

Perquimans People

A wizard with a needle and thread

Mrs. T.T. Harrell, or Emily (pronounced Em'ly by those closest to her) as she is also known, is like a one-woman crafts fair. Crocheting and sewing since she was five years old, Harrell still enjoys those handicrafts along with just about every other type of hand work.

"You get tired of doing one thing," Harrell said as she began to name a few of her hobbies including macrame, cross-stitch, embroidery, needlepoint, eggshell craft, sewing, knitting, crocheting, flower arranging, plastic canvas — the list seems endless.

Harrell even does tatting, which she labels "a lost art" because it is so rare to find anyone who knows how to tat these days.

Many brides cherish their wedding gowns handmade by Harrell, some even designed by her. Her master-

piece, she said, is a gown made for a bride in Portsmouth on which she sewed 4,000 seed pearls — by hand!

And many of those brides will tell you Harrell created their gowns with no pattern. That's quite remarkable, especially considering the elegant detail on most wedding gowns.

Harrell also makes lingerie for herself and as gifts for her family and friends. This year she will add to the Festival of Skills sponsored by the Perquimans County Home Demonstration Clubs a collection of lingerie for sale.

Her talents also include painting, although she does not have a painting which she herself did. All she had done were destroyed in the fire that several years ago consumed everything she and her husband "T" owned.

"I haven't painted anything since

the fire," she said, her expression changing as she mentions the nightmare.

Even though Harrell feels fortunate that she and her husband both escaped harm, she still regrets the loss of all the family memoirs and the horror of losing everything worked for over a lifetime.

Her smile and hearty laugh return as she tells of the first time she entered her handwork in competition at the county fair in Edenton. Harrell had made a centerpiece with tatted edges that someone encouraged her to enter.

She did it and won first prize. At the time she was 11 years old. "I couldn't believe it!" she exclaims.

Several years later the Chowan County native married and moved to Perquimans County.

That was in 1928, just before the depression. In 1931, "T" lost his job and moved his wife to his family's farm. Harrell remembers times being tough.

For 15 cents a bushel she picked May peas, and strawberries she picked for two cents a quart. One day a week she came to town and worked at Darden's.

With her hard-earned money, she bought the best cloth she could to make clothes for her first child born in November 1931.

Harrell moved to Virginia for 13 years where her second daughter was born. While there, she worked as a saleslady in W.G. Swartz Co. where she was the first to demonstrate pressure cookers.

Active in extension work since 1933, Harrell is still with the Burgess Home Demonstration Club to which she

demonstrates a craft each month as their cultural and art chairman.

Harrell has served the club in many capacities through the years. She has also represented the county on the district and state levels, and has even gone on to national meetings.

Her work netted her an A&P leadership award, one of only 12 given in North Carolina each year.

Harrell is always willing to share her knowledge so that others might enjoy working with crafts as much as she does.

She has taught numerous courses through the Adult Education Program at COA, reaching many people and teaching them useful skills.

Harrell has had to slow down on her teaching and sewing for others due to her health, but still manages to do more than most people imagine possible.

Since January 5 of this year, Harrell has made seven afghans and a lap blanket. Now she is trying to make an aghan for each of her eight grandchildren.

Always accepting a challenge, Harrell spoke of the next project on which she will embark. She will take the embroidery off of a blouse its owner can no longer wear, make a new blouse and applique the embroidery on the new blouse.

Not many people would be willing to take on such a time-consuming and tedious project. But Harrell will try her hardest to overcome obstacles and turn out a very professional garment.

Harrell is looking for a new craft. Whatever she comes up with, in no time at all she will master the art and share her skills with others.

People briefs

The Rev. and Mrs. Phillip Purser of Greenville, S.C. were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heatherington.

Miss Sara Winslow and Richard Skinner are spending this week at Topsail Beach with Mrs. Eldon Winslow and Miss Thelma Elliott.

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Edwards and Mrs. J.H. Towe spent the weekend at the Edwards cottage at Nags Head.

Mrs. Jack Montgomery of Roanoke, Va. is a guest of her mother, Mrs. Phillip Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. Chip Reed and daughter of Greenville, S.C. were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Reed.

Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Taylor of Charlotte spent several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Sullivan.

Mrs. Shelton White of Raleigh was a weekend guest of Mrs. Edgar White.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ward and daughter of Winston-Salem were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Ward.

Miss Frances Setzer of Newton is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Mondis.

Mrs. Duke Morgan of Raleigh is a guest of Mrs. J.E. Morris this week.

Mrs. H.C. Stokes, Mrs. T.L. Jessup, and Miss Gladys Felton have returned home after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Vic Huggins at Holden Beach, N.C. and Blacksburg, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Newby spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Murray at Nags Head.

Mr. and Mrs. Ocie Bland of Suffolk, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Bagley for several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrell Thach and son, Lee, have returned home from a trip to historical points of interest in Virginia.

Charlie Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Joeboy) Harrell and Joey, Miss Lisa Kennedy and Miss Debbie Kennedy spent several days last week at Nags Head.

