

Little Dodge City

By JONATHAN PHILLIPS
Special Correspondent

They used to call it Little Dodge City.

It's a little hard to believe that Vanceboro ever had that sort of reputation, but I've heard enough stories from enough oldtimers to believe that deserved or not, Vanceboro once had a wide reputation as being one tough town.

Vanceboro now has its share of troubles and troublemakers, just as every other town does, unfortunately.

But it's a pretty safe town, full of friendly, non-dangerous people probably a nicer, safer town than most, even for its size. There are no undue dangers, unless maybe you decide to take a Saturday morning stroll through the woods wearing a brown jacket during deer season.

It would be hard to convince me that things have ever been a whole lot different in fact. In reputation, however, Vanceboro used to be a mean town—it may have been an undeserved reputation, but it was there.

Don't break down

"It's alright now, but they used to say if your car broke down in Vanceboro, you was a goner," an old-timer in a neighboring county said. "They used to call it Little Dodge City."

During the war, the old tales go, even more servicemen swarmed into Eastern North Carolina than are present now. When a bunch of 'em went on a binge, they would temporarily "take over" whatever burg was the unlucky recipient of their boisterousness.

That never happened in Vanceboro.

"There was once a couple of Marines in a cafe we used to have here," a local resident remembered. "They got to being fresh with the waitress. You hear worse'n that on TV now, but it was pretty serious stuff back then. They didn't realize the cook was her brother.

"They beat those Marines so bad they had to take 'em to Duke to the hospital."

That was barehanded. The tall tales told that the supposedly-mean Vanceboro folks sometimes used weapons, too.

Running the gauntlet

There was the time a buck deer inadvertently left the woods and took an untimely stroll down Vanceboro's Main St.

As a former resident tells it, "it all of a sudden sounded like another world war out there. Folks was blasting away at that deer right in Main Street, and didn't seem to worry about where the shots would go that missed."

Amazingly, the buck ran the lead-filled gauntlet and

PCA Annual Stockholders Meeting 1981

By MRS RUBY LILLY

The Annual Stockholders Meeting for 1981 of East Carolina Production Credit Association was held recently at the Shrine Club in Kinston, N.C.

Invocation was given by Mr. Wallace Banks, followed by a very delicious dinner to patrons and guests, served by King's Restaurant of Kinston.

The call to order then began, and the welcome, and recognition of guests. The Business Session then was followed by the Director's Report, and Financial Reports. The Election of Directors, and Election of Nominating Committee was headed by Mr. James A. Hodges, Jr. attorney, who later gave the Report of the new Election of Directors.

Mr. David Fryar, Vice Pres. of the New Bern office, introduced Mrs. Jeanne Robertson, who was the speaker and entertainer of the evening.

Mrs. Robertson was Miss North Carolina from 1963-1964, and a Miss Congeniality winner at the Miss America contest at Atlantic City, N.J. She is a member of the prestigious National Speakers Assn. Convention and speaks all over the country professionally, and has been hostess to many beauty pageants. She was beyond a doubt, one of the most dynamic speakers ever, and received a standing ovation from nearly 1000 patrons & guests.

Her slogan was "to take your liabilities (things you can't change) and to turn them into assets, which was an inspirational thought to leave with those privileged to hear her speak.

Two very distinguished guests were present. Mr. Clet Horne, president and Mr. Walter Langley, Vice-President, of the Main Bank of Columbia in Columbia S.C. Mr. Langley was formerly from Pactolus, N.C.

The East Carolina PCA serves the counties of Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, Craven, Carteret, and Pamlico, and has assets of over \$40,000,000 for the year of 1981.

ducked back into the pines, presumably with a final flurry of firepower urging him on. Equally amazingly, if there was really that much lead in the air, no human casualties were reported either.

That was not the case the perhaps-apocryphal night a drunk in a nearby (and long-defunct) dance hall got mad at the world in general and showed his displeasure by whipping out a switchblade and taking a swipe at everyone in sight.

Luckily, his drunken lack of hand-eye coordination, coupled with the stampede out the door, prevented any human filleting. Unluckily, the door couldn't hold all the people, and some had to make for the windows to escape the knife-wielding madman.

The last man out had to get a number of stitches in his derriere, the only target the crazed drunkard managed to stick.

A night at the movies

Sure, it's hard to believe anything like that happened in Vanceboro.

But a South Creek native who used to run the projector in the theater here, back when there was a theater here, is another who tells Little Dodge City stories.

"I looked down from the projection room one evening on two girls—girls, now—just fightin' like cats all the way up the street. Nobody stopped 'em. Finally one threw the other right through a storefront window. I figured that would stop it," he said..

