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THE WEST CRAVEN

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Junior Woman's Club Chartered

by Connie Bryan

The Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club held their Charter Ceremony on January 26, at the United Methodist Church. Brenda Ipock, president of the new club, stated in her welcoming address, "We are 16 strong. We are a young group with many fresh, new ideas to help beautify our town. We hope that given time and with a lot of work, we will have a better community." She added a note of thanks to everyone that helped to get the club organized with a special thanks to the New Bern Jr. Woman's Club.

Teresa Thomas, president of the New Bern JWC, led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Woman's Club Collect. Brenda Ipock, then, welcomed all the guests.

Carlotta Gault, District XII Jr. Director, presided over the Charter Ceremony, assisted by Cathy Pike, member of the New Bern JWC. Mrs. Gault stated that the General Federation of Women's Clubs was first organized in 1890. She added that it is the largest women's organization in the world with 11

million members.

As Mrs. Gault read what each candle stood for, Mrs. Pike lit first a white candle, which stood for service in the local community. A blue candle, which stood for active participation in state and national matters, and a red candle, which stood for interest in international affairs, were next lit. Six gold candles were lit to represent the areas the Women's Clubs are involved in. These areas are art, conservation, education, home life, international affairs, and public affairs.

Mrs. Gault addressed the members of the Vanceboro club and stated, "Each member must be prepared to take up their light." The members lit their candles one from another until all sixteen candles were lit. The members, then, signed the charter and received a certificate of membership from Mrs. Gault.

Emily Graham, District XII president, presided over the installation of officers, after which she gave a brief challenge to the new club. The charter officers of the Vanceboro

JWC are: Brenda Ipock, president; Terri Beaman, vice-president; Sandra McCandless, secretary; Sharon Bland, treasurer; Amanda Griffin, chaplain; and Connie Bryan, parliamentarian.

Other charter members of the club are: Deborah Buck, Linda Chesson, Judy Freeman, Teresa Johnson, Paula Jordan, Peggie Mills, Carol Morris, Rose Swanner, Mary White, and Vickie Wilson.

Several dignitaries were present at the ceremony. Among them were Senator Joseph Thomas; John Willis, Chairman, Craven County Board of Commissioners; Grover Lancaster, Craven County Commissioner; Roger Forrest, member, Craven Board of Education; and Mayor Jimmie Morris of Vanceboro.

Many members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs were among those present. These included Alice Hatcher, N.C. Treasurer; Mary Catherine White, District XII Education Chairman; Alice Dye, District XII Arts Chairman; Bernice



**JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB HOLDS CHARTER CEREMONY**—Officers of the Vanceboro JWC were inducted at the Charter Ceremony of the club on Friday, January 26. District XII President Emily Graham performed the installation. Pictured are (first row, left to right) Connie Bryan, parliamentarian; Terri Beaman, vice-president; Brenda Ipock, president; Sharon Bland, treasurer; (second row) Sandra McCandless, secretary; Amanda Griffin, chaplain; (third row) Emily Graham, president, District XII; Theresa Thomas, president, New Bern JWC; and Cathy Pike, member New Bern JWC. [photo by Rick Cannon]

Davis, District XII Secretary; Linda Sanderson, District XII Public Affairs Chairman; Nancy Basden, District XII International Affairs; Barbara Price, past District President; Janice

Belangia, president, Arapahoe JWC; Gale Slade, vice-president, Arapahoe JWC; Martha Brafford, president Kinston JWC; Elsie Cole, president, Kinston Woman's Club;

Helen Mahlum, president, New Bern Woman's Club; and Janice Shorey, president, Oriental JWC.

After the ceremony the New Bern JWC served refreshments in the church fellowship hall.

## Sighs of Relief come as

## School boards agree to merge

A dramatic "We agree" from Genevieve Dunn, Chairman of the New Bern City Board of Education, ended more than twenty years of debating on the issue of merger of the City and County school systems. The two school boards in a joint meeting Tuesday, January 23, agreed to a plan of consolidation and merger of the two systems. This action came after an ultimatum had been given to the two boards by the County Commissioners on Friday, January 19, calling for an agreement on a plan of merger by February 23.

In an earlier meeting, the

County Board of Education had agreed upon a merger plan, which was presented to the City school board at the joint meeting. David Henderson, attorney for the County, explained the plan to the City members. After more than four hours of discussion with compromises on both sides, in a meeting that seemed like a game of musical chairs with members withdrawing to discuss proposals, an agreement was reached. As agreed upon by the boards, this plan provides for a 12-member New Bern-Craven County Board of Education with 7 members

from the county school districts and 5 members from New Bern. The County board insisted upon a 12-member board, but agreed to the City's proposal that all members be elected in 1980. The plan also provides for staggered terms of two and four years with six members being elected every two years.

Beginning with the first Monday in December of 1980, the new board will assume "all of the authority of administering and operating all schools in the existing City Administrative Unit and County Administrative Unit." However, the

by Connie Bryan

budgets of each school system will continue to operate separately until the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 1981.

Both boards agreed that the superintendents of each system should remain until their terms have expired without a reduction in salary. The plan also calls for a study committee to work together to help solve the many problems involved in merger, particularly the formation of a joint budget.

A public hearing has been scheduled for February 21, at 7:30, Attorney David Henderson

stated that a public hearing does not mean that the people have a choice. "It simply means that the people have a chance to ask questions." Henderson said that the boards members would answer any questions and explain the different points of the plan.

After the public hearing, the plan will be submitted to the County Commissioners for their approval. It then must be approved by the State Board of Education in Raleigh.

Commenting after the meeting, Chairman Roger Bell, said, "I am proud of the two boards. There has been a lot accomplished. Hiram Mayo, Superintendent of the County Schools, stated later, "I think the decision was in the best interest of all concerned. I am basically pleased with the outcome of the meeting.

I feel that this is a fair plan."



**NEW POSITION:** Brenda Ipock has been hired as a Personal Banker Secretary at the Wachovia Bank in Vanceboro. She will be working for both Alton Whitley and Marie Whitford. She will be leaving the Medical Center, where she has worked for the past 18 months. Brenda will be taking the position formerly held by Betty Gladson, who will continue working at the bank on a part-time basis. [photo by Rick Cannon]