Mrs. LaClaire Rogerson, Mrs. Elizabeth Rogerson and Miss Ann Rogerson visited Richard Rogerson in Rocky Mount on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen M. Peters and children, Ben and Lauren, have returned to their home in St. Louis,

Mo. after visiting her mother, Mrs. C.S. Chappell.

Shelton Skinner, student at N.C. State University, Raleigh, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Skinner, Jr.

Miss Donna Thach of Greenville spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Thach, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Dow Jones and daughter of Plymouth were guests of Mrs. Addie Keegan on Sunday.

Mrs. Lucille Jackson has returned from a visit with her daughter, Mrs. Jack Montgomery, at Roanoke, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Myers of Chesapeake, Va. were guests of Mrs. L.D. Myers on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Futrell and family of Rocky Mount spent the weekend in Hertford.

Hospital Notes

H.C. Sullivan is a patient in Chowan Hospital.

Mrs. Helen Woodard and Carroll Williams have returned home from Albemarle Hospital.

Keeping plants clean will help them avoid disease

There is no substitute for good sanitation in keeping plant diseases from being problems in your home landscape, so start a prevention program with a good cleanup.

N.C. Agricultural Extension Service specialists suggest that sanitation can be effective when used alone or in combination with such things as chemical sprays, resistant plant varieties and disease-free starter plants.

Here are some important steps in an effective sanitation program:

Dead or dying leaves, flowers and branches should be pruned off as soon as they are observed.

A common disease in North Carolina, gray mold, starts in old flowers, dying leaves and injured plant parts.

Remove these diseased plant parts promptly to prevent gray mold from spreading to healthy tissue.

Several of the fungi that cause apples to rot during summer survive between crops in dead apple tree branches.

If you will remove and destroy these branches, you will reduce the fungi.

You should also prune out branches in apple and pear trees which have developed fire blight from spreading to the main trunk of the tree.

As soon as annual plants stop producing fruit or flowers, remove them from the garden and put them in the compost pile.

This prevents disease-causing fungi from continuing to live on these plants

and building up to attack succeeding crops.

In the fall, all annual plants should be removed from the garden and put on the compost pile as soon as they are killed by cold weather.

The common root knot nematode attacks many garden plants. The nematodes live through the winter in the soil and infested roots.

If these roots are plowed up and exposed in the fall, the nematodes can be killed by freezing and thawing and by drying winds.

Roses often retain some green leaves through the winter in North Carolina. The fungi that cause black spot and powdery mildew continue to infect these leaves and are ready to attack new leaf growth in the spring.

The black spot fungus also overwinters in the old rose leaves on the ground. Therefore, before new growth starts in the spring, rake up all old leaves and remove all green leaves from the plants.

This can be put in a compost pile. There are many beneficial fungi in a compost pile and most disease-causing fungi are not good competitors.

Also the heat developed in a good compost pile will kill most disease-causing organisms.

Proper care of your garden duster or sprayer will keep it in working condition and extend its life.

N.C. Agricultural Extension Service specialists suggest that dusting equipment should need no main-

tenance as long as it is kept dry, although it might be a good idea to put a drop of oil on the plunger rod occasionally.

Sprayers require more care — particularly cleaning care. Even stainless steel sprayers need this attention.

The sprayers should be washed out three times after each use, using clear water. This will prevent the corrosion that often renders pressure sprayers useless after only a few seasons.

For metal sprayer tanks, put in a tablespoonful of household ammonia and shake it thoroughly to neutralize the corrosive effects of any insecticide residue.

Allow the sprayer to completely dry, then lightly oil the plunger rod and replace it in the tank.

It is particularly important that gardeners not use the same sprayer for herbicides (weed killers) as they do for insecticides.

If you use liquid weed killers, you will need a separate sprayer for that job alone.

It is almost impossible to remove 100 percent of the herbicide residue from the tank, hose and nozzle, and this tiny bit of herbicide residue could severely damage plants when the same tank is used for an insecticide.

Sprayers used for herbicides require thorough cleaning to prevent corrosion. Many of the herbicides contain salts that are very corrosive to metals.

Learn proper use of IRAs

If you have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and have reached the age of 70½ years, you begin withdrawals from the account at a rate such that the account will be used up by the end of your life expectancy, or the joint expectancy of you and your spouse.

Mike Walden, extension specialist in consumer economics at North Carolina State University explains to the layman how this system works.

"If you have \$20,000 in an IRA account," says Walden, "and your life expectancy is 10 years, then the

minimum amount to be withdrawn in the first year is \$20,000 divided by ten, or \$2,000.

If you withdrew less than \$2,000 you would pay a penalty equal to 50 percent of the amount "underwithdrawn".

In the above example, Walden explains, if you withdrew only \$1,500, you would have to pay a penalty equal to 50 percent of \$500 (\$2,000 - \$1,500) or \$250.

This requirement creates an unfortunate situation for those fortunate enough to outlive their life ex-

pectancies.

In order to avoid being left with no income Walden suggests withdrawing some or all of the IRA funds in a lump sum and using those funds to purchase a life annuity from an insurance company.

The life annuity will provide a certain annual income for as long as you live. "Make sure you are aware of the implicit interest rate earned on the life annuity," Walden warns.

"Life annuities with variable interest rates will be able to earn more if inflation increases.

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