

Perquimans County: an overview

According to Perquimans County promotional information, the county is worth coming to for a short visit or moving to for a lifetime. Let's look at some things Perquimans County has to offer and some of its unique features:

- Perquimans is blessed with three rivers — the Perquimans, Little and Yeopim — and the Albemarle Sound, making it a haven for water-lovers. The public boat ramps in Hertford stay busy year-round, especially in summer.

- The people in Perquimans County are reputed to be among the friendliest in the world.

- One of the county's claims to fame is Jim "Cattfish" Hunter, the small-town high school baseball stand-out whose arm took him all the way to the major leagues. A monument to this favorite son sits on the courthouse lawn. The county is now also home to the Jim "Cattfish" Hunter ALS Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Hunter's neighbors, friends and family to raise funds for ALS research and education.

- Perquimans County has the triple good fortune to be just 20 miles from two colleges and a state university. Elizabeth City State University, a part of the University of North Carolina system, provides

formal undergraduate college education for the entire Albemarle region.

Roanoke Bible College is also located in Elizabeth City.

College of The Albemarle, a member of the state's community college system, is highly acclaimed for its ability and willingness to tailor specific, requested training courses for the potential work force of new and expanding industry in our area. COA also offers complete programs in the liberal arts as well as extensive adult education opportunities.

In addition, East Carolina University is only 80 miles away in Greenville.

- More than 65,000 acres of land are under cultivation in the county. The fertile soil is ideal for the production of soybeans, corn, peanuts and cotton as main crops. Truck farming produces a variety of vegetables for major population centers nearby. The area is also well-known for the production of poultry, pork and beef. Commercial forest products are cypress, black gym, poplar, maple, pine and juniper. This large agribusiness base provides a strong demand for agricultural supplies and services in the county.

- Perquimans has a population of 10,447 according to the 1990 census, and 3,280 households. In the 10

years since the 1980 census, population grew over 10 percent and the number of households increased over 44 percent. Hertford's population was set at 2,244 and Winfall's at 501. The county's is expected to jump with the 2000 census as waterfront and retirement development has grown.

- Businesses across Perquimans are making efforts to revitalize the area's economy. Renovations, new marketing ideas and other strategies to promote local shopping are underway. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce is changing its focus to better support small businesses, while encouraging heritage tourism development. A Historic Hertford Business Association is active.

- There are fully staffed medical and dental offices in the county, with hospitals in both neighboring counties. There is also a branch of PPCC District Health Department in Hertford. Major hospitals are located within 80 miles. Mental health services, both public and private, are also available. In addition, there are short- and long-term care facilities and rehabilitative services in the county.

- U.S. Highway 17 is the county's major transportation artery. Thanks in part to the efforts of local residents, the roadway has been widened to four lanes from the Virginia State line to Edenton. Work is in progress to expand Highway 17 to four lanes between Edenton and Windsor. Negotiations are also underway to have Virginia four-lane its side of Highway 17, further opening up the trade corridor.

- Opportunities for home ownership are practically without limit in Perquimans County. There are several housing developments in the county, some waterfront, others rural, still others for specific types of homes such as modulars. Because of the availability of waterfront lots and homes, Perquimans is a second home for a number of people.

- The potential for industrial expansion and development is extremely promising. A large, industrious work force is available with the added bonus of the availability of specialized technical training through COA. Sites are

available for building in several locations, including the county's commerce centre, where a model building is for sale. Plant location assistance is freely available. There is an active Chamber of Commerce at present reorganizing to better meet the needs of small businesses. An appointed Economic Development Commission helps steer development at the commerce centre.

- There is a countywide system of water distribution. The county is presently upgrading this system to meet present needs and projected future growth. The towns of Winfall and Hertford have separate water systems. Hertford is in the initial phases of a water and sewer system upgrade. Winfall is developing its sewer system.

- A county-funded recreation department provides numerous opportunities for children and adults to enjoy organized sports. New tennis courts are being built behind the county library at the recreation center site. The old courts will become new basketball courts. There are also special activities for senior citizens through the Senior Center which shares office space with the recreation department.

- Religion plays a large role in the lives of county residents. Churches can be found on most roads in the county, from the home of the large, urban congregations to the small, picturesque buildings surrounded by pine trees and corn fields.

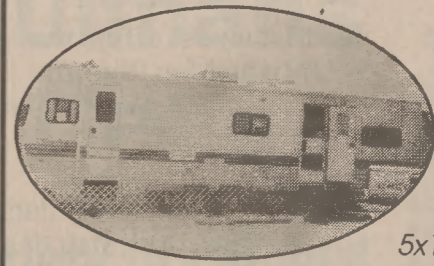
- The local school system anticipates receiving an exemplary report card from the state for all four schools in the near future. The school system encourages community involvement in education.

- The county has an active restoration association committed to preserving the county's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

- Civic groups are very active in the county. Several Ruritan clubs, a Lions Club, a Rotary Club, veterans groups, an NAACP chapter and groups associated with schools and churches provide invaluable services to the county and its residents.

- Volunteers man both fire departments and a rescue squad.

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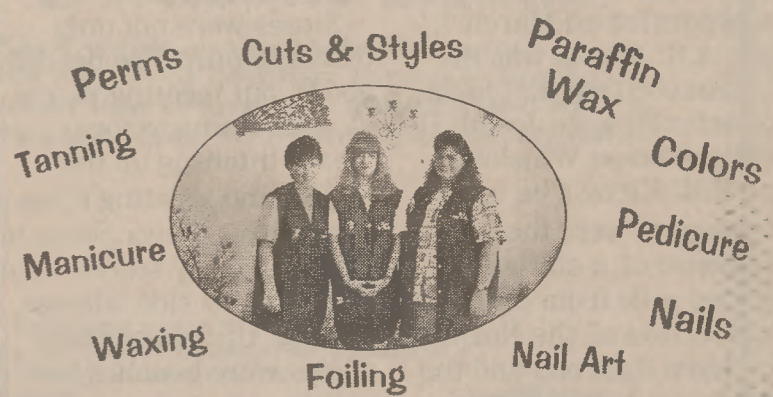
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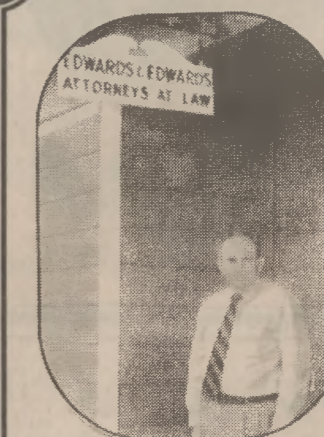
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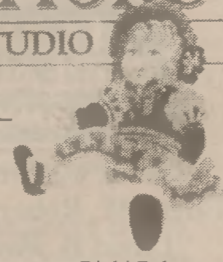
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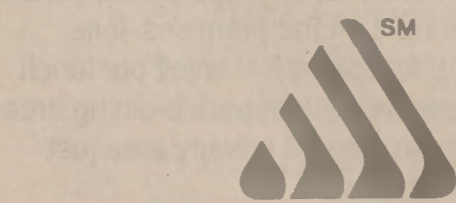
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