

Perspective

'Love...Life with a heartbeat'

Soon we'll be purchasing chocolate, lacy cards, teddy bears and roses for those we will remember at Valentines. It's that season of the year when love and romance take priority...when we show those we love how much we care just because we want to. Just because love and those who bring love into our lives are so important to us all.

John Ciardi said that "love is the word used to label the sexual excitement of the young, the habituation of the middle-aged, and the mutual dependence of the old."

According to Franklin Jones, "love doesn't make the world go 'round, it's what makes the ride worthwhile." We all know that sometimes that ride can be both bumpy and as smooth as silk, but I'd rather know love in all its tromenting glories than never to have known it at all. I'd rather have inhaled the perfume of one single rose, though been pierced by all its thorns, than to have an entire bouquet without the fragrance love brings.

Love is sort of like a heart monitoring machine. Every time your heart beats, the machine registers an "up and down" motion on the screen. The life of a person who has never known real love is simply one straight line across the screen. Without the ups and downs. Just the same thing all the time. Life, without a heartbeat.

Through the years, many things have been said about love that bear repeating. Sometimes those philosophical lines help ease the pain of losing. The most comforting of these verses is the favorite: "If you love something, set it free. If it comes back, it is yours. If it does not, it never was." But, it still hurts when a freed love finds lodging someplace else.

They say that all is fair in love and war, but love is never fair. Not really. And never easy either. Like living, loving is as dangerous as licking honey from a thorn. To survive, we must have love, and that means accepting the thorns along with it. It was Robert Browning who wrote, "take away love and our earth is a tomb." Life without a heartbeat. Again.

Ernest Hemingway said that "peo-



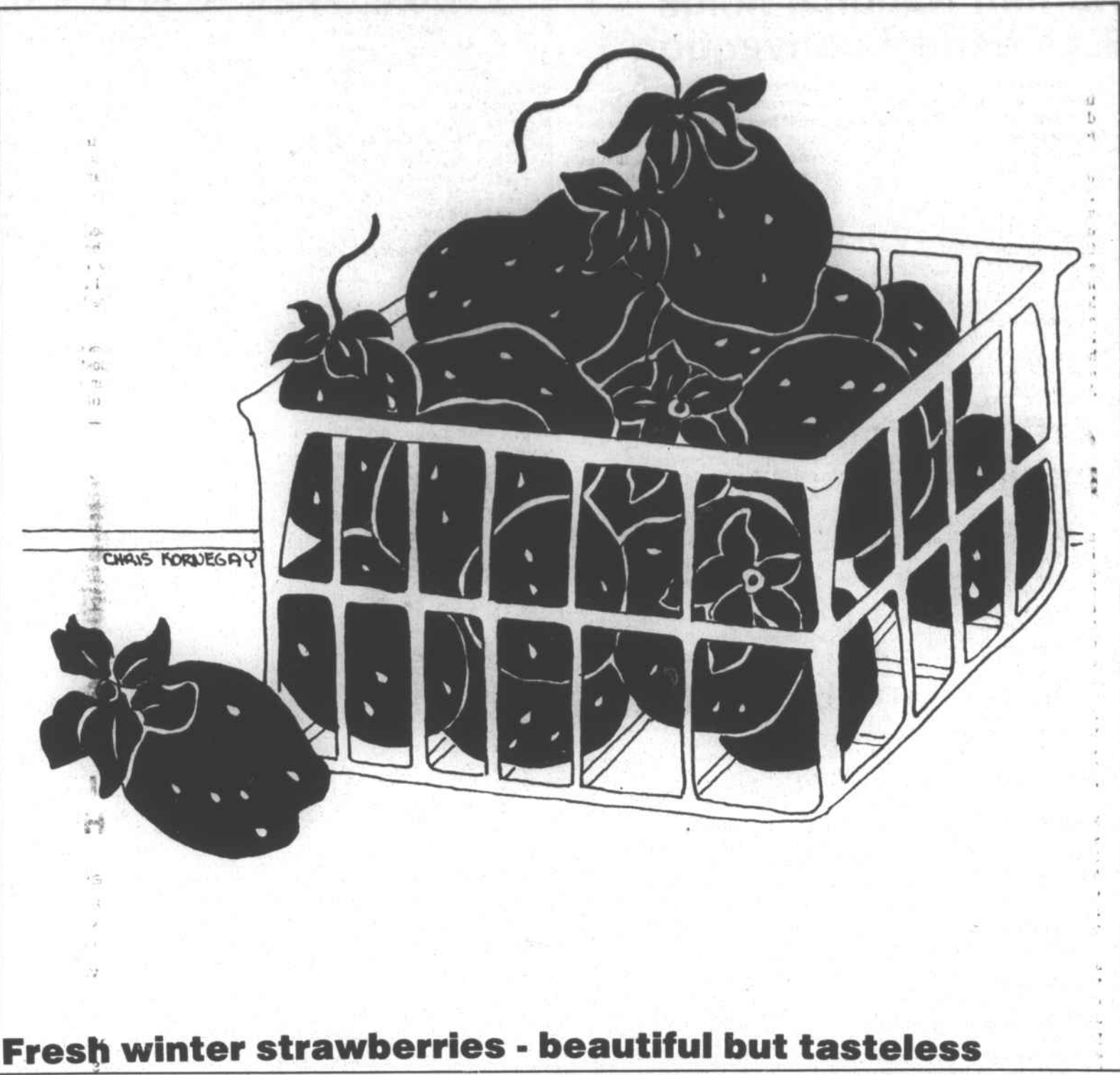
ple fall in love, but they have to climb out." It's so easy to fall in love...as easy as falling in a hole, and usually just as unexpected. It's a wonderful, almost hypnotic state that heightens every sense. But, if the hole becomes a tomb, you have to claw your way back out again. Back to the heartbeat. Back to life. Back to love once more, and the thorns as well. And maybe even another hole to claw your way back to the top of.

