

## A tongue-in-cheek jest that turned into mouthful

By Roxanne Powers

Every October, our church revolves three deacons in, three deacons out, and keeps six who are somewhere in the middle of their three-year term; (my husband James is one of these middle deacons). Every October, all the above-mentioned deacons and their spouses celebrate this process together at a dinner party.

This year, the dinner party was being celebrated at Jasper's which is just minutes from our house, and as we were getting ready to leave, James commented that we were leaving a bit early...a whole seven minutes to spare...so I seized the opportunity to rib him. I nudged my oldest daughter and mouthed the words "wait this" and said nonchalantly, "I thought we could just kill some time sitting in the bar with a glass of wine while we waited for the rest of the deacons." Grasping the humorous intent of the comment, my husband rejoindered, "Sure, maybe even two or three!"

We, along with the one other "deacon couple," Dan and Ina Rhew, were the first to arrive, and we were quickly seated. Dan made a comment about the wait we were likely to have in store for us.

James, without the slightest hint of humor in his voice or demeanor, commented, "Yeah, Roxanne said that we would get here early enough that she could order a glass of wine."

While I was waiting for the chuckles that would affirm that they understood that that was a statement I had made purely in jest, he quickly changed the subject...leaving things to appear...well...quite different than I had intended. Our table companions gracefully offered, "If you'd like a glass of wine..."

There passed an awkward moment while I waited for James to clarify that I had indeed been kidding when I said that thing about the wine. Instead, he again changed the subject, and in mid-sentence I interrupted with, "Wait a minute, you didn't tell them I was kidding!" James just waved me off with a not-very-convincing muttering of, "They knew that."

Now, maybe it was the way their eyes were slightly downcast or maybe I just read too much into it, but I got the distinct feeling that they didn't "know that." I squirmed in great discomfort, and wondered what they must think if me, and how I was going to survive the evening...and thinking, I've got to find a way to get him to stop doing these things to me.

Now, far too often I am the "victim" of his in this way; he relays part of what I saw or do while omitting some pertinent fact or facts...leaving me in less than flattering light...and not only am I perfectly capable of doing that to myself, this was the second time that day that he indulged in this particular method of self-gauntification!

Unable to get him to establish eye contact with me so I could give him one of "those" looks, I did what I thought Doris Day would do to Rock Hudson in the same predicament...and pinched his thigh. However, he seemed to have other ideas than to pattern himself after the strong and silent Rock Hudson. After a second or two had passed, and just as the waitress appeared at our table, he practically leaped

from his seat and squealed, "AARGH...OH!!! Started by this noisy proclamation, we all jumped, and all but me were greatly concerned, (I wasn't concerned 'cause I knew he wasn't suffering a heart attack or stab wound...unless you count the "stabbing" looks I was giving him...) and asking him with some alarm if he was all right.

If I felt like the devil's personal assistant before, I now began to feel like the devil himself as I offered lame explanations, and had to quell a low-in-the-throat rumbling laughter that threatened to spew forth all evening whenever I thought of it; which was often! At least no one seemed to notice; soon the number of people in our party began to increase, and there were other antics to consider. For instance, many tried unsuccessfully to intimidate Gary Hurst by pretending to think that as church treasurer he had arranged for the church to pay for the meal, and David Ferrell pretended disgust at only having three entrees to choose from. (This because of the size of our party of 24.)

Then, there was this disclosure of Ina Rhew's secret...well, two secrets actually. You see, she won't eat her steak rare...Ina, I'll be you thought I was going to tell about how Dan got into that "Let's embarrass the wife mode" and told us all, even as you protested, about that childhood secret that I promised to never tell. Nope! Instead, I'm going to remark on that wonderful salmon, and how, when we finished, Beth Ferrell commented that she was "full as a tick," but couldn't say that within David's earshot because he always pictured those big gray cow ticks...and that made him queasy.

Of course, that was all I needed to motivate me to make a quick exit to the front (I had to pass through the bar, and you know what a ribbing I got for that) where I asked the hostess to deliver to David a small saucer with a tiny amount of chocolate sauce in the center, and a coffee bean nestled snugly in the center of that. Beth was a real good sport about it, even if she did give me a few odd looks. Of course, those looks paled in comparison to the shade of David's complexion.

## Homes greeted eagerly; several subdivisions under way

Continued from page 1

Hampton Court. Bernhardt explained all of the Hampton houses will be well-appointed with modern appliances and smooth ceilings. "The area, which is designed as one large cul de sac, is aimed at the empty nester or professional who wants low maintenance facilities in a quiet area either on a golf course or nearby," she explained.

Landscape maintenance agreements will be included. "This is not a homeowner's agreement," she pointed out, "but only covers the landscape around individual properties." Pre-selling is now taking place. Four sites are under reservation and one has been sold.

