

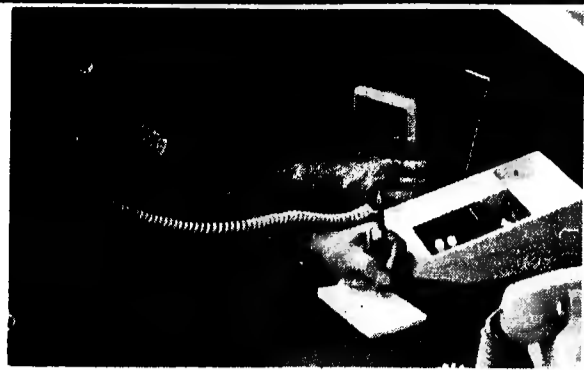
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# Dispatch Service

News and Advertising  
Call: 244-0780

An Emergency Dispatch Service has been set up for the Vanceboro area. Residents can reach fire, rescue, police, and sheriff by calling 244-0440. See story by Connie Bryan on Page 2.



## THE WEST CRAVEN

# HIGHLIGHTS

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**TOBACCO DAMAGED**—A hail and wind storm last Wednesday shredded much of the tobacco in the Vanceboro area. This picture was taken after the storm on the farm of Gerald Morris. (photo by Rick Cannon)

Open House July 14 & 15

## Wilkersons opens

According to officials of S.G. Wilkerson & Sons, Inc. the new Vanceboro facility, located on Farm Life Avenue, will be observing Open House on Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with dedication ceremonies slated for Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

"This is as nice as and very probably much nicer than any other branch operation of any funeral home in North Carolina," commented Don Wilkerson, secretary of S.G. Wilkerson & Sons, Inc. The Vanceboro facility, while operated as a branch operation, will have the same basic capabilities of any full service funeral home. It features a large, spacious chapel which can seat over two hundred persons. The pews can be rearranged to provide a visitation area. Adjacent to the chapel is a separate family room. "Family members can enter and exit the building through a private door," explained Charles Wilkerson, Jr., treasurer of S.G. Wilkerson & Sons, Inc., who had responsibility for planning of the new facility with Don. "The facility is equipped with an extra-high door in the rear of the building to ease the moving of flowers in and out" added Norman

Wilkerson, vice-president. Across a spacious vestibule from the entrance to the chapel, double doors open into a visitation parlor. At the end of the vestibule is a small consultation room which opens into a display area containing a full range of caskets available in today's market. Down a narrow hallway, is a preparation room. "Probably 90% of all body preparation will be done in Greenville," commented Charles Wilkerson, Jr., "However, we will have the capability in Vanceboro."

The Wilkerson's Vanceboro branch will observe regular business hours on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for burial assistance and insurance. However, the facility will be open all day when there is a death in the area. It will be staffed out of the Greenville office. Though the building will only be open for business two days per week, a unique telephone system allows persons in the Vanceboro area around-the-clock service. By dialing 244-0771, a person connects a person with a phone manned twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. "Visitation can be either in Vanceboro or Greenville," the Wilkersons indicated, "it is up to See Wilkerson, Page 5

## Storm hits Vanceboro

# Tobacco crop damaged

By Connie Bryan

Last week, during the evening hours of Independence Day, wind and hail ripped through the Vanceboro area causing extensive damage to crops and buildings. The natural elements were louder than any fireworks celebration, but there was another more drastic difference. When the noise died down and the local farmers saw the results of the storm, the mood was far from festive.

In the Piney Neck area, where there had been broad, green leaves of tobacco, there was now only stalks. Usually, when a farmer gazes over a field of tobacco stalks stripped of their leaves, it is much later in the summer and he feels a sense of pride and satisfaction, but last Wednesday there was only shock and despair.

Jimmie Huff, insurance agent, reported that although the Piney Neck area was the worst hit,

wind and hail damaged tobacco and other crops from the Pitt County line to below Askins. He commented that this storm was the worst one that he ever remembered because of the widespread damage. "We have 42 claims, which is more than this office has ever had at one time. Our adjusters will be in the field all this week. I would say that the damage varies

from 15% to 100% in some cases."

Selila Holton, insurance agent for Federal Crop Insurance, estimates the damage at approximately \$500,000. She explained that Federal Crop Insurance reimburses the farmer for his cost of production based on his past per acre production record, so that the amounts refunded would vary. She

**For more information and photos, see Page 10.**



## Haddock has new position

Bruce Haddock of Rt. 2, Vanceboro, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Haddock, has accepted a new position as a PRAC Officer with the North Carolina Department of Corrections, starting August 13. His responsibilities will include pre-release and after care. He will be working with people on parole, helping them to find a home and employment. He will work out of Newport Prison Unit and cover Craven, Pamlico, Jones and Carteret counties.

Mr. Haddock and his wife, Rhonda, will be moving from the Epworth community to New Bern.

## Loans available for Vanceboro farmers

Congressman Walter Jones announced this week that the Farmers Home Administration will provide emergency loans for the farmers of Craven County, who suffered damages to their crops

on July 4 as a result of the high winds and hail.

Applications may be filed in the FMHA office and will be accepted until April 9, 1980 for physical damage and July 9, 1980 for production losses.



**NEW FUNERAL HOME:** S. G. Wilkerson & Sons, Inc. of Greenville have completed construction of a new facility in Vanceboro. Open House will be held at the

building on Farm Life Avenue this Saturday and Sunday from 3-7 p.m. (Photo Courtesy of Wesley Morris Photography)