

Perspective

Author reflects briefly on the good ole days

I've always enjoyed listening to people talk about the "good ole days" and often find myself agreeing with what they say. It seems a dollar would buy so much more years ago, that everything was cheaper, from cars to electricity. They talk about how little they earned then, but little is said about how much they had or needed.



The guys at the "club" were talking recently about their utility bills and how high they were. Most were paying from \$75 to over \$100 per month. They all seemed to remember when the "light" bill as it was called then, was only a few dollars a month. That's because it really was a "light" bill.

comes from an electric furnace and I am cooled during the summer by electric air conditioning. My daughter has a battery-powered car that is plugged in nearly every night to charge. My monthly bill is seldom less than \$100 and I complain about lights being used that aren't needed.

I asked them to tell me how many electric clocks they had in their homes. Most had at least five, with some having even more. There were at least two televisions in each home, a number of lamps—one of which usually burned all the time—freezers, stereos, cassette recorders, electric stoves, electric heat, and many other items that require electricity.

Perhaps the only thing so great about the "good ole day" was our attitudes and real needs. We did with less because we couldn't afford more. Keeping up with our neighbors wasn't as important as just keeping up, and families were judged by their values rather than the value of what they had.

When I was a boy, our house had a single electric clock, shaped like a teapot, hanging on the kitchen wall. There was an alarm clock, but it was the wind-up type. We had a refrigerator, a wringer washer, and later, a black and white television. There were no lamps in the house, only bare bulbs overhead. There was no hot water heater, electric heat, electric stove, microwave, or clothes dryer. The light bill was about \$7 per month and Daddy constantly reminded us to turn lights off that weren't needed.

The people wuh complain about having difficulty making it today, even when wages are so much greater, have either forgotten how to budget, or never knew how. When I hear people say they used to raise kids on \$40 per week, I think they may have forgotten how little they actually provided. While most always had something to eat, it was often home-grown and the menu had little variety. Most kids had only one pair of shoes, few clothes, and little else. Today, we spend as much to dress one child as many families spent on the entire family years ago.

Today, my home has over a dozen lamps which seem to be on all the time. There are two electric clocks in the kitchen, one in the bathroom, another in the bedroom. A battery-powered clock and one that winds in is in the den. All give a different time.

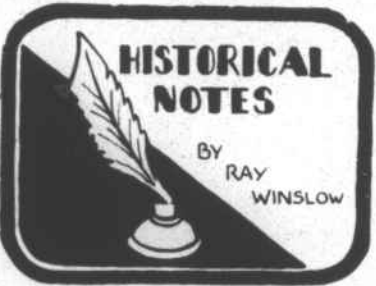
The very popular country duo, The Judds, sing a song asking "Grampa, tell me 'bout the good ole days." Chances are, with the exception of our loss of values, there is little Grandpa has to tell. He probably doesn't remember those days as being such good ones.

Meals are cooked on an electric stove, in a microwave, or both. Water is heated by electricity, there are two radios plugged in, two televisions that are usually tuned to different programs, a refrigerator, a freezer with little in it, porch lights, yard lights and shop lights. In the summer, a bug light glows all night. Heat

Rather than wish for times that never, we need to take a few moments and realize just how fortunate most of us are compared to those who struggled during those times we so fondly call the "good ole days."

Raleigh explores North Carolina coast

After three years' exploration and attempted colonization of the mid-Atlantic coast of North America, Sir Walter Raleigh prepared to outfit another effort in 1587 colony give up the settlement on Roanoke Island to return to England with Sir Francis Drake after a matter of months.



Stability was needed if Englishmen were to make the New World their own. Raleigh sought to insure success by instituting three changes in plans for the 1587 colony.

fourth of that sent out in 1585. Various reports as 115 and 150, the new colony did include seventeen women and eleven children. John White's own daughter Eleanor Dare was among them, and she was expecting a child that summer.

First, this colony was to include women and children. Families would go to the new lands with the intention of making homes. Previously, Raleigh's expeditions had been more like temporary military ventures.

Command of the colony while at sea was given to Simon Fernandes, who was well acquainted with the coastal waters but was a difficult man with whom to serve.

Second, the colonists were given a more personal stake in the settlement. Not only were families promised five hundred acres of land of each, but the entire venture was organized as an incorporated community called the City of Raleigh. Government was to be in the hands of civilians, with artist John White as governor.

After some delays at Portsmouth and Coves, the colony finally set sail from Plymouth on May 8, 1587. Their route would be the familiar one for reaching America; down the European coast to the tropics, westward with the winds to the Caribbean, and up the Gulf Stream along the American coast. A stop at Roanoke Island to contract the fifteen men left there as a holding party the previous year, then on the Chesapeake the English would go.

