

Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



In my opinion, there is only one thing worse in telephone manners than putting somebody on hold, and that's putting somebody on hold with music playing in the background. I do not like being forced to listen to your choice of music. In fact, I despise being put on hold, even without music. If I ever call you and you put me on hold at your own home, then you can bet your britches you won't be worried with ME again.

As far as telephones are concerned, we have all gone crazy. If you like the "call waiting" click on your telephone, then it's a pretty safe guess that you probably like being kicked around on a regular basis, too. I have finally adjusted to being placed on hold when I'm talking with a business downtown, but I refuse to call back the second time to a residence that also puts me on hold when they've got another caller on the line. It's about the rudest thing I can think of. I called you because I needed or wanted to talk to you about something. If you don't respect my friendship enough to allow me those few moments, then there's a problem with our relationship in the first place. (Yes, I'm on my soap box today, in case you hadn't noticed.)

Used to be, if somebody called, the phone rang. Today it may beep, scream like an ambulance, quack like a duck, or make no noise at all... whereby the entire room lights up in flashing colors like the fourth of July.

Besides the capacity to sound different, telephones also now look different. First came the decorator colors, then the assorted styles. Today, telephones look like anything but telephones: Mickey Mouse, Snoopy, Kermit the frog, NFL football helmets, baseballs, bowling pins, race cars, hot dogs, hamburgers (complete with bun, mustard and pickles), bananas, bubbly-gum machines and baby grand pianos, just to name a few. To dial some of these things, you just put your finger in its "eye" or someplace equally as tasteless.

If you desire, you don't even have to answer your phone yourself to find out who's there. Technology does it for you by offering a substitute. I finally acquired an answering machine, but I was dragged kicking and screaming to the store by some of my magazine editors who were tired of not being able to make contact with me in frequent emergencies. You can be sure I was reimbursed for the entire humiliating act.

Today there is "speed dialing" to make phone calling faster, "call waiting" so you can take more than one call at once, and "call forwarding" so that no matter where you are, you can still get your call. I've even programmed my machine so I can dial a "secret code" from any place in the country and obtain my messages.

For the lonely there is "Dial a Friend." For the lustful, "Dial Porn." For the down-in-the-dumps, "Dial a Joke." The sports fanatics can call "Sports Phone" to find out what horse just bankrupted them, or call back every ten minutes for an update when any big sports event is in progress. You can even dial a special number to obtain the latest dirt being dished from Hollywood, and woe is me, people can now pay good money to hear Jim and Tammy Bakker explain where they went wrong.

A scientist rushed madly into the main control room of the missile center at Cape Canaveral and proudly announced a new discovery. "There are women on the moon!" he shouted. When questioned as to how he could be sure, he replied, "Because we shot a communications missile up there and got a busy signal!"

Well, so be it, but I've heard my husband talk for two and a half hours to another farmer friend, about the pros and cons of double cropping.

Sometimes these new inventions make a real fool of us... like the woman who'd been reading up on how to put the sizzle back in her marriage. She telephoned her executive husband and launched into a full description of what she was going to do to him when he arrived back home that night... only to find out later that his "amplifier" had been on and the entire board meeting had heard her lustful outpouring.

I don't know about you, but as for me, one of these days I'm going to build a one-room cabin far back in the woods. As far from a telephone as I can possibly get. And revert back to sending smoke signals.

Eagle Girls Capture Christmas Tournament

The West Craven girls and the D.H. Conley boys each won three games to capture Christmas basketball tournaments this week.

The boys' team from West Craven dropped two games in its Christmas-tournament outing.

West Craven, coached by Liz Cox, defeated New Bern for the third time this season in the finals of the East Duplin Christmas Tournament Thursday night 60-41. The Lady Eagles, which had previously beaten James Kenan in the first round 54-50 and Wallace-Rose Hill 74-55 in the second, improved to 8-0 overall — matching the best start ever by a West Craven girls' squad recorded by the 1986 squad.

Chundra Croell, who scored 60 points in the three victories, and Linetta Bryant, who scored 38, were named to the all-tournament team.

The West Craven boys fell to 3-6 overall after dropping two games in the New Bern Sun-Journal Christmas Tournament Wednesday and Thursday.

The Eagles lost to Havelock 71-63 Tuesday night and 65-60 to White Oak the following night. Johnny Gatlin earned all-tournament honors with a total of 43 points — 22 against Havelock and 21 versus White Oak.

The D.H. Conley boys improved to 7-2 overall with a clean

sweep of the WNCT-Overton's Pitt County Invitational tourney. The Vikings, which had beaten Henderson Vance 56-50 to reach Friday's title game, stopped Greenville Rose 62-57 to win the championship.

Terry Williams was selected the most valuable player and Paul Merritt was named to the all-tournament team.

In Manteo, the Columbia boys split two games while the Wildcat girls lost two in the Manteo Christmas Classic.

