

Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



Rainbows In My Garden

I awoke with the customary tightness in my chest, took my medicine, as is also customary, and set about doing my chores. If I have in, I would lie in my sickbed all day. Recently, there have been too many of those days; days when, no matter the strength I was determined to manifest, asthma had beaten me back down and taken control.

For most of my life, I have done battle with this condition. For as long as I can remember, I have fought against major allergies and the awful asthma that always follows. Even on the days I don't suffer as much, I still feel a certain difficulty in existing. But, I am not one to wallow in my problems, for the chamber of sickness is the chapel of devotion. I could move far away, where my breathing would not be hindered by all the agents carried in the southeast atmosphere, but I'd sooner die here from ill health than die there of homesickness.

And so, as the beauty of a May morning called to me, I threw myself into life, full speed. Mixed in with the long hours at the typewriter, there will be house and yard work and errands to run. I cannot retire to a glass bubble. I will not live that way.

My strong will comes from my breeding, and my love for gardening from my grandmother. It was she who taught me that "the sick man is not to be pitied, who hath his cure in his sleeve." So, I gathered up the rakes and spades and began yet another flower garden. Today, my cure is two tray of yellow marigolds and white periwinkle that will bloom like sparkling jewels all summer around my tiny fish pond. Why in the world do people pay a therapist, I wonder, when a flat of geraniums will serve the same purpose?

When the mulch finally went into place, I stood back and admitted my handiwork. Goldfish splashed on the surface, and waterlilies jiggled in their wake. On large rocks, strategically placed, frogs perched in wait, while a copper sundial reminded me that deadlines loomed at my desk.

I know that tonight I will probably pay for my moment in the sun, but I'll just stock up on tissues and not dwell on it. Instead, I reached for the water hose that I've equipped with a soft sprinkler, so as not to damage the tiny blossoms. As the water poured from it like a gentle summer rain, the sun peaked in a sky as blue as a robin's egg.

Suddenly, there were millions of rainbows at my feet. The mist of water, in every direction I aimed at, filled with sparkling shimmers of pink and yellow, and of lavender and blue. When I raised the hose, the rainbows enlarged and became one gigantic prism bridge across the pond. When I lowered it, the pastel arch separated and became a dozen tiny ones all at once. What a lovely sight... these rainbows at my feet.

As I stood there and drenched my new garden in the mist of such gentle colors, I was reminded that it takes both the sun and showers to make a rainbow. My little bed of flowers must have them both to grow, just as I must have the rain in my life along with the sunshine. After all, the soul would have no rainbow had the eye no tear.

And so, for this gardener, at least, who must learn to live with the agony and illness that the things she loves best will surely bring, somehow it seems worth it all on a morning in May... when there are rainbows at my feet.

Obituaries

Jack H. Strickland

WASHINGTON — Jack H. Strickland, 60, died last Thursday in Washington. He lived at Rt. 1, Box 233, Vanceboro.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel. Burial was in Celestial Memorial Gardens in Vanceboro.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Lois H. Strickland; a son, Jack H. Strickland of Pinetown; a daughter, Mrs. Faye S. Beaver of Frankfurt, West Germany; three sisters, Mrs. Carol Jordan and Mrs. Patricia Anderson, both of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Mrs. Iris Lee of Tryon; and two grandchildren.

Strickland was a native of Jacksonville, Fla., and lived in Conway, S.C., for a number of years. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. For the past 11 years, he made his home in the Wilmar community and was a retired employee of Weyerhaeuser Corp. He was a member of the Vanceboro Masonic Lodge No. 433, was a 32nd Degree Mason and past master of Masonic Lodge No. 115 in Prosperity, S.C. He was a member of New Bern's Sudan Temple.

Sarah S. Morris

Mrs. Sarah "Sadie" Sutton Morris, 89, died April 26 at her home near Vanceboro. The funeral service was held at

3 p.m. last Thursday in the Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church by the Rev. Frank R. Moore and the Rev. McDonald Bennett. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are three sons, Philip E. Morris of the home, William C. Morris and Albert G. Morris, both of Rt. 3, Vanceboro; two daughters, Mrs. Lee Belle Buck of Vanceboro and Mrs. Doris G. Jones of Washington; a sister, Mrs. Cassie Lee Dail of Greenville, seven grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Mrs. Morris spent most of her life in the Vanceboro community and was a native of the Cox's Mill community in Pitt County. She was a member of Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church.

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School Notes

Resource Visitors
Bill Holland from the Wildlife Resources Commission presented a film and talk on boating safety to the fifth grade students at Farm Life School.

