

Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



I'm convinced that in a past life, I was somebody named "Occupant." And, they're still forwarding my mail. I never cease to be amazed at the variety of material that comes across my desk in a given week, most of it courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service. The bulk goes straight into the trash, but now and then I open a piece for a brief examination, even if only to consider the strange and wondrous human endeavors it took to create such a junk offer. Examples are the magazine I recently received filled with items I can order that are all shaped like pigs. Last week it was an advertisement of an ointment guaranteed to enhance my sex life if I'd only rub a bit between my toes. The little sample package kept me in a state of ponder for a week. Finally, I squeezed it on one wing of an old, worn-out rooster who has been retired to the back corner of the chicken pen by the younger males of his breed. When I checked on him the next day, not only was he fully alert and strutting his stuff, but so were at least twenty hens encircling him. That's a sample I'll be looking for in the mail again.

The brochure on how to rid buffalo of ticks also caught my eye, as I have about every breed of animal in my backyard except that. I stuck it in a drawer, just in case.

When I think of such offers, I always recall Dave Wadley's junk mail poetry: "You may have won a million bucks, this is the book you need, we have your size in slacks or tux, one dose kills every weed. Such are the offers I receive in almost every mail. If it's their purpose to deceive, their hammer hits the nail. This seems to me the worst of all, in the postal box I rent, is a lot of junk marked 'personal' or 'current resident.' My postman is now hospitalized, don't know the last detail, but hernia is recognized, from carrying junk mail."

I've no more than grown accustomed to figuring my postage bill at present rates, when they up and raise it again. Now, I don't mind paying for good service, and would gladly fork over the new rate hike if the Postal Service would just use the money to buy younger ponies.

A special delivery letter was first sent in the United States on October 1, 1885. Based on some of my recent experiences, that document should arrive around some time next week.

I mailed all my Easter cards on the same day this year. My mama received hers the next day and my grandma, right next door, got hers three weeks after the fact. My aunt never received hers at all, as did a couple of my friends. The energy involved in searching out just the right card, the notes written therein, postage, ink and numerous other accessories are often all in vain. They simply, though properly mailed with return address, end up in "never-never land."

One friend of mine mailed a note to her sister the same day she left by car to drive out to visit her... nearly a full, two-weeks drive, including time out for sightseeing and detours. She arrived at her sister's place five whole days before her note. She should have just saved herself twenty-five cents and hand delivered it the old-fashioned way... by pony express. And, I don't mean the four wheel kind either.

Obituary

Virginia S. Evans
Mrs. Virginia Smith Evans, 67, of Beechtree Road, Macswoods, Washington, died in a Durham hospital Monday.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church with the Revs. B.J. McKee and Keithen Tucker officiating. Burial will be in Oakdale Cemetery.

The body will be taken from Paul Funeral Home to the church one hour before the service.

Memorials may be made to the Immunotoxic Research Fund, in care of Dr. Arthur Frankel, Box 3898, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, 27710.

Harold Robinson, Mac Jones, Bob Tyndall, Charles Hester, Billy Chandler and Mayhue Edwards will serve as pallbearers. Past and present employees of Evans Seafood Co. will serve as honorary pallbearers.

The family will receive friends at their home in Macswoods.

A native of Beaufort County, Mrs. Evans was the daughter of Mrs. Thelma Evans Smith Whitely of Washington and the late Hyman Smith. She was married to Melton E. Evans Nov. 4, 1939. He died in Oct. 11, 1987. Mrs. Evans was an active member of the First Baptist Church. She had served on the Board of Trustees of Beaufort County Hospital. Mrs. Evans had worked on the local United Fund Drive for

several years. She and her late husband owned and operated Evans Seafood Co. in Washington from 1951 until their retirement in January 1987. Mrs. Evans was an active member of the Washington Woman's Club, having served as president for two terms and in all other elected offices at least once over the years. She had served in District 15 of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Evans served as president, vice president and chaplain in that organization. She was the citizenship division chairman of the state federation. Mrs. Evans was a lifetime member of the national federation.

Surviving with her mother are two daughters, Mrs. Artie (Patricia) Rawls of Washington and Mrs. T. Carlton (Gayle) Younger Jr. of Greensboro; three grandchildren; six sisters, Mrs. Edna Ewing of Fayetteville, Mrs. Doris Sparrow of Washington, Mrs. Nellie Williams of Vanceboro, Mrs. Glynda Croushore of Koko-mo, Ind., Mrs. Mable Howell of Cary and Mrs. Janet Faccinto of Litchfield, Conn.; seven brothers, Charles B. Savant of Goodyear, Ariz., Hyman L. Smith of Havelock, Al Smith of Arnold, Calif., Dallas Smith of Beaufort, Gerald Smith of Morehead City, Victor "Mickey" Smith of Halifax and Samuel M. Smith of Washington.

Santa From Page 1

dren and publish them before Christmas so Santa will know what the boys and girls want for Christmas.

