

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Ringer resigns

Citing insufficient pay as his reason, Vanceboro Police Chief Harley F. Ringer resigned Monday, July 30, to accept the position as Chief of Police for the town of Bridgeton. His resignation will become effective on August 11, 1979. In his letter of resignation to Police Commissioner Alton Whitley, Chief Ringer stated, "I have enjoyed my position as Chief of Police, however, because of my salary I find it impossible to continue. The annual salary of \$8,800 is inadequate for a person to live on in the present economy."

In a special interview with the Highlights on Friday afternoon, July 27, Chief Ringer revealed that he had given a verbal resignation earlier that day to Com. Whitley. During that interview, he announced that the salary for Police Chief (which is \$8,800 a year) was insufficient for his needs by saying, "I cannot make a home in Vanceboro on that salary."

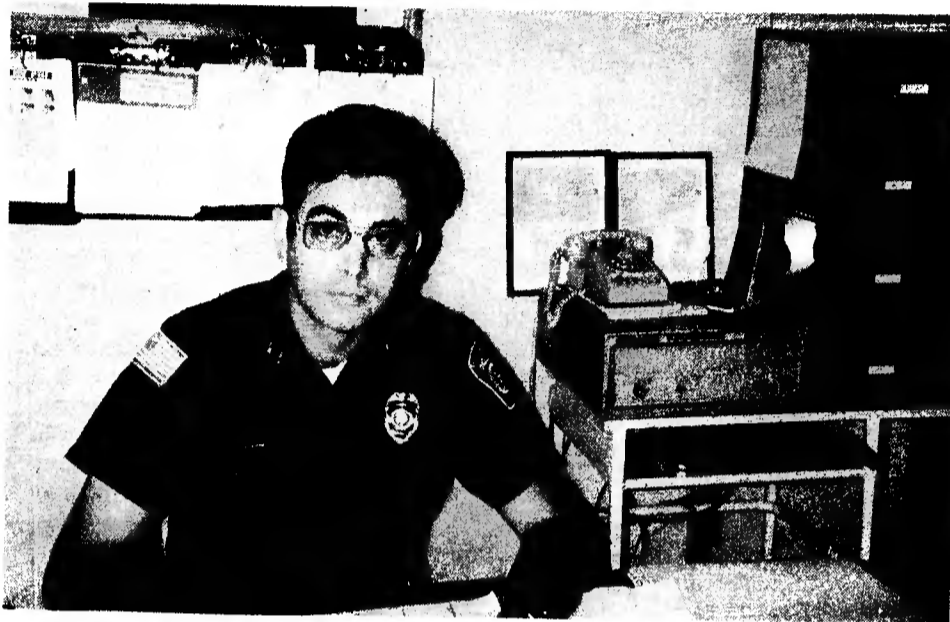
Responding to the issue of a pay raise, Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie Morris reported that the state sets the minimum salary that a Chief of Police can receive, which is \$8,800; however, if a town is unable to pay that amount, then the state provides a supplement. He added that in the case of Vanceboro, the state supplement is \$2,200, which means the town pays \$6,600. Mayor Morris then explained that if the town board voted to raise Chief Ringer's salary above the \$8,800 figure, that raise would be deducted from the \$2,200 supplement. For example, if Chief Ringer received a 5% raise, which would be \$440, that \$440 would be subtracted from the \$2,200 supplement, making it \$1,760. Therefore, in order to pay him the resulting \$9,240, the town would have to increase their portion from \$6,600 to \$7,480, a difference of \$880. Mayor Morris added that he had talked with Chief Ringer about the possibility of a housing supplement, but

that Ringer did not want that.

During Friday's interview, Chief Ringer pointed out that the town has received substantial funds from the Police Department. Becky Laughinghouse, town clerk, verified this statement. She reported the town has received grants totaling \$3,357.55 with a cost to the town of \$167.88; court costs, \$1,932.00; sale of car, \$1,600; and night watchmen fee from County ARC Board, \$56, for a total of \$6,945.55 since Ringer took over in September of 1977.

Also in Friday's interview Chief Ringer remarked that he had had other problems since coming to Vanceboro. He commented, "I have taken a lot of flak and ridicule on the streets. At one point, I was arrested and sued for defending citizens from crime."

