

The Chowan Herald

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1946

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE THOUGHT

GOOD FOR DISORDERED NERVES: And the work of righteousness shall be peace and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.—Isa. 32:7.

Up To The Voters

Saturday will be election day in Edenton when voters will be called upon to decide whether the Town will make improvements in way of street paving, curbs and gutters and providing adequate storm sewers to properly carry off surplus water.

That a great deal of opposition has developed is not unexpected, for such has always been the case, is now and, no doubt, always will be when improvements are contemplated. Various arguments have been advanced against the bond issue which include opposition to a necessary increase in the tax rate, expression of concern that homes will be lost due to inability to pay taxes and paving assessments, the statement that the improvements will be made in non-profit producing areas, that the Town should not be authorized to issue bonds so near its bond issuing capacity, that now is no time to make improvements due to the high cost of materials and labor, and no doubt a dozen or more arguments could be advanced on the part of those who oppose the improvements.

Of course, it will raise the tax rate. If the improvements are made, and in the final analysis that is the major objection even if started in another way. It is true, too, that materials and labor are high, but it is equally true that Edenton people are better off financially now than when previous improvements were made. It is reasonable to assume, too, that when the cost of making improvements drops, there necessarily will be a decrease in earning capacity, so that the argument to wait until paving costs drop has very little merit. Now is as good a time as any to make these improvements if they are ever to be made.

It is interesting to note, too, how many property owners signed petitions asking for the improvements. These property owners were appraised of the fact that they will be required to pay approximately half of the expense. It doesn't seem logical that so many would sign their own "death warrant", and so far as the writer is concerned, no complaint has been heard from them.

That improvements include non-revenue producing property does, no doubt, ignore the Edenton Cotton Mill, where all streets are to be paved, and so far as that is concerned, property on contemplated streets to be paved is just as much revenue-producing in proportion to that located on present paved streets.

The Herald, of course, is in favor of making at least some of the improvements NOW, but welcomed the opinions of those opposed to the plan. Each person in Edenton is entitled to his or her opinion, and more of such letters are solicited from readers regarding many other town affairs which would be more beneficial to put in print than to be argued in a drugstore or on street corners.

The present issue has been placed before the people and will be decided next Saturday, so that all should cast a ballot either for or against the improvements. Thanks to our democratic form of government, the majority will rule, so it is up to the people to vote as they see fit.

Opportunity Of A Life-Time

With the Edenton Naval Air Station scheduled to be closed just as soon as equipment and materials can be moved out, Town Council is to be complimented upon requesting a lease of the base from the Navy Department. The base offers many opportunities which will mean a great deal to Edenton, so that the Chamber of Commerce acted wisely in meeting shortly after the request for the lease was made in order to put in motion efforts to use the base to some distinct advantage.

Already a Chamber of Commerce committee is working on a plan to have a G. I. school or a Freshman class from one of the colleges at the base where ample facilities are available. An effort is also being made to lease the air field to a commercial air line. Then, too, fishing rights can be sold, there is a large cold storage plant, a swimming pool, boat house, tennis courts, not to say anything about facilities of 4-H camps and the like, or a golf course.

The Chamber of Commerce committee acted quickly on a few advantages offered, but many more remain, so that it is hoped the Chamber of Commerce, together with Town Council, will be alert to the many opportunities to the end that Edenton will continue to benefit by the base. Of course, it will require work and somebody's time so that everything should not rest upon the

HEARD & SEEN

By "BUFF"

Of course, here's one vote going for the bond issue next Saturday despite the arguments advanced by some of my best friends. Their difference of opinion does not lessen one iota my respect and esteem for them and here's hoping they have the same feeling toward me. Like one of my friends told me the other day, if we all thought the same way, we'd all be wanting to marry the same woman. Anyway, street paving is not the only part of the contemplated improvements. An adequate storm sewer system is just as important as streets and had anyone accompanied George T. White and myself Tuesday night after the heavy downpour, there would no doubt be less objection to at least some of the improvements. This water, however, has no respect for those living on paved streets, for a big portion of the town took on the appearance of lakes. At the Armory the water banked up to within about 30 feet of the building. Granville street was covered with water and at some places on Broad street a row boat could have gotten around. In North Edenton streets were completely under water and in some cases gardens were practically wiped out. Of course, Tuesday's rain was a very heavy one, but similar conditions exist on normal rains, so that there is no question about the present storm sewer system being inadequate. Of course, no complaint will likely be heard from some until they are affected by the water, which is in the same category as those people who are now obliged to eat dust when it is dry or sink in mud when it is wet. Traveling from one end of the town to the other and even on the outskirts Tuesday night convinced me that something should be done about improvements in Town, and had some of those opposing the idea made the same trip, there is a likelihood that they, too, would have a different opinion.

