

HIGHLIGHTS

Review of 1979

Moving toward the 80's

By Connie Bryan

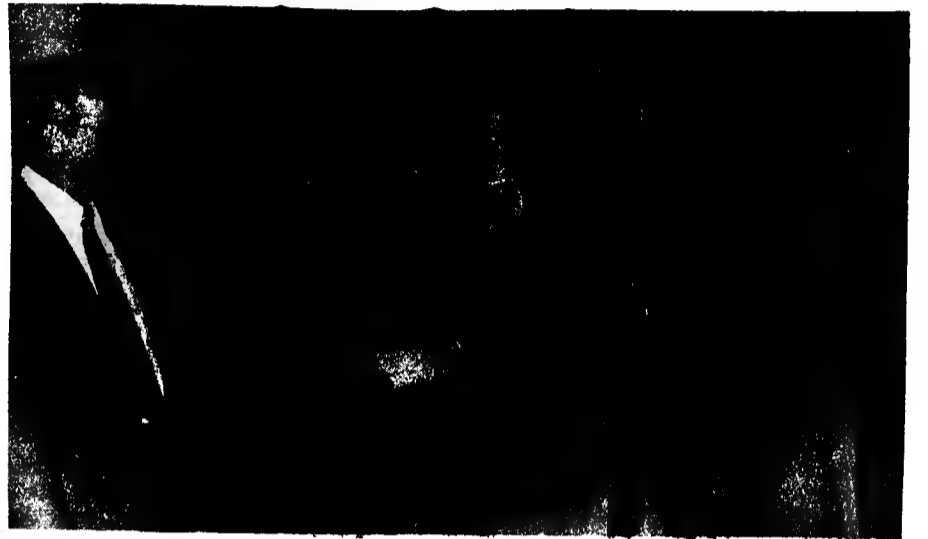
Vanceboro and western Craven County were on the move during 1979. The new developments and progress certainly show that the 1980's hold great promise. As we pause a moment at the beginning of this new year and new decade, let's reflex back over the events of 1979 and relive our triumphs. Praise ourselves on our accomplishments, while at the same time we brace ourselves for the new challenges of the 80's.

One of the biggest developments of the year came in the first week when Joe Thomas of Vanceboro was selected to fill the State Senate seat vacated by the late D. L. Stallings. Thomas, who lives near Vanceboro with his wife, Linda and four children, was a 1959 graduate of Farm Life and Vanceboro's mayor at one time. He has been an active supporter of this area and a tireless advocate of a better way of life for all who live here.

Other major development of 1979 was the plan for merger of the Craven County Schools and the New Bern City Schools. The issue of merger was not new, but at last it became a reality. After several meetings, including a marathon meeting on January 23, when the boards finally reached an agreement which seemed fair to both sides. This plan calls for the establishment of one administrative unit of the two systems, effective with the first Monday of December 1980.

Another educational issue was resolved as soon in 1979 as the merger was. Plans for the new elementary school for Vanceboro were drawn up and adopted by the board at the meeting in October, after being discussed at almost every meeting before that. But it seems to be certain that Vanceboro will have a modern school to replace the 65 year old structure now in use.

A near tragedy was averted in February, when a huge chemical fire at a Greenville plant caused the evacuation of many



PARK GRANT— Daphne Cleve, Parks and Recreation Commissioner of Vanceboro accepts a check for \$2,000 from Keith Lamb, Regional Vice-President of Weyerhaeuser.

Looking on is Jimmie Morris, Vanceboro Mayor and Barbara Toney, Regional Analyst. The grant will go toward a Town Park for Vanceboro. (Photo by Rick Cannon)



JANUARY— New State Senator Joe Thomas with his wife, Linda, and children, Scott, Allen, Brynn, and Emma.

families along Hwy 43 and 17. Fire, rescue, and medical teams stayed on alert throughout the day, but no major problems occurred and the evacuees returned to their homes late in the afternoon.

Vanceboro also got a youth center during the year. Members of the Vanceboro Area Ministerial Fellowship and concerned citizens got together and organized a Youth Center Governing Board, with Rev. Steve Hickle as the chairman. The Board along with the Youth Council worked hard during the year to make this dream a reality. A contest later in the year named the center the Vanceboro Fun House, which is open each Saturday night for area teens.

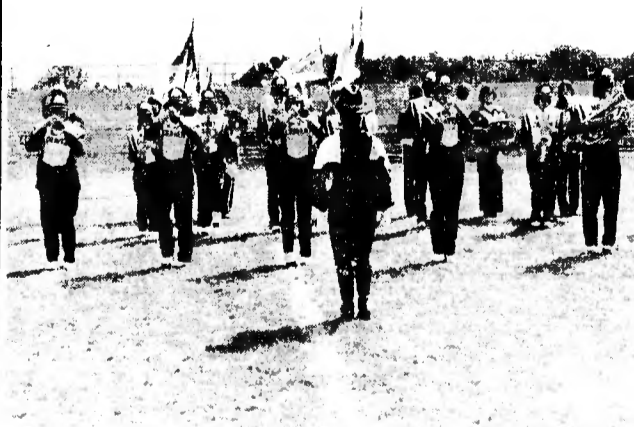


MAY 11— A record crowd enjoyed the zany antics at the 1979 Farm Life Alumni.

Bike-A-Thon, the Youth Rally sponsored by the MYF of the Vanceboro UMC, Wachovia Bank and Trust, Co., celebrated its 100th anniversary and the Vanceboro branch employ-

Of course the highlight for many this year was the Farm Life Alumni Association meeting in May. A record 227 people gathered in the cafeteria to stroll down memory lane and to sing "a song of our dear Farm Life School." Everyone enjoyed the delightful program planned by Etheleen Butler and Brenda Ipock, this year's program chairpersons. As once again, Farm Life was "the scene of happy days."

As usual the summer was full of weddings and hard work in tobacco, but that work was interrupted on many area farms after a wind and hail storm hit Vanceboro on the Fourth of July. The storm left in its wake shredded tobacco leaves with many of the fields as much as 95% destroyed. Insurance firms paid out over a \$1 million to policy holders. Other crops were also damaged as well as buildings and at least one home that of Mr. and



MAY— West's Craven's Band wound up a very busy and successful year.

Some of the other happenings include the spring and fall festivals in Vanceboro schools and the Spring Festival in Bridgeton, the Cystic Fibrosis

ees came to work dressed in period dresses, Chief of Police Harley Ringer resigned his position and took a similiar post in Bridgeton.

Anderson chosen to fill vacant seat

By Rick Cannon

Gerald Anderson of Bridgeton received 264 votes. Gerald L. Anderson of Bridgeton was named last Friday to fill the vacate seat of the late Joseph Bright. Anderson, a life long resident of Craven County is presently serving on the Craven County Board of Commissioners and is a prominent businessman in Craven County. He received 264 of the 458 votes cast. Ruben Davis of Lenoir County received the remaining 184 votes.



Anderson remarked

after the announcement by selection committee chairman Jimmie L. Morris of Vanceboro that he was very pleased with the appointment. In response to comments that the person being chosen for the seat would have an advantage in the upcoming May Democratic Primary, Anderson said that he couldn't see where it would help any. "My record stands for itself," he added. "I have proven myself as a County Commissioner"

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