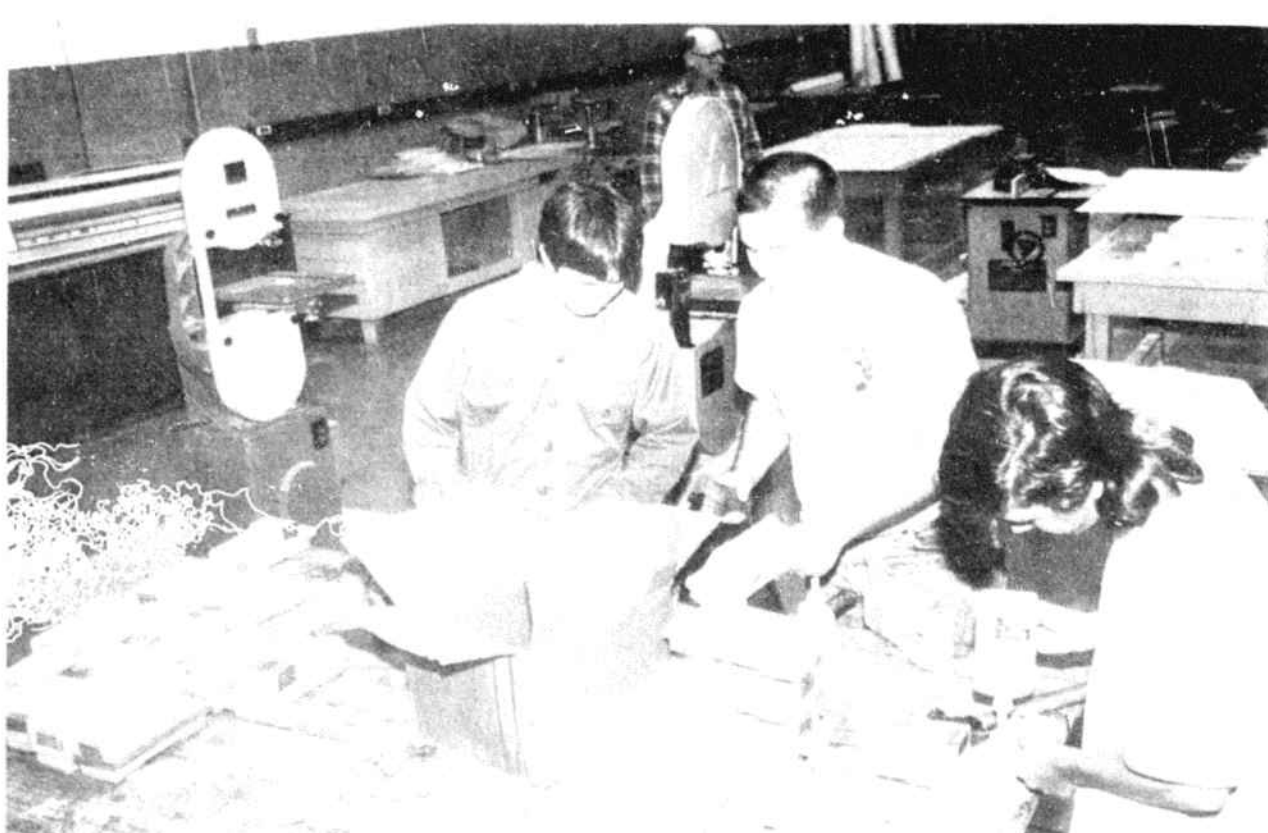




CHRIS THOMPSON, a Carpentry II student and Carpentry I shop assistant, cuts plywood for the sides of a truck's cargo area.



STUDENTS (FROM LEFT) HAROLD GRAHAM, Greg Long and Ronnie Evans add wheels and axle pegs, one car at a time. Instructor Gary Poulos is in the background.

Carpentry Shop 'Elves' Make Toys For 150 Boys

BY SUSAN USHER

What about the boys?

That was the question on the minds of staff and volunteers at the Volunteer and Information Center as the 1990 Christmas season approached.

Every year volunteers dress beautiful dolls for girls as part of VIC's Christmas project for the needy. But the center had never had a special gift for the boys.

Not until now. This year, because of the work of 16 carpentry students at West Brunswick High School and other community volunteers, 150 boys each will receive a small, hand-made truck.

"They're as cute as they can be and I think they will

last forever," said Shirley Carroll, VIC executive director.

Gary Poulos, West Brunswick High School carpentry teacher, said VIC board member Brenda Register approached him to see if students would be interested in making something, and also asked for suggestions. He told her a wooden car or toy would be best.

Soon another community volunteer, Jack Scarborough, appeared with a simple design and a model truck, and the boys set to work.

