

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Open House a big success!

# Santa visits Vanceboro

By Rick Cannon

Santa Claus, making a special appearance in Vanceboro, spent over two hours talking to over one hundred children about what they want for Christmas. Claus, commenting briefly between visitors, said that most children were asking for bicycles and trucks while some of the bigger kids were wanting stereos, tape decks, and even cars. One visitor requested a tall, dark and handsome man. Santa came into Vanceboro on the back of the town's new fire truck driven by Fire Depart-



AND I WANT A.....Santa listens closely to this youngster to make sure he has everything on his list. His elves will be very busy filling this order.

## Wright wins again!!

For the second week in a row Earl Wright won the Football Contest being sponsored this fall by the Highlights and area businesses. Wright had to edge out Christopher Hargett of Cove City in the tie breaker to preserve the win. Hargett finished second and was awarded five dollars. Five persons finished in a dead heat for third place. After the points and money was divided among those finishers each received eighty cents and four tenths of bonus point. The five, all tied at 10-4 and each predicting the same point total of the winner, were Harper Wetherington, John McLawhorn, Johnny Daly, Ervin Whitehurst, and Stacey Patterson.

With his win, Earl Wright moved into a tie for first place with Larry Hayes for the trip to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida for two. The person having the highest total of bonus points at the end of the contest wins the trip and fifty dollars expense money.

The correct winners in last weekend's games were Buffalo, Pittsburgh, San Diego, Los Angeles, Miami, Minnesota, New Orleans, Oakland, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, N. Y. Giants, ECU, UNC, Houston, (tie-breaker) Seattle won and scored 30 points.

ment Chief Ed "Footsie" Nobles.



SANTA — Santa arrives from the North Pole via a Vanceboro Fire Truck. Santa was on hand for the Open House last Sunday.

Shortly after Santa's arrival, Howard Tyre, Vanceboro's newest alderman, spoke briefly before turning on the electricity lighting Vanceboro's Christmas Tree. Tyre commented that he was pleased to see so many people participating in an activity that supported the town. He encouraged those in attendance to do all they could to support Vanceboro to help make the town prosper. He added that he hoped that people would remember to keep "Christ" in Christmas. In the midst of all the commercial celebration, he emphasized that people could still find a place to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and what that means to the world.

Mrs. Daphne Cleve,

another Vanceboro alderman and Recreation Commissioner, encouraged everyone to remember that Christmas should not be just a few days out of the year, but rather should last all year long. She explained that Christmas is not just getting but also and more importantly, giving. Mrs. Cleve commented that money has been appropriated to construct a picnic shelter at Vanceboro's new town park. She added that a lot of cooperation and help would be required to make the shelter and town park a reality for Vanceboro. In addition, she praised everyone that had a part in putting together this Christmas Opening in Vanceboro.

Merchants commented that the day was successful in that many people were able to come in and browse at the gift ideas available. Some estimated the crowd in Vanceboro at over three hundred people. The Christmas Open House, an annual event, was an effort by merchants in downtown Vanceboro to officially open the Christmas shopping season by displaying gift ideas in their businesses. "This is simply a way to allow people in the area to see what Vanceboro has to offer for Christmas," commented William Cleve, owner of M & W Gift Shop. Participating in this year's

See Open House Page 2

## EAS Approved

By Connie Bryan

It may be two years away, but it is coming. Area residents voted in favor of the proposed plan for extended area service, according to James Stocks, district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone. Stocks revealed that in the recent mail survey of all telephone subscribers in the New Bern, Havelock, and Vanceboro areas, 58.4% returning their ballots voted in favor of the extended area service. He added that the company is proceeding with plans to put the service into effect saying, "The new service

requires installation of additional equipment and it will be approximately 18 to 24 months before this plan will become effective."

The plan, which will give Vanceboro subscribers access to 20,000 additional telephones, was welcomed by Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie Morris. He commented that the toll-free services would make county services more readily available to the Vanceboro people. He also noted it may draw business from New Bern. He added that he felt like the phone bills would be cheaper in the long run.

## T. V. set explosion blamed

# Fire guts Huff home

By Rick Cannon

Fire, apparently caused by an explosion of the family's television set, gutted the interior of the Jimmy Huff home on Main Street in Vanceboro Monday night. Damages in the 10:35 p.m. blaze were estimated at between twenty-five and thirty thousand dollars said Huff. All three family members in the house escaped injury.

According to son, Jay, units from the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department responded almost within only a couple of minutes to bring the blaze under control.

First to discover the fire was Jay Huff, the Huff's sixteen year old son. "I was upstairs watching T.V. in my room when I smelled smoke. I ran down stairs only to find the den ablaze. By this time the smoke had become so heavy that it set off the smoke alarm. I screamed that the house was on fire and we all

got out," explained Jay. Fire officials commented later that due to the location of the fire escape could have been very difficult. The officials blamed the fire on a freak explosion of the family's television set.

Mr. Huff and his family are lifelong residents of Vanceboro. He is a partner in an insurance agency and tax-bookkeeping service in Vanceboro.



# Blue Bell Not Coming

By Connie Bryan

Mayor Jimmie Morris of Vanceboro announced on Monday that Blue Bell representatives had turned down Vanceboro as a possible site for a sewing plant, electing instead to purchase an existing sewing plant already in production. However he commented that Blue Bell had been very favorably impressed with the labor supply in the area and that they had expressed their appreciation to the Vanceboro Community for the warm reception and cooperation of everyone. Morris explained that the

owners of the factory had turned down the bid by Blue Bell earlier, after which Blue Bell had started taking labor surveys. They were then contacted by the owners saying that their bid had been reconsidered and accepted.

Mayor Morris reported, however, that the speculative building was still available to industry and that two companies were very interested in Vanceboro. Of course, nothing is definite at this time, but Mayor Morris is confident that Vanceboro will be able to convince an industry to locate here.