Vanceboro Men Fly For Fun

Downtown Vanceboro from 1200 feet up

In some people's mind nothing beats the freedom found in flying.

Just a short 12 minute circling over the Vanceboro area at 1200 feet and you see well organized rows of tobacco, soy beans and corn, stitched into the soil with arrow-straight perfection.

The tall green trees become like thick masses of jungle and local streams like the Swift and Palmetto almost seen to be tributaries of the Amazon.

There are three men in the Vanceboro area that get to see these sights almost anytime they want.

George Ewell, Woody Copeland, and Royce Jordan are all flyers and realized that individually they couldn't afford a plane so they got together and formed an informal flying club and they now own a couple of Cessnas collectively.

If its Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday and the three boys are not out fishin' fresh or salt water, then you'll probably find them hanging around the airstrip about a mile north of Vanceboro on the left side of Route 43.

They go flying whenever they take the notion.

George said, "I fly a plane the way some people go out in their boat. I've been flying since 1956 and it don't cost no more to operate a small plane than it does to operate a 15 foot, 55 horsepower boat."

The farthest George flew in one trip, to his recollection, was to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The three boys have a small 4 cyclinder, 2-seater, 100 horsepowered Cessna 150 that costs about $12 per hour to operate at a cruising speed of 100 miles per hour, not counting pushing or pulling by the wind.

They also have a bigger 6 cylinder, 4-seater, 230 horsepowered Cessna 182 which costs about $25 per hour to operate.

Woody points out the difference between the small and big Cessna, "When I fly to visit my brother in Jasper, Alabama or my mother in Wilsonville, Alabama, it takes 6½ hours and $78 worth of gas in the Cessna 150 or I can take the Cessna 182 in 4½ hours and $112. Its a matter of time or money."

As George and Woody were wiping off the windshield of the Cessna 150 with a special gelatin made to clean plexiglass, Royce drives up the dirt trail leading to the hanger area.

He gets out and looks the sky over once, "The weather's just right today with this front comin' through and the wind's comin' down the runway from the west. This front is a mixture of cumulus and moisture-laden clouds at about 1500 feet. Its gonna be bumpy below the clouds and just as smooth as you could want it above them."

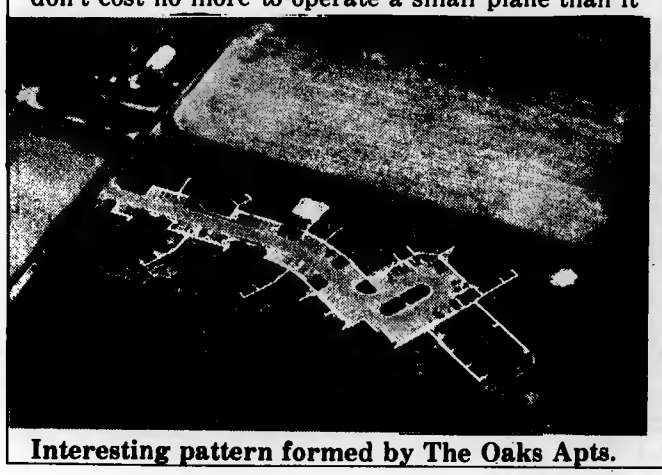
Royce appears to be the crack weatherman of the group.

Soon the talk turns from flying to fishing.

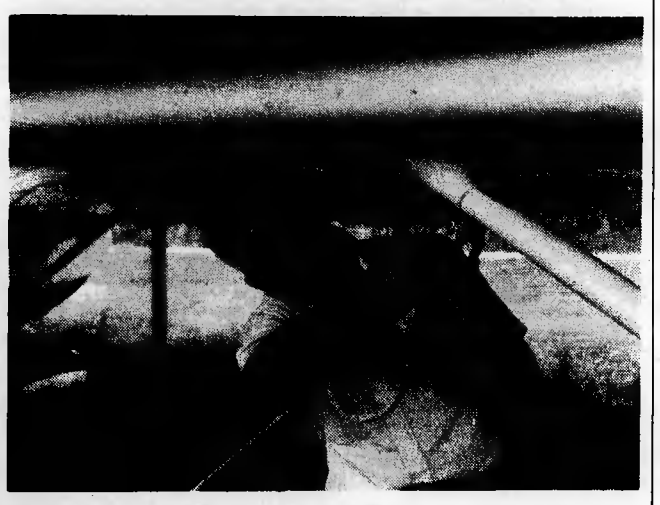
Woody states, "The best fishing close by now is around Aurora where the water stays clear. What's biting up there now is bass, white and yellow perch, and brim.

George overhears Woody's list and responds, "You'll have to prove it by me!"

Apparently the fish are not biting for George.



Interesting pattern formed by The Oaks Apts.



