Page 8-The Perguimans Weekly, Hertford, N.C., Thursday, May 12, 1977



SPECIAL WEEK — Homemakers clubs in Perquimans County celebrated National Extension Homemakers Week recently. One activity was a homemade

ice cream booth on the courthouse lawn Friday sponsored by the Belvidere Homemakers Club.



ITEMS ON DISPLAY - Window

talents such as sewing, crocheting, and homemakers clubs.



HomemakersForum

By MRS. M.B. TAYLOR Home Extension Agent YOUR RIGHT TO SAFETY

How safe is your world? Have you or anyone in your family had an accid the last year? If so, was it due to a danger you could have avoided or was it the result of some unforescen danger such as a product you purchased for personal use?

Living safely requires that we be alert in our everyday activities:

Using appliances or equipment in the appropriate way, following correct in-structions in regard to cutting edges and electrical connections.

Using motor vehicles of all sorts with due regard to speed laws and in properly maintained condition,

Working or playing above ground in such a way that falls will not occur, consuming only foods, beverages and cosmetics that are free of contamination and wholesome for the body, Wearing appropriate clothing to

protect the body against danger when necessary, observing the activities of others that could endanger us, especially in regard to the possibility of moving or falling objects,

Having an attitude of caution in hazardous situations and respect for all safety precautions.

In spite of your following such general advice, and specific advice when needed, accidents causing pain and injury can occur. Recognizing the complexity of your daily life, and especially the numerous sophisticated products you may purchase, legislators in your state and federal governments have provided some measure of protection against dangerous and harmful products.

Two recent dicisions by agencies of the federal government highlight the current concern of government for your personal safety. The two events were: (1) proposed banning of a saccharin as an artificial sweetener by the Food and Drug Administration, and (2) banning of children's nightgowns and pajamas that had been treated with TRIS by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In each of these cases the products inchemicals believed to cause cancer in

This agency is responsible for en-

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NUTTY

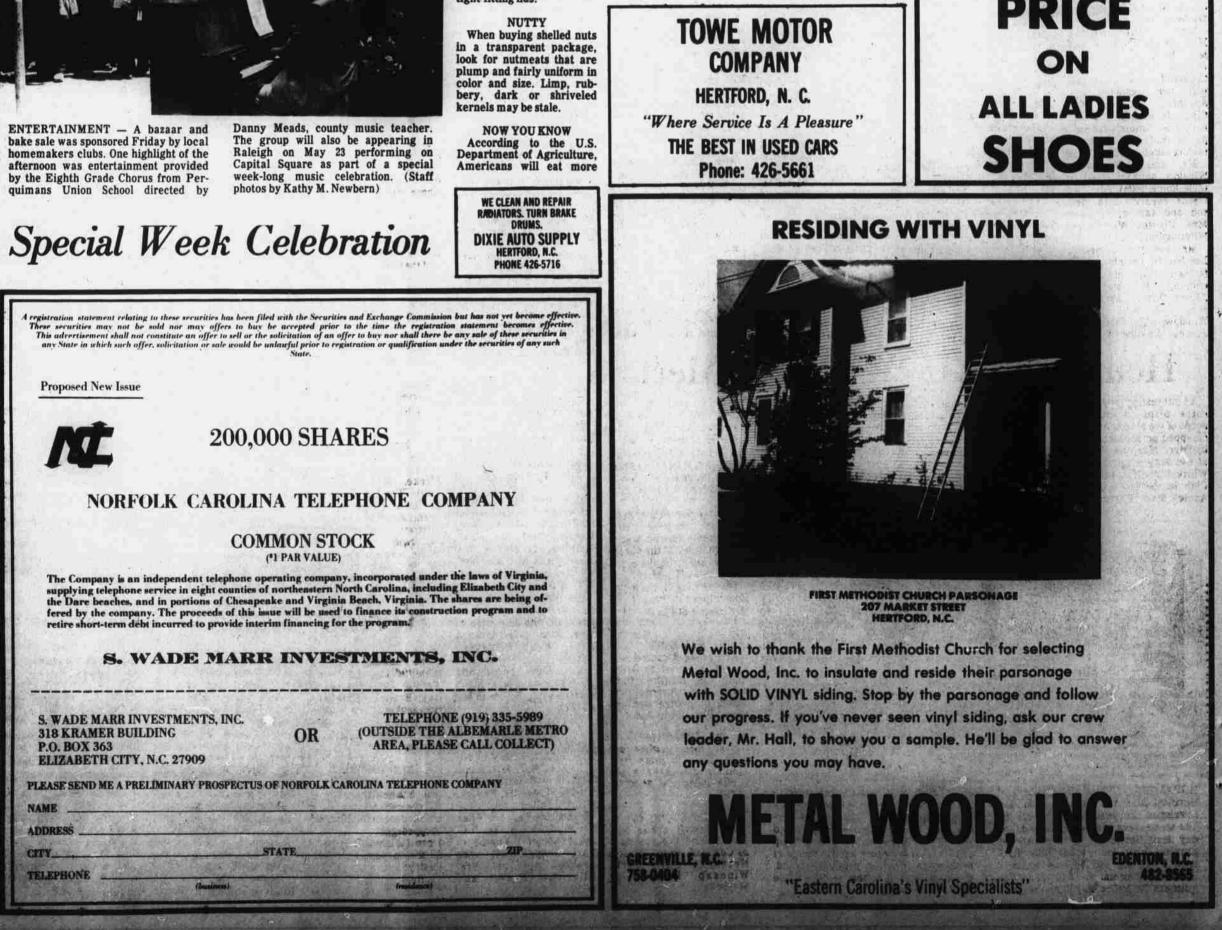
emit radiation such as X-rays. It can: (1) prevent unproven products from ever being sold, (2) require products to be redesigned, reformulated, relabeled, or packaged in a safer way, (3) remove products from the market when new data reveals risks that are not acceptable, (4) protect your pocketbook against substandard products and misleading advertising, (5) go to court to seize illegal products and prosecute manufacturers, packers, or shippers who violate the law.