Talking about this dieting business, Mayor Leroy Haskett says he is supposed to be on a diet, but that his doctor did not tell him what to take. As a result, he is taking all he can get his hands on.

I'm all fixed up now for fishing, for Sam Wright sent me a four, five and six-leaf clover. He says he learned that I have become a pretty good "bait-catcher" of late. Sam said he had to carry a four-leaf clover in order to catch fish, but in order to make sure I would catch some, he sent an extra five-leaf and six-leaf clover. Sam also says paying the preacher has a lot to do with catching fish and instructed me to carry the lucky clover in a pocketbook, placing it in the left hip pocket which should be kept buttoned. Sam's a pretty good friend, too, for he says if, after his instructions, I do not catch any fish, I should let him know and he'd catch some for me. Anyway, I'm going to pay up Bro. Surratt next Sunday, park the clover in my left hip pocket and then try my luck. Anybody want to buy some fish?

At present there are seven boats in the Edenton harbor to carry watermelons to the northern markets. According to the way some of the farmers talk, there's hardly more than seven watermelons in the whole county this year. At any rate, rain played havoc with 'em this year, and as a result I doubt if Asa Griffin, Gib Perry, Captain Wiggins, Nathan Copeland and a few others will make their usual visit to the Herald office with a nice specimen of the things. Anyway, some of the old-timers remember when more than 50 boats left the Edenton harbor loaded to the gills with Chowan County watermelons. But not this year, brother! But here's hoping a few boats will leave, or else my daddy's visit to Edenton will be a failure, for he wants to see them load watermelons as much as anything Edenton has to offer.

If you don't believe night baseball in these parts is popular, just go to one of the night games in Hertford or Edenton. Up to this writing two local night games have been played, when the grandstand and newly constructed bleachers were filled. There will be some more night games, perhaps, if it ever decides to stop raining. Maybe we should start a movement to have boat racing on Hicks field.

Shoulders of a few. Every member of the Chamber of Commerce and every member of Town Council should be vitally interested in the utilization of the base for the best interest of Edenton. It's one of those opportunities which come but once in a lifetime.

Much To Be Thankful For

News that the Edenton Naval Air Station will definitely be closed is received in Edenton with no little regret. The definite closing order was received last week by Comdr. Bert Creighton despite a determined fight on the part of the Chamber of Commerce, which went the limit in advancing arguments for retention of the base.

Though Edenton will lose the base, there is much to be thankful for its few years operation, for it has put many people on their feet who were dragging bottom at about the time work on its construction began. No little progress has been made in paying off homes as the result of renting rooms and apartments and quite a few have been employed at salaries three or four times what they were receiving before accepting employment at the base. Furthermore, business skyrocketed during the life of the base, so that all in all, Edenton has been very much benefited.

Aside from the financial point of view, many friendships have been made that will last throughout the years and many who were stationed in Edenton will look back to pleasant memories of their stay here.

Yes, Edenton as a whole regrets to lose the base, but there are plenty of reasons to be thankful that it was placed here in the first place.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE "MINORITY" SPEAKS

Editor Chowan Herald:
It is truly gratifying to know that you are generous enough to open the columns of your interesting paper for discussions of so vital importance to an issue which is so close to the taxpayers of Edenton.

If there is anyone in Edenton for whom the taxpayers of Edenton, white or colored, have the greatest respect and highest regard for his wise counsel and advice, it is the former Mayor of Edenton, but just at this time, when beautiful Edenton appears to be awakening from her slothfulness and is looking forward into the future to clothe herself in glory by launching forward and acclaiming herself willing to improve the unsightly places so plainly evident in sections of the city inhabited by the great part of the minority group who are willing taxpayers, this genial gentleman has come out with a great howl that has shocked his many admiring friends by denouncing as impractical and unsound any such movement under the guise of "unsound economy."

The following men, W. E. Cox, the Revs. N. S. Harris, E. S. Parker, S. N. Griffith, J. E. Tillet and Earl Jones have had much to do with the petitions presented to the taxpayers who live on dirt streets and finally to the considerate City Fathers and in no instance have they met opposition from anyone. On the contrary, everybody showed willingness and jubilation over the thing, which they long looked forward to and hoped to see done, namely hard-surfacing and guttering the dirt streets and filling in the filthy and unsightly ditches before their homes. We never heard one voice about high taxation, which the former Mayor played up so frighteningly as a scare crow.

