

# Perquimans People

## Honeymoons aren't all they're cracked up to be

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN

Honeymoons are generally considered the brief interlude of heaven before a young couple gets down to the serious business of marriage. Indeed, the word itself brings on visions of idyllic happiness, almost otherworldliness. But whether because expectations are set too high or because of circumstances beyond the couple's control, the much heralded love retreat often turns out to be a disappointment.

Such was the case with Perquimans County recreation director Mac Sligh and his bride, as of Dec. 28, Tammy.

There was a foreshadowing of trouble to come on the day of the rehearsal, the wedding itself was a big disappointment, and on the couple's honeymoon, the big bombshell dropped.

"A black cat crossed the road in front of our car on the day of the rehearsal," said Tammy. Looking back on it, it must have been a genuine omen.

That night the snows fell, and an anticipated crowd of 500 people was reduced to 200. Almost none of the out-of-town guests could get to the wedding in Beulahville, N.C., and that included most of Sligh's friends and relatives from Laurinburg.

A dream honeymoon

But there was some consolation in the fact that the couple had planned the honeymoon of their dreams, a cruise to the Bahamas on the Emerald Sea, a luxury liner that rivals television's "Love Boat."

From Beulahville to Miami, Fla. is a long ride, but the couple set out after the wedding, prepared for four days of romantic adventure.

There was, however, a one night stop-over in Florence, South Carolina. "I spent the whole night getting rice crispies, vanilla wafers and croutons out of my suitcase," said Tammy. Wedding-day pranksters can be so delightful.

On Monday afternoon, though, the couple was on the ship and ready to cruise. At first, the trip was everything they expected, maybe even a little more.

Sligh has vivid memories of watching the sun set over the ocean as the ship pulled out of the harbor in Miami.

At first it was a great golden globe hovering over the water. Within 30 seconds it had slipped out of sight.

Dinner required evening dress, and offered up a sumptuous fare of anything and all the diner wanted, paid for in advance.

Sligh put down two steaks on the first night. "You eat wonderful," he said. "Shrimp,

lobster... anything you want."

On Tuesday morning, the Slighs woke up in Nassau. They spent the day touring, bargaining in the market-places, taking in the sights.

The night was for more exotic stuff.

**In limbo**

Would you believe a performer who could bend himself backwards far enough to limbo under a bar eight inches off the ground? On top of that, Sligh swears the guy had pizza pans spinning on each index finger and a full cocktail glass perched on his forehead as he performed the feat.

Those amazing animals.

Next on the agenda was a visit to a casino.

So far so good. "The first couple of days we were loving it," said Sligh. "We were talking about going every five years."

But on Wednesday the enthusiasm began to wane a little. "I woke up throwing up," said Tammy. Food poisoning or perhaps a virus were the suspected culprits.

At 8:30 a.m. she was in the ship doctor's office getting a shot of compazine in the behind. "They give it to you for seasickness," said Sligh of the drug.

Suspecting that his wife's nausea would pass rather quickly, Sligh went out alone on a glass bottom boat trip scheduled that morning. "It

was the clearest blue water I've ever seen in my life," he said.

When he returned to the ship that afternoon, Tammy was still sick, and she got another shot of the drug.

**A somber celebration**

That evening was New Year's Eve, and while the rest of the ship whooped it up, Tammy and Mac stayed in their cabin, Tammy sore from a third shot of compazine in one day, and extremely ill.

"I ate a tiny bit of saltine cracker and as soon as it hit my stomach I threw it up," said Tammy.

Mac spent the night playing solitaire while Tammy slept.

The next morning they woke up in Freeport, and, you guessed it, Tammy was still sick.

We went out on the deck to get some fresh air," said Sligh. "It was a real nice day and Tammy had been cramped up in the room for over a day."

Mac went back to the room to get a camera and take some pictures and when he returned he got a real fright.

"She had her head down between her shoulders and couldn't control it," he said. "Her tongue was swollen and she was talking out of the side of her mouth."

And if you think Mac was frightened. "The only thing I could think of was multiple sclerosis," said Tammy.



Mac and Tammy Sligh meet captain before ill-fated cruise

Sligh went to get the doctor for the fourth time, and this time he refused to come.

"He said he had had a bad night staying with somebody 'really sick,' and that he couldn't come. There was nothing else he could do," said Tammy.

A nurse who was a passenger on the ship took a look at Tammy and tried to intervene. The doctor still refused to come, saying there

was nothing he could do.

**Too much strain**

The doctor maintained that the strain of getting married had brought about some kind of breakdown, and the illness was all in Tammy's mind.

But the nurse apparently thought otherwise. She advised that the Slighs leave the ship and fly to Miami for emergency treatment.

That proved difficult, with much of Freeport shut down for New Year's Day. But with the help of the ship's purser, the arrangements were made.

There was supposed to be an ambulance waiting at the airport but of course it wasn't. Someone had canceled the emergency call by mistake.

In the waiting room at the airport Tammy's head was lolling backwards and Mac couldn't get it back up. Needless to say she was drawing stares. But there were also offers of help.

About a half an hour later the ambulance arrived at the other end of the airport, so Tammy was wheeled all way through Miami International.

When they got to the ambulance, Mac realized he had forgotten the suitcases. "I had to pull an O.J. Simpson," he said of his sprint back to the other end of the airport.

But security guards thought he was trying to pull something else. They stopped and frisked him.

