

PERSPECTIVE

County voters underwent radical party changeovers

The voters of Perquimans County have expressed their 1984 preferences for President of the United States. A look at some past presidential elections reveals several interesting points.



Voting statistics are available for Perquimans beginning in 1836, although none are found for 1856, 1860 and 1864. The 17 elections 1836-1852 and 1868-1912 can be analyzed more objectively than more recent ones.

Those statistics indicate Perquimans tended to be dominated by some particular party for long periods. In every election 1836-1852 the Whig presidential candidate carried the county.

Republicans held Perquimans in every election 1868-1892.

Democrats then came into dominance in 1896 and carried every election through 1912, except the very close 1900 contest.

The county did not have a good record in picking winners. The candidate who won in Perquimans carried the nation in only nine of the 17 elections; the other eight times the county supported a loser.

In two elections the difference between winning and losing was very small. Incumbent President William McKinley carried Perquimans by only 16 votes in 1900, receiving 846 votes to William Jennings Bryan's 830.

Bryan, the great Democratic favorite, was the winner in Perquimans of the close election of 1908, his 568 votes outdoing William H. Taft's 502. Taft, however, won nationally.

The men who carried Perquimans were a varied lot, some now mostly forgotten. 1836: Senator Hugh L. White, North Carolina-born Tennessee politician. 1840: William Henry Harrison, popular military figure. 1844: Henry Clay, influential statesman. 1848: Zachary Taylor, war hero.

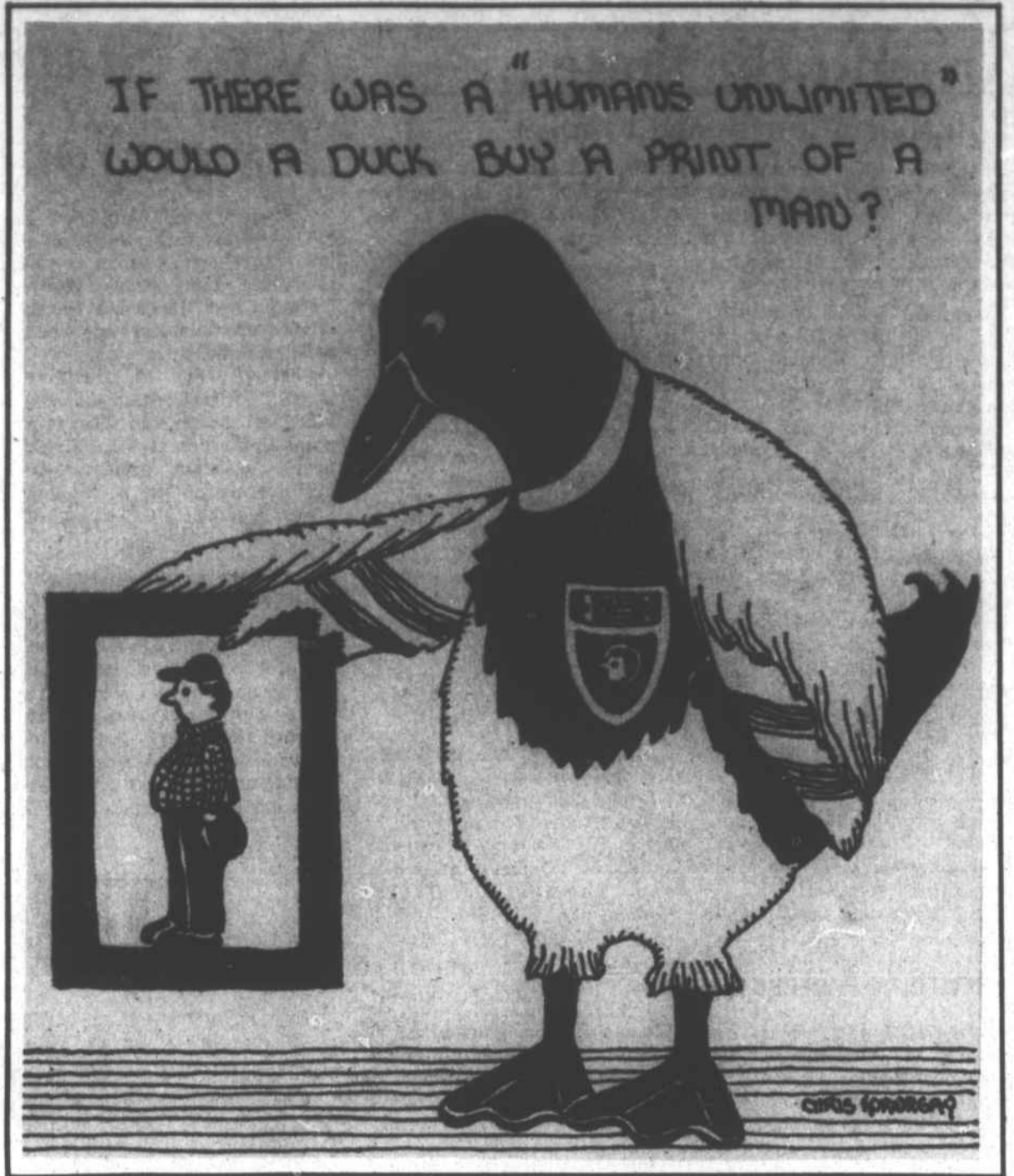
1852: Winfield Scott, war hero. 1868 and 1872: Ulysses S. Grant, riding to office on Civil War victory. 1876: Rutherford B. Hayes, lawyer and politician.

