

# Perquimans People

## Perquimans students learn "computerese"

By VAL SHORT

Whether you know it or not, everyone is touched by the current "computer age" in some way and like it or not, it's not going away.

Computers appear to be here to stay at Perquimans High School. This year five computers were purchased for the high school data processing classes, which includes 43 students... and growing!

According to Ken Stalls, director of the regional Vocational Educational

program, plans are to furnish a complete classroom with computers.

Linda Dowd, teacher of data processing and accounting at Perquimans High, also foresees expansion of the current program.

Already, the data processing class is growing in popularity, now in its first year. Computer student and enthusiast David Cain, a junior at Perquimans, is telling all his friends about the class and urging them to sign up next year.

"I think it's great," David com-

mented, "Everybody seems to like it and a lot of people want to get into it next year."

David, who plans to become a systems analyst or applications programmer, especially enjoys programming. The Cains have their own home computer and David writes program and games which will help his brother and sister improve their math skills.

Although his father, who is a computer programmer, got him started, David has really enjoyed

Mrs. Dowd's class and says, "I've learned a lot about the business aspects of computers."

Elizabeth Towe is another of Dowd's students who has a career in computers in mind. "I really like it a lot. I took it (the class) because I plan to go into computers next year at ECU," commented Elizabeth.

This year five TRS-80 model 3 computers were purchased for the high school which have a 48K memory capacity, which is pretty

good according to Mrs. Dowd. "The computers have two disc drives which increases their capacity and are also good for inputting and saving what the students do," said Mrs. Dowd.

Mrs. Dowd explains that the objective of the data processing course is to let the students know about all computers, to write simple programs, to become aware of the occupations available with computers and to understand the effects

on consumers.

Another purpose of the class is to teach the students the language or how to speak "computerese!"

Did you know that a "byte" is the storage space needed for one character of information or that "software" refers to a computer program?

Knowing the language is an important part of knowing computers.



Playing computer games is limited, but allowed in the Data Processing class at

Perquimans High School. These students are working

on math programs which they have written.

### Social Security questioned

This question will be the topic at a 7:30 Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at the Holiday Inn in Elizabeth City.

"There is so much concern today over the future of our Social Security benefits," said Mitzi Kilker, Chairman of the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce Legislative Action Committee. "With all the rumors and questions going around, we want to provide an opportunity for businesspeople to learn more about the issues and options."

A slide program, "Is There Social Security In Your Future?" produced by the U.S. Chamber, will begin the program.

"This program is especially timely because we all realize there will be action taken on the Social Security problems," stated Mrs. Kilker. "That action will be important to each of us."

Reservations can be made by calling the Chamber at 335-4365. There will be a charge of \$2 for the continental breakfast.



Programming is one of the fun parts of the Data Processing class at Perquimans Union. This is only part of the curriculum

for the class which includes computer language and consumer uses for computers.

## People briefs

Tricia Shields spent her Christmas vacation and semester break from ACC visiting her mother and step-father, Connie and Holloway Thomas at Holiday Island. She also visited her sister Betty Newson and family in Va. Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. John Holmes of Charlotte were weekend guests of Mrs. C.R. Holmes.

Mrs. Helen Woodard and Mrs. Haywood Divers attended the funeral of Mrs. Lillian Mohn in New Bern on Tuesday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Newby were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs.

James Wetzel in Richmond, Va. last weekend.

Mrs. Guy Newby, Jr., and family have returned from a visit in Charleston, W.Va.

Mrs. Dick Brewer spent the weekend at Buxton where she attended an Eastern Star Meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Biggers have returned home after spending three weeks with relatives in Charlotte, Pinehurst and Gloucester.

Mrs. Preston Winslow has returned to her home in Wilmington after spending several days last week with her mother, Mrs. Herbert Nixon.

### Hospital Notes

Mrs. Harlan Hurdle, Sr. is in Chowan Hospital.

Mrs. Herbert Nixon has returned home from Albemarle Hospital.

Mrs. C.R. Holmes and Mrs. Fred Matthews have returned home from Norfolk General Hospital.

Miss Louise Chalk has returned home from Chowan Hospital.

### Look who's new

STEVENSON

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Stevenson of Gastonia, announce the birth of their second child, and first son, Brandon Luke, born December 27.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John McDonald of Hertford. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Stevenson of Winfall.

Mrs. Stevenson is the former Pamela McDonald.

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**NOTICE**  
**WINFALL, N.C.**

The Town Council of The Town of Winfall has instructed The Perquimans County Board of Elections to conduct an ABC Store Referendum on March 8, 1983. Polls will open at 6:30 A.M. and close at 7:30 P.M. February 4, 1983 will be the last day for prospective voters to register to be eligible to vote in this referendum.

William L. Tilley  
Chairman  
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