

HIGHLIGHTS

The Excitement of Fireman's Day--1979

By Connie Bryan

Once again last Saturday Vanceboro and area residents gathered on Main Street to wait and watch for the 20th Annual Fireman's Day Parade. This year's parade promised to be the best ever with even more entries. There were rumors everywhere of what was to come. Even the weather was cooperating with the air cool and crisp and the sky clear and blue. Obviously someone had asked the weatherman to please "don't rain on my parade."

And this is indeed our parade. We may enjoy watching the more famous parades on television and certainly the Macy's Christmas Parade or the Rose Parade are spectacular, but how many people do we know on those floats or riding those horses. Those parades are fun to watch, but they do not hold the excitement of the Fireman's Day Parade. This excitement is felt by young and old alike as they strain to be the first to see the Boy Scout color guard which signals that the parade has begun. "Here it comes!" can be heard up

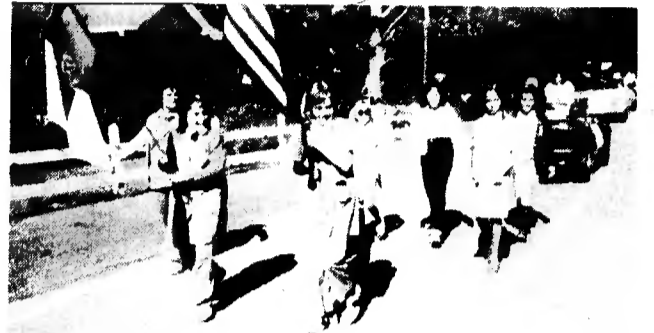


PARADE — The 1979 Fireman's Day Parade was the biggest and best ever. Boy Scout Troop 58 leads off the Parade.

and down the street. The excitement mounts as the Vanceboro fire trucks along with other area departments pass by all shined and polished. Then come cars carrying local dignitaries and contest winners, such as Miss DECA or Grifton's "Sweetheart." The Junior Woman's Club float reminds everyone that "It Shouldn't Hurt to be a Child." Unfortunately, the trailer carrying the display of Morris Construction Co. broke down before it got downtown. The West Craven Band followed with its short program of music and drilling. A highlight of



CLOWN — Sharon Bland, dressed in a clown's outfit and sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club, was the hit of the day with all the kids. Sharon is shown here riding on her motorcycle during the parade.



GIRL SCOUTS — Girl Scout Troop 482 also participated in the parade. They are (left to right) Mrs. Mattie Drake, Nelcer Drake (with Girl Scout Flag), Mary Ann Baker (with U.S. Flag), Martha Townsend, Debbie Hodges, Maria Beaman, and Kelly Jo Griffin.

the parade for many was the JWC clown, Sharon Bland on her motorcycle.

Later at the fire house, everyone gathered for a meal of barbecued pork chicken and to listen to gospel music by the Chapelettes and David and the Singspirations. Terry Morris was presented with a plaque for the 1979 Outstanding Fireman. This was the first year of this award. Also new this year was a prize of \$50 for the best float, which went to the Junior Woman's Club, and \$100 for the best band, which went to West Craven.

After lunch the fireman organized games including races, egg throws, tug of wars, and the notorious greasy pole climb.

As the day winds down and the last barbecue plate is sold, people return to



MORRIS AWARDED— Terry Morris was named the Outstanding Fireman of 1979. Terry received his award on Fireman's Day last Saturday.

their homes renewed for another year and filled with the spirit of community togetherness that makes Fireman's Day so special.

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Full Day of activities

Township 9 Fireman's Day

A Checker tournament, Horseshoe Tournament, Yard Sale, and the annual barbecue dinner sales highlight this year's Township 9 Fireman's Day according to Roger Wetherington. Training Officer for Township 9 Fire Department.

The weekend event begins Friday night at 7:30 p.m. continuing on Saturday morning begin-

ning at 9:00 a.m. The Yard Sale also begins at 9:00 a.m. and continues until 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. and continuing until 7:00 p.m., the firemen and Ladies' Auxiliary will serve barbecue dinners. The Horse Shoe Throwing Tournament begins at 1:00 p.m. All events take place at the Jasper Elementary School.



GRAND OPENING — (left to right) Jimmie Morris, Artie Rawls, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wilson, Meredith Lancaster, David Lancaster, Jerri Jo Lancaster, and Grace Elks participate in ribbon cutting ceremonies at the Grand Opening of the Vanceboro Car Wash.

Grand Opening

By Connie Bryan

The new Vanceboro Car Wash had its Grand Opening last Saturday amid all the excitement of Fireman's Day. David Lancaster, his wife, Jerri Jo, and daughter, Meredith, were on hand to greet family and friends as they gathered to wish him much success with the car wash.

David's aunt, Mrs. Grace Elks, original owner of the lot, cut one of the four ribbons across each bay. Vanceboro Jimmie Morris

followed saying that the town was proud to welcome David to the business community and commending him on providing the long needed car wash. Mayor Morris was joined by Artie Rawls, from Wimco Construction of Washington.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremonies, guests enjoyed refreshments of soft drinks and cookies, while the lucky first twelve customers got a free car wash.

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