

Wishing You A Merry Christmas



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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John Perry photo

Spirit of Christmas

Most people would agree the true meaning of Christmas is shown by this nativity scene erected in Vanceboro by the Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club. The club sponsors the nativity

scene each holiday season and sees that it is erected and maintained during the Yule season. The project is one of many the club sponsors and directs during the year in the Vanceboro community. Perhaps the nativity scene is the club's yearly Christmas present to the town.

Northener dedicated to education

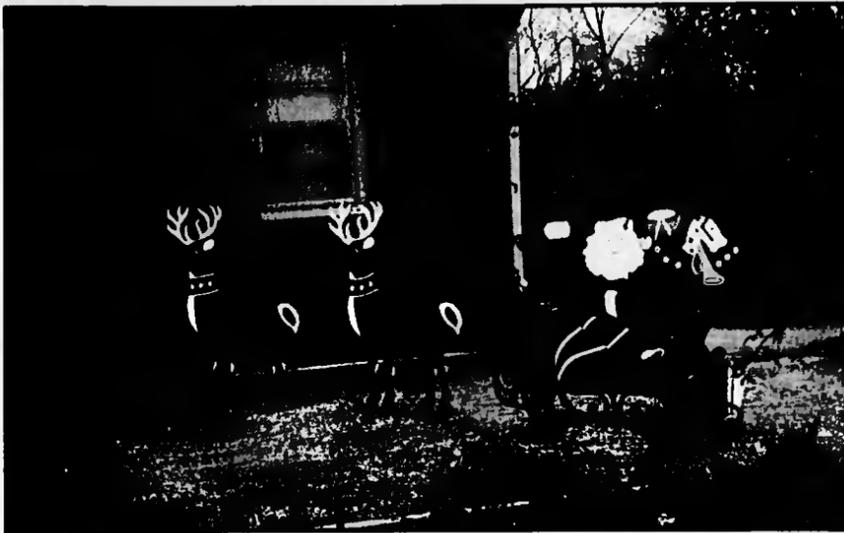
By Keith Hempstead
Special to the
West Craven Highlights

Dedicated doesn't begin to describe the type of commitment shown by Charles Coit, who has essentially devoted his whole life in some way to education and the raising of four children.

Even at 74, when most people his age would prefer to rest on their laurels, Coit still strives to make a difference in the public education system. "If I've got another decade I'd like to devote it to young people and the public understanding of public education," he said.

Coit, once a resident of Washington, Conn., spent a good ninety minutes one cold, wet day explaining what he thought some of the problems were in education and how to correct the problems. The lifelong student of the educational process has some radical suggestions.

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John Perry photo

North Pole visitor

During the holiday season, some people enjoy decorating their lawns. A drive through town and country will show everything from simple decorations to elaborate Las Vegas-type lighting and displays. Perhaps the most well-known character is Santa Claus (who else?). Residents in and near Vanceboro are no different. From simple candles in windows to thousands of lights, houses and businesses can be found trying to share the Christmas spirit through decorations.

Top cinematographer could join Down East film company

By Mike Voss
Editor

An Oscar-winning cinematographer has conditionally agreed to direct a movie for a new production company based in and getting financial support from eastern North Carolina, giving it preference to working behind the camera on other films, according to company officials.

The motion picture, "The Prodigal Father," is to be a joint venture between U.S., Israeli and Hungarian entrepreneurs. The production company is Prolitera of Bethel, Ltd., headquartered in Washington.

Among the three founding general partners are Washington CPA William Zachman and two Hungarian-born Israeli citizens — Paul Salamon and Janos Edelenyi.

Cinematographer Vilmos Zeigmond, known for his work on "Fat Man and Little Boy," "The Deer Hunter," "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Deliverance" and other notable films, is also Hungarian.

Joe Gantz of Greenville, top official of Empire Brushes, has become the fourth general partner. Gantz

said he became a partner because he wanted to help build the film industry in North Carolina.

Actor Michael York, who has signed for the lead in the film, has called cinematographer Zeigmond "the right person to capture the script's immense visual beauty," say company officials.

Salamon and Edelenyi predicted about a year ago that changes in Eastern Europe would open doors for this and other projects with a multi-national foundation.

Zeigmond wrote them that he is excited at the prospect of directing the film.

Zeigmond has been selected to do the cinematography for Brian De Palma's "Bonfire of the Vanities," he said, with shooting to begin in March and ending about June 15.

