

## Garden:

Proper care means longer life for gifts of green: **Page 8**

## Sports:

1991 began sadly for former players of Bob Carter: **Page 6**

## Business:

1991 saw changes in local businesses, good and bad: **Page 5**

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 61, No. 1

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, January 2, 1992

35 Cents

## Briefs Merchants pleased with holidays

### FmHA opportunities

A meeting will be held to discuss contracting opportunities with Farmers Home Administration. FmHA frequently has contractual requirements for various services throughout Chowan-Perquimans Counties and North Carolina. Contracts awarded support FmHA's Farmer Programs and its Rural Housing Program.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Jan. 9 at the Almarie Commission Building, located on Church Street Extended in Hertford. Minority and women-owned businesses are encouraged to participate in FmHA's Contracting Program for required services. Areas for which we have recurring needs are as follows: Real Estate Appraisals, Crop Inspections, Farm Chattel Appraisals, and Trustee Agent.

Additional information may be obtained by calling Melvin Howell at (919) 426-5733.

### Playhouse try-outs set

Try-outs for the planned spring production of "The Marriage-Go-Round" by Perquimans Playhouse, Inc. are scheduled for Jan. 6, 7, and 8 at the Hertford Lion's Club building. Four men 40-years-old or over, two women 40-years-old or over and two women 20-or-over are needed for the production. Try-outs begin at 7 p.m. For more information, call 426-9563.

### Genealogical meeting set

The Family Research Society of Northeastern North Carolina will meet Sunday, Jan. 5 at the Senior Citizens Building at 3 p.m. Genealogy/family information exchange on Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Pasquotank and Perquimans will take place. Meetings are open to the public at no charge. For more information, contact Laura Parker at (919) 771-5935 or June Thomas at 297-2869.

Researchers need information on men that served in the 8th N.C. Regiment, 17th N.C. Regiment and 68th N.C. Regiment during the Civil War.

### Annual meeting set

The Perquimans County Restoration Association will hold its annual meeting at Perquimans Center at the Newbold-White Site on Jan. 10. A social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a dinner to be served by the special events committee chaired by Sharman Haskett. Reservations are requested and may be made by calling the Newbold-White site at 426-7567, or by sending a check for \$7.50 per person to P.O. Box 103, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

During the evening Barney Pilgrim, COA's visiting artist, will present a varied program of 17th century music. The Harvey Award for Distinguished Public Service will be presented by Rep. R.M. "Pete" Thompson.

Progress is being made in mounting exhibits in both the foyer and great hall in Perquimans Center. Seven main exhibits have been planned to show the importance of the Newbold-White site in North Carolina's earliest history.

Santa brought a mixed bag of Christmas traffic to Perquimans businesses. Some store owners reported strong holiday sales, while others say things must change or their doors will close.

Jean Bell at All Around the House was optimistic about the holiday season.

"I think it was pretty good," Bell said. "Generally, I think it did well."

Bell opened the custom interior business earlier in the year, and said while she did not have

"There is a trend toward people moving back to downtown Hertford (to shop)."

Erie Haste  
Owner, Hertford Hardware

past history to help determine how good sales were, she was pleased.

Neighboring Orchard Shop also reported a strong season.

"I think it was real good," said manager Jill Myers. Myers said that some days were slow, but there was a noticeable improvement a few days prior to

Christmas.

Linda Bundy at Woodard's Pharmacy said traffic in the downtown business was about the same as in 1990. Bundy attributed the good season to county residents shopping at home this year.

Erie Haste of Hertford Hardware echoed Bundy's statements. Haste said the holiday season overall was up from 1990.

"There is a trend toward people moving back to downtown Hertford (to shop)," Haste

said, adding that he hopes the trend will continue. He said appliance sales were particularly strong.

But Toni Stallings at Divers & Son Jewelers was not so pleased with the Santa time. Stallings reported extremely sluggish sales, possibly less than half that of previous years. She said local residents choosing to travel to the Tidewater area took a bite out of local sales.



Photo courtesy Country Leisure

### New businesses

Country Leisure and Custom Interiors opened their doors to business during the holidays. Located on U.S. Highway 17 South, Country Leisure offers modern gas logs, wood stoves, swimming pools, spas and accessories. Owners Mike and Sue Stokely are Perquimans County natives glad to be doing business in their home county. Sue's mother, Dolna Proctor, is the proprietor of Custom Interiors. From draperies to bedspreads to accessories, Custom Interiors can provide anything for the home. Shown above are Dolna Proctor, Sue Stokely, Mike Stokely, Brandon Stokely, Tommy Stokely, and Mrs. Ike Stokely.

## Headlights required in bad weather

Are you at a loss for a New Year's resolution?

Don't worry. State authorities have one for you: Turn your headlights on when you're using your windshield wipers. It's state law.

"Other drivers can see you much better in bad weather when you drive with your headlights on," says Robert F. Hodges, N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles commissioner. "You and I are that much safer when we can see each other clearly in poor weather."

State law requires using headlights when visibility is less than 500 feet.

"It's not only state law," Hodges said. "It makes perfect sense to add measures that provide a greater safety margin."

The General Assembly in 1990 adopted legislation requiring motorists to turn on their headlights when having to use windshield wipers in bad weather. The legislature which first adopted the law as a one-year trial, made the law permanent in 1991.

The law requires that headlights must be turned on at "any time when windshield wipers are in use as a result of smoke, fog, sleet, snow or when inclement weather or environmental factors severely reduce the ability to clearly discern persons and vehicles on the street or highway at a distance of 500 feet ahead."

Headlights are not required in intermittent misting rain, sleet or snow.