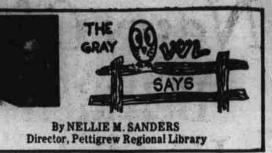
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

The Consumer Product Safety Act of 1972 extended federal control over general consumer products and granted the government authority to set safety standards for and to ban those products which present real hazards to consumers. The commission has authority over all retail products used by consumers in or around the home, except those covered by other agencies such as the FDA. CPSC collects information about injuries, conducts studies and tests on products, and develops and promotes consumer products safety standards. Where no standard will provide protection and unreasonable risk exists for consumers, the agency can ban a product. The public has an opportunity to be involved in agency decision-making.

RISKS VERSUS BENEFITS

Government can never completely protect consumers because nothing can ever be completely safe. What may be safe for one person is not necessarily safe for another. Any product, if used incorrectly, has the potential for harm. For an agency to consider a product safe, the product must have more benefits than risks, and any risk must be justified. The agency's job is to set the conditions under which a product's benefits outweigh any possible risks. If such conditions cannot be set, then the agency can seek to prohibit the sale of the product.





HOOTS

PHASE III - Another milestone has been passed in the statewide effort to obtain detailed evaluations of the public libraries and the communities they serve. Four months ago, the State Library launched the program with an intensive 5-day briefing session at Apex — Phase I. Three expert teachers, from different parts of the nation, instructed librarians from a majority of the library systems in the state.

The second phase of the Community Analysis was con-ducted by the "students" - in our case, Perquimans County Librarian Wayne Henritze and myself, Calling on the assistance of the entire staff of the Pettigrew Regional Library, Wayne has accumulated a mountain of facts about Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties with the main emphasis on library service. Assembling the information and arranging the statistics in meaningful patterns is an important step in the effort to evaluate the quantity, quality and appropriateness of library service.

PHASE III was a combination class reunion and testing situation. We met again last week, in Apex, to exchange experiences, to receive further instruction, and to exhibit the results of our efforts. Progress ranged from a completed survey in one county to minimal data-gathering in others. The Pettigrew Region reported to the Director of the Institute, Roger Greer, in a one-hour individual conference. Our progress was judged satisfactory and we were given handsome certificates of recognition.

The State Library distributed the certificates and the checks to cover travel expenses (from special LSCA - i.e. federal - funds for training) and announced the next deadline. A final report on the analysis is due by December 1st. It is a formidable task, with four counties to cover, but our best efforts will be devoted to it because of the importance for future plans.

SCREECHES

PHASE-IN - Taking advantage of the presence of several committee members in Apex, the Advisory Council for the Processing Center held a special meeting last week. One subject of discussion was the use of computer terminals for cataloging new books. The State Library has a limited number of them which are in almost constant use during regular hours. One suggested method for taking advantage of them was to phase-in extended, swing-shift, hours for the Processing Center staff. This would speed up the handling of the catalog cards and make better use of some very expensive equipment.

