

Corn Harvest Time On The Farm

It's another omen that colder weather approaches. The corn we've watched grow, green, tassel and then brown is now falling to the combine. You'll soon be able to once again see the trees at the back

of those fields, but there'll be fewer barricades to break those nasty northeast winds.

(Ric Carter photo)

Vandals Strike Parked Buses; School Closed

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Students at West Craven Middle School got an unexpected vacation Monday morning and school administrators got an unexpected headache.

The school was closed and blocked off Monday as school, transportation and emergency officials battled a gasoline spill caused by vandalism at the school.

In an interview with the West Craven Highlights on Wednesday, Nancy Carroll, assistant superintendent for business for the New Bern-Craven County school system, said the damage amounted to about \$1,500. But she said that did not include labor and equipment used to make repairs and put the buses back into operation.

She said she was also concerned that the vandalism cost students a day of instructional time. She reported that classes resumed Tuesday.

Attempts to contact officials at the school Wednesday were unsuccessful.

New Bern-Craven County

school officials said that sometime Sunday night or early Monday morning vandals struck the school, cutting fuel lines and slashing tires on school buses. The 12 buses also received damage to windows and mirrors and gas tanks were thought to have been punctured but it was later determined the gas had been siphoned.

Immediate concerns of officials centered around the spilled gas. After being notified of the spill, officials began an almost-immediate course of action to contain the gas and prevent harm to students and the environment, particularly the Neuse River about 100 yards away.

About 125 gallons of gas were spilled, said officials.

Two bus drivers arriving to pick up their buses discovered the damage shortly after 6 a.m. The two drivers thought the damage was limited to tire slashing. They notified Assistant Principal Becton Broughton about 20 minutes later. Firemen were called to the scene after the

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Campbell Adjusts To Life On And Off The Football Field

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

With ACC Rookie of the Week honors freshly bestowed on him, N.C. State's Jesse Campbell is more worried about paying East Tennessee State back for its win over the Wolfpack last year than any accolades that might come his way.

The West Craven High School product is a red-shirt freshman who is starting at strong safety for the Pack. So far, he has saved one game with an interception in the end zone and scored off another one — running the ball back some 64 yards.

But he also remembers getting beat by a receiver in the Maryland game and seeing the Terps walk off the field with the win.

The media attention has come fast and furious, including talk about him being a solid pro prospect. How does a player who has only four college games under his belt deal with the spotlight?

"I don't let it go to my head. I focus on what I have to do," said Campbell in an interview from his dorm room.

There's even been talk about ACC Rookie of the Year honors. "I just want to help the team. If it happens, it happens," said Campbell. The former star prep running back said he doesn't concentrate on awards, just improving himself and the team.

But he admits "it feels alright" to be recognized for his efforts on the field, efforts that have not come too easy. Campbell said it was a little difficult to switch from an offensive mind set to a defensive mind set. "The switch, that was the big adjustment," he said.

But State coaches left the choice up to Campbell. Probably the coaches and Campbell aren't disappointed in the final choice. And Campbell has found an advantage to playing defense. "I wake up on Sunday morning and I can get up," said Campbell. As a star running back in high school he recalls many a morning when he could hardly get out of bed.

Campbell said his strong safety position puts him in the position to be a hero or a goat. "When you look good, you look good. When you make a mistake, everybody knows it — and the scoreboard shows it," said Campbell.

"Getting used to bigger guys and the system," responded Campbell when queried about other adjustments he's had to make. And the books? "It's not been difficult with my grades," said the business management major.

He also enjoys one of the perks of being a strong safety. "It's a lot better to hit than be hit," he said.

What was the easiest adjustment to make? "Well, there's nothing really easy on the field," he said. The life of a strong safety is like a roller coaster, up and down and up and down. But Campbell said he is enjoying the ride so far. And although he appears to be playing like a grizzled veteran, "I'm still learning and I haven't learned everything yet," he said. "I don't think I'm there yet."

In the Wolfpack's 14-6 win against Wake Forest, his man had him beaten. But Campbell stretched out and intercepted the pass to preserve the win. "I just tried to redeem myself for being beaten," he said. He not only redeemed himself but saved the Wolfpack's victory too.

