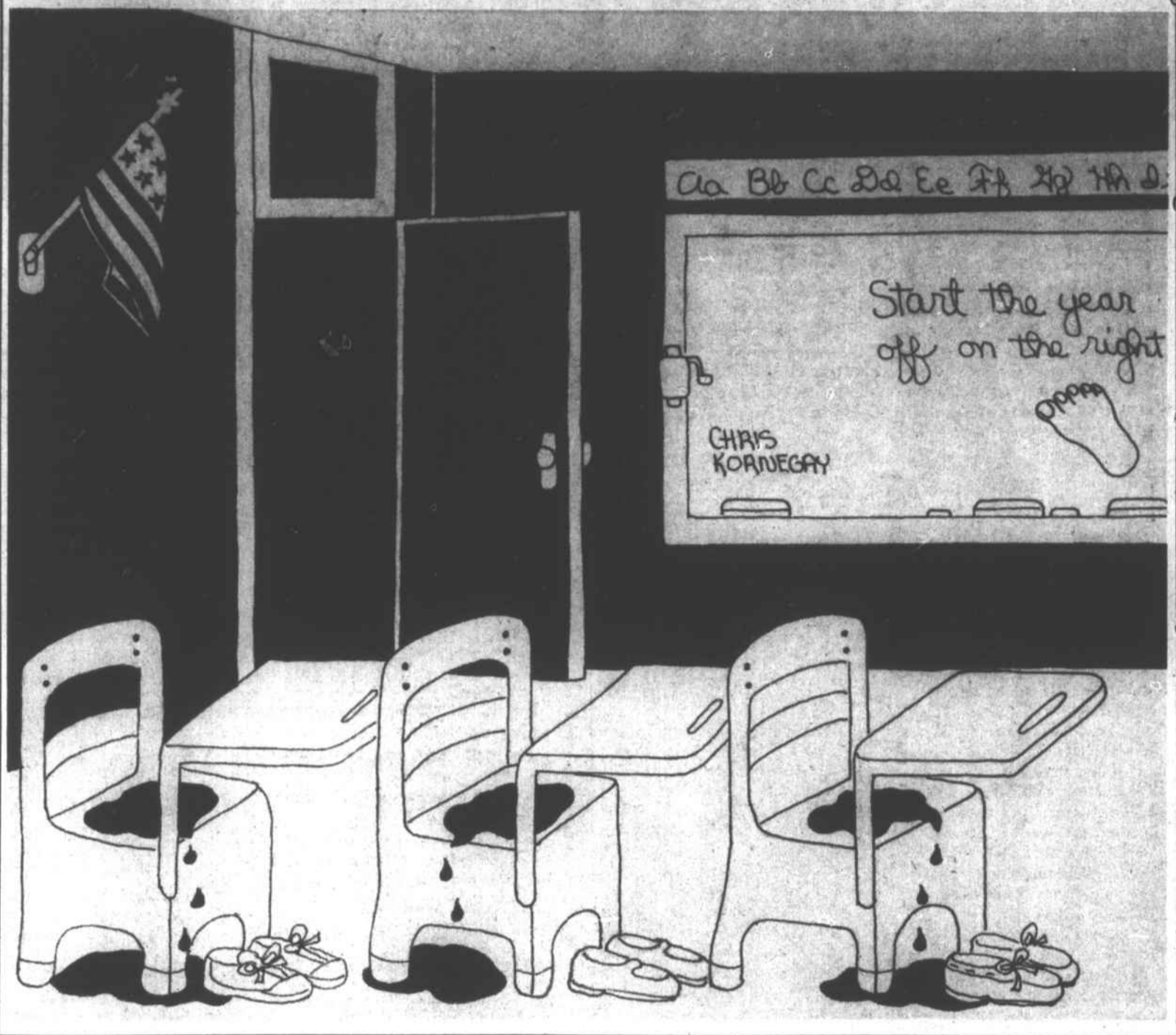
beginning their careers.

We have also worked with the Girl Scout Program when our services were requested. It has been the intention of our local club to be involved in worthwhile activities in our community in so far as our resources (membership and finances) permitted.

It has been my pleasure to leave a small part in these activities. I also treasure my association with other women cemented by "B.P.W." I think especially of our deceased members: Dora Riddick, Ailee Kanoy, Viola Nachman and Ailee T. Owens, without "B.P.W." I would not have known these women as well as I did.

Sincerely,
Hilda Wood

The heat finally took its' toll They melted



NEW VIEW

Bartow Houston Jr.

Independently distributed
from the Smokies to the Sea

Editor's Note: We will be publishing the column, New View, for the next few weeks. We invite your comments concerning New View as a permanent feature in THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY.

A man seeking political office paid a call to a friend of mine one day recently. Among other things, this politician indicated his desire to help the eastern part of the state.

