

Perspectives

Strongest love exists between mother and child

BUT THE CHILDREN KNOW
The bonded love between the mother and child is the strongest of any in the universe. Nothing competes with the strength that exists between these two. Again and again it has been proven. It's not unusual to read of a mother who returned to a burning house to retrieve her baby, or a 90-pound woman who, caught up in the terror of the moment, lifts a heavy object that is crushing her child. We've all heard or read of this bond, but many stories never make the printed page. These, you see, are engraved upon the heart.

The following are stories, or accounts, if you will, of children who died but later returned to change the course of their mother's life. I have altered the names for the protection of those who volunteered their stories. But that is all. The rest remains a remarkable account of love between a mother and her child.

"Twelve years ago, when they closed my baby in that box, they may as well have nailed the lid over me at the same time," she said to me. "She'd never gone near the road before. Never. And there was absolutely no reason for her to go then. She simply walked across the yard, onto the highway and into the side of a passing car."

For Jane, it was the beginning of a long nightmare. She refused to consider having another child, and hardly took care of her own needs. She never went to market or church. She simply became a prisoner in her home...a virtual mental



mess. Her beautiful little daughter was dead. And so was she...except they just hadn't buried her yet. But one morning, as she sat rocking the doll her child had loved, she felt a tug on the sleeve of her robe. When she looked down, she was staring into the eyes of her daughter. There is not room enough to

tell it all here, but the child explained that she had been allowed an afternoon to spend with her again...a few hours of life the way it used to be, for the both of them. She told her mother that she liked her new home, that she had love and happiness, and that she had returned to help her move on with her own life. She wore a satin robe and slippers, and in her brown hair were woven delicate flowers and ribbons. Mother and daughter spent that afternoon together, and when it was time to part once again, the transition, though not easy, was finally an accepted one.

Since then, Jane has a new life and another child. Though she will never stop loving her first born, she has finally let go of the pain.

For Julie, it was easier. Her two year old child returned on the day after she drowned...before her own funeral.

"I was numb with disbelief," she admitted, "but I was not crazy with grief or having weeping visions. I held my child. I talked to her, and I know that she has gone home. The knowledge that she still lived gave my husband and me the courage to actually smile and hug one another at her graveside. You can't imagine the power something like this can give you...and the peace."

June's five year old son, dead for nearly six months, woke his mother one night and alerted her to a stove fire that saved her life and that of his older brother. His father was working the late shift. The

house was filling with smoke. All she knows is that her son was tugging on her clothing and calling out her name, and then disappeared right in front of her when she reached out for him.

And these are only a few of such cases. None of these mothers have reason to lie about such a thing. They have all come to terms with the deaths of their children and the glorious experience they've encountered in doing so. They are only three of hundreds whose pain has turned to peace through these return visits. They have no idea how or why...just that it happened. But somehow, in the deepest part of their souls, where instinct and mother's love grow, they recognize that nothing really matters...but that the little children know.



Retired school personnel still active in community

By Charles T. Skinner, Jr.

LOCAL SCENE: Junius Spellman, a Winfall native, retired this past June as custodian of the Perquimans middle school (Perquimans Union). Junius had worked for the Board of Education for some 33 years. He began as a youngster, while still in school, cleaning the Perquimans Training School in Winfall. Mr. R. L. Kingsbury was the principal. One of Junius' jobs, in the wintertime, was to re-ignite the fire in the pot bellied coal stoves in each classroom. Junius called these stoves "Ole Puffers" indicating that the stoves smoked from every opening. Junius had to add coal to the stoves several times each day, and stoke the fire prior to leaving the school in the evenings.

Junius also had an additional job of driving the athletic bus for the several ball teams when he became of age for a driver's permit. Mr. Walter Privott was coach of many successful football teams as I remember his coaching days at the Hertford High School and Union School.

I asked Junius to relate some of the events he remembered during his tenure at the Winfall school. The tornado that struck the school in 1955, and the school fire that was set in 1985 were very memorable. When asked what was one of the best things to happen at the school, Junius stated, "when the flood lights were installed on the athletic field for night games at Perquimans Union."

Junius, and his wife, Lillian, and sons, Jewel, Tyrone and Donnie have lived in Hertford for many years. Junius keeps active in his retirement years now in several occupations...custodian and painting jobs. Junius Spellman was a very conscientious and dedicated person to the school system and de-

serves a well applauded "Thank You" for his many years of service.

