

Perspective

Reminiscing

20 YEARS AGO

Annual Christmas Parade Set Wed., Dec. 11th: The Chamber of Commerce has announced that its annual Christmas parade will be held Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. Bands, floats, surprises and Santa Claus will be featured in the parade. Complete details will be announced later concerning participants. Mrs. W.E. Nelson, chairman of the merchants committee, sponsors of the parade, noted that the 1966 and 1967 festivities were quite successful and said she is looking for the 1968 event to be "the best yet."

Chicken Supper TV To Be Given Away: Mrs. Hilton White, publicity chairman of the Perquimans County Marching Unit, announced to day a fried chicken supper sponsored by the PCMUPC will be held Friday, October 11th at the Perquimans County High School. A Motorola 20" Color Television set will be given to the lucky winner. Tickets may be purchased from any members parents of the Marching Unit.

New Hope Choir At Bailey Church:



The choir of New Hope Methodist Church journeyed to Bailey, N.C. Sunday, September 15 where the Rev. Dan E. Meadows is pastor. He is former pastor of the New Hope Church. Those making the trip were Mr. and Mrs. Carson Stallings, Mrs. Fred Jones, Jeanette and Darlene Jones, Mrs. James Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. James Darnell, Mrs. Harvey Butt, Sr., Mrs. Harvey Butt, Jr., Karen Butt, Mrs. Norman Godfrey, Mrs. Charles Perry, Miss Patricia and Margie Banks, Miss Joan Yohn, Tommie White, Johnny Caddy, Steve Perry, Eugene Killman, Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle Jones and Eddie Miller.

Society of friends takes stand on slavery in 1700s

The anti-slavery issue was not the only instance in which Thomas Nicholson of Perquimans County placed his pen at the disposal of the Society of Friends. North Carolina Yearly Meeting appointed him to committees charged with writing epistles to Philadelphia in 1740, 1741, 1743, and 1747; in 1762 he and nine other Friends were directed to draw up epistles to London, Philadelphia, and Core Sound.

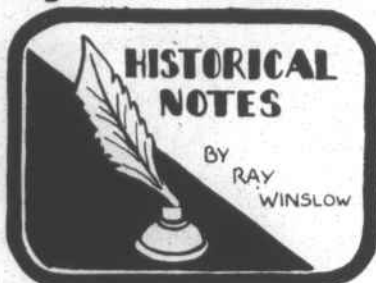
He served as clerk of the Quarterly Meeting until released at his own request on August 25, 1744. He transcribed the early minutes of the women's meeting of Pasquotank in 1747.

Becoming a published author (the first native of Perquimans County known to have achieved such a distinction), he wrote "An Answer to the Layman's Treatise on Baptism" printed in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1757 and "An Epistle to Friends in Great Britain" (1762); the latter book was recommended to all Friends in the state in 1771.

A major writing was his journal, which Friends apparently considered of notable importance. The Monthly Meeting in Perquimans on December 5, 1781, received an extract out of the Yearly Meeting minutes: "The Quarterly Meetings are directed to promote subscriptions for the journal of our Friend Thomas Nicholson and forward them to the Meeting for Sufferings in Philadelphia."

However, publication was not forthcoming at the time; it was not until 1900 that portions were printed in "Publications of the Southern History Association."

Nicholson was also concerned with education. In 1743 he was on a three-



man committee appointed to make selections from George Fox's Primers "suitable for young persons that are just entering upon learning." He was appointed in 1755 to a committee to oversee the press, making sure that no Friend published any book without permission of Friends' meetings.

On a more domestic scale, Thomas and his brother-in-law Joseph Robinson brought Joseph Jordan from Nansemond County, Virginia, "to teach our children" sometime prior to 1760.

Such activities, with numerous others, made Thomas Nicholson one of the most important Quakers in eighteenth-century North Carolina; the age would have described him as a solid, weighty, and public Friend.

He became a Friends minister in 1736, and he began in 1739 to sit regularly in the yearly Meeting. His own local place of worship was at Little River Meeting House; he was one of the trustees to whom the land for that church was deeded on April 15, 1744. When Little River meeting house required enlarging, Thomas was appointed with another Friend on January 5, 1758, to take the work under his care.

(Part 13 next week.)

Indian Summer Festival: Take a right on Church, and three blocks on Grubb



No dictionary needed, it's straight from the lip

If you've been reading me for very long, you know that I speak straight from the heart and lip. There are generally few words in this column that you will have to reach for the dictionary to understand. And, it will stay that way, despite the trend today for a lot of windy jargon. Like you, I'm fed up t the arm pits with mouthfuls of high tech words that not even a Philadelphia lawyer knows what to do with. Just say what you've got to say in plain English and get it over with, the way it was meant to be. Know what I mean?

To prove my point about how bad things have gotten with pen and ink these days, just listen to these examples of pompous, incomprehensible language:

On the door of a government building in Washington, D.C., is the following inscription: "General Services Administration, Region 3, Public Building Service, Building Management Division, Utility Room Custodian."

