

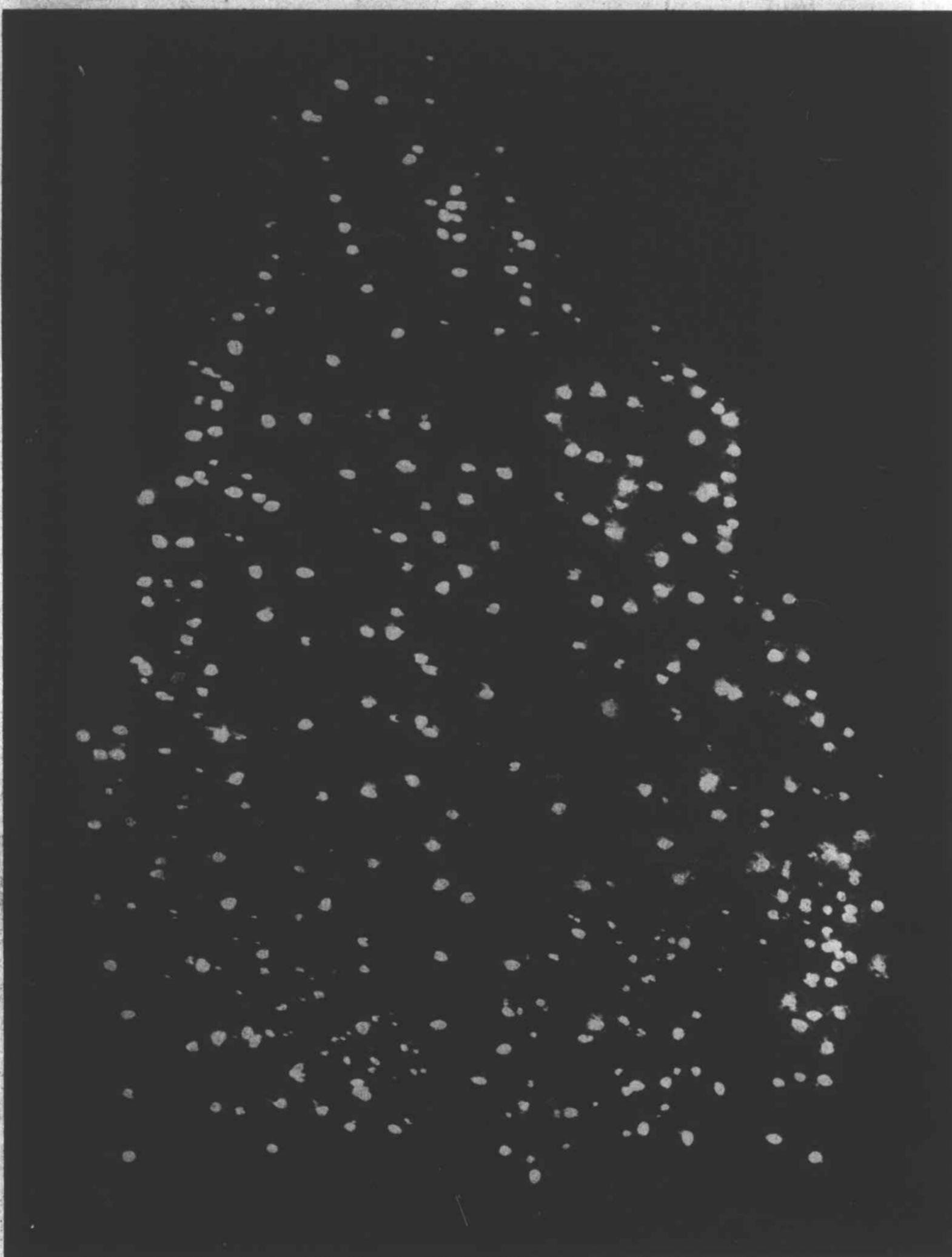
Merry Christmas— THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Monday, Dec. 24, 1979

20 CENTS



The Christmas tree on the Courthouse Square is lit with a thousand memories. Each light, sold by the Hertford BPW Club, was sold in memory of some loved one.

State bean crop largest ever

North Carolina farmers have completed the harvest of what appears to be one of the largest soybean crops ever produced in the state.

But Perquimans County farmers did not fare so well as corn earworm damage and periodic heavy rainfall contributed to a crop yield that was slightly below average.

Soybean yield per acre is traditionally above state average in the county, and extension chairman Bill Jester estimated, after talking to farmers across the county, that this year's yield was some 27 bushels per acre.

Statewide, the size of the 1979 crop is pegged at 44.4 million bushels, 8 percent larger than the record 41.2 million produced last year.

