

Perspective

Remember Pearl Harbor



For many Americans too young to remember, Dec. 7 is just another day on the calendar. For others, it will always be the "date which will live in infamy" as aptly described by President Franklin Roosevelt.

At 7:55, the morning sun had just begun to reflect itself against the 100 American warships swaying gently in the harbor when the first wave of Japanese planes struck. When it was over, Pearl Harbor was in havoc and America's Pacific Fleet was nearly destroyed.

First to attack were torpedo planes, with the seven big battleships being the main target. In rapid succession, torpedos hit the "Arizona", "West Virginia" and "Oklahoma." The "Arizona" and "Oklahoma" were hit again and within seconds, the "California" was hit twice. "Tennessee" took one in her forward deck.

Ensign John R. Beardall, aboard the "Raleigh" was thrown from his bunk when the first blast ripped the ship. Without dressing, he rushed to the deck and within minutes had a gun crew firing at the swarming planes. Enemy gunfire killed 10 of the 11 sailors manning one five-inch gun. The remaining sailor grabbed a shell, set it in the tray, ran to the other side to ram the shell home, leaped into the pointer's seat, and fired the gun. In this manner, he was able to get off three shells before a bomb blast threw him over the side.

Gunners aboard "Nevada" shot down one plane and minutes later, a second. But it was too late; the plane's torpedo had already been released, tearing a deep gash in the ship's port bow.

The "West Virginia" had been struck three times and was about to capsize. Capt. Mervyn Bennion had just ordered measures to stabilize the vessel when shrapnel ripped his stomach. Without medical attention, he remained at his post, directing the efforts to save the ship and crew. He died on the bridge.

A third torpedo struck "Oklahoma" and then a fourth. As the ship slowly rolled over, nearly 100 men were able to reach the bottom of the upturned ship. Scores of others, trapped below the decks, drowned. A few minutes later, a bomb exploded

deep inside the magazine of "Arizona." Three hours later, after being struck by eight bombs, the battleship settled beneath the surface to become a watery tomb for more than 1,000 brave men.

As Battleship Row was being turned into a flaming nightmare, Ford Island was also under fire.

Hundreds of planes, lined neatly, were set ablaze. Buildings were bombed and hundreds of frantic soldiers and civilians were machine-gunned.

To the north, Hickman Field was struck by fighters and bombers, setting many of the Army's B-17s aflame. The front of the guardhouse was blown away by one bomb, freeing the prisoners housed inside. Rather than seek safety, they ran to join others manning anti-aircraft batteries.

Bombers attacked Wheeler Field, destroying the planes on the ground. Most of the aircraft at Barber's Point were destroyed by raiding Zeros. Haleiwa Field and Schofield Barracks were all but destroyed.

By 10:30 it was all over. Though the surprised American forces had downed 29 enemy planes and all five of their midget subs, the sneak attack achieved its purpose. Two thousand four hundred Americans were dead, 1,200 wounded, 18 ships were sunk or crippled, and over 160 planes destroyed.

The end of that tragic "Day of Infamy" began what was to become America's greatest victory. The nation united and met the challenge of forcing the enemy to pay the price.

Though time has healed many of the wounds resulting from that terrible day, we must never allow ourselves to forget the courage and dedication of those Americans who fought and died that Dec. 7.

Hunter honored

20 YEARS AGO

Charles Finley To Speak At Jim Hunter: The American Legion Post 126, of Hertford, will hold a banquet to honor Jim "Catfish" Hunter on Wednesday at the Hertford Grammar School. This will be a reward for his perfect game of last May, in which he blanked the Minn. Twins by 4-0, striking out 11 and not allowing anyone to get on base. This was the first perfect game in the American League since 1922, and the 9th perfect game in major league history. In addition to his pitching feat, he got three hits, including 3 out of the 4 runs scored that night. Mr. Finley, Jim's boss, and owner of the Oakland Athletics, will be the principal speaker for the occasion.

W.D. "Bill" Cox New Pres. Perquimans Chamber of Commerce: The 1980 Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors held their meeting Monday night under the direction of W.D. "Bill" Cox. Serving with Cox on the Board of Di-

rectors will be Joe Nowell, Jr. Minor Damage In Chimney Fire At Bundy's: The pretty brick two-story Woodley Bundy home located on the Harvey Point Highway, suffered some smoke damage from a chimney fire which was quickly controlled and extinguished by the Hertford Fire Department, the Sheriff's Department and neighbors of the Bundy's last Thursday night. Mr. Bundy was in high praise of all who helped during the fire, and the efficiency of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department.

Nicholson faces problems

Thomas Nicholson was having difficulties in Perquimans County. He had buried two wives and abandoned his only child. He had been disowned by his church. He had sold his ancestral home and taken up tavern keeping. He was running into debt.