'Silhouette' books sited as authors favorite

When I was in school, one of my favorite pastimes was reading, and my favorite books were ones we called "silhouette" books. Usually bound with a blue cover, these books were biographies of famous people. Rather than painted illustrations or drawings, these books contained silhouetted illustrations that required the reader to visualize what the pictures should look like. While they were very easy to read, they were informative and entertaining, and within their pages, I learned much about the boyhood of such greats as George Washington, Jefferson, and Carver, as well as others.

I don't know if such books exist in school libraries today—probably not as so much has changed.

What hasn't changed is the excitement available through books. To me, my early experiences with books were opportunities to visit places I will probably never see and offered an escape from the reality of day to day life. Unlike television, reading required imagination. To be a part of



Some poor fellow went to his bank to borrow some more money, only to be told that his bad debts were "non-performing loans." Airline flight attendants seek to soothe passengers by describing the life preservers under the seat as "personal flotation devices." Not to be outdone in formal communication, the government once again shows itself by one particular branch that describes cowboys as "mobile mountain range technicians." Good Lord.

Not in a million years would you figure this out on your own: "A carbonate-laminate bovine protein wafer—that is, a homogenized bovine contractile fiber on a bipartite farinaeous comestible capsule with a randomized oleaginous germinal array, is better known as a Hamberger, folks. On a sesame seed bun, no less. Course, if you want a cheeseburger, then you need to add a little bacterially coagulated lactic secretion. And, I'm not sure I copied any of this

correctly. The time when you called a spade a spade is gone forever. Today it's a "manually-operated humus excavator."

But, this new trend in bloated language has teased and taunted us decent folk long enough. Finally, somebody is doing something about it. At last it has been recognized for exactly what it is...a public nuisance. More than thirty states have now passed laws requiring the use of plain English in consumer documents.

Point of View



vision be each bed. When he inquired of the warden about this practice, he was informed television was a privilege and in order for the inmates to watch, they had to use an earplug, which must be earned in various ways. Baliles wondered: "If television is a privilege, why not say that an individual, if he wants television a month, has to read a book a month?"

The warden laughed. "Yes, I guess you could, but half these guys can't read." It is a bit surprising the governor did not know this.

On his way back to Richmond, Baliles developed an idea for a program to encourage prisoners to learn to read. As motivation, those who learned would receive special consideration when being screened for parole. Those able to read will receive consideration for helping teach those who can't.

To implement the program, Balile's persuaded his state General Assembly to appropriate \$1 million for the program.

"If it works, you may find a way of

breaking the cycle of recidivism," Baliles said. "Many prisoners who are jailed repeatedly can't read and write well enough to function on the outside. If a person can't fill out a job application or follow simple instructions, it's unlikely he will be able to obtain or retain employment. So he resorts to the one career option that doesn't require a job application. He commits a crime and goes back to prison—and that's costly to us in terms of tragic consequences as well as just finances."

We all know it will take more than teaching prisoners to read to rehabilitate them. But exposing them to the worlds of books is certainly a good idea. Encouraging the use of the mind is commendable and there's no better way to do this than by being able to read and understand what is read.

In today's electronic world, there is little to challenge the imagination. In order to be entertained, all is needed is to turn a switch or to flip a button. Books, available to nearly everyone, can play an important role in developing the imagination.

Public poll

What are you looking forward to about the Indian Summer Festival this year?

"I am looking forward to the whole thing. It's great advertisement for our town and county."
Billy White, Hertford



"I'm mainly coming for all the crafts and food."
Kathy Matthews, Hertford

"I'm looking forward to having a lot of fun."
Marie S. Elliott, Hertford



"The Fun!"
Margaret Riddick, Hertford

"I just hope it will be a good one. It was last year and I hope the weather will be good."
William Ainsley, Hertford



"To see all the crafts and to buy some Christmas presents. My kids are looking forward to it."
Renee Matthews, Hertford

"Just the fun of it!"
Bill Field, Hertford



A note from Gina:

The Indian Summer Festival is this weekend, and I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about a lady whom I have come to know and respect in Hertford.

Her name is Mary Harrell, and she is the executive director at the chamber of commerce. Mary is responsible for the Indian Summer Festival each fall, and I think that she does a remarkable job.

The festival is an enormous amount of work, and yet I've haven't heard Mary complain about her enormous task even once. She may get frustrated but she doesn't complain.

She begins planning the festival months ahead of time. Forming committees, planning activities, and scheduling entertainment are only a few of the never ending jobs that are involved in planning the event.

While we are all enjoying the festival she is still going to be behind the scenes working to make sure everything goes well over the weekend.

The job of planning the festival is one which is extremely tedious, and many don't realize what is really involved in pulling off the two day

event. Co-ordinating all the entertainment is hard enough. Mary must make sure that the performers show up at the right times, have the right contract if necessary, and fill every spot on the stage schedule with some new and exciting performance.

Making sure the food booths offer a variety is also a job, and the craft booths must also be attended to in the planning. Each booth must be different, and if not different not next to each other in the park.

The whole festival is a major undertaking. Try getting a tug o' war and a beauty contest going at the same time. It's tough.

Well I, for one, would like to congratulate Mary and everyone who is working on the festival for doing such a good job.

Everything seems to be under control, and the festival is shaping up nicely. I put my order in for good weather, and I am really looking forward to my first Indian Summer Festival. I'll be there with my camera in hand snapping away.

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