

HIGHLIGHTS

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Vanceboro, N. C. - Thursday December 13, 1979

12 pages

20 Cents

McGee home damaged by fire

By Rick Cannon

Fire, apparently starting in a couch in a rarely used room, razed one end of the Irvin McGee home on Hwy. 43 in Vanceboro Tuesday morning. Damage in the 9:40 a.m. was unofficially estimated at

about \$3500. No one was home at the time and no injuries were reported.

The fire was quickly contained and put out by firefighters from the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department who responded in less than four minutes. Chief Ed Nobles commented that the fire could have been much worse. He commended his department for its efficient work in containing the blaze with a minimum of loss. Fireman Herman Lewis explained that home owners should double check their heating systems since this time of year the number of house fires increase.



**Only
12
DAYS**
'til Christmas

In Tribute

Joe Bright: Statesman, family man, brother

by Connie Bryan

Over one hundred friends and family of Rep. Joe Bright attended his funeral services last Thursday at Wilkerson's Funeral Home in Vanceboro. Rev. Steve Hickle read the 23rd Psalm and Linda Thomas sang, "How

Great Thou Art" and "His Eye is on the Sparrow." The service was conducted by Rev. Claude Wilson. In his remarks, Rev. Wilson said, "Joe taught me that to know a person you must look deeper than the surface. You must look on the inside. I knew Joe as a man, respected him as a

statesman, appreciated him as a family man, but I cherished him as a brother in Christ."

Among those in attendance at the service were Lt. Gov. James Green, Sen. Harold Hardison, and Rep. H. Horton Roundtree. Serving as pallbearers, J. A. Everett, Sen. Monk Harrington, Rep. Dave Bumgardner, Sheriff Leland Brinson, Bill Pickett, New Bern Mayor Lee Morgan, Brad Rice, Rep. Chris Barker, Jimmy Huff, Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie Morris, Senator Bill Mills, and Sen. Joe Thomas.

Bright, a life long resident of the Vanceboro community, graduated from Farm Life High School in 1943. He attended the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy and served as an officer in the Maritime Service. He later attended King's Business College in Raleigh. He was co-owner of Bright-Morris Ford in Scotland Neck, returning to Vanceboro in 1966 he began operating Bright Chevrolet in Bayboro and tending his farming interest.

In 1970 Bright was elected to the N. C. House of Representatives from Craven, Jones, Lenoir, and

Pamlico Counties, where he was an active spokesman for his constituents. He served on a number of committees including Banks and Banking, Highway Safety, Agriculture, Public Buildings, and Grounds. He was Chairman of the Committee on Commercial Fisheries.

Bright was a member of

the Vanceboro United Methodist Church, the Vanceboro Masonic Lodge, and the New Bern Scottish Rite and Sudan Temple.

In an interview with the Highlights last year, Rep. Bright pointed to the establishment of the Medical School at East Carolina University as one of the biggest accomplishments that he helped bring about.

Ladies of Craven Attend Meeting

by Alma Drake

On Thursday November 29, several of the Ladies of Craven along with Father Leslie W. Hewett, International Chaplain, attended the Civitan International N. C. District East Area IX meeting, held at the Barbeque Lodge in Kinston.

The Welcome was given by the Kinston Club's President Arthur B. Stevenson. They adjourned for dinner. After dinner the business meeting was held. Reports and projects of Area IX clubs were given by Club presidents. Remarks on pertinent subjects were expressed by Elbert A. Mallard, Governor, District East,

Ben C. Thaxton gave a few remarks and challenged the area clubs. The Civitan Creed in unison - was led by Chaplain "L. W. Hewett, Sr. TSF (Government and Common Consent.)

The District East Officers - 1979-80 are Ben C. Thaxton, Governor; Tom Wilson, Imm. Past Governor; Hank Dressel, Governor-Elect; Lynda Browning, Sec. & Treas.; and Elbert A. Mallard, Chaplain. Father Leslie W. Hewett, Sr. was elected a year IX Governor Elect. The Ladies of Craven extend best wishes to him. Those attending the club were Father Leslie Hewett Sr., Mrs. Florence Hewett, Bessie Cherry, Lorraine Ford, Loney Newton and Andy Anderson.

WOW News

W.O.W. Camp 652 will hold its 15th Annual Christmas Banquet on Saturday, December 15, at 6 p.m. All Woodmen members and their families are urged to attend the party to make it a successful event.

Ranger Unit 1347 had a campout at the Park Inn Camp ground during November with their leader Billy Hughes. Those attending were Jimmy, Joey, and Brian Whitford, Doug Whitford, Perry and Kevin Whitford, Pat Troutner, Brian Hudson, Jimmy Whitford, Gene Autry Whitford, and Bobby Whitford.

Carol sing planned

Plans are being made for a Community Christmas Carol Sing to be held Friday night December 21 from 6:30 to 8:00 at the Community Christmas Tree at the stoplight in Vanceboro. Mrs. Linda Thomas is coordinating the singing groups for the event. Many area groups have been contacted already. Anyone interested in performing or participating in the Carol Sing should contact Mrs. Thomas at 244-1414 before Monday, December 17.



SPEAKS OUT— Rep. Joe Bright was very always very concerned about the welfare of the people in this area. Above, he speaks out at a meeting last February on the merger of the Craven County and New Bern City Schools. (Highlights file photo.)