Much to his surprise, the office seeker was quickly informed that eastern Carolina's particular wants weren't very high on my friend's list

of priorities.

"You see," my friend told the politician, "I think one thing wrong with us today is that we tend to see things from too narrow a perspective. Even though I'm an eastern Carolinian, I'm more interested in the state as a whole."

"Oh, yes. I agree with you," quickly countered the politician. "I'm really more interested in the needs of the whole state, too."

"But," continued my friend, "my state's priority falls well below the best interests of the country, in my

view. I put the best interests of the country ahead of the wants of the state, you see."

Not to be deterred, the vote-seeker indicated his agreement with this view also. "yes sir, I feel the same way too, to be truthful. I believe in putting the country ahead of the state. That's exactly how I feel. America FIRST."

"However, there's something that has a far greater priority than the interests of my country," my friend said to the political candidate. "I think the number one priority — of

every person — should be the brotherhood of man."

"The interests of regions, of states, of nations, should have far lesser priorities than the overall well-being of human beings all over the world."

The candidate had no comment upon this. But, he's smart enough to know that the concept of the "brotherhood of man" isn't going to get him any votes.

A pity...
APROPOS — "Concern for your fellow man should recognize no political or geographic boundaries."
— U Thant.

Facing South

voices of tradition
in a changing region
a syndicated column

MEMPHIS, TN — Ida Wells was in Mississippi on a subscription drive for Free Speech, Memphis' only black newspaper, on March 10, 1892, when she heard that her close friend Tom Moss and his two partners in the thriving People's Grocery Company, had been lynched.

The three black men had had a verbal dispute with neighboring white grocer, W. H. Barret. Barret had obtained a warrant for the arrest of Moss and his partners, then circulated a rumor that a white mob was going to take over the store.

That night, nine white men, later identified as deputies out of uniform, burst in upon the waiting black grocers. Firing broke out on both sides, and the three blacks were arrested and jailed.

They were then seized by an angry mob, who, applying Judge Charles Lynch's rough form of frontier justice, murdered them.

Deeply hurt, Wells set about to combat this savagery in her characteristic fashion — with pen and facts.

Armed with her reputation as Memphis' most eloquent advocate for civil rights and the most prominent correspondent for the American black press, she published editorials calling for the arrest and trial of the murderers and urging economic sanctions against the white community.

Ida Wells was born in 1862 in Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Jim and Elizabeth Wells, who died of yellow fever the year Ida turned 14.

Although she assumed sole responsibility for her five younger siblings, Wells was able to attend Rust Institute and become a teacher; she moved to Memphis in 1882.

On the way to school on May 4, 1884, an ugly incident launced Wells' writing career. The conductor of the train she took daily asked her to move from the ladies' coach to the smoking car.

When she refused, he and the baggage man carried her out. Although she won her suit (and \$500 in damages), the incident left Wells so disillusioned and bitter, she wrote an account of it for the Free Speech.

Many articles later, she accepted a partnership with its owner, Rev. Taylor Nightingale, and J. L. Fleming, an Arkansas journalist.

Wells' journalistic crusade for justice led her on a lifelong campaign that stretched far beyond Memphis.

She not only searched legal records, but jeopardized her own life by visiting lynching sites to question blacks and whites about the details of the killings.

The facts she published called old myths into question. She asked, for example, why lynching, which had been long condoned by whites as fit punishment for rape, was applied only to black men, while white men went uncondemned for their violation of black women.

Further, she noted that rape had been charged in less than one-third of the 10,000 lynchings of blacks since the Civil War.

In May of 1892 — just two months

after Moss and his partners were lynched — she published an article intimating that some of the "rapes" actually were voluntary liaisons between black men and white women.

An outraged mob destroyed the offices of the "Free Speech," vowing to lynch Wells and Fleming should they ever return to Memphis.

Exiled and deprived of her paper, and allowed no forum in white American newspapers, she accepted an invitation to speak in the British Isles. There she found people receptive to her story.

Newspapers in the States began to report that many Britons supported her demand for a fair trial for every black accused of a crime.

This time Memphis listened. The British textile industry, a major

customer of the city's cotton merchants had to be appeased.

While still condemning Wells for gross exaggeration, Memphis papers began to alter their editorial policy.

And in 1894, white leaders called a public meeting at the Memphis Merchants Exchange to denounce the lynching of six accused arsonists and to adopt resolutions condemning lynching unequivocally.

The mood and mentality of Memphis had changed. Ida Wells' impassioned appeals had priced the conscience of the city.

LINDA PEAVY
& URSULA SMITH
writers and editors
Bozeman, MT

For more on Ida Wells-Barnett, see Peavy and Smith's book, "Women who Changed Things" (Scribner's 1983).

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Published Every Thursday
By Advance Publ., Elizabeth City

Jane B. Williams - Pat Mansfield
Interim Editors

Jane B. Williams
Advertising Manager

Pat Mansfield
Circulation Manager