

ECHOES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY

BY ELIZABETH ARCHER

Listen to this, folks: "There is something that is much more scarce, something finer far, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability."

Now, I didn't write those words myself. I wish I'd been that smart to think them up because they are indeed a profound truth. I thought back to them when I met in Bunn a few weeks ago one James McCoy Smith, while visiting in the home of his cousin, Ms. Estelle Jones Crudup.

I was smitten with the joyous friendliness of the total stranger, who was also visiting, and was there when I arrived. After a few minutes of conversation, I knew that Mr. Smith would be someone that you, too, would like to meet so naturally I started to ask him questions, being the "nosy" person that I am. Born in 1917 to Harry and Rellabell Beacher Smith, who then lived on "Dead" Road, Smith said "I mean that was one rough road! And we children had to walk it, though, to get to Gethsemane School, three miles further down. I mean we had to walk three miles both ways, up and back, and when it rained, I mean we had one muddy go," and we all laughed.

"But in those days," he said, "school was something worth going to. I remember that every morning we had to repeat 23rd Psalms before class started. We had a three-room school house, and at that time the principal was Jonah Alston from Youngsville. My first teachers were Ms. Lillian Thomas, but I forget the names of the others. Consulting cousin Estelle was no help.

"Well, I stayed home with my parents and my brothers and sister until I got married in 1939, and we farmed. Papa's only been dead about 19 years, but mama died years ago, in 1956.

"There were nine of us children, but Garfield and Samuel are both dead now. I was the fifth child. The others are Patty Smith, Marvin, Theodore, Ruth Shamele, Dorothy Jones, Rachal Swimpson, Rebecca Williams. When my wife, Patty, and I got married, we just went to Louisburg Courthouse, and we farmed up until 1960, and I mean I've worked everywhere, and have done all kinds of jobs, had to because we had 12 children to take care of. I've worked in every town around here.

"You want me to give you the names of the children?" he asked. "Well, Stella, you'll have to help me. Let's see, there's James Leonard, Billy Ray, Onella Dunston, Earl Thomas, William McCoy, Ethel Lee

Smith, Milton Gray, (twins) Ronnie and Donnie, Lorraine Smith, Louis Edward, and Joyce Ann Hill." For the record, the names are not given according to age.

"I started building houses a long time ago. My first house was built for Ms. Estelle Mullins. I built it out of cinderblocks, all by myself. I had to get up and down off the scaffold and carry so many blocks way up high and kept doing that until I had it finished. I built half of a store for J.P. Denton, painted several houses. In 1950 I was only getting \$125 an hour for carpeting and painting.

"I worked as an auto mechanic for Noel Medlin, and helped to move houses for B.F. Lewis, of Pilot. He's got a grocery store there. He had a house-moving crew, and I worked for him. I remember one day, something funny happened. I had rode on top of a house on 96 from Wake Forest, down 98, and I got tired of sitting on top of that house, so I went down through the chimney hole, and simply walked from the upstairs down the steps, and that thing tickled the fool out of the other workers. They was just shocked when they saw me walking down the steps. They laughed aplenty. I mean. Then I was only about 40 years old, but now I'm 74 and can't do all of that crazy stuff, no sir I can't.

"If you want to come to my house you can come right across from the Dunn Prison Camp. There's six houses altogether, and all of us are family. My house will be the last one on the left, by the prison. I'm home with my wife most of the time now, me and my youngest daughter Lorraine. My wife started getting sick several years ago. She just started forgetting things. I ask her to go inside the house to bring me something, and nine times out of 10, you can bet, she'd forget what she'd gone for.

"I don't know what happened to her, it just started all of a sudden. She sure has been a good wife and mother to our 12 children, so now, I don't find it hard to stay home and take care of her. I'm just happy that at least Lorraine is still there with us."

I was glad that James McCoy Smith was there on that day. He helped to strengthen my thoughts that "Men are often capable of greater things than they perform. They are sent into the world with bills of credit, and seldom draw to their full extent."

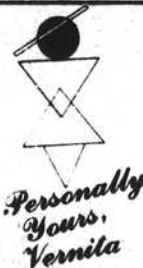
I'll make it a point to look you up one of these days, Mr. Smith. After all, the Bunn Prison Camp shouldn't be hard to find.



STEP FORWARD—Feistiness comes naturally to Sheena Easton. Self-expression, inner strength and her own self-respect are part of her appeal and her life, as is a sense of artistic independence. After all, it was this Scottish-born singer who in the early '80s helped break ground in the hybrid dance-funk-pop genre when few others dared. Now, on "What Comes Naturally," the two-time Grammy Award-winner's ninth album and second for MCA Records, Easton boldly expresses more of herself than ever before by, for the first time, recording songs she's co-written.

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Conquer The Nitpicker

Build Your Self-Esteem

Everyone has a nitpicking, critical inner voice that can wear away self-esteem. Now, an easy-to-read, whimsically illustrated little booklet available from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as part of its community outreach work, tells you how to defeat that negative voice and build up a positive self-image.

