



HIGHLIGHTS

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Choosing A Christmas Tree

A trip to buy the family Christmas tree should be fun, but it doesn't hurt to be thinking about the decisions that must be made before starting out.

Look at the room and area where the tree will be placed. Can you use a high, stately tree, or would a shorter, full tree be more suitable? Once you've decided what shape you want and measure the space, it's time to look at the trees themselves, tape measure in hand.

Staff members with the N.C. Botanical Garden at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill say you should try to find a tree that is just the size you want. There is no point in paying for a 10-foot tree if you'll have to cut a foot off at the top or bottom. Besides, if you do cut, the natural, tapering shape will be spoiled.

It's also important that the tree be fresh. To test for freshness, run your fingers down a branch. The needles should adhere to each twig. Then lightly bounce the base of the tree on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree is too dry to take home.

Vanceboro Fails To Get Grant

The \$240,000 grant application made by Vanceboro for an Industrial Condominium was to be erected on a plot of land on Bailey Lane and Business 17. This grant was a state grant to help small communities attract industry. It seems that if Vanceboro had firm commitments for the building, the chance of getting the grant would have been much better.

Transition-Tradition-Turkey Talked in Raleigh

Governor-elect Jim Martin is talking transition as he moves to put together his team to lead state government during the next four years. During the transition deliberations, the Governor-elect is also talking "turkey" and its importance to North Carolina. The poultry industry is the state's largest food industry and North Carolina is the largest turkey producing state in the nation.

In keeping with an industry tradition, the North Carolina Poultry Federation presented holiday poultry gift packs to the First Family of North Carolina as well as the Governor-elect. The gifts contained a variety of home grown and processed poultry and egg products from North Carolina's abundant supply.

Decide how symmetrical your tree should be. Will it be placed where two, three or four sides will show? Look at it from all angles. If an ornament such as a star is to be placed at the top, a strong, straight leader is best.

Check also for crooked trunks, or large bare spaces between the branches.

The tree will best survive the heat of the house if it is bought ahead of time and stored outside in a container of water. For best results, saw the butt end of the tree on the diagonal above the original cut, to aid in the absorption of water. Sprinkling the branches with water periodically while the tree remains outside is a good

practice, too.

When the tree is ready to be brought indoors, cut it again to square off the diagonal, making it easier to balance in the tree-stand. To the extent possible, keep the tree away from all sources of heat: fireplaces, radiators, electric heaters and even television sets.

Make sure that the base of the tree sits in water at all times, and fill the stand at least once a day; it's surprising how thirsty the tree gets in a dry, heated house.

With these tips in mind, finding the perfect Christmas tree for your house should be easier and later enjoyment of the tree greatly enhanced.



The picture shows (left to right) Governor-elect Jim Martin receiving a turkey from Ed Woodhouse, Executive Director of the North Carolina Poultry Federation. The turkey was colorfully packaged in a holiday wrapping bearing the greeting, "Happy Holidays, Mr. Governor!"

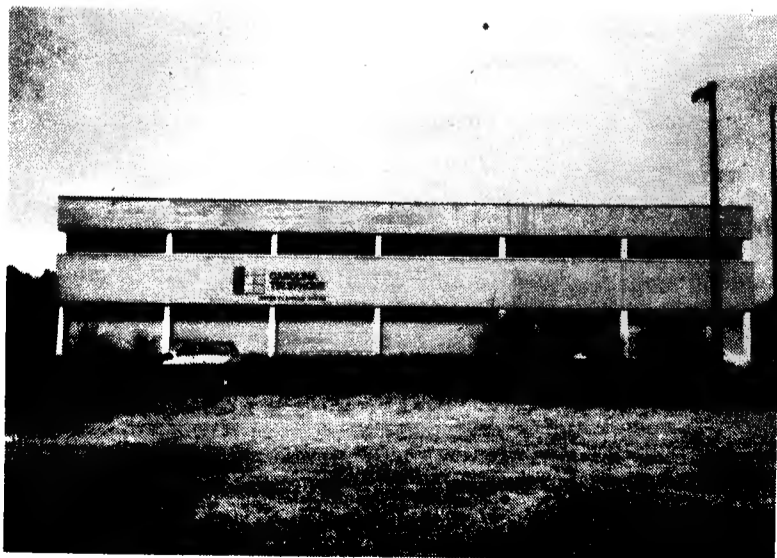
Telephone Company Holds Open House

NEW BERN—Carolina Telephone held an open house Wednesday, November 28, for its automated commercial business office at its U.S. 17 South building. It featured the newly relocated facilities (from the prior Hancock Street location), along with automated order writing capability and a larger and more accessible teller area. The service center, which has been located there since January, 1982, was also available for visitation. Employees acted as guides and explained the various areas of operations. The commercial operation has 28 employees, the service center 70.

Mr. W.C. Thomas, Jr., New Bern District Commercial Manager, said, "This is now one of the United System's larger offices, and is designed to grow with the growth of the area." He added, "We expect these changes to bring savings and efficiency benefitting both the customers and us."

The office handles most of the sales order processing, and all billing and collection for the Craven-Jones-Pamlico area. One major new feature allows service representatives—the business office employees who talk with customers—to use computer terminals at each desk to process orders and inquiries much more quickly than in the past. "Planning and training for these changes," said Thomas, "have taken many months, but the increased efficiency is substantial over the old paper document procedures. The office is now in a position to make even more improvements and to handle a much greater volume, with very little addition to staff." He said, "no jobs have been lost in this change." He indicated that the expected savings will be in the reduced need to add to the payroll as the work load increases.

Prior to the open house, a tour was held for dignitaries from Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties, representing leadership in the areas of local government, education, the media and chambers of commerce. Mr. B.S. Wilder, General Commercial Manager (Tarboro), made brief comments regarding the pace of changes in such areas as telephone business office operations.



Carolina Telephone Company's new office center located on Highway 17 South of New Bern.