

# PERSPECTIVE

## Other views

### Feeding expanding population

**By JOHN SLEDGE**  
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

Almost lost in the course of a day's news was the item that the world population has now reached 4.7 billion people. According to the Census Bureau, the world has grown by nearly one billion people since 1970. The latest figures seem to indicate that the world is on target for what is expected to be a 10 billion population within a hundred years.

In the past, there have been dire predictions that we won't be able to feed our expanding population. In fact, one writer predicted that by the year 2000, we would see food shortages and revolution in the world as

have-not nations try to wrest their needs from neighbors.

Fortunately, that scenario is less in vogue today. Nobel Prize winner Dr. Norman Borlaug says we could double food production in 40 to 60 years if we don't slash funding for agricultural research. Borlaug says many of the developing nations are still cultivating their land with very primitive methods resulting in low food yield.

The expanding world population is an opportunity for American agriculture. Despite this year's drought, it should be obvious that we in this country are blessed with a tremendous ability to produce food.

And there is little doubt that the world needs our food despite the recent competition for agricultural exports.

According to a United Nations report, even with good progress in agriculture, only half of the countries of the world will be able to feed themselves by the year 2000. The other half will have to look to their neighbors.

It would seem, then, that as the world's population continues to expand, the position of the United States as the preeminent exporter of food will, by itself, assure us a leading role in the whole community.

### Suicide: A tragic and mystifying cause of death

One of the most tragic and mystifying causes of death is suicide. Perquimans County history contains a number of instances of self destruction.

Languishing Lived for the Space of one hour and half and then died."

No one can ever prove why an individual resorts to such an action, but contributing factors can sometimes be discerned.

appearance of normality.

Then, too, there are instances which seem to be borderline. Accident or suicide?



The language of one of the oldest coroner's inquests on record in Perquimans reflects the eighteenth-century view of the causes of suicide and the judgment society passed upon the act. An inquest was convened at Sarah Decrow's tavern in Hertford on August 22, 1794, to view the body of Jeffrey R.

As found by the inquest, Jeffrey "not having the fear of god before his Eyes, but being moved by the Instigation of the Devil" (a phrase common in criminal indictments) did "with a Razor of the Value of three pence Sterling which he held and on himself make an Assault and made a wound on his own throat..."

Having cut his windpipe in two, Jeffrey "Languished, and

Much seems due to a mind permanently insane or temporarily distraught, unable to work through periods of startling depression, overwhelming loneliness, or crippling self-deprecation.

External circumstances may act upon internal pressures in many ways, the most extreme reaction being a deliberate exit from life. Problems with a new job may have aggravated a sense of homesickness in the case of Jonathan S., for example.

In July 1836 Polly M. was crossing Jesse Wilson's mill pond in a canoe with some children. She "was Supposed to have been taken with a fit and Leaped out of Said Canoe and then and there must have drowned being no Sufficient aid at hand."

Did Polly really "leap" into the water or did the exertions caused by some sudden mental or physical distress cause her to lose balance and "fall" overboard?

Jonathan had come from Smithfield, R. I., to teach school in Perquimans. Something went amiss with him, and in January 1838 he went alone to "a common River...called Perquimans River, (and) himself voluntarily and feloniously drowned."

Another professional man from afar was Dr. Hales W., a Marylander, who cut his throat in Hertford in September 1827. Perhaps a common thread in such tragedies is a compelling feeling of not being at home in one's environment, a feeling which can manifest itself in the midst of family and friends, with an outward

Such sensitive topics are often swept under the rugs of history, but it might be said the inability to air grievous difficulties is itself a major factor in triggering suicide.

History amply illustrates the unpredictability of events. Astounding achievements come from unexpected quarters, and people shape events in unimaginable ways.

No individual can know what the rest of life may bring, and no state of mind remains unaltered. Surrender too often comes just before rescue. An individual, indeed the whole human race, should hold on a while long, and yet a little longer, until the play is ended and the author appears on stage.

### Looking back

**20 Years Ago**  
**By VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU**  
MRS. FANNIE HURDLE ATTENDS NATIONAL HD CONVENTION: Mrs. Fannie Hurdle returned from Little Rock, Ark., where she attended the annual convention of the National Home Demonstration Council.

Mrs. Hurdle is District President of the 25th District of Home Demonstration Clubs. She made the trip with other delegates by chartered bus. She was one of 31 women attending from North Carolina.

TWO LOCAL STUDENTS AT UNC CONFERENCE: Two student from Perquimans High School, Mary Lee Newby and Perry Monds, were at the University of North Carolina with

their coach, Mrs. Elizabeth Britt, attending the first background discussion conference ever to be held for North Carolina high school debaters.

The conference was held in Peabody Hall on the UNC campus Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26.

Representatives from throughout the state were there to discuss the amount of control the federal government should exercise over medical care. For these discussions the national high school debate proposition will be chosen in January.

55 PARTICIPATE IN PUNT, PASS, KICK CONTEST SUNDAY: The third annual Punt, Pass and Kick

contest sponsored by Winslow Blanchard Motor Company, the local Ford dealer, which had been weathered out on the first schedule, was held on Sunday afternoon on Perquimans Memorial Field. It drew a large crowd of young people and parents.

A total of 55 boys from the county participated in four age groups for 16 prizes. First prize winners were Jeffrey Haskett, Willis Proctor, Henry Stokes III and Herbert Winslow.

Second prizes went to Donald Waters, Tony Lane and Michael Lane. Third prize to Carl Owens, Martin Fleetwood, Billy Nixon and Clarence Goodman.

