

# Perspectives

## Christmas decorations bring cheer to town's streets

By Charles T. Skinner, Jr.  
**LOCAL SCENE:** Christmas Time-1988-The Christmas street decorations have been installed for our viewing pleasure by the Town of Hertford. The Town electricians Ray Fesperman, David Phelps, and George Jackson, Jr. have again done a good job installing the decorations. In the downtown "Maul" shopping area, the Christmas spirit arrived with a very successful joint Perquimans County Jaycee-Chamber of Commerce sponsored parade. Now, the big lighted Christmas tree sponsored by the B.P.W. Club has been installed in the "Courthouse Botanical Garden", the merchants store windows have been decorated, the

female sales persons with red ribbons in their hair, drinking cherry cokes from the drug store, and with uninhibited downtown parking, all lends to the festivity of the "spending season".  
 The Town of Hertford Municipal Building is always decorated to promote the Yuletide season. Wouldn't it be great, if when you went to the Municipal Building to pay your utility bill, a singing chorus consisting of Mayor Bill Cox (Bass), Marvin Hunter (Baritone), Earnest Hardy (Tenor), Julia Ann Ownley (Alto), Cindy Eure (Soprano), and Ruby Lane Harrell (Contralto) would render a few Christmas songs to the utility customer. "Santa's Helpers" (Town

### Charlie's Corner

Councilmen) John Beers, Billy L. Winslow, Jesse Harris, and Erie Haste could pass out peppermint candy.  
**YESTERYEAR:** Can't help but remember when the Christmas season came years ago, one big treat was receiving a few red delicious apples and navel oranges. Remembering also as a youngster in the late 30's, ordering a \$2.50 fireworks assortment from the Spencer Fireworks Co. in Ohio...roman candles, sparklers, cherry bombs, strings of Chinese firecrackers...The fireworks shipment came by Railway

Express to the Norfolk-Southern train depot. Every day from December 15th on, we nearly aggravated Norman Trueblood, Sidney Blanchard, and Bill Trueblood to death "checking" to see if the fireworks shipment had arrived on the noon train. Finally the day the shipment arrived, this caused much grief to the neighbors, bird dogs, and mama's. Out of school at Christmas time was big fun for the youngsters, with occasionally a snow on the ground, going into the woods to cut a cedar tree and holly branches.  
 Hanging stockings, leaving a 6 oz. Coke and fruit cake for Santa, and anticipating what the big day would bring was the most exciting

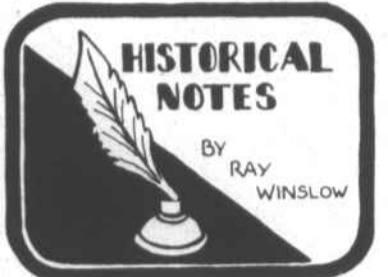
time of the year for some. Do you remember the first time you saw the new invention "electric lights" on the tree? Remember Christmas time in 1941-42?...no Christmas lights due to the World War II blackout requirements because of submarine warfare off the North Carolina coast. During the World War II years at Christmas time, it was tough to be away from home. Remembering again, the Harvey Point sailor sitting in Morgan Walker's drug store, crying, listening to the nickelodeon (jukebox) playing "I'll Be Home For Christmas". This sailor, of course, not being able to have a Christmas leave home. It happened to some of us again during the Korean War. All of

this was nearly forgotten as our children came along and the age old traditions were displayed again for the new generation. I am glad I am not old enough to remember getting only one toy, one orange, and a piece of candy, but old enough that I do not have to buy the children a new pick-up for Christmas! The Christmas messages at church have a deeper meaning now...the story is the same...just a different attitude as to the message.  
**BITS & PIECES:** Thanks so much for the fine comments on the past columns that are intended to bring pleasure and enjoyment to our readers.



## Skilled Rufus White, family established business area

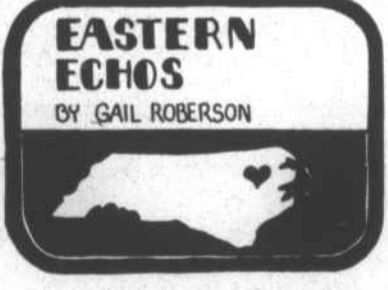
**HISTORICAL NOTES**  
 David White, Jr., acquired some land in Belvidere south of the main road from the Up River fork westward to Perquimans River. He conveyed a lot in 1856 to Jephtha White, who sold it in 1860 to Josiah Nicholson, Jr. (Josiah occupied the lot the remainder of his life; he eventually married one of Jephtha's daughters.)  
 County surveyor 1847-1849 and a warden of the poor in 1863, David White, Jr., remained a farmer in Perquimans until 1885, when he moved to Guilford County, dying there in 1895. His son Thomas N. White was Belvidere's resident physician for some years.  
 In a long career Rufus White (1827-1918), David's brother, was variously a shoemaker, a farmer, a dry goods and grocery merchant, a wool carder, and a grist miller. The principal of his many landholdings was the Griffin property north of the main road around Belvidere Academy. He was primarily responsible for the development of a small industrial complex near the river above Newby's Bridge. His