He stressed the importance of wearing lifejackets, saying they were the most important safety device to remember when boating. He also discussed the dangers of using alcohol while boating.

Holland told students it takes longer for people who have recently consumed alcohol to react, they take more risks and their eyesight is impaired. Holland said boaters under the influence of alcohol have their judgement on speed and distance distorted.

'Be Wise, Be Safe'

Ruth Petty, an educational consultant with Carolina Power and Light Co., recently visited fifth-grade students at Farm Life School.

She discussed the "Be Wise, Be Safe" electrical safety program. Students were informed of ways to prevent electrical accidents and protecting themselves and others in case of an accident.

Some of the safety rules were:
— Do not climb in substations or up transmission towers.
— Do not fly kites or toy planes near power lines.
— Do not climb trees near power lines.

Delicious Roots

Second-grade students in Mrs. Jewel Smith's class recently found out how tasty roots, stems, leaves and seeds can be.

After learning how each plant part works and why each is important, the students began to find out how plant parts taste. Each student brought a different plant part that people eat such as roots, leaves, fruit, seeds and stems.

The students combined their parts for a "plant parts soup" for lunch. Carrots, potatoes and onions represented roots; green beans, corn and butterbeans represented seeds; celery represented stems; cabbage represented leaves; and tomatoes represented fruits. A tomato is technically a fruit.

The students also used peanut butter, made from seeds, and grape jelly, made from fruit, to make sandwiches.



At an open house, my host said, "I've remembered the florist, the reporter and the photographer. Have I forgotten anyone?"

"Yes, sir," I replied, "God."

He was like the man who equipped his car with a radio, tape deck, a television set and a shaver; but was arrested the next day for driving without license plates.

Have you forgotten God? A home without God is like a knife without blades, a pen without ink, an ocean without water. It's empty, purposeless and dull.

Invite Him into your heart and home. With Him the home will be thrilling, satisfying and wonderful — a little heaven on earth.

Reunion

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alumni association members to "come enjoy an interesting program, a delicious meal and a time of reunion with former classmates."

Eagles

From Page 1

the inning. The Eagles pushed two runs across in the fourth when Willis threw four straight balls to Brown. Eagle catcher David Boyd singled to score Brown, who had stolen second. Third baseman Jonathan Taylor sacrificed the runner to second. With one out, Dizon help his cause by singling and moving the runner to third. David Bizzel's fly to right field scored the runner and the Eagles led 2-1 with two outs. Bizzel's pinch runner stole second but was left stranded when Jerry Dean grounded out to second.

In the fifth, Dizon retired the side with three ground outs to second, short and third. West Craven's lead-off man in the fifth, Brad White, scored after he singled, reached second on a sacrifice bunt by Holzworth and third on a passed ball. Bryan took a third strike but reached first on a passed ball that scored White with one out. Bryan stole second and Brown followed with a walk. Bryan was thrown out trying to steal third on a close play at the bag and when Brown was called out trying to steal second, Eagle coach Tim Hardison protested the call at second, claiming the West Carteret second baseman missed the tag.

But the Eagles had padded their lead by one run and held a 3-1 lead going into the sixth inning. Wojciehowski scored from second on an error by Eagle second baseman Darren Cayton with two outs. Wojciehowski walked and then stole second with two outs. Garner popped up at the first baseline, but Cayton dropped the ball allowing Wojciehowski to cut the margin to 3-2. Willis grounded out to end the Patriot half of the inning.

West Craven added a walk by Boyd and a two-out single by Dizon in the bottom of the sixth but a groundball by Bizzel to the shortstop ended the inning. Dizon walked Brinson in the top of the seventh and then retired the next two batters with a ground out and strike out. Brinson moved to second on the ground out and moved to third on a single by Stafford. Boyd worked Dizon for a full count, but the Eagle southpaw fanned Boyd for the final out.

"We're glad to win this one," said Hardison. "We've been up and down lately." Dixon, going the distance, earned the win and Willis, who also went the distance, notched the loss. Dizon struck out four, walked two and was two-for-three at the plate with two singles. Willis fanned four and walked three. Bryan was 1-3 at the plate, Brown was 0-1, Boyd was 1-2 and White was 1-2 for the Eagles. Stafford was 1-3, Lassiter was 1-3, Garner was 2-3 with two singles and Mills was 1-2 for the Patriots.

Wachovia

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County Industrial Commission and the Craven County Committee of 100.

Pepper is married to the former Jance Everett of Sneads Ferry and they have three children.

Poison

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Warren said. He said the pesticides used were extremely toxic to whatever animal life came into contact with them. The poison "is very indiscriminate when it's spread at random," he said.