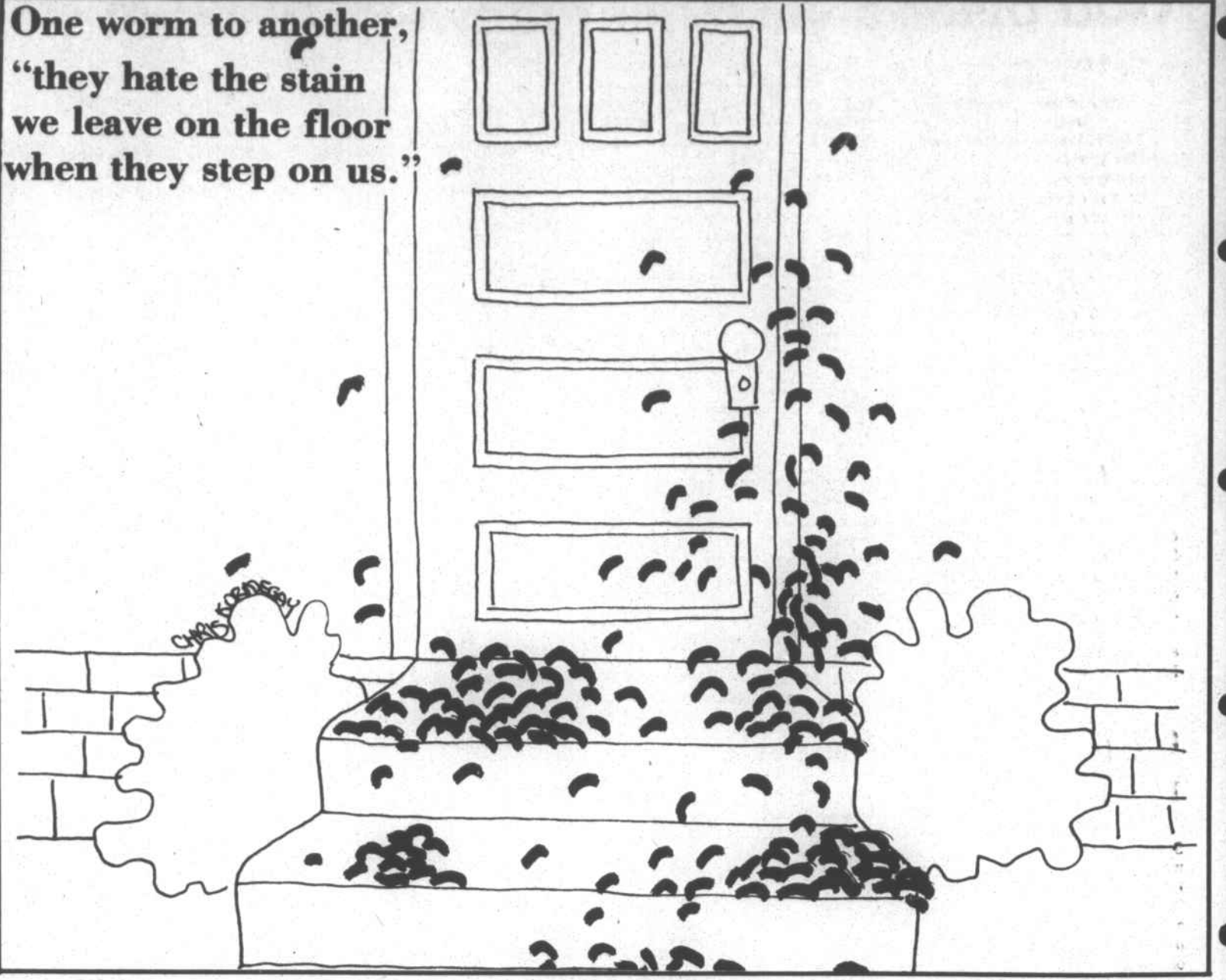
Third, the 1587 colony was not to settle on Roanoke Island, which had been found unsuitable for permanent occupancy. Instead, White and his party were to plant themselves on Chesapeake Bay.

Their plans would go astray, as the final months of America's four-hundredth anniversary celebration will soon remember.

This expedition was to be smaller than that of 1585. Only three vessels were to sail. Largest of the three was the 120-ton "Lyon". It was joined by a flyboat and a pinnace.

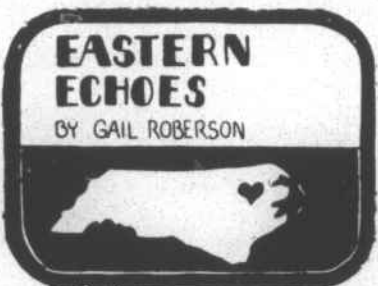
The 1587 company was only about a

One worm to another, "they hate the stain we leave on the floor when they step on us."