The custom-built homes at Preston Grande will be on larger lots, ranging from a third to a half acre and will sell in the range of \$250,000 and up.

Bernhardt said her firm is in the process of selecting builders for that project. The first home is expected to be completed by early next summer.

The latest request for industrial-to-residential change spotlights 28 heavily wooded acres on land on the east side of Church Street opposite Treybrooke Apartments and the future site of a Montessori School. The site has 523 feet frontage

with a depth of 1,000 feet. James I. Anthony Jr., partner of a Raleigh investment company seeking the zoning change, claims the public infrastructure, including roadway and utilities, around and on the property is better suited for a residential buildout. In fact, he said, the infrastructure may not support a fully developed 28-acre industrial site.

Among the reasons for the zoning change is a change in the thoroughfare plan. The extension of Triangle Parkway is no longer contemplated to serve the area. "It was planned to bisect the property, but is no longer on the thoroughfare plan," said Anthony, who is a partner of Zogreo & Church Street Investors L.L.C. of Raleigh.

In a statement to the Board of Commissioner requesting the zoning change, Anthony said that without a major thoroughfare running through the property, the land becomes much more suited to a residential type use and less desirable for industrial buildout. The petition for a zoning change was made by Steven M. Rice through Rice & Associates of Cary.

It was pointed out that directly across from the property's frontage on Church Street, a six-acre tract on Treybrooke Boulevard was sold to the Montessori School of Cary where a new school building is now

being constructed. Rezoning the land to a residential status is compatible with the school use, Anthony said.

Anthony told the board there is existing multi-family and single-family housing directly adjacent to the undeveloped site, and by rezoning, the town would provide for a continuity of use within the area.

The topography of proximity to the flood plain are limiting factors which create smaller developable pockets, the applicants wrote in their request for rezoning.

The land had been rezoned industrial in 1984, and was unsuccessfully marketed for the next 10 years after falling into foreclosure.

"We looked at it. Put on another set of glasses, and saw a different use for the land," Anthony explained, adding that survey of nearby Church Street neighbors showed they did not favor additional truck traffic. He said the Koppers area and Hudson Belk warehouse property further away on Church Street were a different story.

He said studies show high-density residential use is the best for this area, now that Triangle Parkway is no longer a consideration. As for a creek that runs at the rear, he said there are no plans to dam it. To do so would be hazardous to everyone's health, he added, saying it was part of greenway. "Small footprints [The outlines of a building foundation] are more suited here. It could go toward townhouse apartments like Treybrooke or small single-family houses on small lots," he said.

"Like the \$400,000 to \$500,000 homes in Preston?" asked Commissioner Phyllis Newnam.

"In the \$100,000 to \$120,000 category," was the answer.

Commissioners agreed to send the request to rezone to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Among the strong advocates for more affordable housing is Scott Beerman, chairman of the Planning Board and the new chairman of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce. Beerman has said he would like to see more affordable housing.

## Shopping center replaces old farm

Continued from page 1

copy the other locations, including land out of the estate. It was later rezoned for business.

Four buildings are planned on Sorrell's property. An Eckerd Drugs will fill an 11,000-square-foot building on the corner of High House and Maynard, and will have double drive-thru windows, the first of its kind in the Triangle, according to Sorrell. Next in line will be a 56,000-square-foot building which Sorrell expects will house a video store. Negotiations are presently under way. The third building will cover 20,000 square feet and will house 12 individual store fronts, with each bay or unit 25 by 70 feet.

"A dry cleaners will cover two bays and a Subway store one bay," Sorrell explained. "We've had tremendous interest shown to oc-

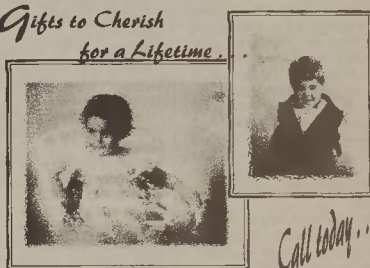
a chiropractor, other medical facilities, and a ham company.

The last building, 4,000 square feet, will have two tenants, Sorrell says, a Haviland Express Lube and a Batteries Plus.

Sorrell says Hurricane Fran hit his clients hard, and also set back the targets for opening the first business. The lube and battery businesses, scheduled to be ready by Dec. 1, will probably open a month later. Eckerd is expected to open in April 1997.

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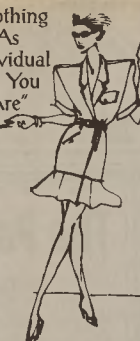
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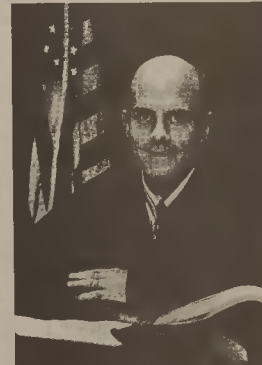
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