

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Interested citizens meet to discuss Youth Center

Vanceboro-About thirty interested citizens met last Sunday to discuss the creation of a Youth Center for Vanceboro area youth. The group included members of the Vanceboro Area Ministerial Fellowship which sponsored the meeting and has been working for over a year on the proposed center. Rev. Steve Hickle of the Vanceboro Circuit

presented the Ministerial Fellowship's plan. The plan called for a fixed location which would give participants a sense of permanence. In addition, the plan provided for a program which would include recreation activities, leisure activities, set operating times, services for young people, responsible personnel, and a permanent governing

board. A step toward a board of governors was made when representatives of each church in attendance appointed one from their group to serve on a youth center committee. This committee will meet and discuss the organizational details of the Youth Center. Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie L. Morris commented after

the meeting that he was certain that anything the Ministerial Fellowship would do would be in the best interest of the community. He encouraged the group to go ahead and enact the program.



Mr. Marvin Whitford, Field Representative for the Woodmen of the World is shown presenting Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Lee Whitford their 100% Membership Family Plaque. Mr. L. L. Whitford is president of Camp 652 and Mrs. Whitford is Watchman of Grove 6280. [PHOTO BY Sheila Whitford]

## Sixth week of Basketball Contest

### Johnson wins again!

Billy Johnson of Ft. Barnwell became the first entrant to win the Basketball Contest for the second time. The Basketball Contest, in its sixth week, is being sponsored by the Highlights and businesses in the Craven County area. Johnson correctly picked nine winners in the ten game contest to find himself all alone in first place. Jay Huff, last week's winner, won a three-way tie for second with eight out to ten correct. He came within four points of the correct score in the tie-breaker.

Huff edged out Richard Dail who also picked eight correct. In the Beat the Editor drawing, Jay Huff's entry blank was drawn from only two entries. In the race for the Grand Prize of two tickets to the NCAA Eastern Regionals in Greensboro and fifty dollars in expense money, Jay Huff has moved into the lead with 32 points while Earl Wright slid into second with 28 points. The official results of the sixth week of the Basketball Contest are as follows:  
First Place: Billy Johnson

Second Place: Jay Huff (Won tie-breaker)  
Third Place: Richard Dail  
Beat the Editor: Jay Huff  
The perfect ticket for last week would have picked the following winners: Virginia, ISU, Indiana St., Wake Forest, UCLA, Maryland, Pittsburgh, Marquette, ECU, UNC, (Tie-breaker) Michigan St. 73.  
After six weeks of the Basketball Contest, Jay Huff leads in the race for the Grand Prize with 32 points. Earl Wright is a close second with 28 points. Billy Johnson moved from

fifth place up to third place. Pat Troutner fell to fourth with 12 points and Richard Gladson is fifth with ten points. There are two weeks remaining in the contest.

## Leading Money Winners

### After Week No. 6

- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| 1. Jay Huff        | \$27 |
| 2. Earl Wright     | \$25 |
| 3. Billy Johnson   | \$20 |
| 4. Pat Troutner    | \$15 |
| 5. Jeff Gaskins    | \$10 |
| 6. Rita Lewis      | \$10 |
| 7. Richard Gladson | \$7  |



Mr. Whitford also presented Mr. and Mrs. Harold Drake with a 100% Membership Plaque. He had an obligation ceremony for them and presented them with their WOW pins and membership cards.

## Rusty Whitford, He Still Keeps Going

By Connie Bryan

Rusty Whitford, a 13-year-old Vanceboro Youth, may be down, but he's not out. Shortly after Christmas in 1975, doctors told Rusty and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Whitford, that he had a tumor in his brain. Now after more than three years of operations, treatments, and medications, when most people would have given up long ago, Rusty, with the help of his parents, still keeps going.

Rusty uses his time and his creative skills making lace mats and knitting eyeglass cases, tissue holders, and stuffed animals. His mother, Judy Whitford, estimates that she and her son have made over 200 stuffed animals. Most of them were sold to help pay for the medical bills, but

Rusty has kept a few. Since Rusty knows how it is to be sick, he likes to make things for others who are not well.

Rusty has other hobbies as well. He loves to watch television. He enjoys Rockets and radio-controlled airplanes. One of his favorite hobbies is growing pumpkins. He is also a very good cook. He has won 18 blue ribbons as well as a number of second place and honorable mention ribbons at the Craven-Pamlico and Pitt County Fairs for his pumpkins, gourd arrangements, fudge, cookies, and other entries.

Much of Rusty's time is spent doing the thing that all 13-year-olds do-home-work. His teacher is Jackie Bowen, teacher for the

Home Bound program in Craven County. However, because she must travel all over the county from Havelock to Vanceboro, Mrs. Bowen is only able to spend two hours a week with Rusty. According to Mrs. Whitford, she is an excellent teacher. Rusty is in the 8th grade and takes all of the standard courses, but he adds that his favorite is math.

Mrs. Whitford admits that the medical bills have been large. Rusty must go to the North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill for treatment about every two weeks. Fortunately, Rusty is now a patient in a medical research unit, which means that all of his medicine and doctor's bills while in the unit are free. This

unit is funded by a grant from the R.J. Reynolds Foundation. The Cripple Children's Fund helped to pay for Rusty's first long stay in the hospital. Now Mr. Whitford's union insurance pays 80%, but still the other 20% adds up.

It is often said that in times of trouble you find out who your true friends are. In Rusty's case, he has found out that he has a lot of them. Chapman's United Methodist Church sponsored a dinner and bazaar to help with Rusty's medical expenses. J. D. Fornes recently held a barbecue dinner with the proceeds going to Rusty. On February 24 from 7:30 to 11 p.m., Our Gang of Craven County will be sponsoring a bingo game to raise money



RUSTY'S PUMPKINS-Rusty Whitford proudly displays his prize-winning pumpkins. Rusty's secret is to "give each seed good luck."

for Rusty. The game will be held at the Woodmen of the World Hall in Ernul.

In spite of all the odds against him, Rusty still

keeps going, and he still has faith.