Moving to Califwood, Hollyfornia and other places

You wouldn't Believe some of the mail I get. Here's an example:



"Dear Anyone: As I have time because I ain't busy, I thought I'd write you a few lines eight or ten pages, and let you know the up-to-date news about six months old. We are all well as can be expected...we ain't sick, we just don't feel well. I am fine. Aunt Mary's dead. I hope this finds you the same. I suppose you will want to hear about us moving from Texas to Califwood, Hollyfornia.

didn't see us until we arrived and most of the people we were acquainted with, we knew, and those we didn't now seemed like strangers.

We never started moving until we left, never turned off until we came to a crossroads and stayed on the road that went there. It didn't take us any longer than from the time we started until the time we arrived. The trip was the best part of all. If you ever come here, don't miss that! They

We still live at the same place we moved to last, which is beside our nearest neighbors, across the road from the other place. We are very busy farmers. We have three cows but are going to sell one because we

can't milk him. Eggs are a good price; that is why they are so high. Some of the ground on the farm is so poor you can't raise a umbrella on it. But we had a fine crop of corn. I think we'll have five gallons to the acre. Some worms got in our corn last year but we just fished them out and drank it anyway.

Every time John gets sick he gets to feeling bad. The doctor said if he got better it might help. If he didn't get worse he would stay about the same.

Our romance started with a gallon of corn and ended with a full crib. The dog died last week and John said he swallowed a tape measure and died by the inches. Martha said he went up the back alley and died by the yard, but Jane said he crawled under the bed and died by the foot.

I would have sent you \$5.00 I owed you, but I already had this letter sealed before I thought of it. I sent you the overcoat but I cut off the buttons so it wouldn't be so heavy. You will find them in the left hand packet.

My mother-in-law is sick and near death's door, we sure hope the doctor can pull her through. Jane fell off the back porch and skinned her elsewhere and bruised her somewhat.

I'm putting your address inside this envelope so it won't rub off. I must close now. If you don't get this letter let me know and I will send it to you. If you can't read my writing, make a copy and read your own.

It took me three days to write this since you are such a slow reader. Write me soon if nothing but a check. With Love, Someone"

1,255 people in Perquimans County receive USDA food

20 YEARS AGO 1,255 People in Perquimans County receive USDA Food Aid: USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said its food programs aided 228,165 needy persons in 96 North Carolina counties during March, 1,255 of these were from Perquimans County.



Marching Unit Parents Club Meets: The Perquimans County Marching Unit Parents Club held their regular meeting Monday night in the high school cafeteria. Mrs. Durwood Reed, Jr., president, presided. Mrs. Archie T. Lane, Jr., Chairman of the nominating committee,

presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Towle White; V. President, Mr. and Mrs. Hilton White; Secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Mar-

ion Swindell; Treasurer, Mrs. Becky D. White; Publicity Chairman, Mrs. and Mrs. W.O. Elliott. Mrs. LeClaire Rogerson was named director of the unit.

Friday night in the Perquimans County High School auditorium.

Perquimans High School Seniors Present Play: The senior class of Perquimans County High School presents "Tom Jones"; a comedy in three acts adapted by David Rogers and based on the novel, "Tom Jones." The play will be presented

Scholarship Winner: Louis Godfrey has been selected a recipient of the 1986 annual P.E. Berbray Scholarship. Louis is currently a senior at the Perquimans County Union School. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Godfrey, Sr., New Hope. Young Godfrey plans to enter the Pitt Technical Institute in the fall where he will pursue a study of electronics.

Letters to the editor

Editor The Perquimans Weekly, The Perquimans County Jaycees would like to compliment the people who organized the Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter Day. The smooth execution of the day's events was attributable to all the hours spent planning the salute to Perquimans County's Favorite Son. The celebration of Jimmy's forthcoming induction to baseball Hall of Fame was a success due to your hard

work. Everyone who attended enjoyed a day of fun and fellowship honoring the small-town pitcher who achieved athletic excellence. Again, our compliments and appreciation to you who gave willingly and cheerfully of your time and effort to make Saturday a day that will long be remembered in Perquimans County. Sincerely, The Perquimans County Jaycees



The Spanish once believed bread on the window sill would avert a storm.

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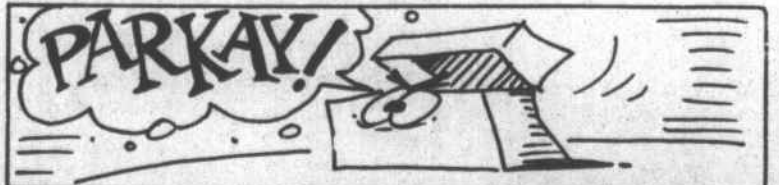
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NEWS COUPON

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.

STORY IDEA:

COMMENTS:



People use more than twice as much margarine as butter in the United States.

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