

Perspective

'Speaking of Animalisms'

"South Carolina Wildlife" Magazine published an article a few years ago written by Horace B. Sims, Jr., entitled "Animalisms." It got me to thinking about just how much we depend on animal-inspired expressions to liven up our descriptive vocabulary. Horace says "we animalize people all the time." It's true that certain people and situations can remind us of animals, either by their appearance or actions. Take, for instance, some of Horace's examples in animal-situation comparisons:

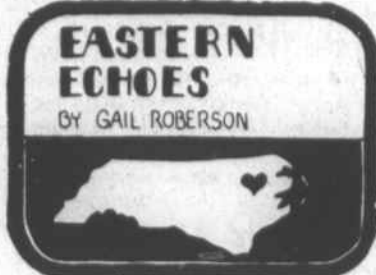
When you're down in the dumps you're having "a dog day," but when you're on top of the world you're in "hog heaven." If something is very hard to find, many of us often describe it as being "scarce as hen's teeth," and when we're stuffed into a small car with eight other people, we'll most likely feel "packed like sardines."

Damp Monday mornings don't present any problems for Horace's collection of animalisms because when "it's raining cats and dogs" on this particular day, he knows we'd probably just as soon "sleep in even if it means playing possum."

Nice-looking females may be placed in the "good-looking chick" category, but if accompanied by skinny legs, they'll certainly be described as "bird legs" by somebody else. If you just happen to be able to rattle the church rafters with your rendition of "Amazing Grace," you can bet your collection envelope that you're well known for "singing like a mockingbird." But, when you've seen your best years, suddenly you're no longer "a spring chicken."

Comparing men to animals is a whole lot more fun though. "Bald as an eagle" is Horace's choice for a man "whose head has grown through his hair." A "contemptible old cuss" is no more than "an old buzzard," and a coward is a true "chicken heart."

His animalisms show us at our best when we bear the animal-inspired descriptions of "wise as an owl," and the "eye of an eagle," but an our worse when we're a bit too proud and "strut like a peacock" or a bit too incompetent, which means a sure "turkey" label.



Horace reminds us how we view "unfriendly, unemotional or dull persons" as "cold fish," and a person who does not fit his situation as "a fish out of water."

Since I'm a cat lover, I was particularly interested in what he had to say about feline comparisons:

Being "noteworthy" puts you "in the cat's meow," accumulating some wealth means you're a "fat cat," and those who are easy to anger or make passionate are "real tigers."

Horace goes on to compare other animalisms such as "full as a tick, bug-eyed, sly as a fox, clumsy as a bull, pig-headed, stubborn as a mule, eager as a beaver, strong as an ox," and some that might even have a little "horse sense" though they're as "low as a snake in the grass" and always the "cow's tail."

All this got me to thinking about a man I know who's tougher than bullhide and meaner than a hell hound, another who's as meek as a lamb, and a woman who stays as busy as a hummingbird in a rose garden.

Horace believes: "One well-chosen animalism communicates instantly what several sentences of clumsy description will not." And it does.

Just the other day, a very elderly man told me I was too young to remember all this old stuff I write about...that I was "just a little bitty biddy." Bless his heart. A little bitty biddy. Don't you just Love animalism?

Note: Animalism quotes used by permission of South Carolina Wildlife Magazine, a bi-monthly publication of South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, and author, Horace B. Sims, Jr.

Hunter receives award

18 YEARS AGO
Hunter Presented Plymouth By Towe and Chrysler Corp: Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter, was presented a 1969 Plymouth Fury by J.H. Towe, Sr. at Towe Motor Company in Hertford last week. Hunter's recent appointment as Player Representative for the Oakland Athletics made him eligible. Chrysler Corporation has an agreement with the Major League Baseball Players Association whereby they provide each Player Representative with a new car each year, in return for the publicity value they receive for each transaction.

Jim Hunter Co-Winner Of Annual Will Wynne Award: For the first time in 19 years, there will be co-winners of the annual Will Wynne Award. It has been announced that Oakland pitcher Jimmy Hunter and State baseball coach Sam Esposito both will be honored at the Raleigh Hot Stove League's annual banquet to be held February 12. The Wynne award is presented annually to the North Carolinian who contributed the most to baseball. Hunter, who pitched a perfect game last May against the Minnesota Twins, is the third pitcher



in four years to be honored. He has been in the Majors ever since he finished the high school career at Perquimans High School in 1964. The righthander has been a starter for the A's for the past two seasons. His no-hitter against Minnesota was the first perfect game pitched in the major leagues during the regular season.

Hal Rogers, Jr. is Promoted: Hal K. Rogers, Jr., a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hal K. Rogers, Sr. of Route 3, Hertford, was promoted in November to Army specialist First Class in Vietnam, where he is serving with the 4th Infantry. A supply clerk in Headquarters Company 3rd, Battalion of the divisions 12th Infantry, Rogers entered the Army in December 1967.

Nicholson dies at home

After several years of ill health, Josiah Nicholson died in Perquimans County on June 16, 1852. He had made his will on the 17th of October in the previous year, and the document shows that the orphan who had started life with little prospered.

Josiah bequeathed 211 acres with swamp purchased from Anthony B. Albertson to his sons William and Timothy; William also received "the medical Office he now occupies." Sons Josiah, John, and George W. received the 365-acre home farm, subject to their mother's life use. Two hundred and fifty dollars were set aside to complete George's education.