"People who are sensible about love are incapable of it," Douglas Yates once remarked. A person who always makes decisions from the head instead of the heart will cheat themselves of love. These are the same people who have never ventured into a summer rain for fear of a cold, or picked wild flowers in a meadow for fear of a snake. Their "sensitivity" robs them of life itself.

In the scriptures, love is presented as the greatest of virtues. It is supreme expression and essential to our relationships, also finding expression in service to our fellow-men. It tells us that our love must be "without hypocrisy" and "in deed and truth."

And, "let there be spaces in your togetherness," Kahlil Gibran believed. A mother can hold a baby so tightly to her breast that she can smother it without realizing. Remember that all love can suffocate if the cord that binds is pulled too tightly.

There is no greater gift in life than love. Show it and share it and never forget Edna St. Vincent Millay's heartbreaking realization: "It's not love's going hurts my days, but that it went in little ways." Remember Valentine's Day, for someone else may remember that you forgot. And real love never forgets.



Fresh winter strawberries - beautiful but tasteless

Nicholson purchases home

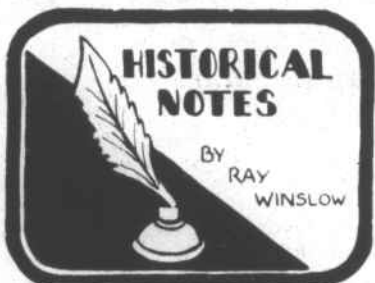
On May 9, 1860, Josiah Nicholson purchased from Jephtha White a half-acre lot south of the Belvidere road junction across from the William Nicholson residence. On that lot Josiah would make his home for the remainder of his life. His house, part of which may have been built prior to his purchase, still stands.

Josiah's house is a rambling two-story structure frequently enlarged and altered. Tradition says he added to it every time he remarried. According to architectural historian Drucilla Haley: "Originally the two-story house was probably a three-bay double-pile side-hall-plan dwelling...Certain early features are still evident, such as the flush sheathing and 9-6 sash beneath the porch shed roof. The exterior end chimney is laid in 1:5 common bond with single stepped shoulders."

Josiah would augment this house lot by purchases from David White in 1867 and 1871; inheritance from Harriet Nicholson in 1888; and purchase from Harriet A. Bundy in 1897.

During the Civil War Josiah's family spent some time in Rhode Island (among his wife's relatives), where his third child was born in July, 1863. After their return to Perquimans, his wife Ellen was recorded as a minister by Piney Wood Meeting in November 1865.

In 1866 Josiah acquired two positions. On February 3rd he became an elder of Piney Woods Meeting and on April 24 he was appointed postmaster for Belvidere. He would be postmaster until June 23, 1893, and again



from June 10, 1897 until his death in 1913.

Ellen Nicholson went north again in the summer of 1867, visiting the Yearly Meetings of Friends in New York and New England.

With all the changes in North Carolina's society and economy wrought by Civil War and Reconstruction came a new form of government for the counties.

