



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



VOLUME 12 NO. 11

MARCH 18, 1989

VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

(UPSP 412-110)

25 CENTS

SIX PAGES

## Wolfman Jack Settles In Eastern N.C.

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

His voice is pure rock 'n' roll history, but it's singing a new song.

The voice is recognized immediately to anyone who has listened to a radio over the past 25 years. It's a voice that belongs to one man and one man alone.

It's a voice that's singing a new tune, literally and figuratively. It's a voice that stays in your mind once you've heard it.

It's Wolfman Jack. And he's living in eastern North Carolina.

The Wolfman is calling Belvedere home. That's just up the road from Washington and just outside Hertford in Perquimans County. The legendary rock 'n' roll disc jockey has left Los Angeles for the quieter life at Belvedere Plantation along the Perquimans River.

"It's just nice to get back to the roots, man," Wolfman said in an interview.

He's bringing his family to the area as he begins a new chapter in the Wolfman Jack saga.

He is moving in close to his wife's parents and bringing his mother up from Florida. The Wolfman sets store by family life.

"This was always my dream . . . to get on with family life . . . and bring my family together," said Wolfman. "Forget about the money. It's family. That's all you really get. It comes down to family," he said in the distinctive gravelly voice known to millions around the world.

The Wolfman, who spent nearly 30 years on radio and television, said, "You got to be a giver. Those who only take usually wind up in prison. You got to be a giver. That's what it's all about."

He admits to "having a wild streak" and says everyone does. For the Wolfman, it was family that kept the wild side from getting out of hand. "Without my family I probably would have been dead years ago," he said.

Although he still is active in the entertainment business, the Wolfman is taking more time to enjoy his homelife in eastern North Carolina. And he's really not a stranger to the

area. With relatives and friends in the area, he's been coming and going for 20 years. "We're all friends around here," he said.

He's in the process of remodeling a house, building a studio and setting up offices. "It's still kind of hectic around here," he said. When he answered the telephone for the interview he was out of breath.

But the voice was the Wolfman's. He lived in Los Angeles for 26 years and grew tired of it. "It's getting too crazy for me, man," he said. "I sold my house and got a lot for it and came back to my roots. This is where I want to be."

The Wolfman has been associated with rock 'n' roll since he began broadcasting from an AM station in Mexico. "That's where the Wolfman Jack started," he said. It was a 250,000-watt station and his voice was far-reaching. His talents — and the voice — led him to fame and fortune.

Wolfman came on the scene during rock 'n' roll's biggest years — 1957 through 1964. Then



Wolfman Jack

along came the Beatles. That's when American music began to be overshadowed, said the Wolfman.

(See WOLFMAN, Page 5)



Anchors Aweigh

The time draws nigh. Spring is approaching and soon sleek sailboats will swarm again on the Neuse. They will ease sweetly with a breeze or soar swiftly as if sailing on an urgent mission. Some will be

formal, traditional and white and some, like this one, will offer a burst of bold color. Either way, they are fun, for the sailors or for those ashore who just enjoy the view.

## Englishman's Tour Lets Him Observe The 'Real America'

By CONNIE SPIVEY  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

Victor Cannon wants to see a different America.

He doesn't want the America of cramped cities and highrise buildings. Cannon wants to see the "real America."

He wants to visit the factories, go down in a mine and talk to the people. Cannon wants to go places "tourists don't go" — to the rural areas.

To this end, Cannon is traveling via one of the simplest modes of transportation — his bicycle. He considers biking "A good way of meeting people and getting to unusual places."

He took part of his journey through Craven County last week, including taking the ferry from Minnott Beach to the south shore of the Neuse River.

"In a sense my journey, for me, is a journey of discovery," Cannon said. Cannon, who has never been in America and just arrived here March 5, crossed the ocean on the Dora Oldendorf, a 75,000-ton bulk carrier, coming from his home in Plymouth, England, and landing in Norfolk, Va.

It was in Norfolk that he had his first taste of America. After several attempts to call a friend, he said to a Norfolk telephone operator, "Excuse me, do you speak English?" Cannon was having trouble understanding her Tidewater accent.

Cannon is a member of the Bicycle Touring Association. He travels with names and addresses of people he may contact in case of problems.

Cannon is working his way across the United States by way of Savannah, Ga., New Orleans, La., Arizona and Los Angeles. Then he plans to go to Central

America. That part he will have to "play by ear." "You understand the phrase 'play it by ear,'" he said.

He explained that the situation in Central America was "delicate" and he wanted to stay out of political situations.

His desire to stay out of politics also affects his personal life. Cannon is married to a Polish woman, Marina, who teaches weaving in Warsaw.

Cannon said they have been married about nine years. Neither has the desire to move to the other's home country, so they live apart.

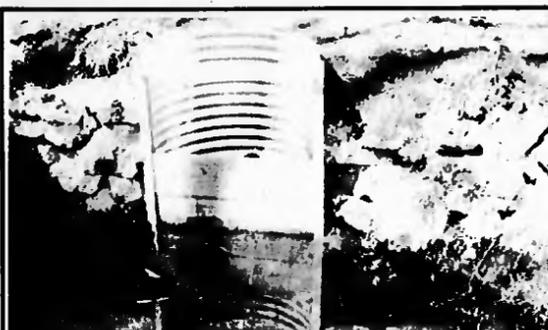
A writer, photographer and watercolorist, Cannon has written a book about his bike trip across the Sahara Desert. He is writing stories for bike magazines about his "expedition," therefore he is constantly taking notes during his trips. Sometimes he even provides line drawings with his articles.

