

Perspectives

Rainbows in my garden

I awoke with the customary tightness in my chest, took my medicine, as is also customary, and set about doing my chores. If I gave in, I would lie in my sickbed all day. Recently, there have been too many of those days; days when, no matter the strength I was determined to manifest, asthma had beaten me back down and taken control.

For most of my life, I have done battle with this condition. For as long as I can remember, I have fought against major allergies and the awful asthma that always follows. Even on the days I don't suffer as bad, I still feel a certain difficulty in existing. But, I am not one to wallow in my problems, for the chamber of sickness is the chapel of devotion. I could move far away, where my breathing would not be hindered by all the agents carried in the southeast atmosphere, but I'd sooner die here from ill health than die there of homesickness.

And so, as the beauty of a May morning called to me, I threw myself into life, full speed. Mixed in with the long hours at the typewriter will be house and yard work, and errands to run. I cannot retire to a glass bubble. I will not live that way.

My strong will comes from my breeding, and my love for gardening from my grandmother. It was she who taught me, "the sick man is not to be pitied, who hath his cure in his sleeve." So, I gathered up the rakes and spades, and began yet another flower garden. Today, my cure is two trays of yellow marigolds and white periwinkle that will bloom like sparkling jewels all summer around my tiny fish pond. Why in the world do people pay a therapist, I wonder, when a flat of geraniums will serve the same purpose?

When the mulch finally went into place, I stood back and admired my handiwork. Goldfish splashed on the surface, and waterlilies jiggled in their wake. On large rocks, strategically placed, frogs perched in wait,

Men urged to share in the responsibility at home

From time to time, I like to repeat a column written earlier. The following, written in 1986, received much comment and is as appropriate today as it was then.

Men, this one is for you. Traditions and habits are hard to break, whether good or bad. It is especially difficult to break habits developed and practiced for generations. But there are times when change is needed and now is the time. It's time we gave our women some much needed help.

As more and more women take jobs outside the home in order to make ends meet, men are going to have to take more responsibility for chores traditionally delegated to women. From scrubbing floors to feeding the kids, men are going to have to become more involved in the family chores.

Traditions, as noted, are slow to change. For centuries, the man's role has been deeply established. He's the accepted head of the home, the center of strength, the breadwinner. Minding and keeping the kids and the home has been the responsibility of the woman. Our mothers and grandmothers would not have thought of asking their men to help with household chores.

As the women's role has changed, men have been slow to accept these changes and share in the responsibilities of the home. It's a familiar story. The man comes home, asks "What's for supper?" and his day is usually done.

But for the lady of the house, things are different. Even though she has also spent a full day working outside the home, for her the second shift is just beginning.

There's dinner to prepare, dishes to wash, kids to bathe, laundry to do, and much more. Chances are, while she is busy with these tasks, the man is sitting back in front of the television or involved in some project that he enjoys. And while he won't offer to help, at bedtime he'll wonder why she is too tired to share any time with him.

Some women accept this role with few complaints. They were taught by their parents that the job of a woman is to be the homemaker. While they

Courtesies; Perry -Evans

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Evans, the former Sheila Perry, attended several events before their wedding on April 2, 1988.

They were as follows: On March 8th, Mrs. Karen Miller and Mrs. Marcia Evans hosted a lingerie shower. March 12th Mrs. Cora Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Evans and Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Nixon hosted a dinner party at the latter's home. Miss Karen Roberts and Miss Anna Carver hosted a reception in Durham on March 13. Mrs. Cindy Cooke, Mrs. Dawn Bright and Mrs. Kay Whedbee hosted a Lovin' Stuffin' Party on March 18th.

Friends in Rocky Hock hosted a Pig Pickin' at the Rescue Squad Building on March 19th. Mrs. Elsie Gregory, Mrs. Nellie Gregory, Mrs. Marsha Gregory and Mrs. Gwendolyn Hurdle hosted a Bridesmaid's Luncheon on March 26th. That eve-



EASTERN ECHOS
BY GAIL ROBERSON

while a copper sundial reminded me that deadlines loomed on my desk.

I know that tonight, I will probably pay for my moment in the sun, but I'll just stock up on tissues and not dwell on it. Instead, I reached for the water hose that I've equipped with a soft sprinkler, so as not to damage tiny blossoms. As the water poured from it like a gentle summer rain, the sun peaked in a sky as blue as a robin's egg.

Suddenly, there were millions of rainbows at my feet. The mist of water, in every direction I aimed it, filled with sparkling shimmers of pink and yellow, and of lavender and blue. When I raised the hose, the rainbow enlarged and became one gigantic prism bridge across the pond. When I lowered it, the pastel arch separated and became a dozen tiny ones all at once. What a lovely sight...these rainbows at my feet.

