

Perspectives

Ghostly encounters

As the harvest moon bulges overhead, ripe as pumpkins fresh from the fields, it is time once again to share a ghostly encounter or two. Fiction or fact, Halloween tales are always entertaining, despite those that make you hair stand on end. The following are not fiction, so sit back for a moment and tune in to how some folks around you live every day, not just Halloween, with the spiritual world:



Ghostly sounds still echo from one deserted town now known as the Village of Voices. Where had once been homes, today there are gaping cellar holes out of which tall trees grow. Though no human habitation exists for miles around, there is always a hum and stir of human life at this place, heard by those brave enough to venture close to it. They hear the laughter of children at play, the voices of mothers who have been dust for years, still calling those children into homes that are now mere holes in the earth. Vague snatches of songs, rumbles of heavy wagons, barking dogs and howling cattle can easily be heard in this place. Yet, there is no living being for miles around. Somehow, these sounds have pierced the mysterious barrier...that soundproof wall called, "Time". In the evening, whitish blobs and ghostly streaks can be seen, along with sounds that no machine has successfully recorded. It remains one of the biggest mysteries of science.

A manor house employee refuses to sleep alone or walk outside by herself anymore since seeing a white, transparent shape sitting in a non-existent chair near her bed, standing in a second-story window, and crossing the driveway.

Photographs, belonging to both professionals and amateurs, taken in and around the historical house nearly always have "extras" in them, such as unexplained blotches of light and occasional faces and figures. Nearly every psychic and parapsychologist expert in the country encountered the same experience here, and vow and declare it to be justifiably haunted.

A woman's cat constantly fol-

lows something with his eyes that she cannot see, but senses in her home. Finally, she calls in a psychic to help learn the identity of her "guest". When a psychic goes into a place, it tends to bring out spirits. They draw on the psychic's energy and mental powers, and will open show themselves more easily. And that's exactly what happened. The cat stopped purring the same moment the psychic sensed that spiritual guest...whereupon the slowly forming figure of a woman took shape right beside them.

Flames spread up in the fireplace, even though there was no wood or paper there. The apparition was clothed in a white summer dress made of lace and gauzy material, and in her hair were llaacs tied with ribbon. She materialized gradually, then also gradually faded from view. Some weeks later, the owner of the house came across an old photograph of the great-aunt she had never known, but who was born, raised and eventually died at age 36 in the house. The manner of dress of the woman in the photo, and facial features, were the same as the ghost...and the ghost the same as the photo. They were identical. Even now, at this writing, the spiritual apparition of the great-aunt continues to haunt her old home. She even occasionally rearranges floweres in their vases...flowers freshly cut from the same garden she herself originally planted many years ago.

Haunted dwellings. Active spirits. Unexplained lights, sounds and happenings. This world has only just begun to show us its mysteries...mysteries that, especially this week at hand, you yourself just may encounter.

Justices of the Peace elected commissioners

Selecting a president for the United States and a governor for North Carolina were not the only political choices required of Perquimans County's voters in 1888. Congressional and legislative seats and local offices had also to be filled.

Elihu A. White (Republican) of Belvidere sought to exchange his seat in the general assembly for one in congress. His opponent was Thomas G. Skinner (Democrat) of Hertford. The two men were the principal leaders of their respective parties in Perquimans. Since the Republicans still retained great local strength, White received 997 votes to Skinner's 780. (One Decater W. Jarvis also received 5 votes). Skinner, however, carried the district and won the seat in congress, although there were suspicions of fraud.

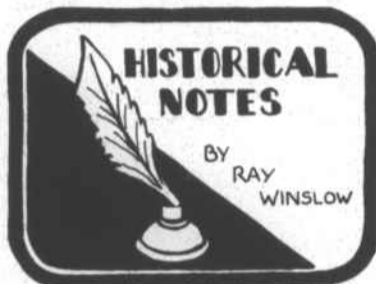
The assembly seat vacated by White was won by John D. Parker with 895 votes, only ten more than his opponent, H. H. Griffin, received.

