

Weekly Perspective

Looking back

20 Years Ago

By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU
RECENT GRADUATES AT ALBEMARLE HOSPITAL: The Elizabeth City School of Practical Nursing graduated 13 students, seven from Perquimans County, at exercises at the Episcopal Church in Elizabeth City.

The graduates are: Carolyn Bowen, Becky Sutton, Louinda Hollis, Elaine Sumner, Sarah Dail, Linda Tynch, Arlene Miller, Eloise Smith, Peggy Spear, Novie Abbott, Gail Miller, Gail Johnson, Joyce Miller and Marjorie Hollowell.

PLANNING BOARD PRESENTS BY LAWS: The first monthly meeting of the Planning Board was held at the Hertford Municipal Building on Tuesday. Members present were W. H. Ward, chairman; Jack Kanoy, vice-chairman; J. Emory White, secretary.

Members absent were J. Moody Mathews and Julian Broughton.

DEALERS DISPLAY NEW 1964 CARS: 1964 automobile showings in Perquimans County have been going on now for the past week. Already the new creations on display are at-

tracting much attention and more to come.

The Chevrolets were on display at Hollowell's Chevrolet Company. The Fords were on display at Winslow-Blanchard Motor Co. Earlier this month of September the new Dodge made its appearance at Towe Motor Co. along with the Plymouth Valiant and Chrysler.

FARM BUREAU REPORTS TOTAL OF 391 MEMBERSHIPS: Rollo White, president of the Perquimans County Farm Bureau, reports that Perquimans County Farm Bureau has reached a membership of 391 members and exceeded the quota of 357 by 54 members.

ENGAGED: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Franklin Tynch of Belvidere announce the engagement of their daughter, Linda Rae, to Robert McCoy Phthisic, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barney M. Phthisic of Tyner.

COTTON ESTIMATED AT 315,000 BALES: Cotton production in N. C. is estimated at 315,000 Bales of 500 gross weight. This is 20,000 bales above the August 1 estimate.

Longevity concern of early residents

Many an early Perquimans will quote a phrase from the Epistle to the Hebrews, "It is appointed unto men once to die." The manners in which county residents have kept that appointment were quite varied.

Threats to life began even before birth and were constantly present. Widespread disease, harsh conditions of living and working, and accidents were compounded by the inadequacy of medical care.



Birth itself was perilous. Family Bibles and tombstones bear frequent testimony to the mother and child who did not survive the ordeal.

Children faced many hazards. Open fireplaces and steep stairs were dangerous temptations for careless play, and the kitchen was filled with curious things to swallow.

A peep into a deep well could prove disastrous, and water was everywhere a danger. Twenty-month old Samuel Stepney fell "into a hole of water and thar was drowned" in 1692, and such accidents were common.

An angry bull, a stray wolf, or a shiny snake would not be the friendly playmate some child might suppose it to be.

Especially vulnerable were knee babies and lap babies neglected while attention centered upon newborns.

Those who survived into adulthood still encountered disease, and adults also frequently suffered accidents at work. Boaz Boswell, for example, was clearing land in 1762 when a falling tree struck him fatally.

No serious attempt was made to

record complete statistics on deaths in Perquimans until 1850, when the Mortality Schedule of the federal Census sought to list "Every Person Who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850."

According to the 1850 Mortality Schedule, 143 persons died in Perquimans during the census year (June 1, 1849 through May 31, 1850). Those persons included 47 white males, 34 white females, 2 free black males, 4 free black females, 30 male slaves and 28 female slaves.