As I stood there and drenched my new garden in the mist of such gentle colors, I was reminded that it takes both the sun and showers to make a rainbow. My little bed of flowers must have them both to grow, just as I must have the rain in my life along with the sunshine. After all, the soul would have no rainbow had the eye no tear.

And so, for this gardener, at least, who must learn to live with the agony and illness that the things she loves best will surely bring, somehow it seems worth it all on a morning in May...when there are rainbows at my feet.



Are you still washing worm blood off your porch?

Bill establishes town on Perquimans River

After settling legislative matters concerning provincial troops in the war against France and her Indian allies, the North Carolina General Assembly sitting from April 28 through May 4, 1758, turned to domestic matters. John Harvey of Perquimans County, well on his way toward becoming one of the ablest legislators the province ever had, was ready with a domestic bill.

In some ways Harvey was following in the footsteps of McRora Scarborough. Scarborough had sat for Perquimans in the Assembly and had been on hand when young Harvey began his career in that body. Scarborough had been Register of Deeds for Perquimans, with Harvey succeeding him in 1753. Further, Scarborough had offered a bill to the legislature of 1746 (unsuccessfully) which Harvey was about to echo a dozen years after.

On May 2, 1758, "Mr. John Harvey", the Assembly journal recorded, "presented to the House a petition of several Merchants, Traders, Planters and others, Inhabitants of the County of Perquimans, setting forth their desire of having a Town erected at Phelps' Point in Perquimans County and that an Act may

Committee honors Gardner

MEDICAL COMMITTEE TO HONOR DR. GARDNER: The Medical Committee of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce is holding an open house reception for Dr. Robert E. Gardner. It will be between 3 and 5 p.m. Sunday, May 3 in the cafeteria of the Hertford Grammar School. The open house is designed to give the people of the county an opportunity to personally welcome our newest and one of the most important citizens. Both Dr. Gardner and his wife, Brenda, and their children will be on hand to say hello. Mrs. Jean Harrison is chairman of the committee.

SENIORS GUESTS HAVE AFTER PROM PARTY SAT. NITE.: The home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Smith was the scene of a delightful After Prom Party when Miss Sandra Smith entertained 25 seniors and their guests Saturday night, April 25th. Games and music featured in the entertainment and refreshments were enjoyed by all throughout the party time. Assisting Mr. and Mrs. Smith were: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sutton,

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Hurdle, Mrs. Ray White, Mrs. George Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Towe White.

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HISTORICAL NOTES
BY RAY WINSLOW

pass for that purpose." The House declared the petition "reasonable" and when Harvey moved for leave to bring in a bill he was granted permission. He immediately produced and read the bill and it began its way through the legislative process.

In colonial North Carolina a bill had to read three times in the House of Commons and three times in the Governor's Council. Each body had to pass it after each reading and then, if it received the governor's assent, it could become law. No provincial legislation, however, was final unless the British monarch accepted it.

Harvey's bill would establish a town at that site on Perquimans

LOOKING BACK
BY VIRGINIA WHITE TRANEALU
1930
1960
1970

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Hurdle, Mrs. Ray White, Mrs. George Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Towe White.

BLOOD COLLECTION FALLS SHORT: Only 53 pints of blood were collected at the visit of the Bloodmobile in Hertford on Monday. Goal for the day was 88 pints. Mrs. Nathan Sawyer, Red Cross Blood Chairman, reported that 69 people offered a pint of their blood, but six were rejected for medical reasons. Those assisting at this visit were Mrs. Mattie Matthews, Mrs. Elizabeth Haskett, Mrs. Maude Jones, Mrs. Gertrude Zachary, Mrs. Ruby Bateman, Mrs. Joe Layden, Miss Mary Elliott Brinn, Miss Lynn Landing and Kathy Keel.

River which had been in use for nearly three decades as a location for the county courthouse, goal, and public warehouse. A tavern or two also stood on that farm of Jonathan Phelps which proved so desirable a spot, and Phelps preside over the southern end of the ferry connection which took travelers across the river. Harvey's bill pronounced the site to

be "a healthy, pleasant situation, well watered and commodious for commerce."

In the course of its three readings the bill acquired some amendments, but it received all the necessary approvals and with the assent of Governor Arthur Dobbs given on May 4 it became law. There was going to be a town on Perquimans River.

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Just clip and fill out this coupon. Include as many details as possible (Names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc.) It may not be possible for us to use some of the stories suggested but we are always looking for new ideas.

So, next time you think of something you feel would make a good story, send it to: News Coupon, Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944.

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