SCHOOL TEACHERS: There are many retired school teachers living in Perquimans County that have contributed so much to the education of all our citizens. (Just to recognize a few that I talked with some weeks ago.) Mrs. Rosa Gibbs taught school for 56 years both in Perquimans and Gates Counties. Mrs. Gibbs said she started her teaching career at the Willow Branch Rural School in Perquimans, and later at the T. F. Cooper School in Sunbury. Mrs. Hester Reid taught at the D. F. Walker School in Edenton for 26 years. While attending Elizabeth City State University, Mrs. Reid met and later married Dr. George N. Reid.

After retiring from the school system, Mrs. Reid was manager of the Perquimans Nutrition Program Site for seven years. Both of these ladies are still active in church and community activities. We appreciate both of what you have done for our schools, and what you are doing in the community now.

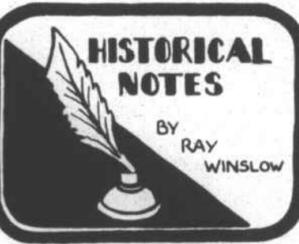
YESTERYEAR: In looking over some old fire record, I found that the Hertford Fire Department responded to the Hertford High School on King Street on March 31, 1943 to extinguish a roof fire (around a hot flue), and again to the same building and same chimney on March 6, 1945. There were two calls to the same type fire at the school that same day. Records show that nine firemen responded each time.

QUESTION: What was the name of the Principal of the Hertford High School in the late 1930's and early 1940's?

Piney Woods contributed to character of Belvidere

Louise N. Hollowell incorporated Belvidere Ginning Company in 1913 and bought a mill site from Rufus White which was probably the same ground formerly occupied by the Belvidere Steam Mill. In 1915 Hollowell bought land upon which he apparently built the house now serving as the parsonage for Piney Woods Friends Church. Nearby he and C. B. Hathaway of Gates County operated a store as Hathaway & Hollowell.

In 1918 the Belvidere Ginning Company mill lot was sold to Fernando C. White (1874-1949) who would operate a saw mill on it for a number of years. As one of Belvidere's leading residents during the period between the two World Wars, F. C. White witnessed the village's decline as steamboat traffic, country stores, small indus-



tries, and community schools fell before railroads, paved highways, big business, depression, and centralization.

In recent years Belvidere has entered upon another period of development with the erection of new homes and the establishment of new businesses. It retains a conti-

nunity with its past. There is still a store at the fork, the public still meets on the Academy lot, the Whites still own land, Belvidere mansion still stands, and the Quaker church still worships.

It was the church at Piney Woods which formed the character of Belvidere as a community and which prompted village residents to exert a strong influence for social and economic progress upon the surrounding area.

A local congregation of Friends (Quakers) was established in the Belvidere area in 1724, becoming known as Piney Woods Meeting. Friends erected a meeting house in 1743 about a mile west of the Perquimans River bridge (Newby's Bridge); the site is still occupied by Piney Woods Meeting House. In 1794 the Monthly Meeting of

Friends in Perquimans (established circa 1672) transferred itself to Piney Woods and took the name Piney Woods Monthly Meeting. This monthly meeting is the oldest religious congregation in North Carolina and, indeed, the state's oldest non-governmental institution. It is the only survivor of the early Quaker meetings which figured so largely in the history of the proprietary era.

The increased jurisdiction and authority of the church near Belvidere enhanced its influence over the community and encouraged village development. The Quaker church at Piney Woods has remained virtually synonymous with Belvidere and it has been the most significant factor in making the village distinctive.

Infallible diet plan does not help shed pounds

Welp, I just don't understand it. That wonderful diet I told you about last Sunday isn't working. I haven't cheated. I've followed it to the letter. But I haven't lost a pound, and in fact, have probably gained a little.

That's the bad thing about a diet. You work yourself to death hoping to "work your butt off" and you get nowhere. I'm about fed-up. Do you know how aggravating it is to eat only leftovers from your children's plates for supper, to eat chocolate only when your energy level is low? Ahead, I got that diet out of a hospital newsletter. They've got doctors, nutritionists, nurses, therapists and pharmacists on staff. I NEVER thought they'd "steal" me wrong. I gotta' call my buddies over there and warn them that they could get sued for malpractice!