On the contrary, everyone expressed opinion that even if it means this, they show perfect willingness in doing so, because they would have the blessed satisfaction of being able to sit out on their porches on pleasant evenings without having to eat the dust which for many years they have done whenever some unthoughtful motorist drives in madness through these dirt streets without consideration to any one.

The former Mayor has lived in Edenton for the greater part of his life, but he has not suffered the annoyance of having to live on dusty and muddy streets. He has lived on paved streets all his life and it is impossible for him to know the inconvenience which the dwellers of dusty, muddy streets have to put up with. He might have driven through these streets during his incumbency, but we doubt that he has offered any suggestion to his Council for their relief.

The former Mayor takes pride in pointing to the accomplishments of city improvement during his administration, which every administration likes to do, but there is evidence everywhere around us that the present administration is far ahead for its outstanding accomplishments and now that the present administration has boldly launched the idea of a general city-wide improvement that would benefit both majority and minority groups, we hear the loud cry from our former Mayor in opposition under the guise of the unsound economy bugaboo. It is this unsound economy bugaboo cry that has held back the beautiful and historical city of Edenton for years and caused her not to be classified along with the other progressive cities of the State. We are for conservatism all right, but this form of conservatism is harmful and detrimental to any city.

We know that we have a very beautiful city now, but, my gosh, if the contemplated improvements are put through, wouldn't we have one of the most attractive little cities in the State, of which we shall all be proud? We want these improvements, no matter what the cost. We are quite willing to do our share and we are not afraid of jeopardizing or losing our property. Other streets have been improved and we have been assessed for them, and we do not know of any one who has lost their property or account of this improvement. We feel certain that none of those who now live on these streets, if they were given the choice, would go back to the old dirt streets.

We are certain that the colored citizens of Edenton and their good white

friends, too, who live and own property on dirt streets will go to the polls on Saturday, July 27, and vote unanimously for these improvements and so forget about the scarecrows of high taxation and unsound economy. We are truly entitled to some considerations and we believe that our fine white friends are willing and ready to show us that they are with us in sharing our high hopes and jubilation.

We are grateful to the editor of The Herald for his very fine editorial on this matter, but we do not feel that he should be alone on the parting of ways on the issue with the former Mayor. We want him to feel that we, too, ought to say something in our own behalf.

COLORLED CITIZENS LEAGUE.

IS THIS PROGRESS?

Dear Fellow Citizens of the Town of Edenton:

Though I have not been a citizen of Edenton for many years, I am deeply interested in its progress. Like you, I am called on to vote for or against the proposed bond issue to pave a certain section of the town. I am going to vote against the proposition and following is one of my compelling reasons:

Section 160-64 General Statutes of North Carolina makes it unlawful for any city or town to pledge its credit in a sum exceeding 10% of its total tax valuations.

I find the total tax valuations of Edenton to be \$3,714,201.

Ten per cent of this sum is \$371,420.

The proposed bond issue is \$370,000.

This is just \$1,420 less than the maximum permitted by law, so if the issue carries, the town will exhaust its total bond issuing capacity in this one venture.

I consider this improvident because I do not think this project worth the price of putting all of our "bondability" in just one venture.

The idea is most commendable, but is a financial straightjacket, limiting possible future opportunities.

Yours very truly,
GEORGE T. CRAWFORD, D.C.

FROM ANOTHER EX-MAYOR

Editor Chowan Herald:

In your issue of July 18 I read with much interest the article submitted by ex-Mayor J. H. McMullan, voicing and setting forth his reasons for opposing a bond issue of \$370,000 for street paving.

Likewise, I read your editorial on the same subject with equal interest and in my mind I have drawn a parallel between the two views expressed.

Now with your kind permission, inasmuch as you have opened the columns of your paper for a free discussion, I would like to state a few facts for the information of the citizens of Edenton.

PEACHES

FOR CANNING

A large shipment of peaches will arrive Thursday morning. Call early to get what you need.

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FISH MARKET

PHONE 26

zens of the Town.
I had the privilege of serving the Town as Mayor for eight years from 1925 to 1933. Previous to that time I had served the Town as a member of the Board of Council from 1915 to 1921, altogether 14 years. During that period practically all the major improvements that Edenton now possesses were installed and I feel somewhat justified in giving my opinion regarding the present proposed bond issue.

First—I do not think that the ex-

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