

# Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



The old-time circuit riding preachers rivaled Paul Bunyan in both their mental and physical stamina. Once, a roughneck who was offended by the preaching of one circuit rider named Jesse Walker, rode his horse into an "Indian tight" enclosure where the preacher was working.

"Parson," he shouted, "You've got me to lick or git out of this neck o' the woods."

The preacher turned, quietly took the fellow by the seat of his pants and the nape of the neck and deposited him over the fence. The ruffian got up, peeked through a crack, and in a mumbling-meek voice said, "Now, Parson, if you'll kindly hand me my mare over the fence, too, I'll be a'goin'!"

My family on both sides is full of ministers. One ancestor in particular has always intrigued me because he was indeed, well known in these parts as one of those strong-willed circuit riders himself. He believed that it was of no use walking anywhere to preach unless he preached as he walked. He "rode" mostly in a hand-carved canoe which he pulled up to shore at various intervals. In his roughneck land where survival was difficult and law and order non-existent, a humble, gentle mannered parson didn't stand a chance. So, in order to keep his flock together, he soon learned a few tricks of the trade.

Come to think of it, it's still a rough-neck land where survival is difficult and law and order, though now closeby, often makes little difference. So, we shouldn't be so surprised when our modern-day parsons tighten their belts and crack the whip, like their ancestors before them. In order to administer to wandering souls, our contemporary parsons are constantly engaged in a battle of both brain and brawn. Mostly brain. For instance:

A minister was known by a few of his parishioners to be very fond of cherry brandy. One of them, in a mischievous frame of mind, offered to present him with a bottle on the condition that it would be fully acknowledged in the next Sunday's church bulletin. The offer was promptly accepted. Sure enough, this notice appeared in the next bulletin: "The Vicar thanks Mr. McTavish for his gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given."

A prophet speaks when he has something to say ... a preacher has to speak every Sunday whether he has anything to say or not. It's not easy tending to a flock that strays so often. Seventy-two percent of the people believe the Bible to be the Word of God, but only 12 percent read it on a daily basis. When a minister's congregation turns to the middle of their Bibles to read something in the book of Genesis, the preacher knows he's in trouble.

And business and religion seldom mix. This is one area that quickly defeats the best of parsons:

There were two friends who joined forces to open a butcher shop. Business prospered, and they made money for many years. One day, an evangelist came to town and conducted a revival meeting. The first partner went to church and got saved. He went back to the business and told the other partner, encouraging him to also give his heart to the Lord. The partner replied, after much thought, "I'm glad you've got religion, but if I go too, who's going to weigh the meat?" The matter was ended.

Our preachers, both the parsons of times past and the contemporary ones today, know that religion is a process of turning your skull into a tabernacle, not of going off to Jerusalem once a year. It's hard. There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it. Most of their congregations use religion like a trolley car ... riding on it only when it's going their way. So, nothing has changed. Not really. Especially Parson Pauls. They still have to be as tough as ever.

## Meeting From Page 1

anything else I could think of," he said.

Transportation was also mentioned as a top priority for the county. Chris Kling of Vanceboro indicated that a public transportation system would benefit the county. Kling said such a system would allow those without transportation to get to work, be attractive to industry in that it would make the county's work force mobile and bring shoppers into downtown areas.

Tommy Morris suggested the county look at the bridges in the county, saying many of them are inadequate to handle traffic. The two major bridges in New Bern often suffer from backed-up traffic at peak times. Two summers ago one of the bridges jammed and traffic had to be detoured several miles to by-pass the bridge.

Pridgen also expects water and sewer systems to be a problem the county will need to look at further. With homeowners, and even small businesses, running into problems getting approval for septic tanks in areas not served by sewer systems, local government officials see loss of residents and industry (both of whom would pay taxes) as a problem. Other areas are experiencing water problems, either lack of drinkable water (as Pleasant Hill residents have experienced recently) or delays in getting hooked up to a water system, as some customers of the Northwest Craven water system have experienced.

Providing water and sewer systems that work will attract more residents and industry, said some of those at the meeting.

Dimick said the problem is a "hassle to deal with" and the county needed to work with legislators to solve the problem. County Manager Tyler Harris said the county commissioners

are "trying to deal with it in a comprehensive manner," looking to use the newest technologies available in the country and even pass the state.

Alderman Shirley Bryan of Vanceboro said the county should protect and enhance a natural resource important to the county — its water. He suggested the county emphasize use and protection of water sources, the Neuse River and wetlands. He encouraged the county to look into building more picnic areas and boat ramps.

"There will be no places left before long," said Bryan.

The alderman also said he expected zoning to become a part of the county's future. He said growth would necessitate the need for control and that zoning needs to be done "whether we want it or not."

Others said the county needs to do more to attract college graduates back to the county. He said many graduates who grew up in Craven County cannot find jobs back in their home towns. Scott Thomas said he was lucky to "come back to Vanceboro and work in New Bern."

