

## Roberts reports increasing patient load

The Executive Committee of the Vanceboro Medical Center held its regular monthly meeting last Wednesday night. Those present were Joe Thomas, Chairman; Richard Cannon, Secretary; Richard Bowers, Tommy Dail, Vice Chairman; Frank Dawson, Jr., Jimmy Spruill, Thelma Whitford, FNP George Roberts, Brenda Ipock, and Bernie Patterson from Rural Health in Raleigh.

A continued concern was discussed about the number of patients using the center. It was pointed out that our services are above average and over compares with many other centers of health care. Continued effort is to be put forth to get our community to think Vanceboro Medical Center

when they need health care. Everyone feels the new drug store will aid the community tremendously. Chairman Thomas stated the drug store is almost finished and equipment and stock will be moving into the building in the next few days.

FNP Roberts gave the medical center report. He stated that he had 275 patient visits for the month of July, which averaged 15 patients per day for the 18 days the center was open. Fifty-three new patients were registered and this brings the total patients registered to date 2,022. FNP Roberts feels the center is performing very well and the only area is that he needs more patients.

## Over 200 attend Coward-Dawson reunion

It all started when two Coward sisters married two Dawson brothers in Vanceboro and began to have their families. The Dawson brothers were L. Frank Dawson, Sr., who married Cherry Coward and Herbert L. Dawson who married Rosa Coward. Rosa is the only living person of the four in whose honor the reunion is dedicated. She resides in Fayetteville, N.C. and will celebrate her 90th birthday in January. She said she enjoyed the fellowship of the reunion and was very proud of her family and this honor they were giving to the Coward and Dawson families.

In 1971 Frank Dawson, Jr. and relatives of Vanceboro decided, since the families were locating all over the United States, that it would be nice to have a Coward-Dawson reunion each year. Frank Dawson, Jr. along with relatives have made preparations each year to have the reunion. Each year new faces show up from different parts of the country. This year Ronald Pierce, son Ronald, Jr., and daughter Diane were among those coming for the first time. Ronald Sr. is the son of

Naomi Dawson Pierce who has lived in N.Y. state for the past forty-three years but has decided to come home to Vanceboro to retire. Ronald Sr. makes his home in New York, N.Y. He said, "I have enjoyed myself so much I plan to be back to the reunion next year."

Mrs. Vetha Coward of Brooklyn, N.Y., a very charming person has represented the Coward side of the family at the last five reunions. She is the daughter of Eddie Coward.

Four sisters, Vivian Garis, Lucille Johnson of Vanceboro, Irene Williams of New Bern, and Elizabeth Leaner of Jacksonville, N.C., are the daughters of the late Odie Coward has been very helpful in preparing for the reunion.

Other out of town members of the Dawson side were Estelle Younger and Lisa Taylor of Washington, D.C. They expressed their joy in the fellowship of the reunion and hope to be back next year.

Herbert Dawson, named for his uncle Herbert L. Dawson, is continuing his perfect attendance to the

See Coward-Dawson Reunion, Page 2

## Citizen of the week



Kristie Lynn Russell

## Kristie Lynn Russell named Little Miss United Way

Five year old Kristie Lynn Russell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Russell of Route 1, Ernul, has been selected Little Miss United Way of Craven County for 1978-79.

She was selected by a special committee of the United Way of Craven County Board of Directors for the annual fund-raising drive which begins September 6. She is appearing on television and other United Way functions as a symbol of the 24 agencies directly benefitting from the United Way of Craven County.

Kristie has herself received direct benefits through the New Bern Child Developmental Cen-

ter and the Craven Area Speech and Hearing Center, both agencies of the United Way of Craven County. As a result of the treatment she was given, Kristie is looking forward to attending kindergarten at Bridgeton Elementary School in September.

Her favorite hobbies are swimming, riding bikes, reading and watching Sesame Street on TV.

The goal set for the 1978-79 United Way Drive is \$130,371 and will officially begin with a dutch-treat breakfast at the Ramada Inn on September 6, ending with a victory dinner November 16 at the New Bern Shrine Club



Frank Dawson and family at the Coward-Dawson family reunion. (Photo by R.L. Cannon, Jr.)

## Principals announce beginning of school

### Farm Life

### Elementary School

Mr. Richard Bowers, principal of Farm Life Elementary, announces that he expects over 355 students to attend grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 during the school year 1978-79. Opening day for students is presently set for September 1, which will be orientation day for all students. The first full day of school will be September 5, Tuesday.

Mr. Bowers reports that a major emphasis will be placed on the Reading Program in all grades, but a special effort will be made to work with Primary Grades. Two aides will be assigned all day to work with teachers of the primary classes in reading.

evaluation, and other activities during each day. Mr. Bowers pointed out that this is an area that he needs parents or interested persons on a volunteer basis for two or three hours each week to work with teachers in the classrooms.

See Farm Life Teachers, Page 6

### Vanceboro

### Elementary School

Friday, September 1 will be Orientation Day for the students of Vanceboro Elementary School announces Principal Henry F. Edwards. School will officially open Tuesday, September 5.

See Edwards, Page 6



LaVerne Tripp

## Tripp's "Song Revival" coming

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." Psalms 95:1.

This invitation from the scripture depicts an evening with LaVerne Tripp, the Happy Hour Singers and the Song Revival Band.

"Born to write and sing" are words that best describe LaVerne Tripp. Raised on a farm on the

coast of North Carolina, LaVerne has always had a song in his heart. He began singing in churches when he was only two and one half years old; and even then his special, God-given talent was evident. As LaVerne grew, his love for music also grew.

LaVerne began to sing professionally after finishing Tripp's, Page 4

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