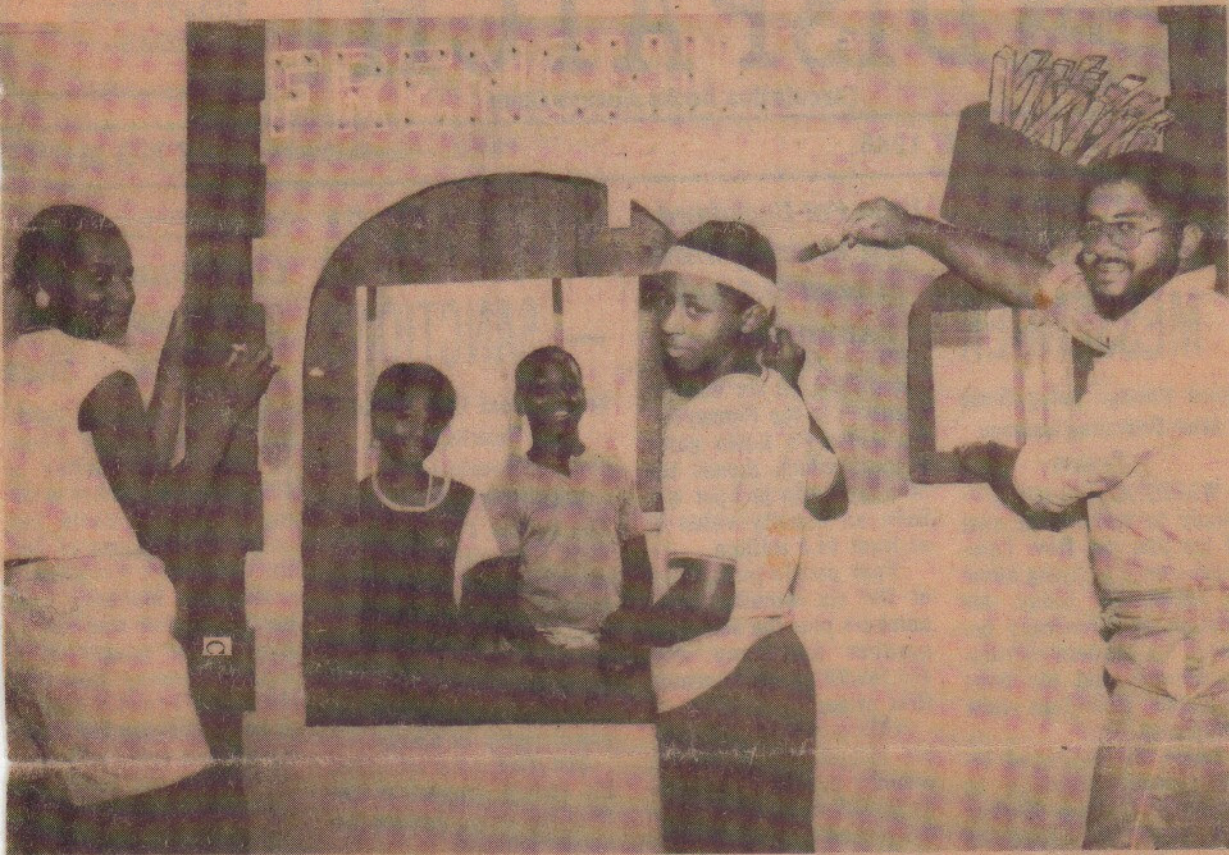


# Festival features local 'wizard'



*The York Dispatch/Bob Lenz*

**THIS MAY LOOK LIKE** an average french-fry stand, but those involved in Thackston Park's summer program are making a very special booth front for the Summer Festival. Darnell Smith, the park's director, who is pictured on the far right above, designed the booth front to light up whenever someone walks in front of it. The Summer Festival, sponsored by the York Recreation Commission, will be from 2-9 p.m. Tuesday at Kiwanis Lake. Also pictured above, left to right, are Deirdre Hawkins, Manuel Mannings, Ryan Smith and Chris Mannings.

*By Maria Libertella*

Electricity is something most of us just don't understand. We simply flick the switch and the light goes on.

But Darnell Smith, 400 E. Princess St., isn't like most of us.

"I've been fooling with electronics since I was in third grade," said the 24-year-old York Technical Institute student.

Smith's curiosity has led him to become an "electronic wizard" who writes

arcade computer programs for Activision and Commodore and he has three NASA patents.

One patent is on a machine that Smith calls a home electric plant.

"It uses no gas or electrical power. There is only one moving part and it can give power to your home for only \$5 a month," said Smith, who never studied electronics until last year. "I've been using it in my home."

Although Smith current-

ly doesn't have the money needed to market his home electric plant, his wizardry is helping others elsewhere.

If you go to the York Recreation Commission's Summer Festival, held from 2 - 9 p.m. Tuesday at Kiwanis lake, you'll see a French fry stand run by the children of Thackston Park, where Smith is park director.

As you walk by it, you'll see Smith's talents in action. "The booth is human

sensitive. It lights up when it senses the presence of people."

Smith also has a computerized game inside the booth that will give customers a chance to win free French fries.

The father of two will graduate from York Technical Institute in January. He wants to continue his education and get a degree in computer science.

"I'd like to get a good job and be able to market my inventions."