

DECA Club Displays Impressive Record

By FLYNN SURRETT

The most active club at John A. Holmes High School is enjoying some special attention; this week, through the various media as well as through some self-horn tooting. In the light of the concrete accomplishments listed by the Holmes DECA organization during this year alone, a little crowing is in order.

This week was proclaimed DECA Week by Mayor Roy L. Harrell who signed the statement last Friday, and the content of the proclamation was recorded for broadcast on WCDJ. While similar observances are scheduled in other parts of the state, the local club has various activities underway which will be culminated with an alumni party at the VFW Building Friday night.

During the current year, the DECA Club has noted 11 major accomplishments including the club as a whole, as well as individual students. Their record began with the Chowan County Fair. Their booth was judged first place in the high school division, not to mention Grand Champion booth exhibit. The theme was "Step Into The Future With Distributive Education." The award winning display was spearheaded by Debby Babb, Jackie Habit, Mary Vopelak, David Shackelford, Neal Basnight, and Barbie Williams. Another award for their handiwork came during the Christmas Parade when "Santa's Fantasy Land" was named first place in float competition.

Out of 12 schools, the Holmes DECA Club was the only one to place in every category in district contests. Debby Babb won second place in advertising; David Shackelford, second place in public speaking; Teresa White, first runner-up in the Miss DECA event; Barbie Williams, third place in job interview; and Wayne Evans, honorable mention in sales demonstration.

On a state level, they were awarded a two-star achievement award based on a points accumulation over the year. Locally, their involvement has included recruiting donors for the bloodmobile, and the sale of \$2,000 worth of fruitcakes, at a time when everyone was selling fruitcakes. From that project, the club netted \$700, the funds now being used for the alumni banquet.

Another big event on the DECA calendar of happenings is the State Leadership Conference on March 15-16. Nine students will represent Holmes and the club in state competition and workshops. During the conference the two-star award will actually be presented to the DECA club. David Shackelford, David Ambrose, Steve Sawyer, Neal Basnight, Donald Woodie, Teresa White, Gale Harmon, Wayne Evans and Tony Belch will be the Edenton representatives. John Dowd, distributive education instructor, explained that the program is a vocational class for training students in careers in marketing and distribution.

There are three basic phases in this educational process.

Phase one involves classroom study of credit, retailing, communications, human relations, management, etc. Secondly there is the on-the-job training in which a student completes his required courses by 12:30 each day before reporting to his job. On the job, the employed student is able to literally apply the knowledge gained from his school program while being under the supervision of the store owner. DECA club is the third phase.

A professional organization of D. E. students, this club is open only to distributive education students. Its primary function is to build leadership skills. Of course it also enables a student to obtain individual recognition for personal excellence.

Participation in D.E. does not deprive a student of the capability of being accepted in a college or university. Dowd emphasized that D.E. students must complete required courses just as normal students would. The program is offered not as a substitute but as an alternative. An answer is provided for the student who is not interested in the college prep type curriculum. A student may still attend college while having valuable and applicable knowledge in business. Likewise, a student not college bound may find the security of a stable job as well as a good education.

Along with the explanation of the material aspects of distributive education, Dowd also stated that the DECA club is one of the few school organizations left with a real esprit de corps. While student

bodies show less of a collective spirit, DECA is an obvious exception. The continuing success of the organization is affected by the enthusiasm of the members. In the three years that Dowd has directed the program, distributive education has grown from 19 working students grossing \$18,000 per year to 44 students grossing \$55,000, and the program should exceed that figure this year.