"But ten seconds later, she came flyin' back out the window, and they went to scrappin' some more."

Another allegedly common occurrence was one Vanceboro man who would have too much to drink and drive his car back and forth along the sidewalk under the theater marquee.

Vanceboro as Little Dodge City? A little farfetched, right? My theory is that a few—or maybe all—of the two-fisted tales are true to at least some degree. Any town will have some history of such incidents. For some reason, however, Vanceboro's incidents got exaggerated and spread around—this, coupled with another reputation as a notorious speed trap, gave the town a bum rap.

But maybe there's been no harm done. Folks only have to go to Vanceboro to realize that it's a peaceful little town, and the old stories make for a few good backporch conversations.

And if my car had to break down, I'd rather break down in Vanceboro than anywhere else. I know a couple or three good mechanics here.

Girl Scout News

By JUDY FREEMAN

Approximately 2,000 Girl Scouts and adult volunteers from the 26-county area of the Girl Scout Council of Coastal Carolina, including Vanceboro's Junior Troop #482, converged on the council's newest campsite, "The Homestead" in Louisburg the weekend of October 16-18. For three days they enjoyed enrichment sessions with outdoor games, primitive camping and nature crafts, and the dedication of the 110 acres of gentle rolling land balanced between open fields and forests.

Excited Girl Scouts and volunteers came from the eastern portion of the state, from Wilmington to Hatteras, to partake in sessions, enjoy the out-of-doors, and dedicate the campsite.

Some of North Carolina's finest craftsmen were on hand Saturday exhibiting and demonstrating basketweaving, caning chairs, spinning, and the art of making natural dyes.

Participants also viewed the North Carolina Crime Prevention Van on the site and enjoyed the Hemlock Bluff Kicking Cloggers and a blue grass band, "The Blue Grass Reunion", at the "Hoedown", later that evening.

The dedication ceremony culminated the event Sunday with the Council President, Mrs. Frances McLellan, welcoming the group of Girl Scouts, volunteers, and guests. Dr. Harold Doster, President of Atlantic Christian College and a member of the Council Board of Directors delivered the dedication address.

It was a weekend to remember for all who participated, including Heather Dudley, Shannon Dudley, Linda Freeman, Kristy Malan, Wendy Ormand, Cheryl Andrews, and Tammy Wolfe, members of Troop #482, and their leader, Ms. Lorraine Just, and assistant, Mrs. Pat Stedwell.

Candy Sales

For two weeks in November local Girl Scouts will be taking orders for Katherine Beich Candies. This year they will be offering cans of chocolate turtles, mixed nuts, and the ever popular peanut butter crunchies. New this year will be a Holiday Gift Pack, two large cans of candy or mixed nuts in a Christmas wrapper.



Mr. Worth "Bill" Johnson, student teacher in Mr. Richard Cannon's Distributive Education Class, is busy filling Tom Wat orders in the classroom at West Craven High School

(Photo by R.L. Cannon, Jr.)

Distributive Education Sales Project

Marketing & Distributive Education Students at West Craven High School have been participating in a very important sales project during the last month.

Students were issued a kit with twenty-nine items of gift giving type. They were given instruction in selling and meeting the customer's needs in the classroom, then they went out to meet their customer and to explain the benefits the customer could receive from the products in the kit.

Most of the students did very well with their salesmanship. Forty-four of the fifty-seven MDE students participated in the sales project. They averaged \$136.36 per student. Daphne Dixon was the highest achiever in the project. Daphne sold \$601.05 worth of merchandise. Teresa Cox followed second with \$497.90 in sales and Linda Petty was third with \$386.05 in sales.

Each student that participated in the project will receive fifteen percent of the profit from his/her sales toward a trip to Disney World in May.

West Craven

HIGHLIGHTS

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All profits earned by the girls belong to their troop, and are used to buy camping supplies or to finance trips.

The people of Vanceboro have always been very generous to the Girl Scouts in the past, and with your support they are sure to be successful again this year.

"Girl Scouting Needs YOU"

We have all seen the commercials on television, a group of Girl Scouts or Brownies telling you "We need leaders." And you thought to yourself, "Vanceboro already has scout leaders, they don't need me." WRONG! There is a desperate need for leaders in our town.

Did you know that we have Cadet Scouts, but they don't have a leader?

Did you know that many of our young girls are unable to be scouts because the troops are full? There are waiting lists for girls wanting to be Brownies or Juniors.

If you are interested in being a leader, please contact Joy Wright or Lorraine Just for more information. Remember, "Girl Scouting Needs YOU!" "Girl Scouting Needs YOU!"