Warren said that use of the pesticides to kill the birds in this manner was a violation of state and federal law. He said farmers convicted of using the pesticides illegally could be fined, imprisoned or held liable for civil damages.

He said that people who see a large quantity of grain scattered around the edges of a field should avoid it. He also said that people who see a lot of dead birds near such a field should report it to the Wildlife Resources Division or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Henry Riddick, an agricultural extension agent, said he had not heard of farmers using poisoned grain to lessen their problems with birds, but suggested a nontoxic method of keeping them away from grain seedlings.

Riddick said that farmers could spread untreated corn around the edges of the field for the birds to eat to prevent them from pulling up the young plants.

"After the corn gets two or three inches high," he said, "the birds can't pull it up anyway."

Festival

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with other new events, are being counted on to draw more people to the festival.

The Strawberry Festival Run, two races certified by The Athletic Congress, begins at 7:30 a.m. The races are a 5K and a 10K. The 5K race is at 7:30 a.m. and the 10K starts at 8 a.m. The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. as do the bazaars and crafts show. The barbecued pork and chicken dinners go on sale at the fire station and rescue building at 11 a.m. for \$3.50 a plate. Entertainment begins at noon and the sock hop is at 8 p.m.

The crafts show will be centered in the Farm Life Avenue and First Street area of Vanceboro. It features the handiwork of craftsmen from throughout the South. The bazaars will offer ice cream, baked goods, snow cones and shortcake, with strawberries topping not only the menus but most of the edible goodies on sale.

An archery tournament is slated for 10 a.m. six miles south of Vanceboro on U.S. 17.

Country and western music begins at noon at the fire station and registration for the strawberry eating contest begins at the Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club booth. A karate exhibition is slated at the fire station for 1 p.m. The strawberry eating contest follows at 1:45 p.m. at the fire station.

The fire station is also the setting for the 2 p.m. show of the Craven County Cloggers and at 3 p.m. the rescue squad will give a demonstration.

The Vanceboro Public Library is the site for a concert of quartet chamber music that is free. The sock hop will be held at the gym at Farm Life School and last until midnight. Ticket prices are \$5 a couple, \$3 for ages 13 and up, \$1 for ages 7-12 and children age 6 and under get in free.

A dance contest, talent contest and best dressed (1950s style costumes) will also be held at the dance.

Trip

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ley Forge National Park, viewing George Washington's headquarters and log cabins where the soldiers stayed. The group visited the Amish settlements near Lancaster and stopped at the Good and Plenty Restaurant, famous for its home cooking. The group was introduced to Shoo-Fly Pie.

At Hershey, the group toured Hershey Chocolate World and Indian Echo Caverns, where the Susquehanna Indians once lived.

The group's last stop was in Gettysburg where the group viewed the Gettysburg National Military Park. The group toured the site, including the graves of unknown soldiers and the North Carolina Monument. The group saw homes that still had bullets in them from the Civil War.

Participating in the trip were Jason Allen, Michael Gaskins, Bobby Newby, Henry Moye, Roy Wiggins, Brian Broadway, Roger Russell, David Jones, Eric Buck, Mike Lewis, Howard Anderson, Arther Golden, Michael Alligood, Chris Price, Jerrod Willis, Nicole Rasmussen, Susan Stuart, Toinette Coley, Tina Jones, Lena Lovick, Shelly Rollins, William Smith and Alice Murphy. Chaperones were David Jones Sr., Peggy Jones, Barbara Wiggins and Robert Glenn, a faculty member at the high school.

Tour

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fishermen have been cooperative in reporting problems with fish, crabs and eels. But he said the fishermen were getting used to the problems. "They've seen it enough that it doesn't alarm them anymore. That's terrible," he said.

A monitoring program set up in 1974 did not begin reporting problems with ulcerative mycosis in any large numbers until ten years later, said Noga and Hawkins.

David McNaught, director of the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, said he was glad to see state officials admit the problems exist. "The problems are so bad that everybody had got to admit there are problems out there," he said.

McNaught said PTRF's citizen monitoring program will "virtually simulate" a program along the Chesapeake Bay. He said "plenty of people along the estuary" have expressed interest in the monitoring program. He said the program has received offers of participation from people from Virginia to Cape Fear.

Jim Kennedy of the North Carolina Coastal Federation said that as part of the APES program his group is developing a citizens' guide to the regulatory process of protecting the environment.

He said the function of the guide was to explain how regulatory programs work and show how citizens can participate. A draft copy of the guide was included in press kits.

Dr. John Costlow of the Duke Marine Lab in Beaufort told the group that APES is intended to provide answers to still-unknown questions.

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