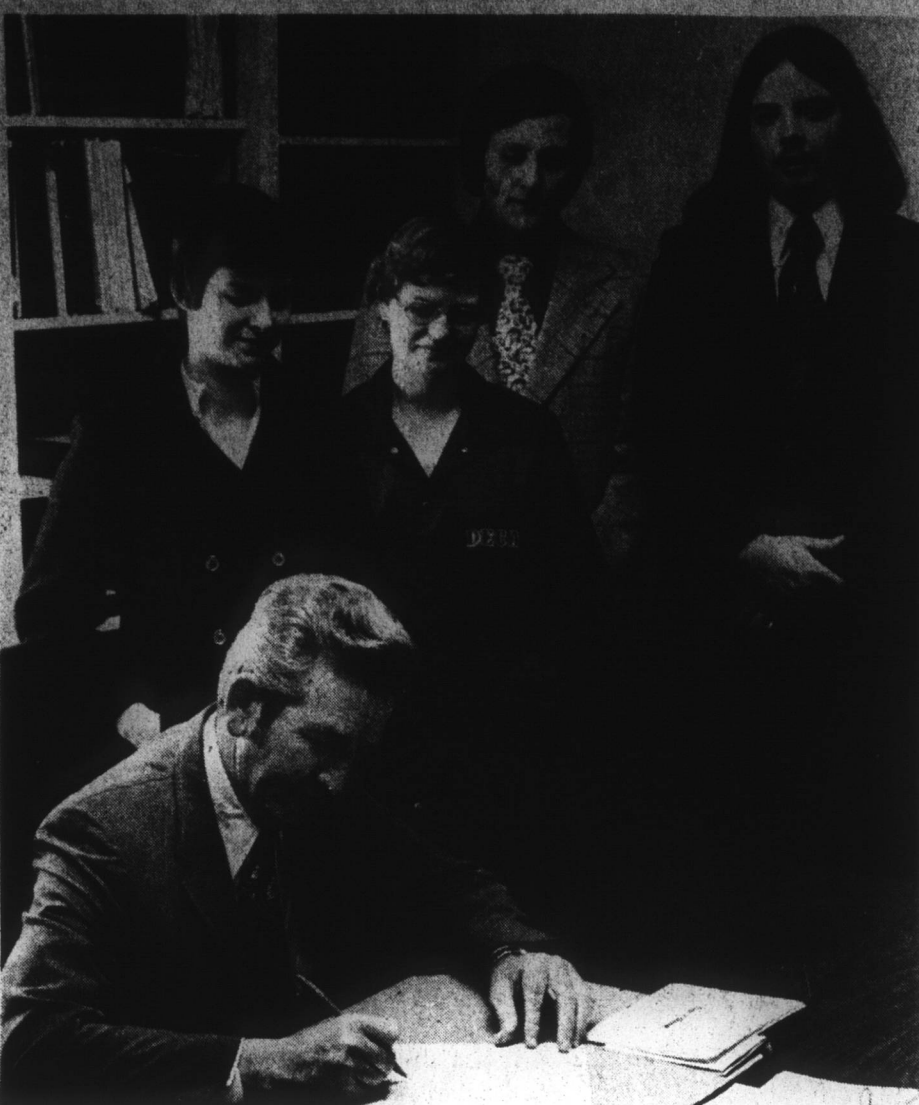
In terms of placing participants in jobs, he stated that several downtown merchants and other businesses contact him first for a potential employee. From the other end of view, Dowd places most of the students by the first of the year; and after that he has to turn down requests for able employees because there are none left to place. This has given rise to a unique problem. Some of the students retain these jobs after graduation, and this is a potential placement for the next year lost. Dowd seems pretty happy that the problem exists.

All is not cut and dry for a person in DECA. Wayne Evans found himself in an unusual position. He auctioned some merchandise for Sheriff Troy Toppin last week. Sharon Waff graduated last year and now is manager of Scotties Store. Lin Lee is on the manager training program at Wilm-Dixie.

Said Dowd, "The DECA club is the number one club in the school and that can be proven by the records."



CHAMPIONS — CLIMB is season and tournament champs of the Chowan County Men Basketball League, with a record of 13 wins and no loss. Shown here, left to right, front row, are: H. Coston, statistician; J. Bond, coach, and I. Brickhouse. Back row: F. White, R. Felton, M. Jordan, A. Jackson and O. Blount. Players not included in picture: J. Parks, V. Parks, T. Morris, F. Holley and D. Stalling. The basketball team was sponsor of CLIMB Social and Civic Club which is a community function organization.



