

WPCC enters movie business

By SUSAN USHER
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Western Piedmont Community College (WPCC) is filming Burke County at work.

The color videotapes will become part of a collection called "Exploring Careers in Burke County," according to Dr. Richard L. Morgan, director of career development at WPCC.

Featured in the series are employment and career opportunities available in representative businesses, industries, service agencies and professional fields.

Each videotape, Morgan said, includes interviews about work opportunities in a certain field, desirable training, and outlook for employment locally. Meshed with the interviews with area personnel directors and workers are views of people doing the jobs described.

Morgan describes the project as a "pioneer" effort. "I think we are the first to tape industry on site out in the community. I think we are a pioneer," he said. N.C. State University at Raleigh has tapes of its course offerings and packed career tapes from major industries, but no localized tapes, Morgan added.

"We're looking for as many careers as we can find," Morgan said. Individuals or firms interested in having their job areas represented are asked to call Morgan or Winston Lear at the college. Representative videotapes will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The tape collection will be housed in the career resources library in the WPCC student services department. They will be available to college and high school students, civic clubs, newcomers looking over the job market and the general public. Morgan said the first set of tapes would be on the shelves by summer.

Interviews with department heads on course offerings at the college will be part of the tape series.

Taping will continue at the rate of two locations each week, Morgan said, with an estimated project length of one year. There is no limit on the number of tapes that can be made, he said.

A \$25,000 allocation from the library equipment budget made purchase of the portable color videotape camera and equipment available.

Personnel from the college involved in the project are Winston Lear, audiovisual librarian; Buddy Noles, audiovisual technician; Joe Brannon, audiovisual coordinator; Richard Morgan, director of career development; and Jim Burnett, job placement counselor. The project is a cooperative effort of the student services department and the audiovisual center.

These locations and career areas have been taped or are scheduled for taping: Wachovia Bank and Trust; Norvell Company; The News Herald; Great Lakes Carbon Corp.; Hanes; Valdese Manufacturing; Broughton Hospital; Waldensian Bakery; and Dr. James Melton (medical career).

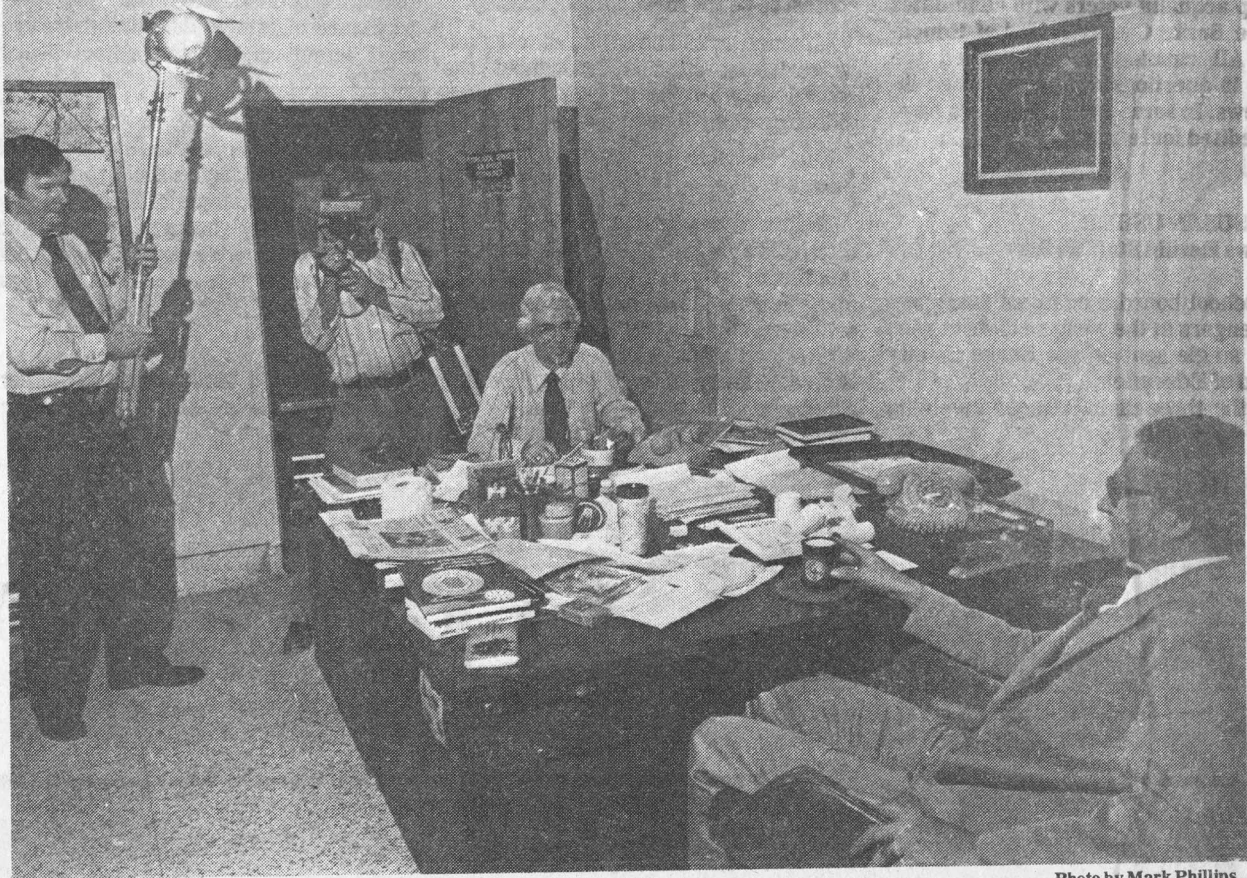


Photo by Mark Phillips

WPCC crew Lear, Noles, Morgan film Broughton social worker John Manning.