Project Director Dan DeBow concurred with Thomas. He said a high percentage of new jobs are service-related and don't pay high wages, not offering much to young people and their families. DeBow said that the committee would not take the suggestions heard at the four meetings and just go away. He said the four meetings were a beginning to the committee's work to develop a plan for controlling growth in the county and to use that plan in developing the county.

The committee's work is expected to take another year and result in a plan that government agencies will use in guiding the county into the next century.

# New Bern Hands Eagles 60-40 Setback

**NEW BERN** — West Craven's varsity basketball team went to New Bern last week and awoke a hibernating Bears' team. The Bears came out of hibernation and fully-awake in the second half hit three-point shot after three-point shot to take a season-opening 60-40 win over the Eagles.

The Bears had nine three-point baskets in the tilt. In girls action, the Lady Eagles had little trouble keeping the Lady Bears at bay, taking a 65-38 win.

To help combat the surly Bears, West Craven coach Lorenzo Jones had to call up three members from the junior varsity squad. Prior to the season opener for both teams, Jones had lost three varsity players for academic reasons and had only nine varsity members.

The Bears threw a defensive net over the Eagles in the second half and kept them from getting inside. With the Eagles held in check, the Bears took command and had little problem in coasting to the win.

West Craven came out hustling and scrapping against the Bears and took a hard-fought 25-22 lead into the lockerroom at halftime.

## Eagles From Page 1

widen a 23-17 halftime lead to 38-19 as Croell had seven points, including a three-pointer, and Linetta Bryant added four as the Lady Eagles improved to 2-0 overall.

Greene Central, 0-1, was led by Tonya Taylor's 12 points. Point guard Angie Harrell chipped in nine points for the Lady Rams.

The Lady Eagles forced 15 Greene Central turnovers in jumping out to a 13-2 first quarter lead, but the Lady Rams had a press of their own, forcing West Craven into five straight turnovers in the second quarter during a 8-0 flurry as Greene Central pulled within six, 22-16, with 58 seconds left.

The closest the Lady Rams got was 43-31 when Taylor converted an offensive rebound with just over six minutes remaining.

But West Craven used its press to force six turnovers, resulting in a 10-2 run that buoyed the Lady Eagles to a 53-33 advantage

But the Bears came out of their den to begin the second half and began their long-range bombing attack.

"In the second half, we kind of got away from our offense. In the first half, we played far better than I had a right to expect. With young kids, you don't know whether they're going to come out and play great or play awful," said Jones.

New Bern coach Art Paschal was worried about the game. The Bears' coach said too many strange things have happened when the two teams have met in the past.

"If you look through the history of this game, the team with the most returning players or the most talent doesn't always win," said Paschal.

The Eagles looked as if they would prove Paschal's words true, but the Bears prevailed. Jones accepted the loss, but said he was pleased with his team's play in the first half.

Jones said he saw more positive things in the first half than he expected to see. Jones said the team responded well in front of a large crowd and it apparently did not affect his team's perform-

ance. Paschal said the Eagles were prepared, but turnovers in the second half hurt the Eagles and let his team score and pull away.

Reggie Jones led the New Bern comeback that started in the third quarter. He hit a three-pointer, scored again and tipped in an errant Bear shot to knot the game at 29-29. Gerald Jarmon led the Bear breakaway when he hit a basket and followed with two three-point shots for a 37-29 lead with just over three minutes left in the third period.

Jarmon hit for five three-point buckets and led the team with 17 points. Jones added a second three-point shot and added 12 points. Phillip Batts added two more three-point buckets for the

Bears. Wayne Jenkins lead the West Craven scoring with nine points.

Lady Eagles, 65  
Lady Bears, 38

Jennifer Peele came off the bench and sparked the Lady Eagles to a 65-38 win over New Bern's Lady Bears.

The highly-ranked Lady Eagles used Peele at guard and at forward and use her speed and guard Linetta Bryant's speed to give the Lady Bears something they could not handle.

Coach Liz Cox used the play of Peele and Bryant, along with tough inside defense and superb rebounding to put away the Lady Bears early.

## Obituaries

### Eula S. Heath

Eula S. Heath, 84, died in Triad Health Care Center.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Kenneth Moore officiating. Burial was in Riverside Christian Church Cemetery.

She was a native of Pitt County and lived most of her life in the Clay Root community. She was a member of Timothy Christian Church.

She is survived by two sons, John Heath and Clifton E. Heath, both of Vanceboro; a sister, Mrs. Lucy Smith of Ayden; a brother, David L. Smith of Ayden; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### Jonah H. Foy

Jonah H. Foy, 62, died last Thursday at his home near Vanceboro.

Graveside services were held Monday at 1 p.m. at the National Cemetery in New Bern.

He was a native of Pollocksville and a retired civil service employee. He lived in Florida for a number of years and in Ernul for four years.