Now I have to decide what other kind of diet I can try. There's the "see food" diet. You only eat what you can see. But I'm doing that now, so that one probably won't work for me either.

I could forget counting the calories and exercise, although I think I exercise enough now. My fingers get a great aerobic workout each week typing on this computer and scribbling notes a mile a minute. At least three times a week, I make a junk food run to

Jimmy's or One Stop. As for my jaws, well you all know about my famous jaws. Trouble is, I think I've worked them overtime and now I've got cheeks that a weight-lifter would love to use for pecs.

My real problem must be thyroid or malfunctioning metabolism. That's got to be what it is. I'll run over to good ole Dr. Robert Earl's office next week and let him check me out. (I'll enter through the back door of course to avoid Nola's famous scales!)

You should all discontinue this diet until I find out what the deal is here. I promise I will let you know if there was an error in the original column so that you can adjust your regimen.

I appreciate all the support you have given me over the last month. It's been an exciting, frustrating, wonderful experience. The people in Perquimans County have really been nice, and I'm grateful.

I hope you're satisfied with some of the changes we've made. We're working hard to make THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY very local news oriented. Thank you for stopping by and calling in your visitors and travels for inclusion in the PEOPLE ON THE MOVE column. So many people have told us how much they are enjoying this feature.

Keep up the support.

Questions Veterans ask of VA Counselors

VSA Counselors answer Veteran's questions

Q. My husband has been rated 100% for a service-connected disability and has been receiving compensation for 15 years. If he dies from other than service-connected causes, will I be entitled to Disability Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?

A. Yes. The widow of a veteran in receipt of 100% compensation for service-connected disabilities for ten or more years immediately prior to death, is entitled to receive DIC benefits, regardless of the cause of death, provided that they were married two or more years or that a child was born of the marriage.

Q. I am a former prisoner of war, but have not been rated as service-connected disabled by the VA. Am I entitled to VA medical care?

A. Yes. A former POW who is not service-connected disabled is eligible for VA hospital and nursing home care without regard to ability to pay. You are also eligible for outpatient care on a priority basis second only to service-connected disabled veterans. While

you are receiving treatment in an approved outpatient program you are eligible for needed medicine, glasses hearing aids or prostheses. If your POW internment lasted 181 days or more, you are also eligible for all needed dental care.

Q. Do National Guardsmembers of Reservists qualify for VA-guaranteed home loans?

A. They qualify only if they have served sufficient "federalized" or "activated" duty. Active duty for training in the National Guard or Reserves is not qualifying service for VA home loan purposes.

Q. Are Merchant Marine seamen considered veterans for the purpose of VA benefits.

A. The Defense Department has declared that certain Merchant Marine seamen who served in active, ocean-going service from Dec. 7, 1941 to Aug. 15, 1945, are veteran for VA benefits purposes. The decision also affects Civil Service crewmembers aboard U.S. Army Transport Service and Naval Transportation Service vessels in ocean-going service during the same period. Any VA regional office can assist in making application for a discharge certificate.

Bonner is vestryman

Beers, Scaff catch fish



NEW VESTRYMAN INSTALLED AT HOLY TRINITY: Dr. Allan B. Bonner was recently installed as a new Vestryman at the Annual Congregational Meeting at which time the reports of Senior Warden, Walter H. Oakey, Jr., and the Junior Warden, Willis L. Jessup, were heard.

NICE CATCH: Hillary Scaff and John Beers, both of Hertford, caught several bluefish and rock taken from the surf just north of Fuller's Motel in Buxton.

MAKE CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN THIS YEAR: Let's make Christmas Christian this year, states Mrs. M. B. Taylor, Home Extension Agent. She further stated that we have mixed materialism with the mercy of God in such a way that the real meaning of the Christmas customs and symbols have been lost to most of us.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Get closer to your deepest self and nearer to your God. Attend the Christmas Eve, Holy Communion, and Candle Light Service at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hertford on Thursday, December 24th beginning at 11:00 p.m. Every baptized Christian is welcome to take Communion at this service.

LICENSE PLATES GO ON SALE JAN. 2: Mrs. Jean Harrison, local license agent, announced today that the 1971 license plates will go on sale Saturday, January 2, 1971.

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