The increase comes from a combination of a slight improvement in per acre yield and an expansion of acreage, according to the N.C. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

Tar Heel farmers planted a record 1,85 million acres, or 10 percent more than the previous year. The yield is estimated to be 24 bushels per acre, or about one-half bushel

more than the '78 crop.

Nationally, soybean farmers are enjoying a banner year. The U.S. crop is estimated to be a record 2.24 billion acres, up 20 percent over the previous record set in 1978.

The average yield for the

nation is expected to be nearly 32 bushels per acre, over two bushels more than last year's crop.

Acreage for the harvest in the U.S. was 70.2 million acres, or 11 percent more than the 63.3 million harvested in '78.

The trouble in Perquimans

County was that wet weather delayed planting to the extent that late beans were more susceptible to the corn earworm, Jester said.

The problem was further compounded by a shortage of

crop dusting planes.

It was, however, a mixed season in which farmers in some parts of the county enjoyed yields of up to 38 bushels per acre while others suffered through a season that saw production at little over 20 bushels per acre, Jester said.

Two other programs will help families buy fuel this winter in Perquimans County.

Those persons who receive supplemental security income will be mailed checks for \$73 in mid-January.

Those who receive aid to

families with dependent

children income will get

assistance ranging from \$100

to \$200.

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Marching unit, band forge compromise

An agreement has been reached that may ease friction between two county youth organizations that had previously been at odds.

The Perquimans County Board of Education approved last Monday a merger between the Perquimans County High School Band and the Perquimans County Marching Unit.

The decision was made after an earlier meeting of a committee appointed by the board of education and consisting of members representing both the band and the marching unit's interests.

Former Marching Unit participants may participate in the band without being required to play an instrument only during the 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 school years. Beginning with the 1983-84 school year all band members will be required to play an instrument.

Former Marching Unit participants will not be required to attend formal band class, and will not receive academic credit for band participation.

The unit shall be referred to as one unit, "The Perquimans County High School Band."

Harrell called the time between the 1980-81 and 1983-84 school year "a period of transition," and necessary to give present members of the marching unit an opportunity to join the band.

Although, according to Harrell, some marching unit members have said that they would not join the band for personal reasons, some have indicated that they did intend to join.

Harrell said that he was pleased with the action taken

All participants in the band program shall be subject to Board of Education and school policies, rules and regulations.

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Harrell said that he was pleased with the action taken

by the board to join the two units, calling it "a positive step."

In another matter, the board reviewed results pertaining to the state-required competency test administered to all Perquimans County High School Juniors this fall.

Perquimans County students were above the statewide average in both reading and math sections of the test.

"I am well pleased with the results," said Harrell.

According to Harrell, there was also a high percentage of handicapped students who passed the competency test.

In an energy audit report, Harrell said that the possibility of heating school buildings in zones was being investigated.

Harrell said that both Perquimans Union School and the P.H.S. King Street building would be heated in zones after the engineers' recommendation.

Central Grammar and Union School's ceilings are also being lowered with insulation installed above the ceilings.

Florescent lighting will replace incandescent lights in these buildings in another effort to save energy.

Food stamps to increase

RALIEGH—More elderly and disabled North Carolinians should be eligible for food stamps when the new rules go into effect January 1, 1980, and a slight increase in benefits to all participants will begin at the same time.

The new rules provide special medical and shelter deductions for households containing persons who are aged 60 or older, or who receive Supplemental Security Income or disability payments under the Social Security Act.

"The new deductions were authorized by Congress in response to concerns that the

elderly and disabled had been particularly hard hit by the tightened eligibility rules of the Food Stamp Act of 1977, which eliminated the medical deduction allowed by the 1964 Act and placed a limit on the amount of shelter expenses households could deduct," said John H. Kerr, chief of the Food Assistance Section of the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

He said that the new rules should not only make more elderly and disabled North Carolinians eligible, but increase the benefits of many of those now participating in the stamp program.

In addition to the new rules affecting the elderly and disabled, all food stamps participants will receive a slight increase in the amount of stamps they will be receiving after the first of the year.

A four-person household with no net income will receive a monthly allotment of \$209 in stamps compared to the \$204 they are currently receiving.

Kerr urges persons who think they may qualify for the new deduction to contact their local department of social services or call toll free CARE-LINE 1-800-662-7030 for details.

December 13 1979

Dear Santa,
I want a little Red Riding Hood record for Christmas. I already have a record player. Also I want you to bring me some book puppets. Please don't forget me on Christmas. I will be a good boy!

Love
Robert Shively

Winning letter

Robert Shively, a second grader at Hertford Grammar School, penned the winning entry in our letters to Santa contest. The winner of

our recipe drawing was Mrs. Bruce E. White of Rt. 2, Hertford. For more letters to Santa and area recipes, see pages 12, 13, and 14.