

Star Wars on the Farm

BY JONATHAN PHILLIPS
FORMER EDITOR
OF THE HIGHLIGHTS.

I may not be all that bright, but I didn't just come down highway 17 on the back of a turnip truck.

I know a little of what's been going on in these parts. I know that agriculture has changed a lot.

The farm kids growing up in the 1990's won't know what a mule is any more than the kids growing up in Los Angeles. The computer spreadsheet is already a more important planning tool for the North Carolina farmer than the Farmer's Almanac.

And if you made a list of the heavy equipment Old MacDonald has in the shed these days, it could be easily mistaken for the stock inventory of the Corps of Engineers.

I've been concerned for several years with the environmental impacts of corporate agriculture in eastern North Carolina, what with New Yorkers and Chicagoans and Italians buying up land and turning agricultural engineers and economists loose on it.

Even armed with this knowledge, however, I was in for some big surprises down Kenansville way.

The outfit I work for is interested in soil erosion, sedimentation, water quality, and nonpoint source pollution, among other things. So I checked out the Soil and Water Conservation Expo down in Duplin County earlier this month.

In addition to the conservation agencies, a lot of contractors and manufacturers were on hand.

I got an eyeful.

There was farm machinery that looked like it was more complicated to operate than a B-1 Bomber or the Space Shuttle. There were more chemicals than you'd find at a meeting of the South American Immigrants' Club of South Florida.

There were pipes and drains of all types, machines whose purpose I simply could not fathom, and every variety of backhoe, dragline, or cross between the two you could think of.

This included a "walking" dragline that looked as though, in the wrong hands, could be used to wreck a path of devastation and destruction that Hurricane Diana or Godzilla could only dream of.

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Worship

By LELA BARROW
LONG TIME RESIDENT
OF VANCEBORO.

As the sage of old worshipped thee, O Lord, and said, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I", may we, too, be led in our worship to that which is loftier than our level of thinking. We come from cares and pleasures to ask thee for directions to know how to worship thee, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God works through human beings. How much more effective He can be when we offer Him our lives and our faith. We become witnesses to His power and love. Not everyone will believe. Some did not believe when Jesus Christ, himself told them. When so many have witnessed to the truth the Good News has spread far and strong.

Something special happens within us when we are totally alone with God. There is no hiding—neither from Him nor from ourselves. We are led into a state of complete openness and honesty; where we can see ourselves as we are. Sometimes we may try to fool ourselves, but we can't fool God, He knows us as we are. As we confess our sins we should think of ourselves being alone with God, self-examination, confession and repentance.

To pray in solitude—we need only to be with God and feel how comforting it is to be alone with Him: feel you are in your "little closet" and nothing else matters. Lord, by knowing you in silence

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Letters To the Editor

(Editor's Note: space is limited - didn't mean to overlook anyone in our coverage - keep up the good work!)

Dear Editor:

In response to the article titled "Hurricane Diana Didn't Show", which was concerning the shelter set up at West Craven High School. The Vanceboro Rescue Squad played a major roll in setting up the shelter, working through Civil Defense Coordinator, Henry Sermons. Captain Terry Kite coordinated efforts made by the squad. The squad required the cots, other necessity articles and set up each throughout the school. The squad also required generators and set up each to assure emergency power if needed. Rescue personnel were on hand to assist and render any necessary service.

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad set up a full evacuation plan throughout the Vanceboro area to assure safety of all citizens in the Vanceboro area. Called at shut-ins, lifeline members to assure safety and of any needs. All squad personnel were on alert and ready to assist and render service if need was to arise.

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad shows concern in this manner for coverage and

Dear Editor:

"MAYBE A WHITE-WASH JOB WOULD HELP"

After a year of working with United Tri-County Senior Citizens, I feel like I must express my feelings on what is going on. Let me start by saying that I can't understand why some people are all the time trying to tear our program down. As everyone knows by now, the auditors have found nothing wrong. Now it looks like it is time for that group to slack off or maybe they should get together and get some "White-wash" and change the color of Thelma Chadwick's skin!

As I see it, that is the only reason for such actions that have been taking place for the past four years.

There are two senior citizens programs in Craven County, giving service to the elderly—now tell me, why United Tri-County is always under attack from the group? The only reason I can see is "Skin Color." By the way, I am white and I can see both sides and I am not writing this because of my job. I only get paid \$3.50 per hour, 4 hours per day, five days a week, with expenses for gas and I do not clear that much. So this letter is not to "Hold My Job"!!

I am writing this letter from

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credit.

If an emergency need exist or a disaster is possible. The Rescue Squads are the first to respond and start to work in the field. All necessary needs

are provided by the squad and fire department.

my heart because I am trying to live up to the Christian that I am. My feelings toward the senior citizens is one of love and concern. Thelma Chadwick cannot help being black as she is what GOD MADE HER and I know she is a lovely person. If everyone could feel for the senior citizens as much as she does, there wouldn't be any senior citizen not receiving services, no matter what color their skin is!!

Fair is fair—Why not have an audit for the other aging programs? If color of skin isn't the reason for the audit of United Tri-County, why are we paying "favorites"?

Christians of Jones County and Pamlico County—"Love one another as God loves you". Don't let the color of a person's skin keep you from doing as God would have you do!!

Remember! There is only ONE GOD in Heaven and I am sure there will be NO WALL in Heaven to separate the whites from the blacks!! God bless those that TRULY live by His word and put their trust in HIM!!

Rita Lupton
Hobucken, N.C.
Center Manager for Pamlico County Nutrition
United Tri-County Senior Citizens, Inc.

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Across from Post Office
Vanceboro,
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Phone (919) 244-0780,
(919) 244-0508

R.L. Cannon, Jr.
Publisher &
Business Manager

Christine Hill
Office Manager

Sharon Buck
Production Manager

Edith Hodges
Circulation Manager

Michael Hodges
Circulation

Zeno Everette, III
Paste Up

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