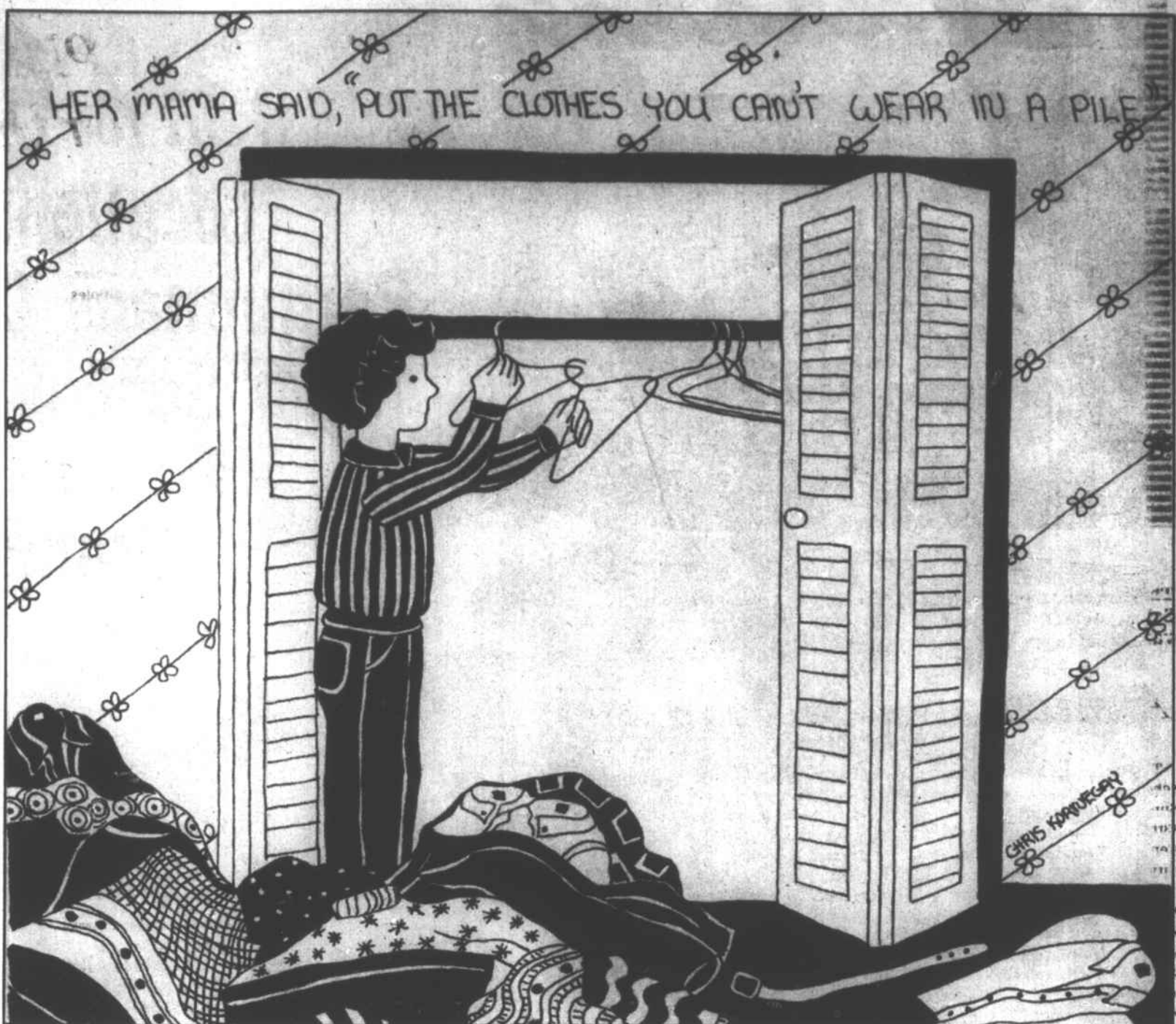
Infants through the age of five comprised about one-third of the white deaths and female slave deaths, but a full half of the male slave deaths.

No white decedent surpassed his 70s. Samuel Newbold was 70; Esther Billups, 72; and Isaac Wilson, 74. The longest-lived persons were slaves: Dick (Scott), 80; Hulda (Nicholson), 80; Winny (Sutton), 90; Cader (Goodwin), 96; Rufus (White), 100; Lonno (Winslow), 100; and Sally (Wood), 100.

Nearly 40 causes of death were listed. The primary stated cause for white males was disease of bowels; white females, bilious fever; and male slaves, dysentery.

Other causes included worms, consumption, catarrh, rheumatism, nephritis, pleurisy, pneumonia, gravel, sunstroke, liver disease, ulcerated mouth, dyspepsia, stomach cancer, measles, brain inflammation, croup, childbed, liver inflammation, typhoid fever, brain fever, apoplexy, hernia, marasmus, uterine causes, scrofula, smallpox, dropsy, heart disease and bowel inflammation.

Five deaths were due to accidents. Addison Towe drowned. Augustus Saunders was thrown from his horse. Poldoe (Sumner) caught his hand and arm in a corn sheller. Henry (Toms) and Luke (Barclift) burned to death. Five deaths were attributed to old age, while 17 were due to unknown causes.