The Wildcats lost to Currituck 71-56 Wednesday night but came back to defeat Manteo 84-59 Thursday in the four-team, round-robin format. The Lady Wildcats lost to Currituck 29-27 in overtime and 68-29 to Manteo.

The Columbia boys emerged 5-2 while the girls dropped to 1-6. Like Columbia, Creswell's boys team split two games while the Lady Tigers lost two in the Manteo Christmas Classic.

The Creswell boys earned their first win and improved to 1-6 with a 63-52 triumph over Manteo Wednesday night, then dropped their seventh game in eight starts to Currituck on Thursday. No score was available for that game.

The Creswell girls dropped to 1-7 after falling 51-47 to Manteo and 30-23 to Currituck.

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when it ruptured about 8:30 a.m. Plant officials said they thought the tank had been inspected during the shutdown and that the inspection showed nothing wrong.

Water Rates
After several weeks of controversy, customers of the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District finally saw rates set.

Declining the advice of the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District Commission, the Craven County Board of Commissioners set the district's water rates at \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons in March.

The advisory board in a February meeting suggested the commissioners adopt a \$10 per month user fee and charge customers \$1.20 for every 1,000 gallons. The board and the commissioners were split over what rate schedule to adopt during various meetings in February and March.

Some of the advisory board wanted to keep the rate at the rate customers had been told when they signed up for the water and sewer service. Voters approved a \$4.2 million bond in 1985 and were told the rate would be about \$15 for 3,000 gallons. Meanwhile, several problems delayed other county residents from getting water from their water districts.

Strawberry Festival
The annual Strawberry Festival in Vanceboro drew hundreds with its offer of strawberries, sunshine, smiles and heat.

Scores upon scores of visitors flooded Vanceboro on May 21, swelling the population and clogging the streets.

The festival got off to an early start — 7:30 a.m. to be exact — with a 5K road race and ended late — about midnight — with a dance. Kirk Maness crossed the finish line first in the race.

The obligatory parade snaked its way through the town at 10 a.m., led by the Marine Corps band. Vendors hawked their wares, children played the games on hand and others enjoyed the music and other entertainment provided.

The sixth annual event was sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club.

Community Center
Vanceboro residents started off 1988 with a bang — the bang of a hammer used in renovations to the Vanceboro Community Center.

The sounds of hammers pounding nails, boards stacked neatly inside the building and a ladder propped up against the opening to the attic were all signs

of the repairs and renovations made to the center during 1988.

The center was dedicated Nov. 19 with speakers noting the time and effort given by volunteers during the year, the assistance of local and state government and the support of others in the community.

The center provides such services as congregate meals for senior citizens and craft and literacy classes.

Some of the changes at the center included bracing the attic, putting on a new roof, redecorating the kitchen, installing carpet and painting the outside of the building.

Funds for the project came from the Craven County Commissioners' Board on Aging, County Commissioner Roger Forrest, Sen. Bill Barker and others. The money came from the Legislature through the "pork barrel" funds and discretionary funds.

Lee Becton An athlete at West Craven High School burst upon the prep sports scene.

Lee Becton, currently a sophomore at the school, won a silver medal in The Athletic Congress/USA Junior Olympic Nationals track meet in Gainesville, Fla. in the triple jump with his best jump ever. Becton was nudged away from the gold medal by two inches when Nigel Brown of Ohio, on his final attempt, out-jumped Becton. Becton jumped 46 feet, 1 inch.

As a freshman, Becton finished eighth in the triple jump at the state Class 3-A track championships with a leap of 43 feet, 2 1/2 inches. Before the state championships, he jumped 45 feet, 10 inches. The winning jump at the state championship was 45 feet, 8 1/2 inches.

Becton is also the only player to make the Eagle varsity basketball squad as a freshman.

Becton came into prominence in 1988 with his prowess on the football field. The sophomore running back picked up 1,197 yards this season and lead the Coastal Conference in rushing. He was named to the USA Today prep honor roll two weeks in a row, named a 3-A player of the week and received other honors.

Bass Fisherman
Vanceboro's Ed Davis landed himself a spot in the top 10 news stories of the year when he landed enough bass to qualify for the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society's national championship at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Davis qualified by fishing the B.A.S.S. Southern Division tournament held on the Pamlico

River at Washington. The tournament was won by Kinston's Danny Joe Humphrey, who won the Chattanooga event. Davis emerged the leader among eight entrants from the Vanceboro, Chocowinity and Washington area.

Davis pocketed a \$1,000 check from the division tournament and added \$1,550 with his winnings from Chattanooga.

Davis caught 20 pounds, four ounces of bass at the division tournament. He finished in 12th place at the national tournament with a catch of 13 fish weighing 13 pounds.

Dail Honored
After years of serving his community, the community turned the tables on Tommy Dail and honored him.

The Vanceboro Rotary Club presented Dail with the Paul Harris Fellow Award, the highest award given by Rotary International. The award is the first-ever given to a member of the Vanceboro Rotary Club. Dail was honored for contributing \$1,000 toward one of Rotary's humanitarian projects. The Paul Harris Fellow Award consists of a medal and certificate.

