

# Perquimans People

With local farm family

## Computer is incorporated into family business, recreation

By VAL SHORT

By the year 2000, computers in homes will probably be as plentiful as televisions and telephones are in 1983. For the farm family of the future, computers will probably become a necessary part of their inventory of farm equipment.

For Perquimans farmer Tommy Harrell, the computer is the "best tractor a man can have."

For his wife, Sherry, the computer

is a convenient and accurate "home accountant."

And for their children Leah and Jason, the computer provides both entertainment and education — fun and learning at the same time.

Although the Harrells have had their computer only a few months, they are finding a multitude of uses and benefits from their home computer.

"It can go from crop production to

Pac Man," said Mrs. Harrell.

For less than \$4,000 the Harrells purchased an Apple computer with two disc drives, giving them a 64K capacity, and also a printer, which enables them to get copies of programs, letters, farm records and anything stored in the memory of the computer.

Their computer has such features as, the Home Accountant, which includes the family and farm check-

book accounts as well as farm records. The Apple writer and typing tutor are two computer features which the Harrell children enjoy. The Apple writer enables them to write letters, speeches and papers and make corrections. The typing tutor is a self-teaching typing program, which the Harrell children enjoy.

The Harrells also enjoy games on the computer, with an Apple counterpart to Pac Man, being one of the favorites.

Visicalc is one program that is especially helpful for the farm family, according to Harrell. The program features programs of production costs, grain marketing, profit and loss margins, cash flow and many others. The possibilities are unlimited, said Harrell.

The Harrells became interested in

computers with the insistence of Jason, and looked first at a \$99 Timex computer.

Harrell said Randy Williams of Camden, who works with United Computer Center in Virginia Beach, introduced the family to the Apple computer. Williams has provided much information and support to the Harrells with programs and problems with their computer said Harrell.

Harrell has recently written a program, designed especially for his farm accounts and records.

Jason, who is 13, is also interested in programming. He has written a

payroll program for the farm. Unable to play basketball due to a recent foot operation, Jason also wrote a program for the basketball team statistics at Perquimans Union School, at the request of his coach.

The Harrells agree that they don't know all there is to know about their computer, if knowing it all is possible.

"It will probably take two to three years to really learn to operate it," said Mrs. Harrell, who added that you have to keep in mind that "it's only as smart as the information you give it."



Jason Harrell demonstrates the versatility of the home computer. The Harrell family

uses the computer to help with household and farm record keeping, farm

production information, as well as family entertainment and education.

## People briefs

Mrs. Lillie Mae Yeates visited her son-in-law and daughter and family and also attended the funeral on Thursday of her brother, Roscoe Lu Smith in Portsmouth.

Sara Winslow spent the weekend at Nags Head with friends.

Mrs. George Clarke from Petersburg, Va. was a guest of her mother,

Mrs. J.E. Morris.

Dr. G.R. Tucker, Jr. of Henderson was a guest of his mother, Mrs. G.R. Tucker, Sr.

Thelma Elliott spent several days in Williamston with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Godwin, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Pusey of Baltimore, Md. were weekend guests

of Mrs. Kelly Campbell.

### Hospital Notes

Wesley Nelson and Mrs. N.W. Chappell are patients in Norfolk General Hospital. Mr. N.W. Chappell is in Chowan Hospital. Rev. Ken Spivey is a patient in Norfolk.

Mrs. G.R. Tucker has returned home from ALBemarle Hospital.

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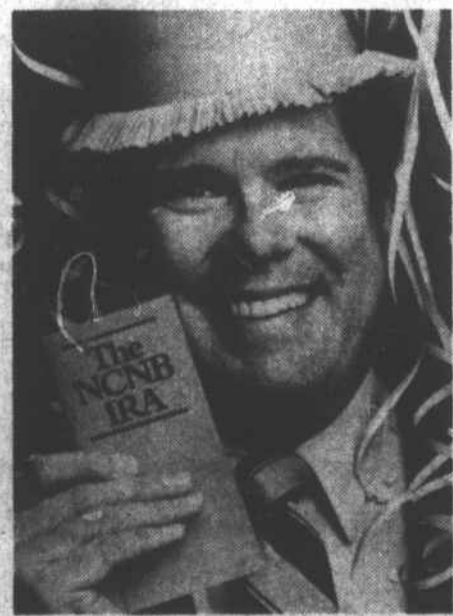
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