Both parties captured some of the county offices. Republican Archibald F. Riddick defeated incumbent Democrat Tudor F. Winslow in the race of sheriff; the vote was 996 to 775.

Riddick's father-in-law Josiah Nicholson, a leading merchant and Quaker, retained his position as county treasurer by polling 971 votes to the 803 cast for William S. Blanchard, also a merchant.

James P. Winslow was unable to take away the office of the register of deeds from the popular Uriah Winslow Speight, who had held it for twenty years. Speight took 1006 votes to Winslow's 767.

Another Speight, John W., won the office of coroner by 997 votes to



John H. McMullan's 781.

The most one-sided victory of the year came in the virtually uncontested race for county surveyor. Thomas W. Babb, a Baptist preacher and staunch Democrat, received 774 votes. Thomas Morgan got 3.

Some important local offices were not voted upon in the elections of 1888. John Quincy Adams Wood was only halfway through his current term as clerk of superior court and would not face the electorate again until 1890.

No county commissioners were elected by the people, for an entirely different reason. A dozen years earlier, North Carolina Democrats had forced a constitutional change placing the choice of commissioners with the justices of the peace rather than with the voters. In 1888 the justices chose James Monroe Whedbee, Edmund White, Elsberry W. Riddick, James W. Mullen, and Theophilus White to govern the county.

There had been one other election in 1888, for the town of Hertford. William T. McMullan was chosen mayor, with Uriah W. Speight, George Durant Newby, and William F. Stokes as town commissioners. None had any serious opposition at the polls.



Son, don't you think your a bit old for trick or treat?

Charlie's corner

LOCAL SCENE: Recently in traveling throughout Perquimans County making a survey, we discovered two galvanized steel sentinels of history...rural America nostalgia, if you please. These sentinels are windmills that have been out of use for many years on two farms. One windmill that was in use until disabled by Hurricane Hazel in 1954 is located on the Fleetwood Farm in the Bethel Township. J. Maynard Fleetwood told me that this windmill pumped good water from two well points to provide water for his cattle. The wind activated a bladed wheel, that turned gears to move a piston

up and down in the water pump thus causing a steady stream of water to flow into a cattle watering trough. The water overflow helped to keep a farm pond filled. The cattle could hear the windmill turning, and they would come to the trough knowing good fresh water was being provided. (I believe cattle can smell water!!).

The other windmill is located on the Nixon Plantation on U. S. 17 North of Hertford. Julian R. Matthews, who has lived on this farm for some 43 years, said the windmill has not been active for some 50 years. The two windmills made of steel, each some 50 feet in height,

still remain structurally sound. The installation of electric water pumps, led to the demise of the wind driven water pumps. Both Mr. Fleetwood and Mr. Matthews have had many offers from people to buy the windmill towers. In looking at old pictures taken in Hertford and information given me by the late Phillip S. McMullen, there were a number of windmills in Hertford prior to 1916 when the Town of Hertford installed a water main system. The last windmill structure I can remember was on the George E. Major property on Market Street in the 1930's.

Jasper J. Winslow of the Whites-ton Community has built a windmill structure in his 15 acre peach orchard. This work of art is more like a giant "air fan" than one to pump water. The "air fan", driven by a farm tractor power take off unit, is designed to stir the air over the orchard to prevent early spring frost from killing off the peach blooms. This structure some 40 feet tall, equipped with 4 feet by 8 feet plywood sheets serving as blades, can move a lot of air. Mr. Winslow is now building a second "air fan" 48 feet tall to compliment the other windmill in keeping frost off the orchard. Mr. Winslow can do with an arc welder torch and steel anything his mind can conceive.

Like an artist using a brush, paint, and canvas, Mr. Winslow uses steel and a welding machine to create. He has built land leveling equipment and other practical farm equipment that makes good

common sense the most valuable resource we have.

I am afraid the use of windmills in our area is like the use of kerosene lamps, and nine foot roads. They were valuable in their time and remembered by folks over 55 years old. (We would appreciate pictures of windmills in the county).