**Quick trip**

Traffic just peeled away for the four and a half mile ride to the hospital, but the bill for that little trip was a jaw-dropper, Sligh said. A hundred and one dollars. In the face of Sligh's amazement, the attendant dropped it down to \$90.10.

The patient was finally at the hospital emergency room, though, and expert treatment for her rare tropical disease was just around the corner.

"The doctor didn't even touch me. He just walked right by, looked at me, and said, 'Give her a shot of this and she'll be fine,'" said Tammy.

The rare disease had turned out to be no more than an allergic reaction to the compazine. A doctor's mistake had turned a dream

vacation into a nightmare.

"Now it's all funny when we talk about it — and Mac mocks me," said Tammy.

Very funny. Could anything possibly be worse on a couple's honeymoon? "I've heard of one worse situation," said Tammy. "A friend of mine went into a diabetic coma on her honeymoon. She didn't even know she was diabetic until then."

Anyway, she's glad it was Mac who was with her and not her mother. "Mac was scared but he tried to keep calm and keep me calm," she said.

Instead of a celebration, the Slighs' honeymoon was more like an initiation into the rigors of love unto death. "He found out he was married," said Tammy.

In sickness and in health.

## Dead-eye shot aims for success

Hertford resident Andrea Blanchard isn't one to brag, but then she doesn't have to. Her achievements do the talking for her.

For starters, she can probably claim to be the most noted female athlete ever to come out of Perquimans County.

Blanchard is a basketball sensation at High Point College, and those who are in the know about women's

basketball, know about Andrea Blanchard.

She currently owns nine basketball records at the school, including most points (2,012), most rebounds (1,116), and best scoring average (20.4).

She is closing in on the 2,398 point school scoring record held by former professional basketball player Gene Littles and is also approaching the Pete Collins' school record of

1,268 rebounds.

This year Ms. Blanchard is shooting at a torrid 24.4 points a game and snatching 11.9 rebounds a game.

Yet with all those credentials, she still maintains she is not a great basketball talent. "I don't think I'm good. They're a lot of people better than me," she said.

But she will concede that she can jump. The program lists her as a 6'1" center. She says she is only 5'10".

Because of her jumping ability, though, some folks think she's 6'3". She can leap high enough to dunk a volleyball and says she could do the same with a basketball if she could only palm it long enough.

Andrea is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Watson Blanchard of Hertford, and credits them with much of her success. "I think I do things like (this) in order to make them proud of me. They've done a lot for me. This is one way I can show my gratitude," she said.

Andrea's parents, two of her brothers and her younger sister were in the stands on Saturday when High Point demolished Catawba College

87-52, and, indeed, they are some kind of proud of her.

She said she learned to play with her brothers on the playgrounds of Hertford, and her skills were refined by coach Larry Knox at Perquimans High School (now coaching at Chocowinity).

She is a senior at High Point, and was discovered somewhat by accident. She went to visit a friend at the college while still in high school.

Andrea talked with the basketball coach while visiting, and must of made an impression on her. The coach attended one girls' game at Perquimans, and brought all the appropriate paperwork with her.

Following the game, Andrea was signed up for a full scholarship. "It was just luck," she maintained. There she goes with that modesty again.

The same kind of luck has brought her all American and all everything else honors for the past two year, and her steady performance so far this year is sure to bring her even more accolades.

Andrea is also in the Reserve Officer Training Program at her school and she

concedes that between ROTC, basketball and schoolwork, there is time for little else.

She is entertaining thoughts of turning professional, but isn't all to sure that the women's league is on solid ground yet.

To put it bluntly, she isn't sure the spectator interest is there to support women's basketball on the professional level. "I could be wrong," she said, "but not too many people want to see women participate in sports."

If the professional route doesn't pan out, though, she will take her degree in physical education/recreation and be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army.

Why not? She hits what she's aiming at 62 per cent of the time.



Andrea Blanchard

**HERTFORD HARDWARE**

**PRESIDENTS' DAY CELEBRATION**



**25% OFF**

**ALL HUNTING AND COLD WEATHER CLOTHING**

**HERTFORD HARDWARE**

CHURCH STREET  
426-5211

## It's Super Sale Weekend AT C. D. White's

<p><b>Dupont "Lucite" Paint</b> DISCONTINUED COLORS HOUSE PAINT</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;"><b>\$13<sup>16</sup></b></p> <p>Reg. \$15.96 ... Sale</p>	<p><b>ALADDIN MODEL J-480 RADIANT KEROSENE HEATERS</b></p> <p>Sug. List \$179.50</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;"><b>\$145<sup>50</sup></b></p> <p>(ONLY SIX LEFT)</p>	
<p><b>WALL PAINT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;"><b>\$7<sup>89</sup></b></p> <p>Reg. \$13.16 ... Sale</p> <p style="text-align: center;">While Supply Lasts!</p>	<p><b>HEAT LAMPS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;"><b>\$1.99 EACH</b></p>	<p><b>ROCKWELL MODEL 12 CONTRACTOR'S RADIAL ARM SAW</b></p> <p>Reg. \$549. ... NOW <b>\$469</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SAVE \$80 (1 ONLY)</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px;"><b>Honest To Goodness Savings!</b></p>		<p><b>MODEL 8550 CORNING WARE COOK TOP SURFACE UNIT</b></p> <p>Reg. \$412.50. ... SALE <b>\$322.50</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">SAVE \$90 (1 ONLY)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>C.D. WHITE &amp; SON</b> HIGHWAY 37 NORTH WINFALL, N.C. PHONE: 426-7637</p>		