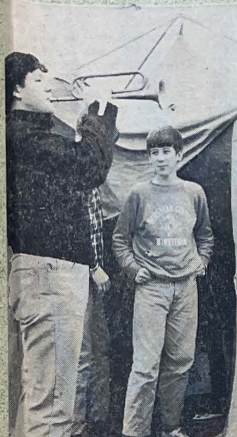




Sam Bass of Sanford explains tree planting.



Scout David Hall signals time for work.



Chow time during weekend camping trip.



Watherson gets directions.



# A Touch Of Green On the Cape

**CAPE LOOKOUT**—Hundreds of years ago, the Outer Banks of Coastal Carolina had vast quantities of trees, some areas even resembling today's inland forests. But that was before the arrival of man, who felled tree after tree with no thought of those who would follow.

Now, at long last, something is being done to restore the lost charm and beauty known only to early settlers and roaming bands of Indians. The trees are growing again. Most have been planted but an increasing number of volunteer seedlings are appearing.

It all started when a few people who love the remote cape decided that if trees grew once on the sandy banks, they could grow again.

**ABOUT FIVE YEARS** ago, Charlie Reeves and Sam Bass, property owners at Cape Lookout, bought 5,000 slash pines which were set out by Sally and Les Moore, permanent residents, and Tony Seamon Jr. of Morehead City. Results were encouraging. More than half the pines survived and now stand 11 feet tall, green against the winter sky near Cape Lookout Lighthouse. In 1967, Seamon, the Moores and 50 Carteret County Boy Scouts set out an additional 10,000 pines with an even better survival rate, despite the carelessness of a fisherman who started a brush fire which destroyed several acres.

Just completed was the largest tree planting ever to occur along the Outer Banks. More than 65,000 seedlings of 10 varieties were planted over 55 acres. Again it was Seamon, Bass, the Moores and Scouts from Beaufort and Morehead City, along with men from the Coast Guard cutter Chilula at Fort Macon, who did the job. Rain fell during most of the planting, increasing chances for a successful venture.

About 45,000 of the seedlings were planted near the Cape Lookout Coast Guard Station as a memorial to Chief Boatswain's Mate Jack Davis of Harkers Island. Davis, officer in charge of the station, died in a jeep accident here last summer.

**OWNERS OF THE** headboat Captain Stacy volunteered to bring the trees and a mechanical planter from the mainland. But thousands of the seedlings were set out by hand with each Scout planting more than 100 trees.

The Scouts were all working on forestry and conservation merit badges. Some also completed camping and other advanced merit badge work during their weekend stay.

Seamon said such volunteer projects up and down the coast will yield long-range benefits. "Here's a chance to do something and not just talk about the need."

There is a dual purpose to the planting. The trees add beauty to barren areas and also help stabilize the soil so other types of vegetation can grow.

H. A. Tate, State field forester who arranged delivery of the seedlings, said of the volunteers: "Their efforts are not motivated by personal gain but rather by a love for the cape and the intangible and tangible values to kindred souls for whom the cape holds an uncanny fascination."