Referring to the accomplishments made by the department, Chief Ringer stated, "All major crimes in Vanceboro have been solved. The traffic



**RESIGNS**— Police Chief Harley Ringer, who resigned Monday, is shown here at his desk in the Police Department. Behind him can be seen some of the equipment which he was responsible for acquiring for the town.

situation is under control. Accidents have been reduced. We have given the town back to the town by discouraging the hoodlum element." He added that because of federal grants, the department had acquired a record keeping system, an emergency radio system, and a mug-shot camera.

Chief Ringer commented that he had enjoyed working in Vanceboro. Concerning his new job in Bridgeton, he remarked that he intends to "clean up the mess," adding that "the good people are being intimidated by a criminal element of society."

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## Principal takes interest in Chicod Community

By R. L. Cannon

Charles Johnson, Principal of Chicod School, with grades Kindergarten through eighth, has a personal interest in the community and the school. All of his teaching career

has been spent at Chicod. He taught agriculture classes for nine years and has just completed his tenth year as principal. He feels that his success at the school has come from being

a part of the community. He lived thirteen years on the campus at Chicod, but recently built a home about two miles from school.

Mr. Johnson is married to the former Joyce Davenport and has three children, Charles, Jr., 20; Gregory, 18, and Joseph, 9. He received his B.S. in Vocational Agriculture from N.C. State University at Raleigh in 1958 and his Master of Education degree in 1968. Mr. Johnson is a major in the U.S. Army Reserve and is presently serving as the Executive Officer of the 3398th U.S. Army Reception Station headquartered in Greenville, NC. He stated, "I have received some of my best training for my present job from the Army Reserve."

In speaking about the "new look" around the Chicod School, Mr. Johnson highly praised the

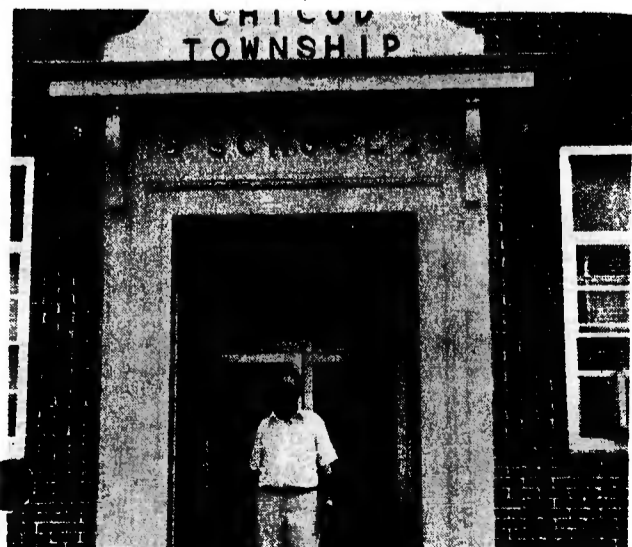
## Inside This Issue:

### Football is here!

West Craven High School plays a very competitive football schedule this season. For the complete schedule of this year's games and some of the coach's comments, see the story by Rick Cannon on page 5!

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**TAKES PERSONAL INTEREST IN SCHOOL**—Chicod Principal Charles Johnson is shown here in front of the school which has been a second home to him for almost twenty years.

community support that is being received. He spoke of the 50th anniversary celebrated this year and said it went even beyond his expectations. Invitations were sent out to alumni and friends, and almost a thousand people responded to the invitation. Alumni came from Michigan, Penn., Ohio, Virginia, Delaware, Florida, Tenn., Texas, Missouri and the surrounding communities.

Mr. Johnson feels that 1978-79 school year was probably a landmark year for the school. During last year three major projects were undertaken and complete, a football program was added, the

school was air conditioned, and they celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Major improvements to the school include adding aluminum windows throughout the school, lowering the ceilings, rewiring and installing new lighting, and adding a modern media center. Much of the expenses for the extras around the school came from fund raising projects held in the community. Mr. Johnson stressed one other improvement has been to get away from using traditional green color paint in the school. He feels the school has come to life through use of other colors not traditionally seen in the school setting.

A faculty of 30 to 31 full time teachers with reading aides in 1st-3rd grades and a special Title I reading teacher and aide for 4th-8th grades will make up the teaching staff at Chicod for school year 1979-80.

When asked about the recreational and athletic program, Mr. Johnson explained that a well rounded athletic program is offered at Chicod. Girl's volleyball, softball, and basketball and boy's basketball, football, and baseball are the major sports offered. He stated that the school has applied for a Federal Athletic

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