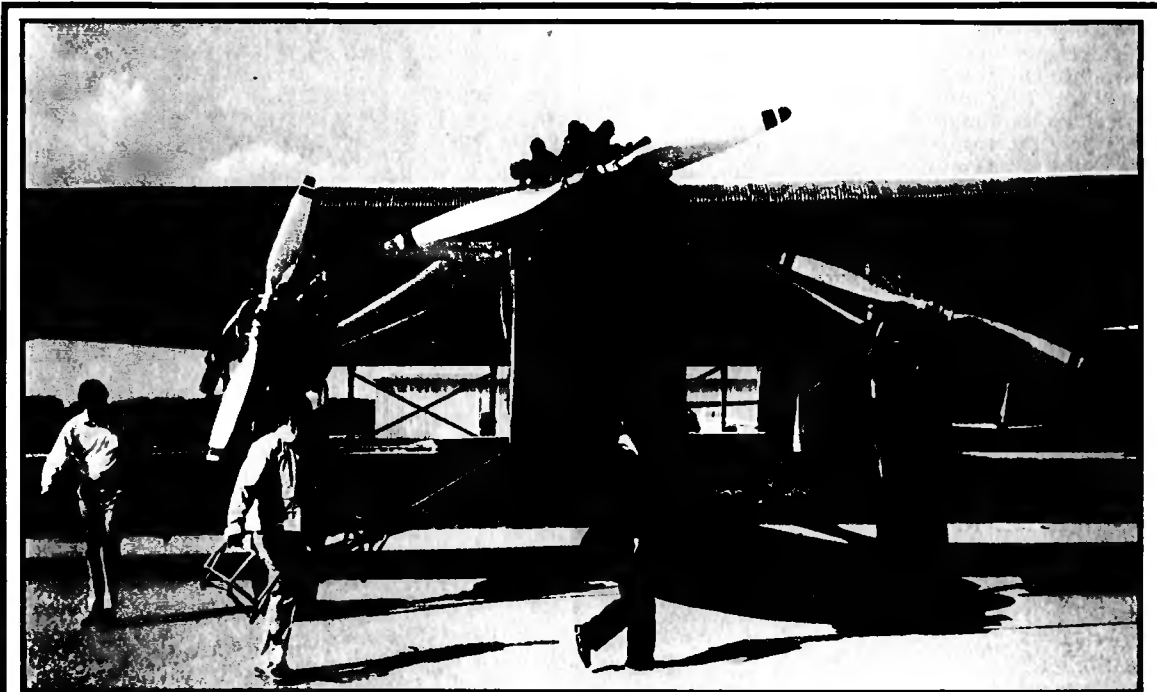
The larger crowds he has played in front of as a collegiate performer have also been a plus, said Campbell. He said the fan support and noise the crowd makes pumps him up for a game. While away game crowds may not be as friendly as the fans at Carter-Finley Stadium, Campbell said the away games have been a positive learning experience.

Campbell said any thoughts

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Jesse Campbell



Al Chaney, right, makes ready for flight in 1928 Ford Tri-Motor airplane

(Mike Voss photo)

Pilot Barnstorms Dream Plane Into Area

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Al Chaney chased his dream for 25 years. Now he shares that dream with others who may have had the same dream or one like it.

The 55-year-old barnstormer arrived in Washington Tuesday in an airplane five years older than he is.

It is an airplane rich in history, tradition and dreams.

Chaney's plane was first piloted by Charles A. Lindbergh. It is the only airplane ever to fly Henry Ford. It is the grandfather of today's major airliners.

It is an airplane that has survived.

Chaney's 1928 Ford Tri-Motor, affectionately nicknamed the "Tin Goose," is the world's oldest flying metal airplane. Of the nine still left in the world, eight are in museums. Chaney's is the only one still flying. Its serial number is 38. Its three-engine configuration is familiar to those who once flew on it, aviation buffs and pilots.

But airplanes are meant to be flown, not just remembered. Chaney offered a ride to a reporter.

The wooden "stick," rudders and instrument panel appeared

archaic. Chaney began starting the Wright Whirlwind engines. The port engine sputtered to life, followed by the engine on the nose and then the starboard engine. Chaney eased the throttles forward and the Tin Goose rolled toward the runway.

After making the turn onto the runway, Chaney shoved the throttles forward and the airplane shuddered, hesitated and began an ever-quickening sprint. With the airspeed indicator reading "80," she left the earth behind and climbed skyward as the 235-horsepower engines roared their approval. At 1,000 feet, visibility was limited with a lingering hazy

horizon. But below lay the familiar checkerboard look frequent fliers know well.

Chaney tapped the reporter's shoulder and indicated he should take the controls. For about two minutes, control of the flight was transferred from the grateful apprentice, and a thrill was tucked safely away in memory.

Passengers in the cabin snapped off pictures, Chaney read the instruments and worked the yoke and rudders.

As the airplane descended toward the runway, Chaney was busy keeping airspeed up and

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Vanceboro Clerk Keeps The Town Running Smoothly

Carolyn Ipock should have known a little something about town government before becoming Vanceboro's town clerk. After all, her father was mayor of the town over 30 years ago.

If you've ever wondered who sends out the tax notices every year or who takes care of sending out the water bills, now you know. Those duties, and much more, are performed by Mrs. Ipock. Having been on the job for several years, she is now used to most questions residents may pose. But from time to time there

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Vanceboro Restaurant Deals Dinner Theatre Once Again

Deal me in! Cabaret Players, Inc., of New Bern lays its cards on the table at Dominic's Italian Restaurant when it brings its ace comedy

The Gin Game there for a two-week run Oct. 21, 22, 28 and 29.

Billed as a "tragicomedy" by its author, the show offers a winning hand of laughs along with some powerful drama in spades. This diamond of a show is set, of all places, in a nursing home where an eccentric elderly pair play gin rummy to pass the time and ease their loneliness.

Ex-college professor Robert Hennon of New Bern as Weller Martin sees himself as king of the game, but Beaufort's own star of

stage and screen Ann Lincoln as Fonsia Dorsey sets herself up as queen and clubs him down.

The Gin Game author, D.L. Coburn, doesn't miss a trick in this character study of a crusty old man who is "suffering from one of the most advances cases of old age in the history of medical science" and a prim, self-righteous woman of whom the best that can be said is summed up by the line from the show: "You know what's wrong with most of the people in the world today. They have a mother just like you."

Jack of all trades and director Leslie John Lee says the show is not without heart, however. In

between the battle of wits, there are moments of understanding as the card game becomes a metaphor for life.

The play is the second show sponsored by the restaurant: It's stage played host to the comedy *Doctored Chekhov* last season. And this year *The Gin Game* is only the first of an entire season of entertainment offered by Dominic's as the Players new New Bern home.

Dinner — featuring a menu of prime rib or Cornish game hen, twice baked potatoes, vegetable, salad, Italian fruit tort and coffee and tea — is at 7 p.m. and the

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