Dail's contribution was made to Rotary's Polio Plus project, a project to eradicate polio throughout the world.

Jesse Campbell
Vanceboro's Jesse Campbell, little-known outside of the area for his football prowess, soon became almost a constant fixture in the sports pages of national publications.

The former West Craven stand-out took ACC Rookie of the Year honors, ACC defensive player-of-the-week honors, ACC Rookie of the Week honors and several other grid honors. He was the leading tackler in the regular season for the N.C. State University Wolfpack. He also led the team in tackles for minus yardage, interceptions and broken-up passes.

He was named to the ACC All-Conference team.

Campbell had two key interceptions during the regular season, one against Wake Forest to preserve a Wolfpack win and one against Georgia Tech to put the 'Pack into a lead it did not relinquish. He also intercepted an Iowa pass in the Peach Bowl to stop a Hawkeye drive.

Better Water
Pleasant Hill residents, long suffering from undrinkable water, unanimously chose Oct. 24 to have Craven County extend water lines to their homes instead of the city of New Bern.

The vote, in effect, ended six years of pleading for better water quality for the residents who live west of New Bern off N.C. 55.

The choice between water sources was offered a week before the election when county efforts to obtain state grant money for the project fell through. State and local officials tried for several months to find approximately \$230,000 to extend a county water line a little over a mile to serve the residents.

Water samples taken from wells in the Pleasant Hill area during 1988 showed high levels of iron, manganese and coliform bacteria. Despite the findings, no state money was available.

Many of the residents used bottled water for consumption and cooking. Others refused to bathe or wash clothes in the water because it left brown stains. Some residents claimed the poor water quality was a factor in dental problems — weak teeth — in children.

Improvements Aided
Making improvements in telephone service and to highways were two suggestions that Vanceboro, Cove City, Dover and other county residents made to committee members of Craven County 2001 at a series of public hearings in November.

Residents indicated to the committee members that county residents should have a voice in controlling the county's future growth.

An Ernul man expressed his concern over telephone communication and was joined by others with similar sentiments. He noted that Vanceboro area residents faced long-distance charges when calling Havelock, Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station and other areas in the county. He said residents in the Vanceboro and western areas of Craven County worked in the long-distance locations.

He said the problem divided the county and that he and another man have been trying to solve the problem for 14 years.

Others said improvements to U.S. 17 and U.S. 70, two major traffic arteries in the county, were a must. Residents said the improvements to the highways would help attract industry and solve traffic problems.

Other residents said water and sewer systems were either needed or should be improved or put in place as soon as possible. One resident suggested a county transportation system, one that would enable residents to go to work, hospitals and schools.

Scientists Propose Suggestions

North Carolina's highest-quality coastal water faces grave threats from human activities, according to a panel of scientists, planners and public officials which met in Beaufort Friday.

The panel, convened by the N.C. Wildlife Federation and the N.C. Coastal Federation, also issued a series of recommendations for the management of outstanding resource waters along the coast.

"North Carolina's coastal waters are its natural treasures, and they must be protected," said Dr. Eugene Cronin, chairman of the eight-member panel. "Current regulations don't seem to be doing the job in saving the best of the state's waters."

The panel said protection of high-quality coastal waters would require a program of water quality control and land use management.

Specific recommendations were forwarded to the N.C. Environmental Management Commission, which must act on ten coastal waters nominated for Outstanding Resource Water status by mid-1989. They included:

— That no new point-source discharges be permitted to degrade waters designated as outstanding resource waters.

— That "built-upon" density be limited to a maximum of 12 percent in areas adjacent to waters designated outstanding resource waters.

— That only upland-basin, noncommercial marinas should be permitted on such waters.

"We took the step of assembling this panel,"

said Michael F. Corcoran, executive vice president of the N.C. Wildlife Federation. "To assist state officials in defining the actions necessary to protect our best remaining waters. The members of the panel include distinguished scientists and public officials from across the country. We're very pleased that they agreed to serve and are satisfied that the recommendations are comprehensive and thorough."

Cronin is an emeritus professor of estuarine biology at the University of Maryland. He led Maryland's Critical Areas Program, a part of the efforts to rehabilitate Chesapeake Bay.

Other members of the panel include Dr. Richard T. Barber, former member of the N.C. Environmental Management Commission and now director of a California marine laboratory; Donald Bryan, mayor of Nags Head and president of the N.C. League of Municipalities; Dr. Raymond J. Burby, professor of city and regional planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Dr. John D. Costlow, former chairman of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission and long-time director of the Duke Marine Laboratory; Ralph Heath, hydrogeologist and former District Chief for North Carolina of the U.S. Geological Survey; Dr. Daniel Okun, professor emeritus of environmental engineering at UNC-Chapel Hill, and Dr. Charles H. Peterson, professor of marine ecology at the UNC-Chapel Hill Institute of Marine Sciences.

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