



### New Bern To Celebrate July 4th

New Bernians are organizing a larger July 4th celebration this year, with a special event on Saturday evening, July 3rd, and a series of free family events on Sunday the 4th.

The Little German Band and Dancers will perform several times starting at 5 to 8 p. m. Saturday at the rear of the Harvey Mansion Restaurant, 221 Tryon Palace Drive.

On Sunday the Tryon Palace will open its historic grounds and gardens free to the public from 1:30 to 4:30 p. m. The Tryon Palace Players will perform several short living history plays.

At 3 p. m. The Little German Band and Dancers are behind Tryon Palace and from 1:30 to 3:30 p. m. family games will take place in the Bicentennial Park.

5 p. m. The Little German Band and 6 p. m. the Tryon Twirlers will be on the concert stage at Bicentennial Park. At 8:15 p. m. the Marine Aircraft Band will begin a concert with a finale leading into a major fireworks display.

## Drowning At Cowpens Landing

The Neuse River has claimed another victim. Cornelius "Wheat" Saunders of the Riverdale section was an 11 year old student at Brinson Memorial School. He was visiting his grandmother Eartha Dunn of Cowpens Landing Road when the tragedy took place.

Cornelius was playing with a friend in chest deep water just to the left of the weeds about 15 feet out from the shore when he went under at about 3:30 p. m. Saturday and after several hours of searching the body was recovered another 30 feet out.

Sergeant J. C. "Rusty" Woolard of the Craven County Sheriff's Department said in a telephone interview that Cornelius was pronounced dead on arrival at Craven County Hospital and that the death was ruled as an accidental drowning by Medical Examiner Dr. Ralph Lowy.

The following are eye-witness accounts:

Henry Austin of Belhaven in Beaufort County said, "I was sittin' over by my sister's car while those two boys were playin' around in the water and I heard one of the boys yell that his partner had time to come up but that he ain't commin' up.

"My step-niece was here and she saw the boy bob up and down once and that's when I turned to look and I saw him go up and down and I stood still a few seconds to see if he'd come up again.

"I didn't see no bubbles or nothin' and I took my wallet out of my pants pocket, didn't bother with my shoes or nothin', and I went quick overboard to the spot where the boy went down.

"Seems like the current of the chilly water would take a small person out so easily.

"The boy didn't holler, didn't scream. He was up and down and gone.

"I reckon the shock got to him.

"Right after I jumped in I'd say about 20 other people crowded into the water tryin' to find him."

Patricia Lewis of Calico is Henry's sister and said, "I'm a pretty good swimmer but I couldn't find him and nobody else could find him.

"I dove under the water and felt all around with my feet. I walked all around those marshy weeds and cut my feet up while I was feelin' around.

"When I first jumped in I screamed out that anybody who could swim better get in here with me and about six or seven guys jumped in immediately and we searched all around the boat ramp but we just could not find him.

"We searched and we searched and we searched.

"It was like somebody havin' a heart attack - it was that quick.

"I swear it's a tragedy."



**DEPRESSING DIALOGUE**—Patsy Townsend, left, Acting Captain and Outstanding Rescue Worker 1981 Tri-County Emergency Assoc. of the Vanceboro Rescue Squad discusses methods of searching with Debbie Flowers, Kay Bowling and Larry Waters, all of Bridgeton.

Wayne Lewis is Pat's husband and said, "It was a nightmare - just like that the boy dove backwards and he never came up, never cried, never done nothin' - it was the end of the game.

"He never hawked, never squawked, never hollered for mercy.

"I would say within five minutes there were 20 guys patrolling the area, wading around and kicking the river bottom."

Craven County Jailer Ed Nobles was watching intently from the shore as several fiberglass rescue boats made circular swirls in the water, creating swells in an attempt to stir up the body.

Ed said that Rescue 15 was in charge with Acting Captain Patsy Townsend taking over for Captain Terry Kite who had to leave.

Assistance was being provided by Rescue 12, Rescue 30, the Vanceboro Fire Department, the Sheriff's Department, and the Civil Air Patrol which was flying a small plane trying to spot the body.

The search was made both upstream and downstream, dragging the riverbottom with grappling hooks and at about 6:30 p. m. one of the hooks came up with a long orange thread wrapped around it.

At 6:50 p. m. the worst was confirmed as the body of young Cornelius Saunders was recovered from the muddy Neuse and brought back to shore where he was wrapped in a black bag and carried away by ambulance.

### Question of the Week: Should all phone calls made within Craven County be local?



Norwood Pate of Jasper

"Yes, because Craven is not that big and it ought not cost extra to call Ft. Barnwell. Phone bills are high enough already. Otherwise the system is good.



Betty Huggins of Ft. Barnwell

"I'd pay a bit more to have both Kinston and New Bern local. We're on the Kinston line and that's good. It would be nice having both."



Otis Gatlin of Vanceboro

"Absolutely. I work in Havelock and can call New Bern but not home. At home I can't call Havelock yet it's all in Craven. I'd pay a higher flat rate."



Nancy Wetherington of Perfection

"It would be great. We could reach one another better. My home's only 4 miles down the road from Ft. Barnwell and its long distance to call kin."