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A Year of Hard Work and Fun

West Craven Band and Color Guard

by Connie Bryan

Although they perform with what seems to be effortless ease, it takes a lot of hard work and practice to produce a team as good as the West Craven Band and Color Guard. However, their efforts have paid off with an exciting and rewarding year. Their year actually started last June when the Color Guard attended the Greene Central Color Guard Camp. The awards began then as well when Aggie Jackson was selected as the Most Improved Majorette. Donna Bland received the Outstanding

Rifle Award, while Best Flag went to Esther Heath.

Band rehearsals began about two weeks before classes were to start. Band Captain Cheryl Jordan decided to give a party to kick off the new season and "to get the band united." The idea must have worked, because the band has had a very successful and very active year.

They marched in the Cove City, Vanceboro, and Fort Barnwell Fireman's Day Parades. On October 14 they competed against schools from all over North and South Carolina, Virginia,

and Tennessee in the Central Carolina Band Competition in Cabarrus. Just one week later, they placed second in the Wallace-Rose Hill Band Competition.

During the month of December, the band was busy with Christmas activities. They gave a Christmas concert at West Craven and participated in the school Christmas Assembly program. They walked away with first place in both the Greenville and Morehead City Christmas Parades. In addition they marched in the New Bern parade, which does not have band competition.

They band also participated in many school functions. These included every home football game and several away games. In addition they performed at other schools for students.

Spring and warmer weather found them marching in the Azalea Festival in Wilmington. The Jazz Band was selected to perform at the Azalea Festival's Celebrity Luncheon. They also marched in the Shad Festival in Grifton on April 21, and just last week on May 10, they sponsored the West Craven High School First Invitational Color Guard Competition. Band Director Joe Sizemore reported that the evening was a "tremendous success" with over 300 people in the audience. He added, "I was impressed with our performance." The judges apparently agreed with Sizemore, because they gave the West Craven squad 74 points. This would have given them second place behind Green Central; however, since they were the host team, they were not eligible. On May 19 the squad will again compete at Green Central with squads from all over eastern North Carolina. Sizemore predicts that they have "a very good chance of placing well."



STEPPING OUT IN STYLE-The West Craven Marching Eagles practice long hours before going to competitions like the Azalea and the Shad Festivals earlier this spring. (Photo courtesy of West Craven

Shirlene Coward, drum majors; Cheryl Jordan, band captain; Donna Avery, co-captain; Esther Heath, color guard captain; and Carolyn Whitford, co-captain, have provided that leadership for the West Craven team.

Commenting on this year's band, Mr. Sizemore, says, "This year's band has been a challenge. They are young. That is there are not very many at the high school level. But by using precision technique and carefully selected music, this has been the best year of any band in the history of West Craven." He added that the band has a great potential for growth. "In a few short years, we could have one of the top bands in the state, if students and the community were dedicated to that goal." However, Mr. Sizemore pointed out that without more support from the community and merchants this goal would be impossible to reach.

It will be a difficult task to selected the recipients of the awards among the many outstanding talents that make up the band and color guard. Several members have already received special recognition by being selected to audition for the All-State Concert Band. These were Donna Avery, Denise Melko, and Duane Cogdell. Angela Wilcox, a sophomore, was awarded the first chair in the trumpet section. According to Mr. Sizemore, she is the youngest to ever hold that high honor. Donna Avery was also nominated to attend Governor's School, but could not audition because of conflicts. A very necessary ingredient in an organization is capable leadership. Jane Wilcox and



HARD WORK-It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to make the West Craven Color Guard, an award-winning squad. (Photo courtesy of West Craven High School)

Record Crowd Gathers for Alumni 1979

by Connie Bryan

A record 227 people gathered at Farm Life School Cafeteria for the annual meeting of the Alumni Association. Although the large crowd caused problems for the caterers, it was a welcome sight for Pete Bland, president, who called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He recognized State Senator Joe Thomas, State Representative Joe Bright, and Roger Forrest, Craven County Board of Education member. He also recognized Arthur

Whitford, Class of '23, who has never missed an Alumni meeting. Rev. Claude Wilson of the Vanceboro United Methodist Church and himself a graduate of Farm Life gave the invocation. Members and their guests then enjoyed a dinner of barbecued pork and fried chicken catered by Parker's of Greenville.

Following a welcome by Richard Bowers, principal at Farm Life,

everyone joined in for a stirring rendition of the school song. A very entertaining program followed. Etheleen Butler and Brenda Ipock served as this year's program chairwomen.

The theme of the program was "The End of the Roaring Twenties," honoring the Class of 1929, which celebrated their 50th anniversary. Mrs. Vivian Taylor, member of the 1929 class, read a letter from Mrs.

Eleanor Blow Price, who was the mascot for that year. A musical program followed, with Brenda Ipock singing, "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Write Myself A Letter."

Next Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Ipock were joined by Clara Lou Ipock, Linda Thomas, Webster Butler, David and Mary Filligame, and Delmar and Bobby Tillman in a selection of songs from the 1920's. Songs included

were: "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," "For Me and My Gal," "My Blue Heaven," "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," and "You Are My Sunshine." During the final number, Patsy Townshend and Bob Wilson appeared dressed in 1920's outfits and did the Charleston to "Yes Sir, She's My Baby." At the end of the number, Patsy jumped into a chair and displayed the year 1929, which was sown on

the seat of her pants. Next Dana and Diane Ipock, daughters Mr. and Mrs. James Ipock, Jr., sang a duet of "Daddy's Girls."

James Ipock then introduced Joe Thomas, State Senator from Vanceboro and a 1959 graduate of Farm Life. Senator Thomas reminisced about his days as a student at Farm Life and commented on the uniqueness of the close bond between alumni. He added that he did not