

Merry Christmas

Craven County



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse

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Unexpected Recess

Last Friday's snowfall gave students an unexpected recess. The snow caught many by surprise and forced schools to refund buses and send students back home soon after they arrived at school. The unexpected recess left children with little to but find ways to enjoy the snow. These two girls appear intent on begin-

ning a snowball fight. The temperature dropped below the freezing mark and the cold and snow may have caused some area residents a few problems. But for the children, it was a day to tune up for Christmas vacation.

(Terri Jamieson photo)

Woman's Club Brightens Town For Christmas

Adds Figures To Nativity Scene, Decorates Town's Christmas Tree

By TERRI JAMIESON
Staff Writer

Evidence of the hard work this past year by the Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club is evident when walking or driving down Main Street.

This year, as in the past, the club welcomed in the holiday season by decorating the tree next to the town hall and setting up the nativity scene. Additions to the nativity scene this year include a camel, donkey, two sheep, a shepherd and an angel.

The additions were cut from wood, then painted by Lori Shepley. The decorations were put up Dec. 2, followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree. Money for the additions was raised through the club's Strawberry Festival activities and from private donations. The club plans to continue upgrading the nativity scene.

"We hope the community en-

joys the nativity and we appreciate their support which makes projects like this and others a success," said Connie Bryan, immediate past president of the club.

The club also recently installed its officers for 1989. The installation ceremony was held at Cameron's in Kinston.

The new officers are President Becky Hughes, Vice President Kim Fillingame, Secretary Sherry Forrest, Treasurer Linda Whitford, Parliamentarian Cheryl Wilson, Chaplain Leslie Womack and Reporter Debbie Oppin.

Members brought going-away gifts for Carolyn Madures who has served as advisor to the club for six years. "We are really going to miss Carolyn. Her contributions to the club have been very valuable," said Ms. Bryan.

The club presented Mrs. Madures with a Noah's Ark collector's set.

Birthday Bash In England Becomes A Tea Party

Bill and Dixie Wells had planned to be in England for three years, where Wells was a Methodist minister in Saltburn and Marske on the North Sea, but sickness cut their stay to 11 weeks. From their home in Laurinburg, where Dixie is quickly recovering, Bill plans to write several articles about their experiences in England.

By BILL WELLS

It has been some time since I said in our my first article, written in August before we left for England, that I would plan to send reports to you every two weeks.

Plans have changed. In the new setting Dixie, my wife, became very homesick and de-

pressed, so much so that we felt she would not recover in less than a year, and I could not serve well while she was so sick. Therefore, we made hurried plans to return to North Carolina.

We flew home in time to spend a few days with our daughter, Dixie, and to go with her to visit the Al Wells family for Thanksgiving. In between, there was an encouraging appointment with my wife's doctor. Her depression seems to be gone.

We got to Durham and slept through the terrible tornadoes in nearby Raleigh. We arrived in Laurinburg in time to go to the Christmas parade the Monday after Thanksgiving.

In England, we were welcomed graciously and were bid

farewell with equal grace. There were even tears shed. We felt terrible over leaving, but were convinced that it was necessary.

Some English friends had been planning a birthday party for Dixie. I had suggested that any presents be limited to 50 pence in cost. When I mentioned that idea to Stephen Bunting, the retired schoolmaster next door, it ignited his imagination: "Two eggs," "Three sticks of chewing gum," etc.

Only about a dozen were going to come to the manse at Saltburn for the party that night after our confirmation classes at Marske. However, when it was learned that we would be leaving for America without even one more service at Saltburn, the birthday

party plans were changed. Instead, in the lower fellowship hall at Saltburn Church after the evening service, tea would be served — an opportunity to say good-bye.

As Dixie and I came down the entrance hall, some 40 voices were heard singing a lovely birthday song they had known since childhood, having learned it in Sunday school. It was not familiar to me, but I have asked choir director Margaret Spencer to make us a tape recording of that lovely message in music.

The "cup of tea" Grace Counter had promised for Sunday night turned into a "faith tea," usually called a covered-dish meal in North Carolina. It included birthday cake, the best

quiche I had ever eaten, and lots of other goodies — both savory and sweet. And tea, of course.