BACK IN THE HANGAR AGAIN—Woody Copeland of the Vanceboro Informal Flying Club, ties a rope to the wing hook of his Cessna 150 to secure the plane in a strong wind. A small tornado hit the hanger shed about 1½ years ago, tearing tin off the shed & snapping lumber but no damage to the plane.

Vanceboro Fisherman Reveals Where They Are Now Biting

James "Pete" White, retired mailman, of Vanceboro, did something the other day a lot of fisherman won't do.

He revealed the precise location of his favorite fishing spot.

Of course, the important facts come along with all the details of Pete's most recent expedition.

Pete, Kenneth Fornes, and Ronald Taylor all left Vanceboro Sunday morning with Ron's 24-foot Penyan (cutty cabin included) and headed up U. S. 13 to the Chesapeake Bay where they put in at Bubba's Marina on Lynnhaven Inlet, Va.

Earlier they had picked up Pete's son, James Jr., in Greenville.

Using spots, croakers, and anything else they could catch for live bait, the four men got the Penyan out there for the first change of the tide and found the fish biting with every outgoing tide thereafter.

By Monday night they had reeled in 69 gray trout that went from 5½ pounds up to 12 pounds, three large bluefish, and a lot of small dogfish shark. All the fish good for eating were brought back and put in a freezer.

"Four people can fish quite comfortably on the Penyan and we were using ambassador reels with 25 pound test lines and about a 6 to 8 ounce weight because of the strong current. We needed the heavy weight to get the lines down into 60-feet deep water," explains Pete.

Now Pete reveals the exact location:

"Its 18 miles across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and we went out 12 miles from the inlet on the southwest side to the fourth island.

"The fish are really biting up around that fourth island and now is the time to go. I have a friend who went out the next day after seeing our catch and he and another man put 22 fish in the boat in 2½ hours.

"But you've got to have an outgoing tide because you won't catch a thing on the incoming tide and you want to be off the west side and kinda close to that fourth island but not directly over the tunnel leading out from it or you'll get hung up in them 35-foot deep rocks, to be sure."

"There's also been some catchin' at the second island."

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Blaise Pascal, a French mathematician, scientist, and religious writer, is credited with building the first mechanical computer in 1644.

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The cocoon of a single silkworm can yield up to 1,000 yards of silk thread, the National Geographic Society says.

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At Verkhoyansk and Oymyakon in Soviet Siberia, temperatures dip to minus 96 F, or minus 71 C, making them the coldest towns in the world, the National Geographic Society says.

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South-Swimming Bacteria Found For First Time

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic News Service

WASHINGTON—It's been confirmed. Lowly bacteria have a sense of direction just like the birds and bees.

Various bacteria found in the Southern Hemisphere in muddy sediments under both fresh and salt water near Christchurch, New Zealand, and Hobart, Australia, swim in a southerly direction using the earth's magnetic field for orientation. This is the first time south-swimming bacteria have been reported. Bacteria that always head north were discovered in the Northern Hemisphere in 1975.

Compasses Inside

A team of scientists has verified that like their counterparts in the Northern Hemisphere, the bacteria down under contain tiny bits of magnetite. An iron oxide, the substance acts as an internal compass for the bacteria.

The ancients called magnetite lodestone and used it to make ships' compasses.

The scientists who discovered the south-swimming bacteria in New Zealand and Australia include Richard P. and Nancy A. Blakemore, University of New Hampshire; Richard B. Frankel, Massachusetts Institute of Technoloy; and Adrianus J. Kalmijn, Woods Hole Oceonographic Institution. Their work has ben supported by the National Geographic Society, the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Naval Research.

"We believe that bacteria in both hemispheres use the earth's magnetic field to find their most suitable habitat, the muddy sediments below," explained the scientists. "It's a unique and biologically advantageous response that may also have far-reaching implications in fields such as biology, physics, and medicine."

In the Southern Hemisphere, swimming south also means swimming "down." At the latitude of Christchurch, for instance, the vertical component of the earth's magnetic field is larger than the horizontal. Since the bacteria in the water are too small to distinguish up from down based on gravity, their built-in compasses steer them southward but, more important, downward to their preferred habitats. Similary, in the Northern Hemisphere swimming north means swimming down.

Birds and Bees

The evidence that bacteria in both hemispheres can sort out directions using their own compasses has far-reaching biological implications. For years scientists have suspected that many animals may be using the earth's magnetic field to orient themselves on long migrations, or even on short trips from a home base.

Recently, other researchers found magnetite in pigeon skulls and in the abdomens of bees. Both creatures have extraordinary homing ability.

So far few studies have been undertaken to determine how much if any magnetite might be contained in the human body and what role it might play there. But if an organism as simple as a bacterium can produce its own magnetite, why can't humans, ask the scientists.

As for the "magnetotactic" bacteia, their highly efficient compass needles may be of enormous value to modern technology and medicine someday. Drugs might be attached to magnetite particles extracted from the bacteria and steered through the bloodstream to the exact source of a disease by using special magnets outside the body.