Surviving are his wife, Adell Foy; three sons, Roger Foy and Alex Foy, both of Claxton, Ga.; Ricky Foy of Adell, Ga.; four daughters, Pat Cannon, Kathy Foy, Marie Foy and Nancy Foy, all of Claxton, Ga.; four stepsons, James K. Polk, Ronald J. Polk, Andrew S. Polk and Larry M. Polk, all of Plant City, Fla.; three stepdaughters, Mrs. Christine Alvarez of Brooksville, Fla., Mrs. Lois Murrow of Plant City, Fla., Mrs. Wanda Morans of Valrico, Fla.; two others, Thurman Foy of New Bern, Hughes Foy of Alexandria, Fla.; three sisters, Mrs. Julia Foy of California, Sybil Foy of Florida, Mrs. Pauline Broncatti of Tampa, Fla.; Jeta Foy of Riverview, Fla.; eight grandchildren; 21 stepgrandchildren and 6 stepgreat-grandchildren.

### Clarence E. Neal

Clarence Eugene "Charlie" Neal, 68, died Saturday at his home in Vanceboro.

The funeral service was conducted Monday at 11 a.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel, Vanceboro, by the Rev. Dan Hall and the Rev. Graham Lane. The graveside service was conducted Tuesday at 2 p.m. at the Neal family cemetery in Buies Creek.

Surviving are his wife, Jane Carter Neal; a son, Clarence Eugene Neal Jr. of Vanceboro; two daughters, Mrs. Carolyn Russell of Vanceboro and Mrs. Dianne Lane of Roanoke Rapids; a brother, James Garfield Neal of Buies Creek; two sisters, Mrs. Irene Self of Walkerton and Mrs. Louise Hutcherson of Richmond, Va.; and four grandchildren.

Neal, a native of Buies Creek, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a resident of Vanceboro for 36

years and was one of the operators of N&C Lumber Co. until his retirement in 1985. He was a member of the Vanceboro Christian Church, where he was a trustee. He served as chairman of the Vanceboro Advisory Board of Directors of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. He was a member of the Vanceboro Rotary Club, past member of both the Vanceboro Board of Aldermen and the Craven County Planning Board.

The family suggests that memorials be made to the Vanceboro Christian Church, Vanceboro, N.C. 28586.

### Fred L. Anderson

Fred Lee Anderson, 72, of 550 Aurora Road in Ernul died last Wednesday.

The funeral service was held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel, Vanceboro, by Rev. Robert Cayton. Burial was in Celestial Memorial Gardens.

Anderson is survived by a son, Fred Lee Anderson Jr. of New Bern; two daughters, Mrs. Sylvia A. Eanes and Mrs. Myra A. Hart, both of New Bern; two brothers, Luther E. "Pat" Anderson of Vanceboro and James D. Anderson of Ernul; a sister, Mrs. Ruby Moran of Fredericksburg, Va.; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Anderson was a native and lifelong resident of Craven County. He grew up in the Piney Neck community and lived near Askins for the past 37 years.

### Adrian E. Jones

Adrian Earl Jones, 60, died Sunday in Craven Regional Medical Center.

A graveside service was held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in the High Bridge Cemetery by the Rev. Bill Wingard and the Rev. Owen Peele.

Jones was a native of Lenoir County and lived much of his life in the Askins community and lived the last two years in the Vanceboro community. He was employed by Pepsi Cola Bottling Co. in New Bern for a number of years. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Vanceboro.

Surviving are his wife, Augusta Morris Jones; three sisters, Mrs. Harriet Jones Meadows of Maysville, Mrs. Eunice Jones Lucas of Mayodan and Mrs. Smithy Jones Daniels of New Bern; a brother, Eugene Jones of New Bern.

## Church News

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

A mission of spiritual healing is being planned for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Vanceboro. The Rev. Fred I.E. Ferris, a former rector during the 1950s, will conduct the mission titled "An Invitation to Spiritual Healing."

Services will be held Dec. 4 through Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. each night. Special music will be provided for the Dec. 4 service by Mary T. Elks of New Bern, organist and choir director of Trinity Episcopal Church in Chocowinity, where Father Ferris also served. Mrs. Elks will bring the choir from Trinity to the service. A reception will be held in the parish house following the Dec. 4 evening service. Jeff Simpkins will be the organist for the morning service Dec. 4 and evening services Dec. 5 and Dec. 6.

The laying on of hands and the anointing of the sick with oil has been one of the five lesser Sacraments of the Church for centuries but have been neglected in many of the smaller churches in the U.S. Because of the need for spiritual healing that faces the present generation, said church officials, it is hoped that all interested members of all Christian churches will respond to the invitation from the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church to be present for the services and to receive the laying on of hands.

Ferris is director of Pastoral Counseling Services in Roxboro and is researching a book with Duke students on "The Communication Gap."

### Tabernacle Holiness

The public is invited to attend a Christmas program Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Tabernacle Holiness Church in Vanceboro.

Tabernacle Holiness Church is located just outside the town limits of Vanceboro on N.C. 43. Refreshments will be served after the program.

### Lane's Chapel

United Methodist Church Lane's Chapel United Methodist Church will be having its annual fall bazaar Dec. 3.

Baked goods, handmade crafts and decorations will be sold. The bazaar begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Barbecue pork and barbecue chicken plates will be sold.

### Community Holiness Church

Missionary Yates will be preaching her first trial sermon at Community Holiness Church at 8 p.m. Dec. 3. The public is invited to attend.

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