

Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



Most of us have had to take an extra job or two just to make the payments on the credit cards that Santa recently exercised control over. Debts are like children . . . begot with pleasure but brought forth with pain. It's mighty easy to flash that card around, but when the payments come rolling in, that's another story entirely.

Debt is a four letter word. It is the worse poverty. Though we cannot escape debt entirely, we can certainly help ourselves along a bit by using common sense when we use credit. Maybe we try a bit too hard to keep up with our neighbors. Thoreau once said . . . "They take their pride in making their dinner cost much; I take my pride in making my dinner cost little."

There is no doubt that all of us are much happier to see those whom we have obliged than those who have obliged us. Some folks owe so much that they never leave the yard in fear of seeing their benefactor.

Friends will stand by each other through thick and thin . . . but not necessarily through debt. Mark Twain believed that "the holy passion of friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a lifetime . . . if not asked to lend money." Far too often, it is not the interest of some folks to pay the principal, nor is it their principle to pay the interest. Many a friendship has been broken by the fragile touch of a dollar bill.

Those of you who are buying everything now on credit may soon find yourselves selling everything later in debt. Even Benjamin Franklin once remarked that he'd rather go to bed supperless than to rise to debt. I feel the same way. My little studio, though now under construction, is moving rather slowly. I've allowed myself three years in which to complete a 20x27 structure. But I'm paying for it as I go, and I wouldn't consider it any other way.

It's not easy to live within our means. It takes everything we can make these days just to survive. You get to the end of a year and count your wages, only to wonder what in the world became of it all. And then you still have Uncle Sam waiting, with his hand outstretched. Some borrow on credit to pay their income tax. It makes a mighty sad beginning for a new year.

Here in the agricultural areas of our state, our farmers know that a mortgage casts a shadow on the sunniest field. Henry Beecher realized this and put it so well when he said, "Interest works night and day, in fair weather and in foul. It gnaws at a man's substance with invisible teeth." Every farmer in the land goes to bed each night with those words tucked somewhere down deep in his soul, and a bit of fear tugging at his heart.

It has always been interesting to me how a person who can't pay gets another person who can't pay to guarantee that he can pay. And then get the money. Somebody once remarked that, "If a feller screwed up his face when he asked for credit like he does when he's asked 't settle, he wouldn't git it." And that's something else to think about.

Perhaps it's time we realized how easily we can be made a beggar by banqueting upon borrowing. Individually, each of us knows how deep we're in. Even our own country, as great and wealthy as it is, is on its knees from the debt of borrowing.

The high cost of living isn't so bad . . . if you don't have to pay for it. But for most of us, paying for debt is something we never overcome.

Genealogist Redford To Give Talk Tonight

Noted author and genealogist Dorothy Spruill Redford will speak tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington Civic Center.

Mrs. Redford is the author of *Somerset Homecoming* and organizer of the 1986 homecoming at historic Somerset Place, which was the culmination of an "incredible journey" into her own history and America's.

Inspired by Alex Haley's 1977 drama *Roots*, she began a decade-long search for her past by pouring over census records and property books and seeking relatives in quiet country towns. Eventually, she found a bill of sale tracing her great-great-grandmother to Somerset Place Plantation in Creswell.

With this discovery, Mrs. Redford traced her family tree to more than 300 slaves bearing 21 different surnames, who once worked one of North Carolina's largest plantations owned by Josiah Collins.

On August 30, 1986, Mrs. Redford arranged a homecoming for over two thousand Americans at the restored 19th century plantation, Somerset Place. The men and women attending the

celebration shared a common heritage. They were descendants of all the slaves, overseers and owners who had lived, worked and died at Somerset.

In the January issue of *Southern Living Magazine*, Mrs. Redford stated, "that first homecoming was a healing. It was the descendants of slaves, of overseers, of overseers coming together, acknowledging a common past, talking about it, putting it behind us and moving forward."