To his widow, Anna, Josiah left a feather bed and furniture; walnut buffet, desk, and table; use of plantation and buildings, with 5000 corn hills recently cleared and a deading about the same size; use of household and kitchen furniture, crockery ware, and dairy utensils; a horse; a yoke of oxen; two cows, a heifer, and a small brindled steer; two sows and pigs; six head of sheep; a barouche (carriage) and harness; two carts; and farming utensils and tools.

Josiah appointed his sons William and Timothy as executors, requesting them to sell a tract of land near Vosses Creek as well as the remainder of his crop, stock, and pork. The will was witnessed by Jephtha White and Josephus White.

Anna Nicholson remained on the homeplace in North until 1860, when despite being an invalid she determined to move to Dublin, Indiana, to live with her daughter (by her first husband) Elizabeth.

Anna informed her son Timothy of the reasons for undertaking such an arduous journey: "Son, I am sure there will be war between the North



and South. I may then be too feeble to travel and William or Josiah will have to stay with me, so I felt that I must come now in order that they might be able to get away when the war begins."

After the civil War she had correctly foreseen was over, Anna decided to return to North Carolina. She obtained a certificate from Milford Monthly Meeting of Friends in Indiana dated May 26, 1866, which was received at Piney Woods Monthly Meeting in Perquimans on July 7.

On February 1, 1868, Anna again became an elder at Piney Woods as she had been in 1837.

Quaker records show Anna died July 11, 1868, but her tombstone in the White-Nicholson family cemetery near Belvidere gives the date October 24, 1870. She was buried near her husband and two of their sons.



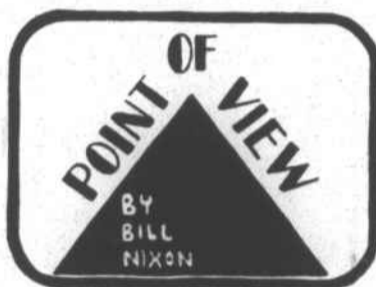
Author states concern over rising costs of insurance

It's a subject that should concern all of us as it affects us where it usually hurts most...our pocket-books.

While waiting in the doctor's office recently, I thumbed through a publication entitled "North Carolina Tomorrow." The tabloid newsletter is printed by the North Carolina Medical Society, and it presented a frightening look into the future of basic health care services in North Carolina.

The ever-increasing costs of securing liability insurance is causing many businesses to close, putting thousands out of work. Health care is especially affected, as rising insurance costs cause more and more doctors to practice "defensive" medicine.

Since a doctor in North Carolina stands a one in six chance of becoming the target of a malpractice claim, many order extra tests, perform additional procedures, and maintain more detailed charts and records. While some of this is good, defensive medicine is very expensive, adding as much as \$25 billion to the nation's health care bill each year. Some doc-



tors in North Carolina who have never been sued are paying more than \$30,000 a year for liability insurance. Naturally, that \$600 a week insurance cost is passed on to the patient.

As America becomes obsessed with a "sue'em society, consumers must pay more for everything from vital health care to a variety of manufactured goods. Also, the basic public services we often take for granted are threatened. Liability insurance for police and fire protection, volunteer rescue squads, and other services is becoming increasingly expensive and difficult to obtain. To cover these rising liability costs, governments are going to have to reduce

services, raise taxes, or both. Again, the consumer will pay.

The human effect of the liability crisis in medical care is already being felt in eastern North Carolina. In many communities, doctors refuse to deliver babies for fear of being sued and the rising cost of liability insurance. If changes aren't made, nearly one-fourth of North Carolina's 100 counties will be without obstetrical services.

David Tayloe, Jr., a Goldsboro pediatrician, continues a family tradition of five generations of doctors, all having practiced in eastern North Carolina. But like so many of his peers, he is concerned about the future of medical care in the estate, especially in rural areas.

Tayloe says practicing medicine is like having a "loaded gun at your head," and he will probably not encourage his children to pursue a career in medicine. Many other doctors feel the same way.

They aren't saying malpractice doesn't exist. They admit there are bad doctors just as there are bad lawyers, construction workers, factory workers and others. There are legiti-

mate claims and the victims should be compensated. Also, members of the medical profession must take stronger steps to police themselves. But many believe things are getting out of hand.

If something goes wrong, it doesn't necessarily mean a patient has been mistreated. Most claims are found to be without merit, and are often dismissed, dropped or decided in the doctor's favor. However, these law suits clog up the courts and the cost of defending the mad millions to the nation's health care bill each year.

While we should certainly expect quality products and services, we must realize that alternatives to the national pastime of filing a suit when things aren't exactly right are needed. The insurance crisis is putting everyone at risk and threatens to put our nation out of business. We are forcing an end to the basic daily services we have come to depend on. Unless there are changes in attitudes, our standard of living is going to decline, while the costs of securing services continue to rise. We simply can't afford to allow this to happen.

A note from Gina

I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to Jimmy Hunter on his election into the baseball Hall of Fame. It is truly a great honor, and everyone in the county is extremely proud of his achievements.

I would also like to say thank you to the Hunter's for their hospitality during our recent interview. It was a thrill I won't soon forget, and they were both great.

Congratulations again. We'll see you at Cooperstown.

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
Established in 1932

Published Each Thursday By The Daily Advance, Elizabeth City, N.C.
Second Class Postage Paid at Hertford, N.C. 27944 USPS 428-080

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ONE YEAR MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In-County	Out-Of-County
\$9.00	\$10.00

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P.O. Box 277
Hertford, N.C. 27944

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