and 80 barrels of wheat flour.  
 That same year (1880) Rufus and others leased to his brother Josiah T. White a cotton gin, gin house, and their appurtenances. At that time Rufus represented the First District in the state Senate.  
 A legislative biography of Rufus White states: "His father was a member of the Society of Friends, and was a zealous advocate of liberty, peace, and temperance." (Rufus White) is also a member of the same religious denomination...He has seven children living, the eldest, a son graduated at Haverford College... This is Mr. White's first term in the Legislature. He received a very flattering vote in his county, having received 630 majority over his opponent. This shows that he stands high in the estimation of his people, and that they had great confidence in his ability to legislate in their behalf. By occupation he is a plain farmer, and is a very hard working man.  
 He is on committees, Finance, Public Printing, Claims and Insane Asylum.-Republican."  
 Part 6 next week.

## Road commissioner sees life differently at the Pearly Gates

Two county road commissioners died and simultaneously applied for admittance at the pearly gates. St. Peter acknowledged they were at the right place, but also informed them that space was temporarily short. Each was given the suggestion that he go back to earth for about three weeks and await a new summons. While waiting, they could be anything they chose, except themselves as they had been in life.  
 Commissioner number one said that he had spent his entire life sponsoring public works, but had not had a chance to really see the results of his achievements.  
 "I would like to return as an eagle," he suggested, "and fly over my district and admire the roads, bridges, and lakes I've helped to construct."  
 "Done," said St. Peter, and the temporary eagle soared off.  
 But the commissioner number two preferred a different lifestyle.  
 "I want to go back as a stud," he said, grinning wildly with anticipation.  
 "No problem," replied St. Peter. "Your wish is granted."  
 Three weeks later, the new heavenly subdivision was opened and St. Peter prepared to send for the commissioners. The angel asked, "How in the world am I ever going to find these guys?"  
 St. Peter replied, "Well, Charlie will be easy enough. He's an eagle. You'll find him soaring over the



talked a little about every book in the New Testament, determined to preach his congregation right through the pearly gates. It was also approaching high noon, and his flock was restless. At the stroke of twelve, the minister finally finished with the book of Revelation.  
 He paused a moment...suddenly remembering that he'd completely omitted the entire book of James. Thinking aloud, he stated, "Now what am I going to do with James?" Promptly, a very impatient man on the front row growled, "You can give him my seat. I'm going home."  
 A great discussion took place between a group of distinguished scientists pertaining to the subject of heaven and hell. It seemed there was much doubt as to the existence of the pearly gates in the first place. So, to find out what really happened when the earth was created, engineers spent weeks gathering information, checking and rechecking, and feeding it into their gigantic computer.  
 The great moment arrived. Everything was completed. All the world's greatest scientists gathered around. A button was punched, and the great computer whirled into action. Lights flashed. Bells rang. And then, finally, a typed message emerged: "SEE GENESIS 1:1."  
 The pearly gates. Fact or fiction. But something each one of us will have the chance to find out first hand...sooner or later.

## Chamber kicks off membership drive

**HASTE CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER CAMPAIGN:** The annual membership drive conducted by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce was kicked off Monday night at a meeting in the chamber office in the Hertford Municipal Building. Chairman for the membership drive is Erie Haste Jr.  
**CRAFTSMAN'S FAIR IS HUGE SUCCESS:** 4 PERQUIMANS BOOTHS: The 12th annual Albe-Marle Craftsman's Fair is now history. The four-day fair which ran from Sept. 23-26 was a great success. Perquimans County Homemakers and friends contributed to the success of the fair by serving meals, sandwiches, desserts and drinks. Four of the 44 booths which



pressed dried flora oshibana.  
 The following members of the Conserved Products Association sold homemade pickles, preserves, jams and other goods; Mrs. Julia Powell, Mrs. Warner Madre, Mrs. Harold White, Miss Carmen Ann Sutton, Mrs. Ernest Sutton and Mrs. Stanley Blanchard. Perquimans County 4-H members who displayed and sold crafts in the Youth Center were Gail and Sue Proctor. Also demonstrating curler bags was Sybil Hobbs.  
**ANNOUNCE BIRTH OF FIRST CHILD:** Mr. and Mrs. Billy Nixon announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Tanya Dee, born Sept. 13, 1970. Mrs. Nixon is the former Brenda Anthony of Gallatin, Tenn.

## Letters

Dear Editor:  
 I am very disappointed of the coverage of the Christmas Parade in last week's Perquimans Weekly.  
 The Perquimans Middle School won a trophy for first place, yet there was not a mention of it in the paper. Instead you had a picture of the Perquimans High School Marching Band and stated "it was the hit of the show at the parade".  
 Let's give credit where credit is due. A lot of those young people in the Middle School Band were marching for the very first time and they did a tremendous job. They were trying very hard.  
 Let's encourage these young

teenagers. They are our future High School Band.  
 Sarah Perry  
 Hertford, N.C. 27944

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