

# Perquimans People



Members of Phil Greenwell's agriculture class learn about small engines.



Personal appearance is a unit in Home economics class.

## Vocational Education program lets students gain valuable experience, learn by doing

Learning by doing is the idea behind vocational education in the Perquimans County Schools. With a vocational background in high school, students can sometimes graduate with many of the skills they need to land a job.

The Perquimans Schools will celebrate Vocational Education Week, along with other schools in North Carolina February 6 through 12.

The theme for the week-long salute will be "Vocational Education: An Investment in People."

"The vocational program teaches skills that enables students to go directly to a job," said Elaine Pritchard, vocational guidance counselor and chairman for Voca-

tional Education Week.

Six instructional areas are included in the Perquimans vocational program, including mechanics, drafting, carpentry, agriculture, business and home economics. In the area of business, students can take classes in typing, shorthand, data processing, accounting and cooperative office occupations.

A career center and job placement program has been added this year, coordinated by Teri Copeland.

This program provides counseling services to in-school youth and placement in community employment.

The Vocational Education program serves probably

45 percent of the students at Perquimans High, according to Pritchard. Although the classes are open to all students at the school and many academic students are enrolled in vocational classes, many of the vocational students are not interested in going to college.

"We really don't have to recruit students because since this is basically a rural area, kids want the agricultural and the typing classes," commented Pritchard.

Clubs which involve vocational students include the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) chapter, the Future Business Leaders of America, Future Homemakers of America, Future Farmers of

America and the Health Careers Club.

One of the highlights of Vocational Education Week will be a fair, located at the Southgate Mall in Elizabeth City. According to Pritchard, Perquimans will have five or more booths at the fair including business, vocational guidance, drafting, carpentry, and mechanics.

The Perquimans County Schools include many valuable and worthwhile programs. But, the vocational education program offers not only instruction, but also on-the-job training, actual experience, and job placement, when possible. These "extras" give the students a head start when going out into a competitive job market.

Story and photos by Val Short



Melvin Coston learns to cook in Home Ec. class.



Practice makes perfect is Marion Byrd's typing class.