Cannon said talking to people is easy when riding a bicycle. "The cyclist is not a threat" to people living the simple life, he said.

The bad weather, an "inconvenience," has kept Cannon from riding his bike, or cycling as he calls it. In fact, the only trip he has made is from Virginia Beach, Va., to Edenton, a day's ride. He got lost once and then was misdirected by a local. Cannon said he thought the local assumed he was driving a car.

In Edenton, Cannon was picked up by Dorita Boyd, who lives on the Camp Leach Road, about 10 miles east of Washington. Cannon stayed with her and her husband, Jan Pernov, last week during the inclement weather.

(See ENGLISH, Page 5)



A water control structure

## Water Control May Assist Producers In Increasing Yields

Farmers in eastern North Carolina recognize the fact "drainage is a must for profitable farming." Over the years, drainage was installed on land converted to cropland. Without it, farming was not possible. Artificial drainage — open ditches and land shaping — has worked so well that now water control structures are being installed to control the water table and improve water quality.

Many farmers still remember the times when water stood for long periods of time on what is now good cropland. These areas that were once saturated have been altered with drainage to the point that many say they are "over-drained." Too little water will hurt yields just as much as excess water. The answer to this problem is water table control or water management. A water management system can address both the problem of too much water with drainage and too little with water control.

With a water management system, the soil profile is used to store water. Control structures located at the drainage outlets are used to determine the water table high within the soil profile. Boards can be removed to lower or raise the water level in the ditches. As the water level in the drainage system changes, so does the water table. The water table can be held at a height that the crops can use, creating a subirrigation effect.

All open ditch drainage systems can be used, but most are spaced too far apart for effective water management. By installing tile between the ditches, the speed of water movement can be increased greatly. This will aid in keeping a uniform water table and help drain any excess water that is added by unexpected rain storms.

Adequate water is a concern with water management. One benefit of a water management system is that it makes the most of available rainfall. Rather than allowing rainwater to escape down open drainage ditches, a water management system holds it for future use.

(See DRAINAGE, Page 5)

## Town Fathers Believe Town Needs Officer

By TERRI JAMIESON  
Staff Writer

Vanceboro's town fathers are convinced the town needs a police officer. But they are finding it difficult to meet that need.

For over a year, the town has been seeking a police officer to replace its last one. And what few applicants have applied apparently want more salary than originally offered by the town.

Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie Morris said the town has advertised in several newspapers for an officer, but response has been poor. Morris also said the applicants are seeking a salary higher than what the town has budgeted.

The mayor also said it is hard for small towns, such as Vanceboro, to keep officers once they are hired. The higher salaries of other law enforcement agencies — the Craven County Sheriff's Department, the Havelock Public Safety Department and the New Bern Police Department — lure the officers from the small

towns. Morris said the last three or four officers in Vanceboro have left to take jobs with other departments.

Morris also said officers have complained about not enough police work for them to do, being on call 24 hours a day and needing "more action" to keep up their interest.

Alderman Alton Whitley said discussions among aldermen and community leaders have resulted in the same thing — agreement that an officer is needed to keep watch over lives and property in town.

Whitley said the town needs an officer but it does not need to hire someone who is not qualified or certified by the state. Officers are required to complete about 720 hours in an approved training program within a year after being hired if they are not certified. Some towns are requiring applicants for police officers to have already completed training, some towns require officers to

(See POLICE, Page 5)

## Middle School Teacher Is 'Educator Of Month'

A teacher at West Craven Middle School is one of three teachers selected as the New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce's Educators of the Month for February. The awards are given by the chamber in conjunction with the New Bern-Craven County Board of Education.

Jane Murphy, a seventh-grade teacher at West Craven Middle School; Sharon Warren, a fourth-grade teacher at Bangert Elementary School and Lynn Faulk, ECIA, Chapter I teacher at James W. Smith Elementary School are the honorees.

Mrs. Murphy graduated from Gardner-Webb College with a bachelor of science degree in intermediate education. She has been teaching math and science at West Craven Middle School for the past nine years. Mrs. Murphy said her main priority is to communicate the lesson objective in a way that all students under-

stand, and to be perceptive enough to realize that strategies need to be altered in order to meet individual needs.

"Students who understand the lesson feel good about themselves and their ability to succeed. The boundaries are limit-

(See EDUCATOR, Page 5)



Jane Murphy

## Program 'Opens Door' To Exchange Of Ideas

Does learning about a foreign culture and a foreign language while staying at home sound interesting?

If it does, then consider hosting a student from abroad for three, five or 10 months. All that is required is an open heart and Open Door.

Open Door is a student exchange program seeking host families in eastern North Carolina. Families with or without high-school age children are invited to apply to host a carefully-selected foreign student. Families who host a student are allowed a \$50-a-month deduction on income taxes. The families are also eligible for scholarship assistance for family members abroad. Dead-

line to apply to host a student is May 1.

Open Door is also accepting applications from American students who wish to apply for a summer experience or a year abroad. Programs are offered in Europe, South and Central America, Australia, Asia and Yugoslavia. The 13th Year Abroad is a new program that was started in 1988. This program could be of particular interest to the student who wishes a breather between high school and college, or who wishes an enrichment for his or her future.

For more information, contact Emy Swan, 299 Shoreline Dr., New Bern, N.C. 28562 or by calling 833-0930.