

# Eastern Echoes

By Gail Roberson



## Geritol On The Rocks

I recently received a letter from a friend which contained a list of ways I can continue to tell I'm aging without gazing into a mirror or checking the calendar on the wall. It brought a few smiles and a nod of agreement, so I'm going to pass it along to you today:

### YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN...

- You feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere
- You sit down in a rocking chair and can't get it started
- You order Geritol-on-the rocks at the bars
- Your back goes out more than you do
- Your little black book has only last names ending with "M.D."
- You need oxygen after blowing out your birthday candles
- You get worn out dialing long distance
- Your favorite newspaper column is "25 Years Ago"
- You need a fire permit to light all the candles on your birthday cake
- It takes an hour to undress and another hour to remember why
- You burn the midnight oil by 9:00 P.M.
- You get your exercise by being a pallbearer for a friend who exercised
- Your knees buckle and your belt won't
- Anything under a quarter isn't worth bending over and picking it up
- Your pacemaker opens the garage door whenever you see a sexy girl go by
- You get winded playing checkers
- You sink your teeth into a thick, juicy steak and they stay there
- The only whistles you get are from the tea kettle
- You need a smaller house with a bigger medicine cabinet
- Work becomes more fun and fun becomes more work
- The gleam in your eyes is the sun reflecting off your bifocals
- A dropping faucet causes an uncontrolled bladder urge
- You forget what happened yesterday, but can easily remember events 40 years ago
- Your children begin to look middle-aged
- You finally get to the top of the ladder but it's leaning against the wrong wall
- You regret all the times you resisted temptation
- You look forward to spending a quiet evening at home
- Your mind makes agreements your body can't meet
- You start eating Bran Flakes and Prune Juice for breakfast
- You remember today that yesterday was your birthday
- You buy a health club membership and don't go
- You have more hair on your chest than you have on your head
- After painting the town red, you have to wait a long time before applying a second coat
- That little old lady you helped across the street is your wife and
- Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt... doesn't work.

## Banjo From Page 1

it possible for Morris to have his first banjo. That banjo was made up after the parts came from various sources — including a wildcat. That's right a wildcat.

His uncle took some maple wood, parts of an old guitar and the hide from a wildcat to make Morris his first banjo. The uncle could tan hides and made the head for the banjo from a wildcat he has shot.

"I wouldn't take I don't know what for it today," said Morris of the banjo which he still owns.

His second banjo was a second-hand one he bought from another banjo player. "I remember it was from Sears-Roebuck and I paid the man \$3.50 years ago. Money was tight in them days," he said. Money might have been hard to come by, but good times were plentiful to hear Morris talk.

"I played with just local boys that I grew up with," said Morris. "We would get together and play. It was sometimes all we had to entertain us."

"Me and another boy who had a guitar would play a lot but he went into the service," said Morris who put away the banjo for several years after that.

Later his wife, Hattie, persuaded him to buy a new banjo and began playing again. "I guess I give my wife credit for that," he said.

Morris began playing for a radio station in Kinston before hitting the "big time" with an hour-long television show in New Bern in the 1960s. "Me and some other fellows played on

television for about a year," he recalled.

Morris said he may have let several chances to further his professional career slip by. "But I always loved home and that's why I probably didn't leave. I'm not sorry," he said.

Morris said much of the credit belongs to Charlie Slaughter for turning him into the banjo player he is today. "Charlie Slaughter moved here from Roxboro. He had lots of children but he adopted me as sort of one of his own," said Morris.

"He was a real good three-finger banjo player. He taught me a lot," added Morris.

"I guess have to give credit to Charlie for teaching me most of what I know today," said Morris.

"That's hard to say," said Morris when asked what his favorite song was to play on the banjo. After a brief pause Morris said, "I guess my favorite would be a slow song called 'Oh What a Friend We Have in Jesus.' I think it's such a pretty song."

Morris and his wife "don't miss many weekends" playing and singing together at birthdays, reunions and other gatherings. Recently the two performed together at Vanceboro's Strawberry Festival.

Morris said he doesn't plan on putting away the thumbpick and banjo anytime soon. He plans on keeping those five strings twanging for a few more years.