Also, earlier in the day, at Marske Church following the regular 10:45 a.m. service, senior steward Mary Wrighton had arranged for tea and biscuits to be served. Nearly everyone of the large congregation stayed for this. As the vestry steward lead me in prayer before I was to conduct the 6:15 p.m. worship service, I felt the warmth of Christian fellowship that stretches from one continent to another, and silently I prayed that we may be one in spirit always.

The church always has unfinished business, and ours was no exception. I want to tell you about some of this in a later article.

Letter To Santa

Dear Santa,

My name is Jennifer Renee Dixon. I am three years old and I live in Vanceboro on Kite Town Road. I am sometimes good, but mostly bad. What I would like Santa Claus to bring me for Christmas: a Fisher-Price kitchen set, clothes, Pee Wee Herman chair, Sesame Street alphabet roadway, cartoon videos, doll, doll furniture, tv, bike, bear, wicker chair, wagon, See and Say and a moo-moo cow.

I will leave you a Coke or Pepsi and some cookies.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Dixon

P.S. My address is Route 1, Box 292, Vanceboro, N.C. 28586. So don't forget to stop by.

Wheelchair Does Not Slow School's Volunteer

By TERRI JAMIESON
Staff Writer

She goes anywhere she wants and does not let a wheelchair stop her.

Patsy Wiggins volunteers some of her time at West Craven High School's library. She has been doing volunteer work there for about a month.

"Working in the library has helped me a lot. I've learned a great deal from the kids," said Ms. Wiggins. In a soft, yet firm,

voice, Ms. Wiggins explained that she can do most anything from her wheelchair. Part of her volunteer work in the library includes filing and taking fines for overdue library books.

"I enjoy my work in the library and am willing to do anything (to help)," she said.

Ann Watson, the librarian, said that Ms. Wiggins is the first adult to work in the library on a consis-

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After 28 Years On Job, Mitchell Calls It Quits

By TERRI JAMIESON
Staff Writer

Tying up the ferry after the last car had gone over Streets Ferry Creek in 1962 was just one of the memories William Mitchell recalled recently while talking about his 28 years with the N.C. Department of Transportation.

Mitchell retires this month after spending his career in the Vanceboro and New Bern areas. Many of those years were spent operating a section grader and doing road construction.

Mitchell was raised in the Vanceboro area. He and his wife, Reba, have two children, William and Phyllis. Mitchell plans after retiring include working in the garden, hunting, fishing and even housekeeping. Mitchell has family scattered over Havelock, New Bern and Pamlico County and plans to stay busy visiting family members.

"I've had a good backup all these years," he said, looking at

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Lesson Number One

The first thing to learn in wrestling is not to get "pinned" down worrying with such minor matters as another wrestler trying tie you up like a pretzel and then pinning you for the win. West Craven wrestling coach Clay Jordan explains a move to one of the Eagle wrestler at recent practice. While still an inexperienced squad, a couple of wrestlers are having a good season. Jason Allen, the lone senior, so far this season is undefeated. (Mike Voss photo)

Women's Fellowship Installs New Officers

The Christian Women's Fellowship of the Vanceboro Christian Church met recently in the fellowship hall of the church and installed officers.

New officers for the coming year were installed by Rev. Dan Hall, pastor. He opened the installation with prayer and talked about the purpose of the Christian Women's Fellowship. Installed were President Nell Hill, Vice President Carolyn Russell, Secretary Etheleene Butler,

Treasurer Ida Pearl Buck, Gail Midgette, worship chairman; Thalia Broadway, program chairman; Debbie Wayne and Susan Cling, service chairmen; Marie Midgett, card chairman; Erma Moore, Hazel Hoff, Sara Alice Wetherington and Doris White, food committee.

Each person brought a gift and refreshments for the annual Christmas meeting. Nell Hill,

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Auxiliary Of Rescue Squad Installs Officers For New Year

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad Auxiliary installed officers for the coming year recently.

The officers are Marie Midgette, president; Nel Dixon, vice president; Mary Fillingame, secretary and Carol Gaskins, treasurer.

The auxiliary members were also the special guests of the combined Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Christmas party. The party was held at the U.S. 70 East Fish Camp. Following the seafood supper, the auxiliary mem-

bers were recognized. Out-going President Freida Barrow presented a \$2,000 check to the rescue squad to be used for buying new equipment.

Following the auxiliary's regular meeting at Mrs. Barrow's home, the members exchanged gifts and ate refreshments.

The auxiliary meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Anyone over the age of 18 and interested in promoting the welfare of the rescue squad

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