DECA WEEK—Mayor Roy L. Harrell is shown above signing a proclamation making this week DECA Week in Edenton. Distributive education students at John A. Holmes High School have been involved in special activities commemorating the observance which honors them for their many achievements thus far during the school year. Looking over the mayor's shoulder, left to right, is Debby Babb, Mary Vopelak, John Dowd, D. E. instructor, and Blake Harmon.

Bank Promotes Savings Account

JACKSONVILLE—Bank of North Carolina, N.A., has announced plans for a Bonanza Showcase of Gifts to be presented in 50 markets statewide.

The program, already underway, offers a choice of 38 gifts to customers making deposits in new or existing savings accounts.

A BNC spokesman indicated that a deposit of \$200 or more qualified for one of the gifts,

with three different categories of gifts being offered for varying amounts of deposit.

The showcase of gifts is on display in the lobby of each branch of Bank of North Carolina, and the program is scheduled to run through April 15.

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W. H. Cato, 80, Taken In Death

Wayland Henry Cato of Charlotte, founder and honorary chairman of The Cato Corporation, died Saturday in Charlotte.

Mr. Cato was born December 23, 1893, at Ridge Spring, S. C. Mr. Cato attended Newberry College and served in the Navy in World War I. He was associated with United Merchants and Manufacturers, Inc., and in 1946 formed Cato Stores which grew from two stores—Lumberton and Union, S. C.—to a chain of 300 shops and 13 Waco family discount variety stores located in 14 southern states, including a store in Edenton.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita Clontz Cato and two sons, Wayland H. Cato, Jr., and Edgar T. Cato; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were held in Charlotte Tuesday afternoon.

Sunday Sermon Topic Is Chosen For

Rev. E. L. Earnhardt has chosen for his sermon topic at Edenton United Methodist Church at 11 A.M. Sunday, "Paul's Madness", from Acts 26:24. At the 7:30 P.M. service he will speak on "Soul Saving" from Luke 19:10.

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Contributions To Rescue Squad

Memorial donations have been made to the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad in memory of the late: Capt. Wm. Robards, Mrs. Louise B. Byrum, Walter Noneman, George Warren, George S. Elliott, Kermit L. Perry, Mrs. Annie Mansfield, Mrs. Agnes O'Donnell, John Elliott and Mrs. Lester Keel. Donations, memorials and convalescent contributions made to the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad as of March 4, 1974:

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Britton, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. Murray F. Byrum and Mrs. Thomas Bunch.

H. F. Creecy, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Church and Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Cuthrell.

Mrs. Esther H. Elliott, Mrs. Norman S. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Evans, Mrs. and Mrs. Cary Evans and Dawson L. Elliott, Norfolk, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Flanagan.

Mrs. Kathryn H. Goodwin and Mr. and Mrs. N. J. George.

Mr. and Mrs. Thurman Harrell, Hertford, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Harrell, Hertford, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. Hallett Hobbs, Mrs. R. K. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Harrell, Sr. and Miss Christine Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Stillman Leary, Landscaping and Gen. Cleaning Service, Tyner, N. C. and Mr. and Mrs. Alton Lodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Mansfield, Mr. and Mrs. William Michaels, Macedonia Baptist Church - Pennie, Foxwell Study Group and Mr. and Mrs. Vann M. Small.

Miss Lillian Perry, Tyner, N. C., Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Pruden, Jr., Mrs. Bessie D. Peele, Peele Brothers, Harry A. Perry and Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Perry.

Rocky Hock Baptist Church - C. M. Evans S. S. Class, Mrs. Gertrude Roseyear, Mrs. Lula Roundtree, Hobbsville, N. C. and Mr. and Mrs. Preston Rogerson.

Loach S. Stallings.

N. B. Toppin, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Turner and Mr. and Mrs. Troy Toppin.

Miss Clara Williams, D. T. Ward, Mrs. Gladys C. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ward and Miss Nanny Ward.

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Medal Is Given To Sgt. Cofield

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Leroy Cofield, son of Queenie Cofield, Route 1, Edenton, N. C., has received the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal at The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

Sgt. Cofield, a communications center specialist, was cited for meritorious service while assigned at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

He now serves at the Pentagon with a unit of the Air Force Communications Service.

The sergeant is a 1969 graduate of D. F. Walker High School.