Any stray wildcats in Craven County might consider leaving, unless they have an unexplained hankerin' for banjo music.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Friends,

We, the friends of Western Craven County and West Craven High School, are highly interested in lighting the baseball field at West Craven High School. The western part of Craven County has very limited recreational resources and a lighted baseball field would fill a void.

With a lighted field, the community would be afforded this opportunity to involve our youth in wholesome activities such as youth league baseball and the high school could play night games which would allow more community and family-involved activities.

A committee has been formed to help secure the needed funds (\$35,000) to light the ball park. Any individual or organization which contributes \$100 dollars or more will be recognized on a plaque to be affixed to the new athletic field house at West Craven High School.

Your assistance in helping to fund this program will be greatly appreciated. All checks are to be made payable to the West Craven High School Baseball Fund, Rt. 2, Box 118, Vanceboro, N.C. 28586.

Thank you for contributing.  
Larry Hill  
Chairman

To the Editor:

The 1987 Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day is just a fond memory now. But that day as I thought back over all the long hours of planning, the hard work and the worrying, I asked myself was it worth it? My answer was a loud "Yes." I was pretty sure it was worth it when I saw Main Street turn into a sea of faces and when I saw plates of barbecue stacked to the ceiling sell out after a few minutes. However, the definite proof came that afternoon when I saw a man holding up a little boy so he could see Dad help big sister ride a donkey. I have never seen four wider grins.

Good, clean family fun — that is what the Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day is all about. That is what makes it worth all the headaches. That is why I am proud to have served as this year's festival chairman.

Several people have asked me how the monies are divided. All profits from the dinner, concession stands and rides (except the donkey ride) belong to the Rescue Squad. Ad money from the Strawberry brochure goes toward the cost of printing and festival expenses. The rest (about \$700 this year) goes to the Rescue Squad. The \$10 fee charged to local groups for a booth is used by the festival as start-up money next year. The Junior Woman's Club charges a fee to the crafters for their lots. We keep this money plus any from our strawberry ice cream sales. I hope this clears up any questions.

There are some "thank you's" that the festival board would like to extend. First, to the businesses and residents around the festival area, we hope we did not cause too great an inconvenience that day. Second, to the local groups, we truly appreciate the contribution you made towards the success of the festival. The donkey ride sponsored by Holly Hill was a great hit with the kids. We would also like to thank the West Craven Highlights for its cooperation and excellent coverage.

I probably should not have started thanking people. If I were to name everyone who should be thanked, this paper would look like the Sunday edition of the Raleigh paper. I hope it will be sufficient to say a big "thank you" and "well done" to everyone who took part in making this year's festival so great.

Obviously, for the festival to have been such a tremendous success it took an awful lot of hard work from dedicated people. Danny Barrow and the Rescue Squad members shouldered most of the larger tasks, from organizing the parade and entertainment to cooking and serving the dinner. This is their major fund raiser for the year and they really worked hard at it.

Peggie Mills and the crafts fair committee of the Junior Woman's Club took on that huge task and made it look easy. With about 60 lots sold, this was by far the biggest crafts fair yet.

The Strawberry Festival Board welcomes your ideas and comments to improve the festival. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a survey form. Please take a few minutes to fill it out. You can mail it in or drop it by the town library. We will read each of these and try to implement your suggestions. Bear in mind that something you do not like might be a favorite part for someone else. Thanks for your help.

Thanks to everyone in the Vanceboro community. Without your support each year, none of this would have been possible.  
Connie Bryan  
1987 Festival Chairman

## Vikings, Pack And East Carteret In Playoffs

# Patriots Clip Eagles' Wings; Mariners Hand Conley Loss

By DAVID MALCOLM

Special to the West Craven Highlights

West Craven's baseball team dropped a 7-2 conference game to West Carteret to give the Patriots a tie for third-place and a shot at a playoff berth.

In Vanceboro, West Carteret's Jamie Boyd, Derick Lassater and Jamie Garner each had two hits and Davy Willis hit an inside-the-park home run.

Monte Brown homered for West Craven in the sixth inning. Jennifer Peele had two hits for West Craven's softball team. Jeannie McCausley and Teresa Ashley had two hits for West Carteret.

Elsewhere, East Carteret gave D.H. Conley's baseball team its first Coastal Conference loss in two years Tuesday by defeating the Vikings 5-1.

