

RIVER BENDER

Janey Anderson, Editor - 514-2926

Published by  Shopper

Volume 22 • No. 6 - May 7, 2008

Paths

By Janey Anderson, with special thanks to Dave

Dave Wallace

Every month, without fail, I can count on receiving an article for the *River Bender* from Dave Wallace bursting with his unlimited knowledge of computers and software and helpful hints to all us “duffers” (Check out page 18). “Sometimes it’s the 14th of the month and I still have no idea what I’m going to write about and then it just comes to me and it’s done. The biggest part is researching websites and data,” he told me. “I keep three computers running and updated in my home and I’m still helping folks troubleshoot PC’s by being on the River Bend volunteer PC Help Group,” he added.

Dave was born in Memphis, Tennessee and as a child lived in Arkansas, North Carolina and Ohio attending eleven different schools before graduating from high school in Wilmington. His dad was with GM and obviously moved around a lot. Dave obtained his FAA student pilot license at the age of 17 and almost crashed into a nightclub trying to land. He joined the Air Force under their 18-year-old program and became an aircraft mechanic at Perrin Air Force Base in Texas. He graduated from Bliss Electrical Institute in Takoma Park, Maryland and joined Tidewater Power Company as a Junior Engineer and married Marilee Boon in Wilmington, NC. (Marilee had worked for Dave’s father who was a Cadillac/Oldsmobile dealer.) Dave and Marilee have two daughters and three grandchildren, two of whom are twins in their junior year at West Point.

Dave then joined Western Electric in Winston Salem as a Test Set Designer and obtained his FCC Amateur Radio license. “I built my own ham transmitter and a radio-controlled boat. I also became a member of IEEE,” (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) he said.

His next assignment was in New York City as a Planning Engineer at Western Electric Defense Projects. His specialty was determining theoretical UHF ground/air radio coverage for fighter aircraft and recommending radio site locations for the nation’s first computer-controlled air defense system called SAGE. He also began taking advanced math courses at Hofstra College and studied on the Long Island Railroad as he commuted 30 miles to work.

After eight years in New York, Dave said he was finally transferred from “hell to heaven” when his boss asked him to join AT&T’s Air Defense Planning Group in Colorado Springs. There he became the resident data expert after graduating from AT&T’s prestigious Cooperstown Data Engineering School. “In 1965, at the request of the Air Force, I reviewed RAND researcher Paul Baran’s proposal for a distributed network using “hot potato” routing. Paul Baran’s ideas were later adopted by Dr. Larry Roberts to become the ARPANET and later Internet. I met Roberts when he attempted to sell ARPANET to AT&T” Dave said, adding, “Baran and



Dave playing violin at age 10.



Dave in 1948.



Dave pickin at the mall.

Roberts are often called the fathers of the Internet.” Dave mentioned he loved Colorado Springs and became an avid trout fisherman and climbed Pikes Peak three times.

In 1966, Dave was sent to Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines and Japan as a Transmission Engineer on a secure communications system called “Talk Quick” for Generals and Admirals during the Vietnam War. In 1967 he was promoted to Engineering Staff Supervisor and transferred to AT&T Government Communications in Washington, D.C. After completing AT&T’s tough System Design course at Wharton (Univ. of PA) “I became an experienced Fortran programmer and taught programming to engineers using GE’s time-shared computer network in the 70’s and in 1973, I became a CDP (Certified Data Professional).” Over the years Dave created numerous software programs for network design, one of which became a Bell System standard. And then Dave continued “In 1975 I was assigned to interface with the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy during the Ford administration and provided tech assistance to OTP members, but it was sort of

Continued on Page 3.

TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
Thursday, May 8, 2008
7:30 p.m.

REMINDER!
Don't forget! Copy for the
June *River Bender* is due
on or before May 15th.

TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2008
7:30 p.m.

Paths

Continued from Page 1.

like being a lobbyist for the Bell System. My years with AT&T were all fun years."