Taking the path often followed by the restless and unsettled, Thomas tried another change of scene. About 1810 he moved to Pasquotank County. There he signed a marriage contract on February 28, just before marrying his third wife, Susannah. The bride was a daughter of Thomas and Miriam Redding and was the widow of William Banks.

The uncommon step of drawing up a marriage contract suggests Susannah was leary of allowing Thomas to get his hands on her property. However his wife may have viewed him, Thomas apparently still held the confidence of the public, for he qualified as a justice of the peace for Pasquotank in March 1810.

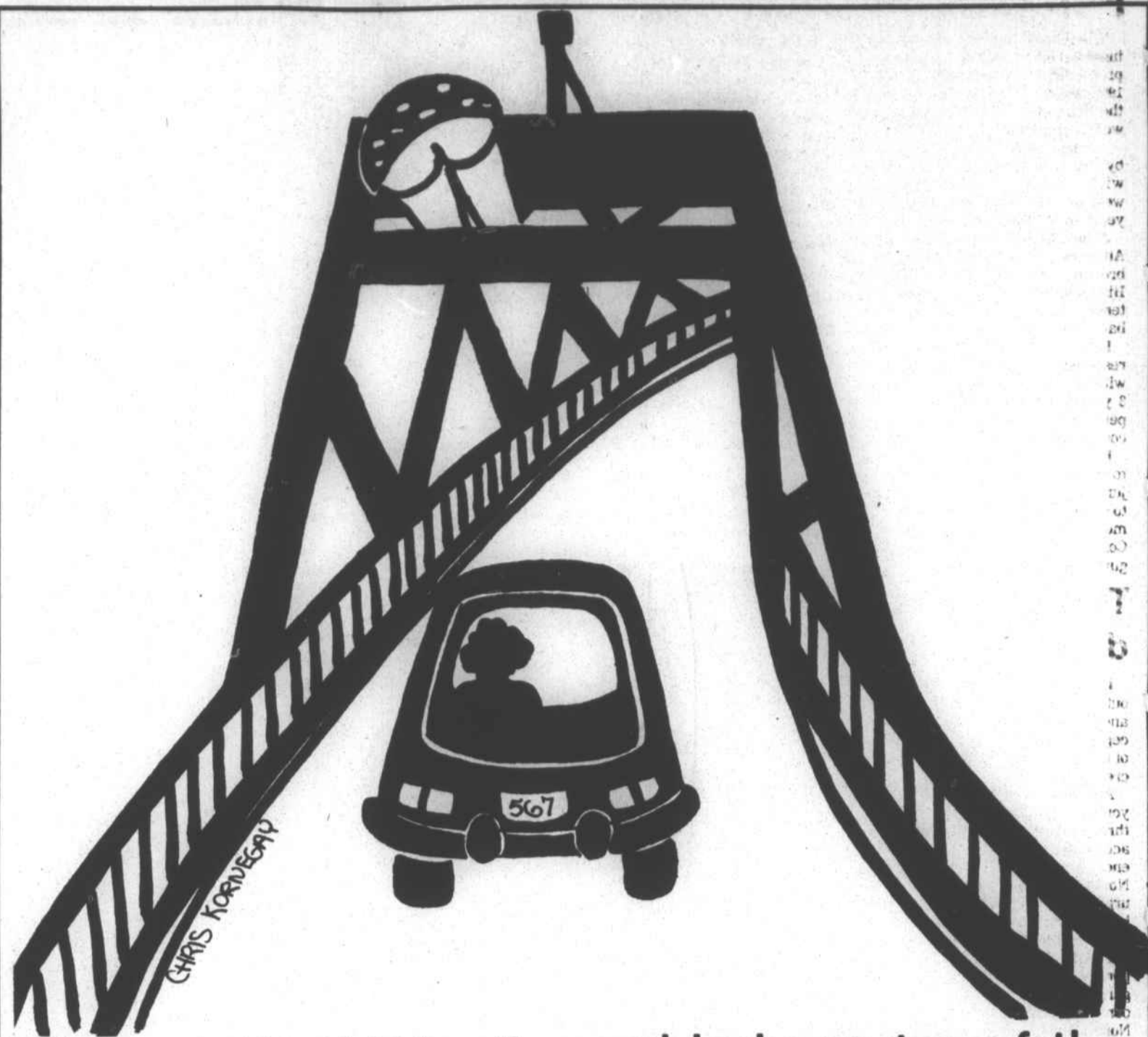
Thomas moved up the public ladder rapidly, and the "Edenton Gazette" of October 8, 1811, referred to him as Sheriff of Pasquotank County. The holding such an office probably scandalized his relatives who, as Quakers, were then somewhat desirous of staying out of public life with its involvement in the wrongdoing of the world.

Whether he would settle down would never be known. Thomas Nicholson never reached the age of forty. In him were recalled the troubled life and short days of his ancestor Edmund Nicholson the hard-drinking fisherman, rather than the spiritual, prosperous, and long life of his father Thomas the missionary-author.