The East Carteret-D.H. Conley game did not have any bearing on the playoffs, but the other two games involving league teams did. West Carteret's win over West Craven put the Patriots in a position to tie for third place.

Washington claimed that spot, though, and the league's No. 3 seed in the state Class AAA playoffs with a 5-4 win at Havelock.

Conley will host Tar-Roanoke Conference No. 3-seed Southern Nash in the first round of the playoffs. East Carteret will visit East Wake, the Triangle Conference runner-up, in the first round.

Conley's softball team defeated East Carteret 7-3 to tie North Lenoir for second place in the final regular-season standings. North Lenoir already had locked up the league's No. 2 seed in the playoffs by beating Conley twice this season. In the other two games, West Craven scored four runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and edged West Carteret 6-5 and Havelock pounded Washington 15-1.

In the first round of the softball playoffs, Conley plays at Southern Nash, the top seed from the TRC, while Havelock hosts TRC No. 3-seed SouthWest Edgecombe. North Lenoir will play either South Johnston or Southern Durham. Those two teams

play today. In Beaufort, Conley lost to a Coastal opponent for the first time since North Lenoir defeated the Vikings during the 1985 season.

Brian Bullock and Jim Faulkner had two hits for Conley.

Darren Willis and Richard Bailey had two hits for East Carteret. Willis had a home run and drove in two runs.

Rhonda Jackson led Conley's softball team with three hits while Charlene Davenport and Gayle Cash had two hits each.

**Softball**  
D.H. Conley 020 004 1-7 10 6  
East Carteret 300 000 0-3 7 7  
Sally Cash and Melanie Deaton. WP — Cash.  
Jackie Estelle and Lisa Vestra. LP — Estelle.

West Carteret 200 300 0-5 11 2  
West Craven 000 204 x-6 8 2  
Laura Brown and Teresa Ashley. LP — Brown.  
Lanessa Farris and Marci Blades. WP — Farris.

**Baseball**  
D.H. Conley 100 000 0-1 5 1  
East Carteret 130 100 x-3 8 2  
Bronsell Patrick and Robbie Nichols. LP — Patrick.  
Lewis Jones and Richard Bailey. WP — Jones.

West Carteret 003 013 0-7 10 1  
West Craven 000 000 0-0 6 0  
Davy Willis and Derick Lassater. WP — Willis.  
David Boyd, Monte Brown (5), Jonathan Taylor (6), Jerry Dean (7) and Eddie Riggs. LP — Boyd.

## In Coastal Conference Baseball

# Conley Clinches Championship

D.H. Conley defeated West Craven 9-3 to clinch the Coastal Conference baseball championship Friday night.

In other league games, Washington defeated North Lenoir 9-4 and Steve Daub's two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning gave Havelock a dramatic 5-4 win over West Carteret.

Havelock wrapped up the Coastal softball title with an 11-3 win over West Carteret. North Lenoir claimed the league's No. 2 playoff spot with a 15-1 win over Washington and Conley defeated West Craven 4-0.

In Hollywood, Bronswell Patrick's inside-the-park grand slam in the sixth inning highlighted Conley's victory over West Craven.

Tabitha Daughton hit a two-run homer in the first inning to lead the Lady Vikings past West Craven. The home run was one of

## Coastal Roundup

two hits for Daughton. Trellaney Boyd and Charlene Davenport also had two hits for Conley.

Lauri Webster had two hits for West Craven.

In Havelock, West Carteret pitcher Davy Willis had retired 11 consecutive batters before walking Kim Duncan on four pitches to open the bottom of the seventh. Willis threw two strikes to Daub, but the next pitch was sent sailing over the fence in center field.

Havelock led 3-1 after David McDonald and Duncan hit RBI singles and another run scored on an infield error in the bottom of the first inning.

Willis' RBI single in the top of the first had given West Carteret a 1-0 lead. The Patriots picked up a run in the second when Jamie

Garner singled to right field to score T.C. Dysard. Willis tripled and scored on a single by Rodney Howard as the Patriots tied the score at 3-3 in the third.

Willis hit a homerun on the first pitch in the top of the sixth to give West Carteret a 4-3 lead.