Getting into the holiday spirit

Department stores never cease to amaze me. It's not even mid-October yet and already Christmas states at you from every aisle.

Store windows boast banners reading "For best selection shop early" and "Lay-away now for Christmas". Christmas decorations blink in the aisles and the toy counters are overflowing.

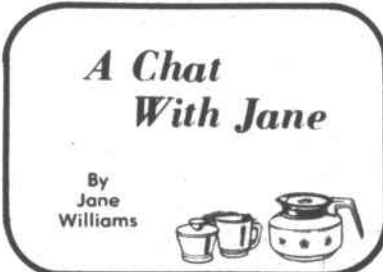
Give me a break, Halloween is still nearly three weeks away!

It used to be bad enough when signs on the door ready "Only 21 shopping days left 'till Christmas", but now they start at 365. (In case you're interested we're down to 72.)

With modern technology the way it is, the shopper that waits until Christmas Eve to purchase his gifts

is apt to find only Easter baskets for Christmas gift giving.

For years I've promised myself that I wouldn't wait until the last minute this year to do my shopping.



Ideally, it would be nice to have all the shopping done by Thanksgiving and then be able to sit back and enjoy the oncoming holidays without

having to give a second thought to the last minute crowds who throng into shopping malls all over America, but how do you get into the Christmas spirit when you're missing all of the fun.

Christmas shopping always began on the Friday after Thanksgiving when I was growing up. You were a comfortable month away from the big event and the supplies were plentiful. Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way anymore.

With toys for children becoming more and more commercialized you have to get out early before supplies and funds run out.

Speaking of funds, while writing this column I decided to take a glance at the calendar to see how many

more pay checks would be coming in between now and the big day. Are you ready for this?

If you get paid weekly you've got about ten more checks between now and Christmas Day, unfortunately I get paid bi-weekly (very weakly I might add) and that means only five more paychecks before time runs out.

I have spoken with several loan officers, and they assure me that people have been borrowing money like crazy already to pay for Christmas.

With millions of gift ideas available, and almost as many choices of places to buy these gifts, I think my main wish for Christmas this year will be a little bit slower pace of life, like the kind found in the good ole Albemarle.

Perquimans Opinions



JASIELUM

The question for this week's opinion column is: The New Safe Roads Act, which became effective October 1, among other things raised the legal drinking age for beer and unfortified wines to 19, what is your opinion of this new law?

MICHAEL JASIELUM . . . "I feel it will have an impact, but I felt it should have gone another step farther and have been one for all alcoholic beverages. My main reason being is an alcoholic beverage, by virtue of what it is, can be over misused or overdone at any time. And raising to 19, by just one year, it will help a little; but I think a greater impact would be seen by raising the entire drinking age to 21 for all people."

"Prior to coming to North Carolina, I was living in Pennsylvania; there it is 21 for all people



GROVE

and I think it worked. There'll still be those underage who get liquor who get served, but I think you'd see more of an effect at 21 rather than 19."

JACK GROVE . . . "I think that the state legislature spent a lot of time in considering this law and the best information they could come up with and the statistics that they have show there's a great incidence of accidents among young drivers."

"I personally know of three under the age of 21 who have either died or were seriously injured due to drinking so I'll have to say that I'm for it."

"I'm generally in favor of the law all the way across the board as far as stiffer penalties. Whether raising the age one year will have that much effect I think remains to be seen. I'm in favor of this provision of the law because I feel that it is going to



LEICESTER

reduce the number of fatalities on our road, not only among teenagers but among other drivers on the road that, unfortunately, are involved with the drinking driver in accidents."

"So, I believe it will have a favorable effect, but there are those young people who are going to get a hold of alcohol if they want it. So I don't know from that standpoint if those young people are going to obey the law. It's gonna help there's no question."

ED LEICESTER . . . "If it can be enforced and will be cooperated with by the people who sell it then I think it's a good idea. When the legal age was 18 it didn't keep 17-year-olds from buying it, I don't see how raising the age to 19 will keep 18-year-olds from buying it now."

ANN BERRY . . . "I think it's



BERRY

good and I would really like to see the age raised even higher. We have been needing to do something about drinking for a long time and I believe this is a good start."

Letter to the editor

Editor THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
 I would like to thank each of the youth who participated in the WALK and BIKE-A-THON Sunday af-

ternoon and for their sponsors who gave \$237.50 for Cystic Fibrosis research. THANKS.

Rev. Irving E. Cook

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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.