Hodges said more than 28,000 accidents occurred on North Carolina roads and highways last year during periods of inclement weather. Of that num-



The use of headlights in bad weather is not just a good idea, it's state law. Using headlights can save personal injury and loss of life resulting from accidents, state officials said.

ber, 165 resulted in fatalities.

"Because most of the weather-related fatal accidents occurred during periods of rain, some of the fatalities could have been prevented," Hodges said. "In effect, we could have prevented some deaths and injuries if headlights had been in use before these accidents."

Hodges listed eight safety rules that motorists should obey when driving in rain, fog, sleet, snow or other conditions that reduce visibility to less than 500 feet.

- Use windshield wipers and defroster as necessary for maximum vision.
- Reduce speed.
- Be patient.
- Drive with lights on low beam when operating windshield wipers. Never drive with just your parking or fog lights.

- Avoid crossing traffic unless absolutely necessary.

- Listen for traffic you can not see.

- Unless absolutely necessary, don't stop on a freeway or other heavily traveled roads.

- If your car stalls or is disabled, move away from the vehicle to avoid personal injury.

Hodges said motorists reduce chances of being in weather-related accidents by developing good traffic safety habits. He said using headlights for added visibility is one of the best ways to reduce injuries and save lives.

## 1991 brings mixed business success

The past year has been good for some county business owners, slow for others.

If things don't get better, said Toni Stallings of Divers & Son Jewelers, her business may have to shut its doors. "Pitiful" is the way Stallings described business in 1991. She said she does not want to close the store which has "always been here," but she cannot afford to put money into a floundering enterprise.

Discount houses and shopping out of the area are two of the problems facing small businesses like Divers, Stallings said. Local merchants must have hometown support to stay in business, she said.

Other businesses in Perquimans are faring better. Spokespersons for All Around the House, The Orchard Shop, Woodard's Pharmacy, and Hertford Hardware said they were pleased both with holiday traffic and the year in general.

Jean Bell of All Around the House said she was very pleased to have done so well during her first year in business.

"From what everybody tells me and hearing about the economy and everything, I think I've done very well," Bell said. "I cannot complain at all. I did not know what to expect when I opened. It's been better than I expected."

The shop began basically as an upholstery business, but has expanded to offer custom interiors of all kinds. Carpet, slip covers, draperies, dust ruffles, furniture, pre-finished hardwood

floors and more can be found in the shop on U.S. Highway 17 South.

Things have been so good that Bell has hired a full-time interior design consultant, Linda Williams, to assist with the growing enterprise.

"I think we did better (in 1991 than in 1990)," said Jill Myers of The Orchard Shop. Myers said there had been a lot of traffic in the shop, especially during the summer months.

The shop will expand in 1992, hopefully in time to offer unique Valentine's Day gifts.

Woodard's Pharmacy has also had a good year.

"We had a good year," said Linda Bundy. "We have not room for complaints."

Bundy attributed the successful business year to locals shopping at home.

A strong 1991 also characterized business at Hertford Hardware, according to owner Erie Haste. Haste said he sees a trend toward shopping at home, and he hopes the trend will continue.

Haste said that merchants owe it to locals to offer attractive and competitively-priced merchandise so that they are able to find what they need right here in the county.

All the businesspersons interviewed said they appreciated the support of local residents, and hope that 1992 will be the year of a successful partnership between Perquimans businesses and residents.

## NCNB to become NationsBank

NCNB Corp. and C&S/Sovran Corp. will merge soon and form NationsBank.

NationsBank will have combined assets of approximately \$118 billion, \$6.8 billion in shareholders' equity, and will be one of the largest and best capitalized financial institutions in the country.

During the transition, Dennis Bottorff will direct the operations of C&S/Sovran, and Timothy Hartman will have the same role of for NCNB. Hugh Chapman and Jim Thompson will head the transition teams for their respective companies. Hance and James D. Dixon, chief financial officer of C&S/Sovran, will handle the financial aspects of the merger.

"What we have created is an institution that is unique in American banking and a company that is strategically positioned to compete successfully in the U.S. and in the world," McColl said. "The strength of diverse but compatible traditions and markets has come together in NationsBank, a name that makes it perfectly clear what this company is."

The NationsBank names was chosen to reflect the geographic diversity, financial strength and community orientation of the combined companies. The name has been in use for more than a year with the NCNB credit card bank and already has cleared all legal and marketing tests.

Brown said the agreement between the two companies is rooted in common goals pursued by both for decades.

"Separately we each have worked to build customer-driven, regional financial institu-

tions with the strength, depth, diversity and capability to continue to enhance the economic development of our region," Brown said.

"In addition, we wanted our companies to be competitive nationally and beyond, so that our communities, our customers, our shareholders and our employees could count on our staying power," Brown continued.

"What we have pursued so avidly as competitors, we will now accomplish together," Brown said.

NationsBank will feature the premier retail banking franchise in the United States, with approximately 1,900 banking offices serving attractive and growing markets in nine states. The company will enjoy the number-one market share in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia, will rank a strong second in market share in Florida and will be third in Maryland and Tennessee.

"It is no secret that, for several years, we have been excited about the concept of combining these companies," McColl continued. "NationsBank is precisely the company that is needed in our industry today. It brings together two companies with proud traditions of community service, solid financial strength and remarkable depth of management talent."

### DEADLINES FOR THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEWS RELEASES . . . . MON. 3 P.M.

RETAIL ADVERTISING . . . . MON. 3 P.M.

CLASSIFIED & LEGALS . . . . MON. 3 P.M.

PRIOR TO THURSDAY PUBLICATION PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

119 W. Grubb St.  
426-5728