Greta Diederich and Ingrid Meyers had three hits, while Vicki Kent, Michelle Mullins and Marci Sorenson had two hits each as Havelock's softball team pounded West Carteret.

**Softball**  
West Craven 000 000 0-0 6 2  
D.H. Conley 200 011 x-4 12 2  
Lanessa Farris and Marci Blades. LP — Farris.  
Sally Cash and Melanie Deaton. WP — Cash.

West Carteret 102 000 0-3 6 8  
Havelock 025 004 x-11 15 6  
Melissa Hughes and Teresa Ashley. LP — Hughes.  
Stacey Sittler and Greta Diederich. WP — Sittler.

**Baseball**  
West Carteret 111 001 0-4 9 1  
Havelock 300 000 2-5 8 1  
Davy Willis and Jamie Garner. LP — Willis.  
Amy Ambler, David McDonald (6), Jeff Sykes (7) and Brian Kelly. WP — Sykes.

## Obituaries

**Vera H. Whitford**  
BRIDGETON — Vera Hopewell Whitford, 70, of 504 C St. died May 15 at Craven County Hospital.

The funeral was at 4:30 p.m. Sunday at Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church with the Rev. J. Murphy Smith and the Rev. John Sweitzer officiating. Burial was in New Bern Memorial Cemetery.

She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth W. Parker of Raleigh; her brother, Harry Hopewell of Portsmouth, Va.; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Whitford was a member of the White Shrine 9, Order of the Eastern Star 32. She was a member of the International Order of Turtles.

**Julian P. Raynor**  
BRIDGETON — Julian Pierce Raynor, 68, of 204 Hickory St. died May 15 at his home.

The funeral was at 2 p.m. Sunday at Pollock-Wells and Best Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. George Smith and the Rev. Parker Hagar officiating. Burial was in New Bern Memorial Cemetery.

He is survived by his widow, Mamie W. Raynor; his daughter, Julia R. Hart of Minnesott Beach; his brother, Jerry S. Raynor of Greenville; two sisters, Frances R. Grantham and Ann R. Stewart, both of Los Angeles.

He was a member of Bridgeton United Methodist Church, where he was a lay leader for 25 years. He also taught the adult Sunday school class. He was a member of

New Bern Moose Lodge 1292. He was a member of the Bridgeton Fire Department. He was a partner in R&R Radiator Shop for 41 years. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Navy.

**Faye H. Smith**  
Faye Holmes Smith, 74, of Vanceboro died May 16 at her home.

The funeral was at 3:30 p.m. Monday at Wilkerson Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Greg Howard officiating. Burial was in Celestial Gardens.

She is survived by her widow, Roosevelt "Tet" Smith; one daughter, Mrs. Carson Jones of Rt. 2, Vanceboro; one grandson, Jeffrey Jones of Rt. 2, Vanceboro.

Mrs. Smith was a native of Craven County. She lived most of her life in the Lane's Chapel community and was a member of Lane's Chapel United Methodist Church.

**Agnes W. Lancaster**  
Agnes Weiss Lancaster, 77, died May 17 in her home on Farm Life Avenue in Vanceboro.

The funeral was at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Vanceboro United Methodist Church with the Rev. Claude Wilson officiating. Burial was in Vanceboro.

She is survived by two sons, Edward D. Lancaster Jr. of Champaign, Ill., and Stephen P. Lancaster of the home; two daughters, Mrs. James Chandler of Hinesville, Ga. and Frank Allgood of Fort Worth, Texas; one brother, Dick Cleve of Vance-

## West Craven Highlights

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## Loan From Page 1

money to continue his studies. As he finally approached graduation, Lancaster found he was \$100 short of meeting registration costs. A.F. Bowen, the N.C. State treasurer at the time, arranged a loan that allowed Lancaster to finish his senior year and graduate.

Earnings from the eventual Lancaster endowment will fund a distinguished profes-

sorship in engineering. N.C. State officials estimate earnings of \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually to be used as supplementary salary to attract and retain the nation's outstanding faculty and scientists.

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First Place

Nevonia Edwards took first place in the Future Homemakers of America state competition's food service team event held in Raleigh recently. Ms. Edwards will continue to the next level of competition, the national FHA competition in Washington, D.C. in July. (Photo by Richard Cannon Jr.)