Last year the letters written by boys and girls brought merriment and joy by just reading them. And hopefully Santa will see this year's letters and find out what children in the area want for Christmas.

The Highlights encourages children to write Santa. If you are to young, have an older brother or sister, or even Mom or Dad, write the letter for you. Teachers, you may want to have the children in your classes write to Santa as a class project.

Please keep letters as short as possible, but be sure to say what you feel needs to be said. Send the letters to Santa's

Mail Bag, West Craven Highlights, P.O. Box 487, Vanceboro, N.C. 28586. The letters will be published in the Dec. 22 edition of the Highlights. Merry Christmas!

Highways

From Page 1
Bobbi Waters, coordinator for Craven County Clean Sweep, said she is willing to speak with any business or organization that is interested in adopting a highway or would like to know more about the Clean Sweep program. She can be contacted at 636-6612. "The people of Craven County are very excited about our beautification efforts and want to be involved with keeping the county clean," said Ms. Waters, who has been with the program since late October.

West Craven Avoids Sweep, Girls Post Win

By JIM GREEN
Sports Writer

VANCEBORO — Class 1-A Jones Senior's varsity and junior varsity boys defeated Class 3-A West Craven Friday night, but the Lady Eagles avoided the sweep with a 71-47 victory.

A 44-point second half propelled Jones past the Eagles 66-50 in the varsity boys' contest while two free throws with four seconds left clinched the Trojans' 49-46 win in the jayvee game.

In the boys' game, Jones Senior, which will play Bertie in the first round of the ninth annual Washington Daily News Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec. 27-28, scored 23 points during a quick-paced third quarter and held off a late rally by the 1-2 Eagles to emerge 3-1 overall.

Edward Murphy, a 6-1 junior forward, keyed an 8-0 run to break a 22-22 halftime deadlock and added six more points during a 8-4 stretch to spark the Trojans. Murphy finished with a game-high 22 points for Jones Senior while 6-5 junior center Andre Chapman added 11 and Donald Harper 10.

Tony Jenkins, a 6-3 junior center, scored 19 points — 11 in the first half — to pace West Craven.

Things weren't so easy for Jones Senior in the beginning, and the final score doesn't really indicate how close the contest was. The Trojans spent the last two minutes on the free throw line after West Craven was unable to cut the lead below seven points.

Trojan coach Al Hobbs said execution was the key to the second half.

"In the first half, we weren't executing the things we've been working on in practice," he said. "We had a talk in the locker room and there was a change in the second half."

One big difference was Chapman, who was stifled inside by another Chapman — 6-3 sophomore center Jermaine Chapman from West Craven. The younger Chapman held his own inside and limited the Trojan center to five points and three rebounds in the first 16 minutes.

Both players sparked in the second half, but Jones' Chapman grabbed eight rebounds, blocked two shots and stayed out of foul trouble after entering the third quarter with three.

West Craven coach Lorenzo Jones praised his Chapman.

"Jermaine didn't back down against Andre," Jones said, "and I thought he played real well the whole game. Andre just asserted himself more in the second half."

"We just had so many chances to pull closer, especially in the fourth quarter... we missed seven layups in the first half," said Jones. "We gave Jones Senior too many chances and didn't take advantage of all the chances we had."

Murphy, Harper, Chapman and Chris Brown scored baskets as Jones built an eight-point lead

in the third quarter. West Craven pulled within seven, 42-35, with five seconds remaining, but 5-5 junior guard Damaris Franks heaved a 21-footer at the buzzer, giving Jones a 10-point lead and sending its faithful of about 100 into a frenzy.

Lee Becton pulled West Craven within six at 49-43 with five minutes remaining, but the Eagles did not score on its next six possessions, throwing the ball away twice, missing two layups and committing two charging fouls.

Murphy sealed the win with a layup off West Craven's press and Chapman added a field goal underneath to give the Trojans a 57-46 lead with two minutes left.

In the girls' game, Chundra Croell scored 24 points for the second straight game and Linetta Bryant and Evelyn Brimmer added 15 each, sparking the Lady Eagles' romp.

Meanwhile, Jones Senior was plagued by turnovers and foul trouble and never completely got untracked against the faster West Craven squad.

The Lady Trojans committed 36 turnovers and Diane Brimage and Tina Loftin spent a lot of time on coach Debbie Philyaw's bench in the first half as each had three fouls.

"Diane and Tina were in foul trouble and West Craven's press was very effective," Philyaw said, "but we didn't pass the ball as well as we should have. We got behind and took a bunch of bad shots."

Croell and Bryant had five steals each during a 18-6 third quarter for the Lady Eagles, which improved to 3-0. Brimmer was a force on the boards, sweeping off nine in the second half — five on the offensive end.

West Craven outrebounded Jones 54-34 as Brimmer led with 14 while Jennifer Peele had nine and Croell eight.

Tera Jones, Loftin, Brimage and Shivan Greene had seven boards each for the Lady Trojans, 0-4 overall.

