

Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



As you turn the page on your calendar to the beginning of a new year, you have the opportunity to change more than just a number. It's a chance to change your life. Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself. It's a shame that the chains of habit are often too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken. Think of the new year as a fresh, clean canvas on which you will paint tomorrow. I know it's hard to break old habits, but if some of them need updating, now's the time to begin. Remember, that it's the unhappy people who most fear change.

Sometimes there are things in life that simply cannot be changed. If this is the case, then try to turn your problems into pearls. There were two men, in particular, who succeeded at this.

The first was Nathaniel Hawthorne. When he was fired from his job at a custom house, Hawthorne went home discouraged and forlorn. When he told his wife the tragic news, she said, "Now you can write your book." And write he did. With pen, paper and ink in front of him, Hawthorne wrote "The Scarlet Letter." He turned his problem into a pearl.

The second man was thrown into a dark, damp stone prison cell. His was one of the worst of life's problems. But, he abided his time and he wrote letters . . . wonderful and beautiful letters that now compose some of the best books of the Bible. Paul turned his problems into pearls.

Remember that if your changes do not always work out, it is sometimes more important to discover what you cannot do than what you can do. I'd rather be a failure at something I love, than a success at something I hate. Change your life to make yourself the best you can be, but remain true to yourself above all else.

A group of animals started a school. Classes were held in swimming, flying and running. The duck was an excellent swimmer, but had to drop swimming in order to practice running, at which she was not very good. Soon, she was just an average swimmer. Try as she might, she never was much of a runner. The rabbit was the best one in the running class, but broke her leg while trying to fly. The eagle decided she was a natural at flying, so she skipped that class only to become waterlogged when she tried to swim. By the end of the school, none of the animals were very good at anything.

Let's just be the best we can be, at what we're best at. Change your outlook about yourself and realize your full capacity at what you do best, and then do it better than ever.

There was a slow-talking woodsman who called at the home of a pioneer family on day.

"You folks come out to the bog with me cause your boy, Ephraim, is stuck out there," the old woodsman said to them. "How deep is he in?" questioned the young pioneer father.

"Up to his ankles," replied the old woodsman. "Oh, well, then come on in here and let's crack this jug and take us a drink," the father said. "There's plenty of time yet."

"I reckon not," the old man replied. "He's in head-first." We are in, head-first, folks. In life. Now is the time to do the things that are important to us. A fresh page awaits. Go for it, while you can, but carefully filter your decisions . . . for all change is not growth, as all movement is not forward.

It's hard to break old habits. Change does not come easily. Don't fling it out the second-story window, but coax it downstairs one step at a time.

If you always do what you've always done, then you'll always get what you've always gotten. So, bring in your new year with change.



Members of the U.S. Air Force Tactical Air Command Band.

U.S. Air Force Band Will Perform Saturday; Free Tickets Available

The United States Air Force Tactical Air Command Band has again included Washington on its performance tour with a concert scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14 at 8 p.m., in the Washington High School auditorium.

Sponsored by the Beaufort County Arts Council, the concert promises to offer a memorable evening of musical entertainment.

The concert is free and open to the public. Tickets are available at the arts council through Friday and at the door Saturday. The doors open at 7:30 p.m.

The band, on tour from Langley Air Force Base, Va., will present a varied program of selections from light classics and Broadway hits, to stirring patriotic specials. Also included will be vocal selections and favorites

from the Big Band era.

Formed in 1941, the 45-member band entertains one million people each year in over 500 performances. They have performed for several U.S. presidents, the president of France and the Queen of England.

Major Lowell E. Graham, a native of Greeley, Conn., has been the band's director since 1984. Under his leadership, the Tactical Air Command Band has become the most honored and decorated band in the Air Force.

The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution granted official recognition to the TAC Band for its supporting efforts described to be "of exceptional merit with national significance, and substantial educational and historic

value."

Among numerous other awards, the band received the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine," North Carolina's highest award for artistic and cultural contributions, as well as two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.

This year's concert was arranged by the arts council, after noting the success of last year's performance which was enthusiastically received by several hundred people.

Free tickets will be available beginning Thursday at the Arts Council which is located in the old train depot on Main and Gladden Streets. The Arts Council is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information call 946-2504.

Bassin' with the pros

If it's wintertime, then it must be spoon-jigging time for bass.

That's the opinion of Jack Chancellor, winner of the 1985 Bass Masters Classic and a member of the Johnson Outboards Pro Staff. Chancellor uses the shiny lead lures year-round, and nearly won the 1982 Classic with them, but he really prefers to use them when the weather turns cold.

"Spoon jigging is the easiest way to catch schooled bass I know," says Chancellor. "The lure looks like a dying baitfish as it flutters toward the bottom, and I think bass hit it because it represents an easy meal falling right in front of them."

"It's so effective in winter because that's when bass tend to gather in the largest schools of the year. You can literally catch bass as long as you can keep a spoon in front of them."

Chancellor demonstrated just how quick a spoon works during the 1982 Bass Masters Classic on the Alabama River in Montgomery, Alabama. He located a school of bass holding along the edge of a sand bar and caught a limit of 10 in just seven minutes, a catch that propelled him into second place overall for the contest.

Points are good places to begin looking for schools of bass this time of year," explains Chancellor. "Other prime places to check are the mouths of creeks and

large sloughs, and also the outside bends of river channels.

"In winter bass are often holding very close to the bottom but they're far enough above the bottom so you can see them with a depthfinder. Just criss-cross the point or cove with your boat at slow speed and keep watching the depthfinder."