### Letter to the editor

**Editor**  
**THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY**  
This year the North Carolina General Assembly made a one-year appropriation for the creation of the Eastern Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History.

The office, which opened October 1 in the historic Robert Lee Humber House in downtown Greenville,

serves individuals and groups in twenty-three counties in eastern North Carolina: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington.

During the current fiscal year, our three-person staff will publicize the office and undertake limited preservation-related activities.

We will inform the public of the many programs of the Division of Archives and History, especially those pertaining to the preservation of historically or architecturally significant structures.

The Eastern Office will assist citizens in taking advantage of services provided by the staff in Raleigh. In addition, the staff in Greenville will aid property owners in nominating their historic structures to the National Register of Historic Places.

The staff welcomes the opportunity to explain to individuals or groups the role of the Eastern office in fostering historical work. For further information, contact me by writing to Eastern Office, N. C. Division of Archives and History, 117 W. 3th St., Greenville, NC 27834, or call (919) 752-7778.

Sincerely,  
Maurice C. York  
Director, Eastern Office

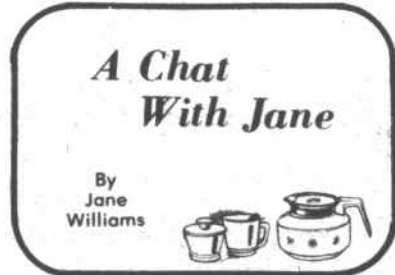


### Keep those doorbells ringing

Chris's cartoon really struck home with me this week. It seems that this is the time of year that people pick to go out peddling their wares to raise money for their organizations.

Kids can and will sell anything and everything with a minimal amount of encouragement.

the art of selling. He handed me a catalog and asked me if I wanted to buy some personalized Christmas cards.



**A Chat With Jane**  
By Jane Williams

The "selling" season started out with one of the grammar schools and a magazine sale. Then there were the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, church groups, PTA, Lions Club, Shriners, Jaycees & Jayettes, the Booster Club, the Band Boosters, Rotary, the BETA Club, and the list goes on and on.

The leaders of the younger generation organizations really know what they're doing by sending kids out to push this merchandise. It's a lot easier to say no to a traveling encyclopedia salesman than it is to say no to your next door neighbor's child.

We have given serious thought to hiring a couple of six year olds to handle advertising and subscription sales at the newspaper.

I have recently purchased a complete storeroom of chocolate candy, enough to last at least one lifetime, with plenty of magazines to read while I'm sitting around munching.

My supply of stationery and greeting cards will keep me busy throughout the long cold winter months. And the fruit that I've agreed to order should ward off those winter cold germs.

I had an interesting conversation with my 13 year old brother the other day concerning

My immediate response was to let him know that you never ask anybody if they want to buy something. I told him that you should bait them with your merchandise by pointing out the selection he had to offer, and to get them to make a response such as, "Gee, these are really pretty".

I went on to tell him that when he got a response such as this he should go on and ask how many boxes of that particular item they would like to purchase.

Being an average 13 year old, Paul's response to me was, "I don't think my way of doing it is so bad, I've only been selling for two days and I've gotten 36 orders not counting the one you're going to give me."

Naturally I conceded, gave him my order and went home.

You can't beat a kid when it comes to peddling merchandise.

### Guest editorial

### State efforts to strengthen economy produce success

**By GOVERNOR JIM HUNT**  
North Carolina's efforts to strengthen and expand its economy over the past several years have produced a dramatic series of success stories. Rapid diversification of our industrial base has prevented the recent recession from hitting us as hard as it has our neighboring states.

Our entry into the high-technology age has attracted national attention. The announcement a few days ago that the DuPont Company will bring a major electronics research and development center to this state caused business and government leaders all over the country to sit up and take notice.

Aggressive recruitment and encouragement of new and expanded business has resulted in \$12 billion worth of new or expanded industrial plants. That translates into 200,000 new manufacturing jobs.

But North Carolina is not about to rest on its laurels. For example, the slow but continuing improvement in the national economy leads me to believe that many of Europe's leading firms will soon be considering expansion plans for the United States.

I can tell you right now that a good many of them have their eyes on North Carolina.

That is not a new development. We have in recent years been a leader in

the South and in the nation in attracting foreign firms and the jobs that come with them.

In the first nine months of 1983 alone, new and expanding foreign-owned firms in North Carolina announced more than \$277 million in investments and more than 3,400 new jobs.

That investment total makes 1983 the best foreign investment year in this state's history. It brings foreign investment in our state since 1977 to more than \$1 billion.

Few rates can rival this record. Much of our success in recruiting overseas is a result of the sound economic development programs that have also benefited our existing business, communities and educational institutions.

It is a tribute to our excellent business climate, our public schools, our community college system, and, most of all, our quality of life.

Success in convincing foreign firms to locate in North Carolina requires personal contact with the top executives of those companies. I have made several overseas trips to make those contacts, and the results speak for themselves.

On November 1, I will leave for a week-long industrial recruitment mission to Europe. It will be an important follow-up to a similar mission made by Secretary of

Commerce C.C. Hope Jr. back in the summer.

Secretary Hope's mission confirmed that North Carolina's reputation as a good place to do business has spread all over the world.

While in Europe, I will visit top officials of leading Swiss, French, German and British manufacturing firms.

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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 for clarity and space limitations.

Mail letters to: The Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27844, or drop them off at our offices at Courthouse Square.