It tells how to fight off your personal Nitpicker, that mischievous, self-attacking little voice that nags you about your supposed shortcomings. The booklet points out that loving yourself isn't the same as being immodest or self-centered. It's just a way to love your own specialness—and everyone else's.

The book offers a checklist to fill out of good things about your character, looks, achievements and abilities to help you get started.

Next, it suggests you call the Nitpicker's bluff. Cut those self-criticisms down to size. One rejection doesn't mean the whole world's against you, it explains.

Then, it says, you should celebrate yourself every day. It even provides a calendar in which you can write down which wonderful aspect of yourself you can take particular pride in each day of the week.

The booklet recommends you set new goals you can accomplish and be



The "NITPICKER" is a personification of everyone's critical inner voice in a self-esteem booklet created by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

proud of for the future. It also suggests that a good way to grow your self-esteem is to do something for others.

The booklet was produced with the help of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American School Counselors Association, the National Association of Social Workers and the National Institute of Mental Health. It's designed to help adults and teenagers and children under the guidance of parents, educators and child care providers.

For a copy, send \$2 to: CPB/Self-Esteem, P.O. Box 4205, Arlington, VA 22204.

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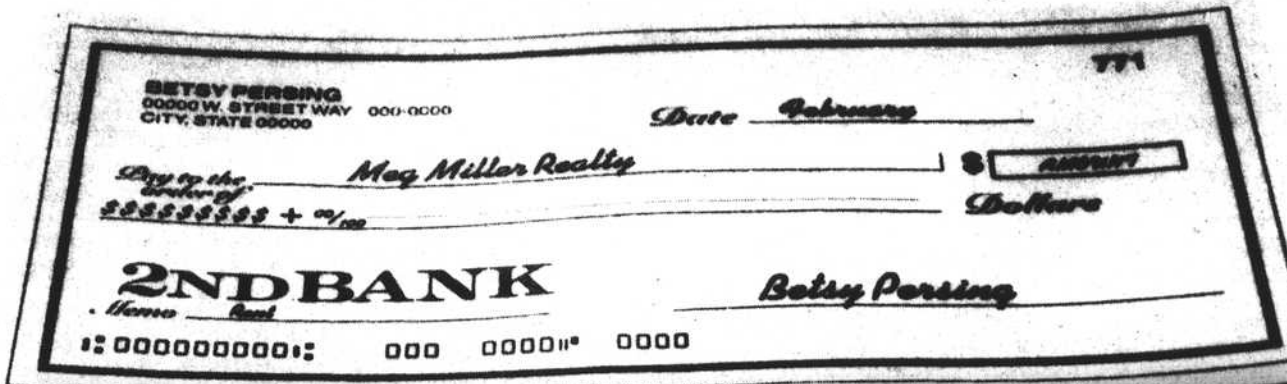
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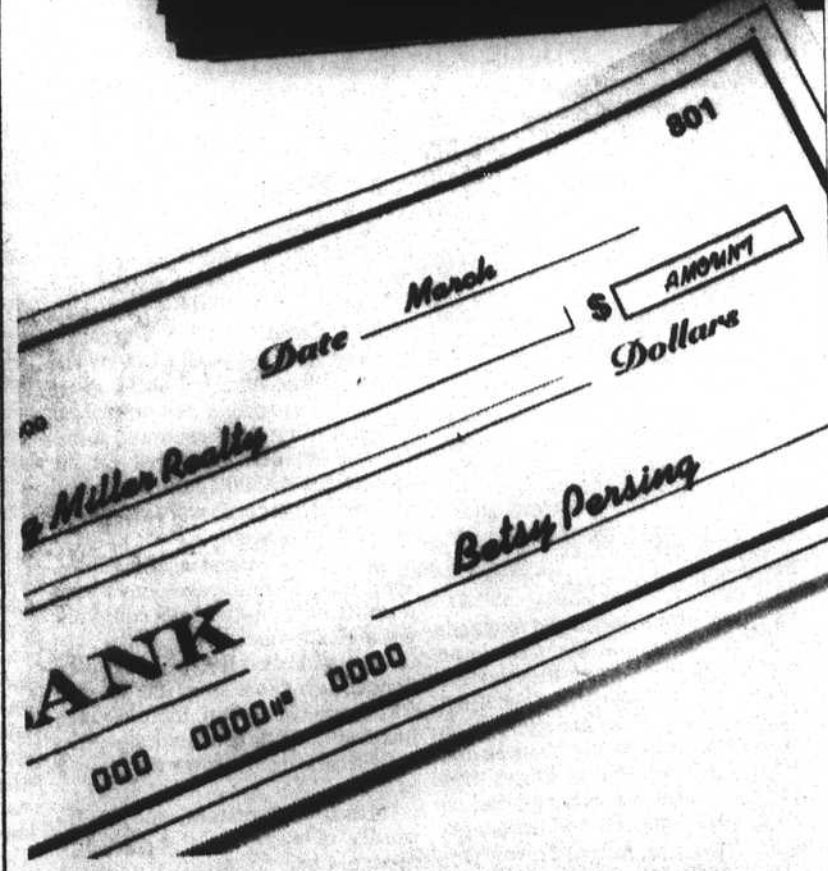
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