Jones led Jones Senior with 19 points while Loftin and Brimage each had 11.

Al Meadows scored 16 points, including two free throws and two three-pointers, to spark the 2-0 Trojan jayvee team past the 1-2 Eagles. Tony Jones added 10 points for the winners.

Eric Wise paced West Craven with 14 points while Walter Green added 11 and Billy Dail 10.

BOYS' GAME
JONES SENIOR (64)
Edward Murphy 22, Tyler A. Andre Chapman 11, Donald Harper 10, Brown 6, Robinson, T. Williams 5, C. Williams, White 1, Croell 2, Franks 2.
WEST CRAVEN (50)
Becton 6, Conrad 7, Griffin 4, Chapman 6, Cox, Harris 4, Williams 4, W. Jenkins, Tony Jenkins 10.

GIRLS' GAME
JONES SENIOR (47)
Tera Jones 19, Tina Loftin 11, Brimage 6, Sison, Shivan Greene 11, Raspberry, Farrow, Sanders, Branton, Williams, Tate.
WEST CRAVEN (31)
Chundra Croell 24, Linetta Bryant 15, Evelyn Brimmer 15, Woffo 6, P. Bryant 6, Yolaric, Peele 4, Hicks 1, T. Ryzner, Brown, Yolaric, Bizzell, White, Koonce, Jones Senior 2, 14 1 19 — 47
West Craven 14 15 10 24 — 21
Junior Varsity: Jones 49, West Craven 46.

Bassin' with the pros

If you're a bass fisherman who trailers a boat to different lakes, chances are that on at least one of your trips you've passed a disabled fisherman on the side of the highway, a victim of trailer trouble.

Even worse, you may have experienced trailering problems yourself, such as a burned out wheel bearing, flat tire, or broken winch.

Evinrude Outboards Pro Staff Member Bo Dowden, a marine dealer in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and a successful bass pro who tows his boat to tournaments throughout the nation, has several suggestions that can help minimize or eliminate potential trailering problems.

"The most common fault," says Dowden, "is using a trailer too small for the boat. The boat is either too long or too wide for the trailer, or it weighs too much. Either case invites trouble down the road."

When purchasing a boat, says Dowden, winner of the 1980 BASS Masters Classic, check the weight capacity plate on the trailer, then make certain the weight of your boat, motor and equipment do not exceed that weight.

Dowden recommends giving yourself as much as a 25% safety margin, since an overloaded trailer will put added stress on both the axle and tires. The width of the boat must also fit between the trailer wheels and not extend beyond them.

"The weight of the boat should be carried by the trailer runners," explains the Evinrude pro. "The rollers should not really carry any weight at all, and certainly should not be bumping against the boat."

"Runners will get out of adjustment, too, especially if a fisherman trailers a lot. It's important to check the position of the runners with the boat in place, and adjust them as necessary so they do support the boat properly, especially at the transom."

Another problem Dowden fre-

quently sees is improper hitch weight. This is the amount of weight placed on the trailer hitch of the towing vehicle, and it needs to be at least 100 to 150 pounds, depending on both the size of the vehicle and the boat itself.

"If there is not enough hitch weight," explains Dowden, "the trailer will fish-tail side to side when you go down hills or change lanes to pass. It is extremely dangerous and can easily cause a driver to lose control, especially if his towing vehicle is a light one."

"To solve this, move the trailer winch stand forward several inches toward the towing vehicle. You may have to experiment, but a few inches is usually enough because it moves the entire boat forward."

Too heavy a hitch weight causes problems in loading rather than in highway handling. The trailer is simply too heavy to lift up to the hitch. To solve this, move the winch stand back several inches.

"Another common problem is burned out wheel bearings," says Dowden. "Bearings should really be greased every 400 miles or so if the driver makes a lot of short trips to the lake. The bearings heat up, and when they're submerged in water they'll begin to rust and eventually fail."

Tire wear is another common trailer problem, and Dowden suggests anglers keep trailer tires inflated to the proper pressure, and watch them carefully for any unusual wear patterns that might lead to a blowout later. Trailer tires need to be balanced just like automobile tires, too.

"Make certain the boat is securely tied to the trailer before you get on the highway," adds the popular tournament pro. "It's important to tie the boat to the trailer at each end of the transom as well as at the winch to keep the boat on the trailer if you have to stop suddenly."



Churches From Page 1

day school or evening service.

Vanceboro Free Will Holiness
The Vanceboro Free Will Holiness Church will present a Christmas program Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
The public is invited to attend the Christmas program.

Unity Christian Church
A Christmas play, "Break

Forth Into Joy," will be presented by Unity Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Dec. 10 and Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the church.

The church is located at 3880 Saint's Delight Church Road in New Bern.

The production is an original play written with music and lyrics by the members of the congregation. The public is invited to attend.

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Craven County's Family Weekly Newspaper
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(Main St. Across From Post Office)
Published Each Thursday
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Publisher
Mike Voss
Editor
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