

PERSPECTIVE

Widow Billups has second marriage

As owner of the land upon which she lived, Exum Elliott was in a position to assist his widowed sister Elizabeth Billups. With the outbreak of war, he was given responsibility for the welfare of many others.



In April 1861 Exum Elliott was appointed a member of the providence committee for Ballahack District in Perquimans County. The committee was to furnish food and necessities to widows whose sons had gone to war, to wives whose husbands had joined the fight, to any family whose economic survival was jeopardized by a breadwinner's patriotism.

A similar committee in the Up River District included Andrew J. Ownley, a recent widower in whom the widow Billups was interested. Ownley had visited the widow's farm several times in 1858, for he had attended her husband's estate sale, had been one of the commissioners setting off her year's provisions, and had been the deputy sheriff in attendance on the jury allotting her dower.

In March 1865 Elizabeth (Elliott) Billups married Ownley. They would have one child, Eugenia. By 1870 Elizabeth was a widow the second time, but her financial position was perhaps better than it had been ten years earlier.

According to the 1870 census, Mrs. Ownley had the use of 125 acres improved land and 75 acres of woodland, the farm being valued at \$800. Production was

low, but the farm did make one bale of cotton, the up and coming crop of the day.

Works on the farm was then done by John M. Delaney, a twenty-one year old who made his home with the widow and two of her daughters. Two years later, in September 1872, Delaney married his boss' daughter Mary Lousia Billups.

In January 1873 the Delaneys came into sole possession of 83 acres including the old house John Bogue built. Mrs. Delaney's mother continued to live with them until her death in 1879; at her sale Delaney purchased some of the family heirlooms, including three of 10 pictures which were signs of gentility in those days.

Before his own death in May 1900, John M. Delaney married twice more, choosing widows Elizabeth Bagley in April 1887 and Harriett Dail in December 1889. The last added her own three children to the Delaney household, until she moved to the home of her third husband.

In 1902 Joseph L. Delaney became sole owner of the house which had been his father's and his grandfather Timothy Billups'. The house was then one hundred years old. Delaney sold the house and 64 acres to Thomas Martin Ward in September 1913 for \$1,250.

A native of Chowan County, Ward occupied the house until his death in 1932. He bequeathed it to his son Herbert L. Ward, whose ownership for 47 years from 1932 to 1979 was the longest in the history of the house.

The John Bogue House, built in 1802, has been owned by Bogues, Jordans, Whites, Billupses, Delaneys, and Wards. It is one of the oldest and least spoiled buildings in Perquimans County. With a little help, the ancient dwelling should see the completion of its second century and the start of its third.

Taking the time to enjoy life

A few days ago, I had the opportunity to visit some of the places that were such an important part of my childhood days. Places that then seemed of little importance now bring back many memories.

Point of View
by: **BILL NIXON**

Many of the once familiar landmarks have changed considerably since those days gone by, including the house where I was reared.

I suppose what caused me to take a few moments and review past years was thoughts of an upcoming family reunion. It has been years, too many years, since we've all been together. And it will probably be many years before we do again. This meeting will be quite special.

When I tell people that I am one of thirteen children, they often gasp, and comment how wonderful it must have been to have grown up with so many brothers and sisters. I usually agree, though it was not always a joy to have to share with so many the few material things afforded a family of such size. It was a joy, and still remains so, to share memories. Memories that touched each of us in a different way.

Our meeting will bring back many of those memories. Each of us will recall some time in that period that was very special to us. We'll have lots of fun remembering. And we'll make memories that day to carry with us, back to the present life that so often reflects little of what our lives were made of then.

So often, we hear people say they long for the "good old days." As is so often the case, we tend to remember fondly days

gone by. It seems we remember most of the good, while having removed the unpleasant memories from our mind. I think we often long for the old days because of fear of facing the future. In days gone by, there is a knowledge of what happened, and there is a sense of being able to control events by removing from our minds those things we wish to forget. The same is not true of tomorrow, the day that never comes.

You could say that I am a believer in today. I believe any impact we will have on the past or future depends on what we make of each day. Our acts today will set the pace for tomorrow. Today's actions will also become the memories of the past.

There are many proverbs that encourage us to make the most of each day we have, to assure when day is done that we can look back over the past hours and pinpoint certain accomplishments of the day. And then, according to some thinking, we can rest in peace, knowing we have made the most of every hour.

I don't agree with this thinking. I believe that every day should include some time that has been reserved for nothing. A few moments, or if necessary, hours, that do not have to be pre-planned. A few minutes that belong to no one but ourselves.

In today's world, too much is made of achieving. While I don't approve of an individual being shiftless and lazy, I also find it hard to understand a person that finds little joy in life for fear of having wasted a minute or two. There is little progress made if we spend too much time thinking about yesterday or tomorrow. The only day we have is the one we are living in.