By February 21, 1812, Thomas Nicholson the younger was dead. Within two months his widow was also dead. The small estate left by

LOOKING BACK
1960
1970
BY VIRGINIA WHITE TRANSEAU

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Who put Paul Ward's yard lady on top of the bridge

File 13...Consider the Rolls Royce

If you've been looking for that perfect Christmas gift, and you've got enough money to burn a wet mule, to boot, consider the Rolls-Royce automobile. No? Too expensive you say? Sure, it's expensive. But, have you ever wondered why those things cost so much? I mean, there's got to be something about that car that makes it so expensive other than that pretty little hood ornament. While it's true that not too many folks here in "tobacco land" own a Rolls, you do see one on the road now and then, and if you're like me, take a second look at it.

Charles Rolls, who designed Rolls-Royce, was also the first Englishman to die in an air crash. Because his death came shortly before the "Spirit" on the hood made its appearance, he never got to ride behind the Flying Lady (also known as the Spirit of Ecstasy) which has adorned every Rolls-Royce car for 70 years.

To fully appreciate the Rolls, it helps to know a little about the car itself. So, for those among us who can't even afford new tires but still cast a wishful eye at the finer things in life, the next time you are eyeball to eyeball with a Rolls, bear this in mind:

First of all, it takes eight full sides

EASTERN ECHOES
BY GAIL ROBERSON

to construct the interior of every Rolls-Royce. This leather comes from animals that are pastured in fields protected by electrified fences rather than barbed wire, in order to prevent abrasions and scratches to the hides. None of my daddy's cows would ever make it to a Rolls. Yours neither. I saw one cow this year that got me to acting rather much like an expert. I finally patted her on the rump and exclaimed, "now you'd almost make a nice Rolls, honey."

It takes a number of craftsmen from three to four months to produce a Rolls-Royce sedan. However, five months are allowed for the Corniche convertible.

Enter the walnut tree. The veneer for an entire year's production of Rolls-Royce instrument panels comes from the wood of a single walnut tree. After being specially lac-

quered and buffed, the panel will not show even a mark from a stubbed out cigar. Silly me. I thought the walnut tree was put on this earth only for the purpose of my Grandma's Christmas fruitcakes.

If I was you and I had finally stashed away enough for my Rolls, I wouldn't stay awake at nights worrying about somebody ripping me off. Thanks to its pick-proof electric door locks, this car is almost impossible to steal. And, if that isn't enough, the ignition system locks electrically as soon as the key is removed and cannot be started again without. The only way you can plan on stealing a Rolls-Royce is to raise it up off its drive wheels and tow it away. I know some "good old boys" who could probably flex a few muscles and walk right off with it.

If you're ever seen a Rolls-Royce on the highways around here, most likely the first thing you noticed was

that gorgeous silver-colored grille. This thing, just for the record, is not silver, though considering the price, it should be, but is stainless steel which has acquired the silver luster after being polished by hand for so long. Like I said before, there's a reason this car costs so much.

You can ease your mind right now as to worrying about your new Rolls arriving with a scratch somewhere, since every one of them is exported in its own jumbo-sized packing container for protection.

I won't be getting a Rolls for Christmas this year. Maybe next year, when the corn gets all the way up to \$1.00 a bushel and my magazine editors realize they can't live without me. So, until then, I think I'll see if I can section off a portion of my yard with an electric fence and then round up a calf...make that eight calves. Then, I'll plant a walnut tree. And wait. For my Rolls-Royce seed to reach maturity.

Letters to the editor

The Perquimans Weekly,

As new director of the Open Door of Perquimans County, I want to express my sincere appreciation for all the support given to Boy Scout Troop 175 in their recent campaign to collect goods for the food box of the Open Door. It is wonderful to see the community of Hertford give of themselves for such a worthy cause. I want to particularly thank the BeLo store and its management for allowing the Boy Scouts to collect food products at their store. It was a tremendous help! The troop collected a

full pick-up truck load of food which will be used in this county for those people who need our services.

Again, a big thank you to each and everyone of you for your needed support. The Open Door of Perquimans County depends on the generosity of this community and you certainly were generous this past Saturday when Boy Scout Troop 175 solicited your support.

Sincerely,
Ann White, Director
The Open Door of Perquimans County

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY DEADLINES

NEWS 10:00 A.M. MONDAY
(Weddings Church News, Etc.)

RETAIL & CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISING 3:00 P.M. MONDAY

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The news and editorial staff of the Perquimans Weekly would like you to tell us what kind of stories you like to see in the paper. If there is something or someone you feel is important — or some provocative issue you would like us to examine — please, let us know.

Just clip and fill out this coupon. Include as many details as possible (Names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc.)

It may not be possible for us to use some of the stories suggested but we are always looking for new ideas.

So, next time you think of something you feel would make a good story, send it to: News Coupon, Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

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