After the success of the homecoming, Mrs. Redford wrote her book and also became the program officer for Somerset Place State Historic Site. There she spearheads a program to restore the plantation as the nation's first to factually depict the lives of both its former slave and non-slave populations.

The public is invited to hear Mrs. Redford and to meet her immediately following her lecture at a reception hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Mrs. Redford's appearance is co-sponsored by Beaufort County Community College and the Beaufort County Arts Council.

Letter To The Editor

To the editor:

I am writing to ask your help in supporting our most important fund-raising event of the year, the seventh annual Bowl for Kids' Sake.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is fun. There is no cost to you. The game is free and your shoes are provided free.

Bowl for Kids' Sake is a bowl-a-thon. Each participant gets pledges for the game they bowl. The event takes only an hour of your time and the benefits to our organization are tremendous! Besides, we guarantee that you will have a great time.

You can help by finding three other people to form a team to

bowl. The kickoff takes place at midnight on Friday, February 24, and on Saturday, February 25, we will bowl from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Each member of your team will receive individual pledge sheets. Perhaps you can get one or more teams from your neighborhood, where you work or from relatives.

(For registration forms or more information, call the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Lower Neuse at 637-2460.)

Cleo C. Hennon
Executive Director
Beverly Mong
Chairman
Bowl for Kids' Sake



Bellamy (with hat) assists Jones with Eagle varsity

Former Eagle Eyes NBA Team

By MIKE VOSS

Editor

Ronnie Bellamy is looking for a little "Magic," perhaps, in his future. Magic as in the Orlando Magic, one of two new NBA teams that will take to the court this fall.

Bellamy, who once used his talents for West Craven High School, Chowan Junior College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, wants a shot at making the NBA. "I might not even get a tryout, but I'm going to give it my best shot," he said Saturday night.

After finishing up at UNC-C this December, Bellamy returned home to Vanceboro. He plans to work out, play as much basketball as he can and help West Craven coach Lorenzo Jones with the Eagle varsity. Bel-

lamy can now be found sitting on the bench — as a coach — and providing help from there instead of on the floor.

Bellamy's playing credentials speak for themselves. At the high school, junior college and college levels he made a name for himself and earned recognition. And being related to former NBA standout Walt Bellamy adds to Ronnie Bellamy's legacy.

"I think I can make it in the NBA. All I want is a chance to show them what I can do," he said. While in Charlotte, he played in the league many current Charlotte Hornets' players were involved in before the current NBA season started. He was the roommate of the Hornets' Bryan Rowsom, who played at Columbia High School and UNC-Wilmington.

Bellamy said he worked out with the Hornets prior to the season and they suggested he work on his defense. "I think I can improve on that because what they look for is about 20 seconds of hard defense in the NBA. About 10 seconds while the ball is brought up the court and about 10 seconds before the shot is made," said Bellamy. The NBA operates with a 24-second shot clock.

"I'm going to try and get a tryout with the Magic. And if I don't make it with them or some other NBA team, I wouldn't mind playing in Europe or the Continental Basketball Association. If I can get on one of those teams and get paid to play basketball, that will be good. I can invest what I'm paid and use it for the future," said the criminal justice major.

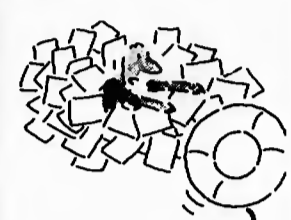
Washington's Anniversary

1989 marks the 200th anniversary of the first U.S. presidential inauguration. George Washington, the nation's first president, was inaugurated April 30, 1789, at Federal Hall in New York City, according to historian John Riley of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Statesman, soldier and tobacco farmer, Washington served as commander in chief of the Continental Army and eventually led the American revolutionary troops to victory in their drive for independence from British rule. After being unanimously elected president of the Constitutional Convention, George Washington was overwhelmingly elected the first president of the newly formed United States of America.

Washington, who was born on Feb. 22, 1732, is now honored with a public holiday celebrated each year on the third Monday in February. **W**

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