Page 16, West Craven Highlights, February 11, 1982



The Great Blizzard

We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intentions fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God. If at times we are somewhat stuned by the tempest, never fear. Let us take breath and go on afresh. (Sales)

There is very little said in books about Blizzards. Webster's Dictionary says: "a biting - cold - snow storm." Having experienced one bad blizzard I can add: "A biting - howling - wind - storm - whipping trees and houses with ice and snow-rolling black clouds and the most mournful sounds I ever heard." This one came in the winter of 1903 and 1904. I can't remember whether it was after or before New Year. I was staying in the dormitory at Winterville High School. Late in the evening, close to sunset, the clouds all changed to a gloomy reddish appearance, the wind grew stronger, no rain or snow then, you just felt it was a bad storm coming. We had no T.V. or warnings of what to expect. Afterwards, you could read about how bad it was in the Greenville Reflector. I have never forgotten the sound of that monstrous wind when it finally struck.

Trees were struck so forcibly by wind and snow they bent to the ground, many pulled up by the roots and left to die. I can't remember how many hours it lasted, but I remember the experience it left behind. A three story dormitory full of teachers and students, no running water, one hand pump on the back porch, having to be thawed with boiling water every afternoon, girls standing in line with pitchers to catch enough water to last till the next afternoon when the pump would be thawed again. No bathroom, waste water carried down in buckets by the Janitor.

After every cloud comes a silver lining, next day the sun came out bright and glorious. Back of the dormitory was woods close enough to be seen real good, the sun shining on those icicles and snow covered trees sparkling like the jubilee diamond: no painter can paint a picture to compare. The peace that follows after a storm like that is most welcome. The one that struck Vanceboro in 1960 was a little one, did very little damage. papers and T.V. let us know first of January prepare for a blizzard, the clouds looked like one but it did not hit here.

I read an article in the Guide Post describing being out in a "Deadly Blizzard." Quote, "It held our car in an icy grip while the blizzard raged, winds shrieked around us, the raging snow advanced like another worldly figure in a billowing white shroud. At the crucial moment of despair, giving up, they remembered the words of Jesus: "Lo, I am with you, always, even to the end of the world". They believed in His Power to save.

Car Fire

Vanceboro Fire Department answered a call to Ersell Nobles Garage to combat an auto fire in the garage. Nineteen men responded with three pieces of equipment.

Estimated value of property in danger was \$100,000. The quick action of the fire department held the damage to an estimated \$2,000.