Little things like periods and comma's can get you in trouble! The sea level marker mentioned in a past column, should read 15 feet above sea level at the courthouse rather than 15 thousand, etc. If we were at 15 thousand feet above at the courthouse, we may experience nose bleeds.

Mrs. Roberta Phillips, formerly at Snug Harbor, has moved to Norfolk. Mrs. Phillips served as a radio dispatcher at the Perquimans County Emergency Dispatch Center in the courthouse. Mrs. Phillips was a very capable dispatcher and dedicated lady. We will miss seeing her in our county.

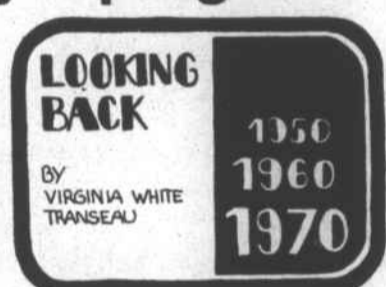
It was good to see Tommy Jones (Addie Keegan's son) and other members of the Jones family recently. Tommy is with the NASA space program and was on his way back to California from a Cape Canaveral project assignment.

QUESTION: When the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit, is it freezing or thawing?

Morgan plays significant part in county's progress

Mrs. W. M. Morgan, affectionately known in Perquimans County as "Mama Morgan" will celebrate her 99th birthday on Friday, October 16, 1970. Well known throughout Perquimans and surrounding counties Mrs. Morgan with her late husband, W. M. Morgan (known as the furniture man) opened up the W. M. Morgan Furniture business here in Hertford May 3, 1914. Mrs. Morgan assisted Mr. Morgan, her activities were generally confined to the bookkeeping end of the business. For over twenty years Mrs. Morgan assisted her husband in the business until her health began to fail, and to restore her good health she retired from the store in 1939. The Morgans through the years built up a good furniture business in which the entire community is proud, and the couple kindled friendship among all of those that knew them. Mrs. Morgan has two children, Miss Helen Morgan and Mrs. B. C. Berry.

DR. I. A. WARD STILL ACTIVE AT 91: Dr. I. A. Ward, who practiced medicine for 60 odd years is still active at 91. On June 24, 1907, he opened his office in Weeksville and served the people of that community for one year. Then moved to Belvidere in Perquimans County to continue his practice of medicine. With his horse and buggy he traveled in Perquimans and Chowan County for years. He delivered approximately 5000 babies, attended many with typhoid fever and pneumonia and during the first flu epidemic went from house to house attending the needs of the



people without sleep and very little food as long as 72 hours (three day and nights) at the time. In 1912 Dr. Ward bought his first automobile. It caught fire and burned after six months, so back he went to the horse and buggy and traveling for another year. In 1915 the good doctor married the late Ruth Lassiter from Corapeake, Gates County, and they were blessed with four children, Ruth Alice, Alphonso, Jarvis and Marguerite, three of whom are still living. Alphonso died in service in 1944. In 1925 Dr. Ward attended college at Belview Hospital in New York where he specialized in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He opened his office in Elizabeth City, as an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist. After Dr. G. E. Newby's death in 1935, a petition from the county pole of Perquimans County was handed to Dr. Ward, urging him to return to Perquimans as a general practitioner.

He returned to Hertford in 1936 and was actively engaged in the practice of medicine as well as eye, ear, nose and throat work for 28 years.

CLASSIFIEDS REALLY WORK!

BUSINESS BUILDER AD
Haunting Savings

1x1 - Retail Ad
\$1.50 - 52 Weeks
\$2.00 - 26 Weeks
\$2.50 - 13 Weeks



CALL Perquimans Weekly for more information
426-5728

119 N. Grubb St.

Hertford, N.C.

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

Gina K. Jepson
Editor
Anzie L. Wood
Advertising Manager

ONE YEAR MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In-County \$10.00 Out-Of-County \$11.00

119 West Grubb Street
P.O. Box 277
Hertford, N.C. 27944

Member
North Carolina Press Association
National Newspaper Association

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 feel is worthy of examination—please, let us know. Just clip and fill out this coupon. 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:

The Perquimans Weekly
119 W. Grubb St. Hertford
426-5728