If we would all take a few moments each day to really see the things around us, our faith in this world would be renewed, and probably our spirits as well. We miss so much by trying not to miss anything.



Swapping is fast becoming the new trend

Swapping has become the name of the game in the little town of Hertford.



A Chat With Jane
By Jane Williams

Kids are trading everything that they can get their hands on. Baseball cards, Atari (Registered Trademark) cartridges, records, clothes, you name it and kids will trade it.

Ladies are swapping recipes, babysitting duties, household hints, clothes, and soap opera information (and so are quite a few men and teen-agers that I know), along with numerous other items.

Men are swapping golf clubs, lawn mowing, shop talk, fishing tales, political views, and the list goes on.

The biggest swap going on in Hertford right now though would have to be the office swapping.

It's no big secret that we at THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY have swapped our old location

for a new dwelling at 119 W. Grubb St., but we're not the only business that is on the move.

To make room for us, Riverside Insurance Agency purchased the lot that was owned by Carolina Telephone and set up their new office in a trailer just a few doors down and across the street from our location.

Crafton Matthews, Jr., owner and operator of the agency - which in addition to an insurance office is a collection agency for Carolina Telephone and Pyrofax Gas, noted that the purpose of his move was to gain additional parking for the added number of customers that now frequent his office due to the phone company and gas company collections.

It seems a little ironic that after a year or so of not being able to pay phone bills at the phone office, a new office that will accept phone bill payments would open up in the same location. Now you've just got to remember where you used to pay your phone bill and head back to the same place.

Crafton isn't the only insurance agent to grab up a better location for himself though. Allen and Becky Winslow, the proprietors of Johnson-White Insurance

Agency, have vacated their building on Market St. and moved to a new location in the nucleus of Hertford on Church St. in the offices adjoining Hertford Hardware and Supply Co.

The Winslows hope that their new location will prove to be more convenient for their customers, while giving their shop additional exposure to the downtown traffic.

The swap that got everybody else into the moving spirit was the pending move of Gregory's 5, 10, and 25 Cents Store into the building occupied by White's Dress Shop and the move of White's into the building occupied by Gregory's.

Although this move was announced prior to any of the other business moves, it has not yet taken place.

Willie and Doris Ainsley, the owners of Gregory's, are currently in the process of liquidating their inventory before moving into the smaller location where they will maintain a few of the lines that they have carried throughout the years, such as confectionery items, magazines, and picture framing.

Irene Meads, proprietor of White's Dress Shop, is looking

forward to the additional space for displaying merchandise and dressing rooms that will be afforded her in her soon to be new location.

I'm sure that each of these businesses have encountered the headaches that The Weekly ran into when we began moving into the new shop. Keeping a business above the ground in this day and age is tough enough, but trying to keep the business going and get everything relocated to a new location is a tough job.

We've had our share of "moving day blues", and we've still got a lot left to do, but this too will be remedied in time.

We'd like to extend an invitation to you to attend our open house on Friday, from 10:00 to 12:00. We may not have everything completed by that time, but we'd still like for you to drop by and get familiar with the new place.

We know that it will take some getting used to before you will automatically remember to visit us on Grubb St., since many of you have been going to Courthouse Square for nearly 50 years, but we hope that our new location will prove to be more convenient for you in the future.

Letter to the Editor

(Editor's note—The following letter, addressed to Mr. Durwood Reed - Perquimans County Finance Officer, was brought to my attention by Mr. Reed due to the significance of achievement that was made by the Perquimans County Department of Social Services in cutting the Medicaid error rate for the state. This newspaper would like to commend the Department for their diligence in handling the potential problem of Medicaid error in the county.)

Dear Mr. Reed

I want to share with you my congratulations to your County Department of Social Services for its zero Medicaid error record for the period of October 1983 - March 1984.

You and I can credit your county department's diligence in making accurate determinations of eligibility for Medicaid clients as a significant factor in North Carolina's receiving national recognition for its low 1.4 per cent Medicaid error rate.

Governor Hunt has issued a press release which touts North

Carolina as having the 10th best rate in the country.

We attribute the success in part to the counties' reception of a review of sub-set of cases outside the records selected for official federal reporting.

The sub-set of cases are reviewed in what we call Corrective Action Record Review or CARR. Our QC analysts read records in the sub-set and provide the county with a report of findings on each case. No errors are charged to the counties in this review.

The analyst reviews his findings with the county staff at an exist interview and makes suggestions to the county for checking out potential error conditions and corrective measures the county can take to prevent errors.

The counties have been extremely positive about this review as is evidenced in the greatly improved error rate. In April - September the error rate was 5.9 per cent. The decline to the current rate of 1.4 per cent is a significant reduction!

The Division appreciates the fine work your county is doing. I am personally very pleased with their record.

Sincerely,
Barbara D. Matula

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