Involved in the project were Carpentry II students Chris Thompson (also Carpentry I shop assistant), T.J. Thornton, Leslie Scoggins, Greg Long, Ronnie Evans, Harold Graham, Willie Stanley, Derick Thomas and

Leroy Simmons; and Carpentry I students Scott Anderson, Richard Holden, Bobby Lovet, Matthew Mintz, Mike Nelson, Jeff Smith and Stacey Saunders.

"I don't mind helping somebody out," said Scoggins. "We're doing for the kids who aren't getting toys for Christmas."

Each truck was fashioned from eight pieces of wood.

The Camp United Methodist Men's Club paid for the wheels and axles, which were too expensive in the stores and were ordered from a catalog instead. The wheels arrived last Monday, giving students less than a week to finish the trucks. Like elves in Santa's work-

shop, the students worked steadily and hard to meet their Friday deadline for delivering the toys to VIC.

"It takes about an hour for a student to make one by the time they cut, nail and glue it, then add the wheels," said Poulos. "So they've put a lot of time in it."

The students were enthused about the project, he said.

"That made me feel good also," said Poulos. "All we hear about kids is that they're selfish. This proves they will do things for other people. I'm proud of them. The kids never complained, even when they had to redo something."

While the cars don't look like they came from a toy factory, he said, "there's feeling in every one of them."

Teenage Driver's Trial Postponed Until January

A Sunset Beach teen-ager involved in an accident that left one man dead in March will face a number of driving-related charges in Brunswick County District Court Jan. 8.

Matthew Shawn Arnette, 17, was charged Nov. 3 with driving while impaired, failure to heed a blue light and siren, reckless driving, resisting arrest and obstructing a public officer, driving while his license was revoked and driving after drinking

while a provisional licensee by State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt.

Court documents indicate officers determined probable cause did not exist for the DWI charge following a breathalyzer test. Arnette's blood-alcohol content registered .04, while .10 is considered too drunk to drive in North Carolina, the report states.

Arnette pleaded guilty in August to the charge of misdemeanor death by motor vehicle. The charge stemmed from a traffic accident on

March 18 on Sabbath Home Road near Holden Beach that claimed the life of Clyde Justice Olive, 37, of Supply.

District Court Judge Jerry A. Jolly gave Arnette a two-year suspended sentence and placed him on unsupervised probation. Arnette's license was revoked until November 1991.

Arnette was hospitalized Nov. 27 after he accidentally shot himself in the neck while sitting in a car out-

side a Seaside video store.

Detective Larry Joyner of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department reported Arnette was shot with a .25-caliber pistol while parked outside Riptide Videos. Arnette told Det. Joyner that the gun accidentally fired while he was holding it.

He was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply and later transferred to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

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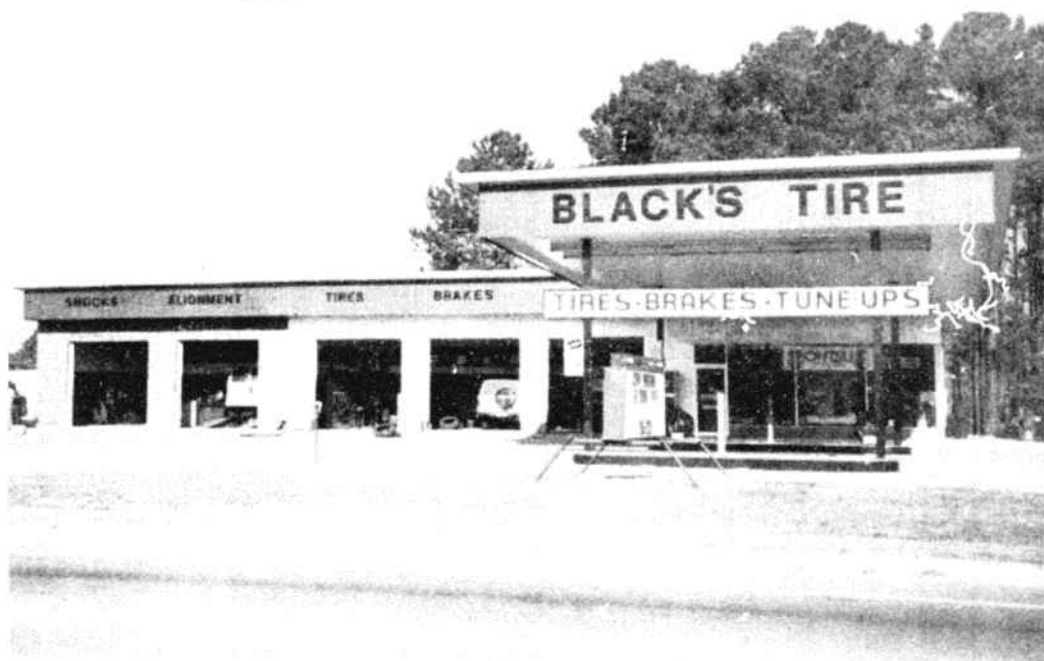
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