"The depth you need to search depends on your lake, but in really cold water I'd recommend starting in about 15 to 18 feet of water and gradually moving out to deeper and deeper depths. I have caught bass as deep as 50 to 60 feet."

The Johnson Outboards pro prefers to position his boat in deeper water and make shot underhand pitch-casts ahead of him into shallower depths. He lets the spoon sink completely to the bottom, then hops it hard by snapping his rod tip with a quick wrist movement.

Then, when the spoon is falling again, Chancellor lowers his rod at the same rate so the spoon drops on a tight line. This allows him to feel strikes better, since nearly all strikes will come as the spoon falls.

"It's important to keep your rod tip fairly low and pointed to the water when you're jigging and hopping the spoon," says Chancellor. "This allows you to set the hook immediately. If your rod tip is pointed up, you can't set the hook."

Chancellor uses a 6 1/2' medium-action bait casting rod with 12 or 14-pound test line. He prefers a 3/8-ounce spoon, although if he is fishing extremely deep water he uses a heavier lure that falls faster.

"Sometimes the way you jig a spoon makes a difference on the number of strikes you receive," says the Johnson Outboards staffer. "Normally, I jig the lure hard so it jumps up from the bottom, but there are times when the bass don't want the lure moving quite so fast."

"Experiment with your jigging speeds until you find something the fish will hit, then remember it and keep using it."

Fire

From Page 1

Kite said investigators returned the next day to the remains in an effort to determine what started the fire. He said the investigation into the cause of the fire will continue.

There were no injuries reported. Damage to the structure was estimated between \$20,000 and \$30,000.

Learn Red Cross CPR.



Obituaries

Marie F. Whitford

Mrs. Marie Fillingame Whitford, 57, died Jan. 1 in Duke Hospital in Durham. Her residence was at Rt. 3, Vanceboro.

The funeral service was conducted Jan. 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel by the Revs. John Owens, David Cauley and Owen Peele. Burial was in Celestial Memorial Gardens in Vanceboro.

Surviving are her husband, Harvey A. Whitford; a daughter, Mrs. Anita Harrison of Greenville; one brother, David Fillingame of Vanceboro; five sisters, Mrs. Sybil Hardee of Williamston, Mrs. Loyce Lancaster, Mrs. Joyce Gaskins and Mrs. Irene Morris, all of Vanceboro, Mrs. Jean Ackiss of Goldsboro; one grandchild.

Mrs. Whitford was a native and lifelong resident of Vanceboro. She had been employed at Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. for 26 years and held the position of banking officer. She was a member of the New Haven Free Will Baptist Church and was the adult Sunday school teacher. She was a past member of the Board of Trustees of the Craven Regional

Medical Center in New Bern.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the Marie F. Whitford Endowment Fund at Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, N.C. 28365.

Jesse E. Forrest

Jesse Earl Forrest, 73, died Saturday in Craven Regional Medical Center.

The funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel in Vanceboro by the Rev. William Sealy. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery, Greenville.

Surviving are his wife, Doris Forrest; a son, Mike Forrest of Lake Toxaway; a daughter, Janis Forrest Applewhite of Durham; four sisters, Ida Singelton and Lillie Morris, both of New Bern, Mattie Brown of Goldsboro and Estelle Hill of Wake Forest; two brothers, Rance Forrest and Clifton Forrest, both of Vanceboro; three grandchildren.

Forrest was a native of Craven County. He served as public utilities director in Stantonsburg, Enfield and Apex. He retired in 1978 and returned to Vanceboro.



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CCC Gala 'Cruises' On Jan. 21

Individuals wishing to attend the 1988 Craven Community College Foundation Gala should call the foundation office now to reserve space.

The Gala, which will begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at the New Bern Sheraton, features Craven Community College music instructors Philip Evancho's and Elsie Pollock's cruise theme. Ports of call for the entertainment portion of the evening are New Orleans, Paris and Ball Hall.

Evancho, tenor James Powers of Raleigh and soprano Jon Shaw of Greenville have selected a number of show tunes with which to regale the audience. In addition, members of the Craven Community Chorus and the college's visiting artist, Brian Morris, will also be on hand to provide song and merriment.

Tickets for "A Moonlight Cruise," this year's production, are \$50 per person or \$100 per couple. The evening includes cocktails, a prime rib dinner, champagne and the entertainment. To make reservations, call the foundation's Executive Director Becky Williams at 638-4131, extension 225.

The foundation supports the college by funding scholarships, emergency grants and areas of instruction and support not provided for through existing sources. It sponsors the Gala, a fishing tournament and annual fund drives to help raise money for those activities.

Accident Still Being Probed

BRIDGETON — Officials are trying to determine what caused an explosion Dec. 27 inside a railroad tanker car that left a New Bern man severely burned over 90 percent of his body.

Ronnie Morris, 28, of 807 Clark Ave., according to officials, was cleaning the rubberized lining from the inside of a railroad tanker car at Frit Car and Equipment Inc. on Drag Strip Road when the accident occurred.

Morris is at the Jaycee Burn Center at the North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. He underwent skin graft surgery last Wednesday, said a family member. Morris had first been transported to Craven Regional Medical Center in New Bern and was treated in the emergency room before being sent to the burn unit, said a hospital spokesman.

Morris is married and has twins. His brother, Edward Morris, said Ronnie Morris was burned by an explosion. Another employee was heating the outside of the tanker car with a propane torch while Ronnie Morris was inside, said Edward Morris. His brother was wearing an oxygen tank and oxygen mask while inside the tanker, said Edward Morris.

Craven County Fire Marshal Henry Sermons said Morris was apparently burned by an acid in one of the chemical tanker cars. Sermons said he had information indicating there was no fire involved in the accident.

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