1880: James A. Garfield, war hero and politician. 1884: James G. Blaine, politician. 1888 and 1892: Benjamin Harrison, lawyer and politician.

1896: William J. Bryan, orator and politician. 1900: William McKinley, lawyer and politician. 1904: Alton B. Parker, jurist. 1908: Bryan again. 1912: Woodrow Wilson, educator and statesman.

Presidential hopefuls who did not carry Perquimans included Martin Van Buren, James K. Polk, Lewis Cass, Franklin Pierce, Horatio Seymour, Horace Greeley, Samuel J. Tilden, Winfield S. Hancock, Grover Cleveland, William McKinley (1896), William J. Bryan (1900), Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft.

On the whole, it seems that from 1836 through 1912 the voters of Perquimans tended to follow party lines, to favor an unsuccessful candidate about as often as a winning one, and to support two strong competitive parties.



Society's drug-related problem will not disappear overnight

John Richard Gary of Scotland Neck is going to prison, ending a drug-related career of several years. With the "Cocaine Man," as he is known, behind bars, one more threat to society will be controlled at least for a few years.

will make contacts and discover new sources for conducting his business and will most probably return to the streets better prepared to ruin the lives of hundreds.

Gary's sentence will only keep him out of business for a few years, if at all. Many of his clients will never return to normal, living their lives as victims of the drugs that Gary pushed upon them without thought or care.

In his closing remarks at the trial, District Attorney David Beard noted, "The state of North Carolina asks that his sentence be fair and just. But we want it to be known that we are going to prosecute drug dealers in the four counties in this judicial district."

Is a sentence of 12 years, a sentence that will not be fully served, "fair and just" to those who's lives have been ruined by Gary's lack of concern and greed? Should a man of such reputation, having a record of

prior drug-related convictions, be allowed to return to society after a few short years, only to continue his crimes against society?

We are all aware of the ills forced upon our society, especially our young people, because of drugs. We've come to accept drugs as a part of our society simply because we don't want to admit the danger is there.

We've only partially equipped our enforcement agencies with the money and manpower to combat drugs and the courts have a tendency to treat repeat offenders lightly.

Until the true horror of drugs is recognized by society, we'll continue to treat the "Cocaine Man" Gary's in this world with kid gloves.

And they'll continue to prey upon our children, and our mothers, and our fathers, and our brothers, and our sisters, and our friends and anyone else that can be reached. They'll continue to be the winners and we'll continue to lose.

Of special concern should be the damage drugs do to our young people. We were all young once, we were all influenced by peer pressure, we all wanted to do the "in" things. The difference with the "in" things facing our kids today is that addiction to drugs does not end as a simple fad.

The long-term damage is often very serious. Bright, young and talented minds can be lost forever — minds and talents necessary for the future of our world.

It should be considered a national disgrace that so little effort is extended in curbing the sale and use of drugs in this country. Drugs, including alcohol, are directly responsible for more deaths every year than war, non-related crimes or disease.

Can you imagine the public outcry there would be if a disease took thousands of lives each year? Regardless of the costs, you can be sure everything would be done to find a cure. Why are we so slow in recognizing the ills of drugs?

Why have we only recently begun to demand action against the dangers of alcohol after recording thousands of related deaths and living the experience of the many lives that have been ruined by that drug.

Hopefully, we will soon realize the dangers imposed upon our society by drugs. Hopefully, we will soon demand that the proper attention be placed on the threat to our people. It is a threat we can no longer afford to ignore. It won't just go away.

The most important holiday gift is giving of yourself

Well, the election is over, or at least it should be by the time that you receive the paper, and the weather has turned cooler, signifying the first autumn weather of the season. Things should be beginning to get back to normal for most of us. The festivals in the area have come to an end, and now we've got to start preparing for the holiday season.

a community, and we've all worked on a lot of projects that have benefited less fortunate members of our community.

It is with this thought in mind that we should begin our preparations for the holiday season.

Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away, and Christmas and New Year's Day are just around the corner. In the spirit of giving thanks, gift-giving and receiving, and beginning the year anew, let's give some thought to how our lives are significant to the people around us.

Let's remember to be thankful for the many things that we have, not remorseful for what we have not acquired.

When you appear to be content with what you have, your present pleasantness instead of grief to those around you. Your attitudes and outlook on life have a definite effect on your family, friends, and co-workers.

In the spirit of giving, let's

remember that among the greatest gifts that can be received is friendship. A pleasant smile, a cheery hello, and a friend to share life's joys and sorrows with is an asset that is too often left out in our busy lives. We need to work a little harder at giving of ourselves, and I'm sure we'll be surprised at how much easier to bear our burdens will become.

New Year's Day brings about resolution time, and this year a resolution that shouldn't be too difficult to keep is: to resolve to be thankful for all of our joys, and to share ourselves with those around us.

1985 can be the happiest and most prosperous year of your life, if you choose for it to be. Set your standards and goals high. Work towards friendship, peace and understanding. Our community is one of the best places in the world to live. Let's work together to make it the very best place it can be.

Point of View
by: **BILL NIXON**

The drug traffic in Halifax County will continue. Those individuals tied to Gary will find another source, whether local or not. Chances are, someone else has already stepped in to take this place. The cycle will continue.

Gary will probably serve less than five years in prison before being released. While there, he

Looking back

20 Years Ago
By VIRGINIA WHITE
TRANSEAU
ALBEMARLE ELECTRIC BANQUET FOR MEMBERSHIP WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 26th: Herbert C. Bonner, Congressman for the First District, will be the guest speaker at the 17th annual meeting of members of the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. It has been announced by the manager, John Coston.

The meetings are held each year, at which time election of directors are held along with

other activities.

OUTLAND RESIGNS AS LINE FOREMAN: Donald H. Outland, who has been in electric construction for 13 years, six and one-half of which he has been the Line Foreman with the Albemarle Electric Membership Corp., has resigned his position and entered as a student at the Virginia Bible College in Norfolk.

MRS. W. E. DRAKE GOING TO FLORIDA: Mrs. W. E. Drake, managing director of the Williamston, N. C., Chamber of Commerce, has resigned after serving for more than eight years.

A Chat With Jane
By Jane Williams

This, by far, has been the busiest summer and fall that I can remember. It seems like there was one special event after another. We've enjoyed a lot of activities throughout the county that have brought us together as

Letter to the Editor

Editor,
The Perquimans Weekly
The public should question the facts Lueta Sellers wrote in a letter published in your paper recently.

If she is going to make the claim, then Ms. Sellers should give evidence of any statements from any pro-life leader which indicates they: "would deny women rights over their own bodies," and that "the life of the mother no longer counts." If Ms. Sellers' claims were found to be true, I'm certain they would lose all their members.

The organized pro-life movement in our country has shown they are not hypocrites, they do care as much for pregnant women as their preborn babies. They do not demand abortion be denied to women whose lives are threatened by pregnancy. They do not want any kitchen table abortions any more than Lueta does.

The pro-life believers are doing a great deal to provide loving alternatives to such suicidal acts of despair. Hundreds of centers for helping pregnant women have opened up in recent years and the Rev. Falwell is responsible for many of them

getting started.

Women who are afraid of the babies they carry have been brainwashed by the nonsense spewed forth by pro-death advocates. Ask members of the national group WEBA, Women Exploited by Abortion, (704) 279-4697 in North Carolina and (804) 499-1977 in Virginia; all members have had abortions.

So called safe abortions are damaging and killing women, contrary to statements made by Planned Parenthood that indicates the facts are otherwise.

Dr. Bernard Nathanson, OB GYN and former director of the largest abortion clinic in the United States, has pointed this out on many occasions since that false report was published. The deception which lures women to kill their children is motivated by hatred, not the efforts of people reaching out to them with positive alternatives.

Certainly, children are an inconvenience to families intent on having two incomes. Certainly, some hard working taxpayers resent the poor having children. But, if money and a lifestyle only money can bring are the priorities women feel they must set for themselves,

then little children in and beyond the womb shall suffer.

However, if growth of love for people is a society's highest priority, then the sacrifices (pregnancy, and living temporarily on one income) are worth it.

There is no amount of money in this world sufficient to replace the love and joy that children and other innocent and helpless people have to offer mankind and womankind.

Jerry Falwell and the Catholic hierarchy will not stop women from killing their babies or themselves, that is true, but they certainly should be commended for trying. They are using their rights as citizens to teach their beliefs which are, in this case, honorable.

Think about it, the choice really is whether society shall be a loving one or one hardened by such a desperate scramble to the top, dead bodies are left in its wake. For almost 11 years it has been the latter, that is a documented fact.

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