"Afterwards, I am presently committed to Roland Jaffe's new film City of Joy, but would give first priority to The Prodigal Father and begin working exclusively on the project, should your efforts of obtaining full financing be successful and a final contract drawn and executed between us on or before the 31st of March, 1990," his letter said.

The film and the development

company have attracted attention from the state, Zachman said. "The N.C. Film Commission is interested in what we're doing in North Carolina, particularly in the equity base," he said.

"To make a film in North Carolina is not only possible, it's logical," Edelenyi said, because of lower expenses, existing studio facilities and the state's reputation among the film community.

The partners told the media recently that Lt. Gov. James Gardner wants to sign a production agreement between the state and Hungary once finances for the movie are completed.

When Gov. James Martin visited the West Coast recently, he dangled the film before the movie industry as an incentive, calling it "the most sophisticated project ever put together in the state."

The film industry has meant \$2 billion in revenue for the state, said Martin.

"We are in the same league suddenly with De Palma and Jaffe," said Edelenyi. "We expect things to really get better once word gets around."

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U.S. panel blasts Navy over range

By Mike Voss
Editor

The Navy should have provided additional time for public comment on its proposed electronic warfare range in coastal North Carolina and done more to study its probable effect on the environment, according to the federal Council on Environmental Quality.

The Navy plans to expand its use of Piney Island in southern Pamlico Sound, constructing new electronic warfare ranges and increasing use of nearby air space.

In November, the Navy approved plans for the range, despite promises from the Navy and Marine Corps that a decision would not be made before an environmental evaluation. The decision was made without comment from CEQ on whether it would be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, according to a public affairs officer at Cherry Point Marine Air Station, Gunnery Sgt. Jim Gladkowski.

In a letter to Congressman Walter B. Jones, who asked CEQ to evaluate the adequacy of a final environmental impact statement (FEIS),

the council said:

"We have reviewed the FEIS and have met with the Navy as well as a delegation of state and local government representatives and concerned citizens from North Carolina. For reasons developed below, we believe that the Navy should have supplemented the draft document and provided an additional public commenting period. We also believe that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is empowered not only to assign use of airspace but also to modify or revoke assignments when required by the public interest, has a role in the environmental review process."

The letter was signed by Michael R. Deland, chairman of the council.

The council's regulations require agencies to prepare supplements to environmental statements if there are significant new circumstances or information about environmental concerns that bear on a proposed action.

"Where, as here, the scope of environmental analysis is expanded to embrace a new dimension (cumulative) of impacts not previously de-

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McKeel picked for all-state recognition

Becton, Hardy, Holzworth receive post-season honors

West Craven High School's Eddie McKeel has been named to the 1989 Associated Press all-state football team.

McKeel was also named to the News and Observer's All-East squad, as was Eagle junior running back Lee Becton.

Two other players from the northeastern area of the state, including two all-area performers, were named to the 1989 Associated Press all-state football team.

Joining McKeel on the all-state first-team squad are D.H. Conley's Paul Merritt and Northampton East's David Perry.

Becton earned all-state honorable-mention honors as did Plymouth senior quarterback Shawn Walker and receiver Andy Womble, Roanoke junior tailback Levy Jones, North Edgecombe receiver Dereke Belcher and Conley's Tim Carmon and Andy Fassett earned honorable mention

recognition.

McKeel was a Shrine Bowl selection and became head coach Clay Jordan's fourth all-state player. Jordan's last player so honored was Jesse Campbell, now a star defensive back at North Carolina State.

"Eddie was injured his freshman and sophomore years and got very little time on the field," Jordan said, "being named all-state is a testament to how hard he's worked in the weight room the last two years."

"He's really worked hard for the last two years to become the best player he could be."

The 6-2, 255-pound McKeel's blocking prowess helped clear the way for all-state honorable mention selection Lee Becton's 1,784 yards. West Craven had a perfect 10-0 regular season and advanced to the second round of the Class 3-A playoffs.

West Craven's junior quarter-

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John Perry photo

Waiting

Just exactly why or for whom these presents on the swing on this front porch is unknown, unless they are waiting for Santa Claus to deliver elsewhere. Or perhaps Old St. Nick left them here because he was unable to get down the chimney because of a fire in the fireplace or gaining too much around his portly middle. Whatever the reason, the presents seem to be safe and secure — until Christmas morning.