The state Constitution of 1868, drafted by a Convention in which Josiah's brother William represented Perquimans, established a county commission system. With much of its population consisting of freed slaves and pre-war white Unionists, Perquimans County would be controlled by the Republican Party for many years.

Since they were both Republicans and persons untainted by wartime partisanship, the Quakers were called upon to participate in political affairs to a greater extent than in any period since the early eighteenth century. Josiah Nicholson would be a leading participant in this new political era.

A note from Gina

This weekend I learned a great deal about being patient.

I spent the weekend skiing with 14 teenagers. My husband and I have the youth group at our church and he came up with idea to take the kids to Penn. skiing. Then he conveniently had to work over the weekend.

This was not my first trip away with this group of youngsters and as a general rule they were wonderful; however there were moments when I wondered if I was insane.

I truly learned that patience is a virtue, and that I need to work more on developing it.

Vietnam war finally receives well deserved attention

They are finally beginning to be recognized for what they were. Men and women doing their job despite unbelievable odds. For the 58,000 killed, the pain ended, but for the thousands who returned, the tragedy has been hard to forget.

It's been nearly 15 years since the fall of Saigon signaled the end of American involvement in Southeast Asia. The war that no one wanted to remember is finally receiving the attention it deserves. The confusion, anger and pain that divided our nation is slowly giving way to a more accurate view of what really happened in Vietnam.

For years we attempted to forget the experience by ignoring those involved or by depicting the war in an unrealistic manner. Anti-war films such as "The Deerhunter" and others only caused us to misunderstand the real events more.

Now Hollywood is finally producing quality films that tell it like it was. Acclaimed one of the better of these films, "Platoon" has already



grossed nearly \$4 million after playing at 174 theaters. Written and produced by Vietnam veteran Oliver Stone, critics claim this is one of the few films that really reflects the truth. Others are in the making that will continue to give a clearer picture of the war.

While it is doubtful Vietnam will ever receive the exposure in films accorded the "Big War," the efforts to provide the truth is an indication of changing attitudes. Whereas WW II is often represented as an American struggle for all the right reasons,

Vietnam's story is more difficult to understand. Many will continue to question our involvement in the war and the sudden popularity of movies portraying the war will open old wounds.

For those of us who were a part of that period, it may be a bit difficult to understand the sudden interest in the war. For years, we have attempted to forget. But we have to realize there is a new generation of Americans too young to remember and they want to know about Vietnam. It has been difficult for them to learn about the war a nation has tried to forget. They are showing an eagerness to learn and many school systems are beginning to provide an indepth look into the period.

In many schools, teachers are inviting veterans to discuss the war with their students. The reality of hearing first hand from someone who was shot at is having a greater impact on the students that would occur from reading about it in textbooks.

Most veterans still retain very vivid memories of the war and can relay their experiences to today's kids in a manner that won't be forgotten. More importantly, the kids will see that everyone involved in the war wasn't a killer, maniac, or drug addict.

We should not view this renewed interest as an indication that all the wounds have healed. Those who were there, those involved at home, and those who lost loved ones have not forgotten the reality. And for those Americans still trapped in Southeast Asia, the horror continues. But the fact we are finally beginning to put this national tragedy in perspective is an indication the healing process has begun. As we become more willing to live with the truth, perhaps the lessons of that war will have a positive effect on our nation. And perhaps we'll learn enough from the experience to cause us to be more cautious in the future. If so, it will not have all been in vain.

Hollowell named to board

18 YEARS AGO

Hollowell is Named Director Of Bank: W.H. Stanley, President of Peoples Bank & Trust Co., Rocky Mount, N.C. today announced the election of Robert L. Hollowell, Hertford Chevrolet Dealer and real estate developer to the Banks Board of Directors at the annual stock holders meeting in Rocky Mount, N.C. held January 31, 1969. Hollowell is a graduate of Duke University with a B.A. degree in Business Administration and of the Noy Business School Harvard University. He served aboard ship in World War II as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy.

Riverview American Station Opens Saturday: Review American Service Station will have their grand opening on Saturday with the new operator's Mr. and Mrs. James Copeland. It is located across from Albemarle Electric Membership Corp. building in



Winfall. The grand opening party will begin Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, with free hot dogs, drinks, ice cream and plenty of music. One local band will participate in the opening.

Variety Show Is Slated Feb. 28th: A variety show featuring Roy Askew as a master of ceremonies will take place this month at the Perquimans County High School, proceeds to be donated to the Heart Fund.

NEWS COUPON

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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