In 1984, after thirty-three years of service, the Bell System broke up and Dave retired on a special management incentive.

In 1993, Dave and Marilee moved to River Bend "To be on the water and get away from the metro rat race" he explained. "We had a permanent campsite on the Patuxent River in Maryland for many years and I built a dock for our sailboat and powerboat and we loved to crab with a 500' trotline and troll for bluefish. But waterfront property became out of our price range in the Chesapeake Bay area. The farther south we traveled, the more reasonable house prices became until we finally arrived in River Bend, which we fell in love with. After I retired, I began the hobby of rebuilding old bicycles and selling them and started cycling with an initial objective of 100 miles a month." In 1996 Dave began cycling seriously, purchased a Cannondale racing bike and entered the Neuse River Senior Games cycling competition. He went on to win 32 medals at local, state and national levels at Disney World. "Now my monthly average has increased to 337 miles," Dave said with real satisfaction. "I began cycling in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour in New Bern for at least 175 miles in the two-day event. I raised sponsors

by creating a webpage every year and sending out e-mails to all the local lists. So far, my method raised a total of \$12,444.00 in the past seven years and I'm registered to cycle 175 miles in the tour in September. I suspect I may be the oldest male cyclist at age 79," he deservedly boasted. Dave is also a regular member of the Flythe group that cycles a 35-mile trip every Sunday morning, weather permitting.

Currently, Dave manages e-mail lists for New Bern Computer Users Group, New Bern Century Cyclists and Pickin & Grinin Group (including web pages) with members totaling 481. He also manages the River Bend Web Page at <http://www.ci.river-bend.nc.us/> that he created at the request of then Councilman Jim Findley. He has for the last ten years written a monthly computer article for the *River Bender*. He helped Jim Bryant, also a River Bend resident, start the "Pickin & Grinin" amateur music group that originally performed at the River Bend Baptist Church, a group that now boasts 150 members currently playing every Friday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the West New Bern Rec Center in which he plays the Banjolin and Fiddle. He restored the old German fiddle he had as a child that remained in its case for 54 years with a broken neck just so the Picking Group would have a fiddle player, sort of. Dave is also a very talented oil painter.

When I sat down to write this article with Dave and as we were discussing his dedication to cycling and the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour he told me "I quit smoking

when I retired. My Father died of a heart attack at age 53 so I figured I'd better start exercising or I wouldn't have many years left".

Life is a cycle. They call it a bicycle path. Dave's commitment has led him on a path of many good years cycling to help others on their path.

Items That Are Not Allowed In Front Of Homes

Warm weather brings increased use of boats, jet-skis, trailers and RVs as folks take advantage of the many recreational opportunities in and near River Bend.

This is just a reminder that Town Ordinance requires that boats, trailers or major recreational equipment be parked or stored behind the front line of your home.

This ordinance not only enhances the appearance of the community but may also help prevent theft from or mischief to your valuable equipment. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me or one of our Town Police Officers at 638-1108.

"Duke" Pratt, Chief of Police
Town of River Bend

Lowest Price Guarantee We Will Beat Anyone's Price On Comparable Product

SUNROOMS SCREEN ROOMS* POOL ENCLOSURES*
SCREEN LANAIS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS* VINYL SIDING*

28 Years
Experience
Licensed
Contractor

Comparable Price
Must Be Documented.
Must present copy of this ad.
Must Contact by
June 30th.



(252) 637-6599
(800) 682-0128

3224 Highway 70E.
New Bern, NC 28560

www.carolinahomeexteriors.com

Ask
About Our
GREEN
HOUSES!



The Jewelry Company

FULL & PART TIME SALES

• We offer a competitive salary, commission, and comprehensive benefit package with the best retail hours in the industry. We also provide continued education through the Gemological Institute of America.

• No nights, closed Saturday and Sunday.

1808-B South Glenburnie Road

New Bern, NC • Fax 252-638-7899

Visit us online www.thejewelrycompany.com

Email resume to Info@thejewelrycompany.com