

Students Remain At Walker

County Given Additional Time In School Matter

Chowan County Board of Education Friday requested and received a 30-day delay in final determination of compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for the current school year.

The action followed a three hour conference in Washington where the city and county school situation was thoroughly aired with David Sealey of the U. S. Office of Education.

Twenty-six Negro ninth grade students from Chowan County will remain in school at D. F. Walker High School until a final determination is made by federal officials. While provoked by the transfer of the students from the county unit to the city

over their objection, Sealey left the impression nothing would be gained by switching the students back to Chowan High School for the remainder of this school year.

The federal school official said the "freedom of choice" plan was obviously not working in the case of Chowan County schools. However, he said he is not in a position to advise the county board on how to bring about more integration of the students and faculty of the rural schools.

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., who moderated a recent joint meeting of the two boards, explained the purpose of the conference. He told Sealey more progress

had been made in the past few months and county school officials are confident it is important to the entire area that a solution be realized in the current school dispute.

He said the presence of the board members, along with Mayor Mitchener, is evidence of the deep concern they have for the education of the children of the area.

Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, who arranged the con-

ference with the ranking Office of Education official, said it is important to the entire area that a solution be realized in the current school dispute.

He said the presence of the board members, along with Mayor Mitchener, is evidence of the deep concern they have for the education of the children of the area.

Later he asked Sealey to consider positive steps taken by the boards to comply. He cited them as being: allowing complete freedom of choice for all the students; attempts to employ white faculty members for the Negro school; employment of a sin-

gle superintendent for the two units; agreement to merge the two administrative units; and establishment of an open door policy between the two units.

County School Meeting Tuesday

The regular monthly meeting of Chowan County Board of Education will be held at 8 P. M., Tuesday at the superintendent's office in Hotel Joseph Hewes.

O. C. Long, Jr., chairman, said the meeting had been switched from Monday until Tuesday for the convenience of some board members.

W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., said the merger of the administrative units, according to state school law, had been realized. Nevertheless, it was the advice of officials in Raleigh that a referendum would be desirable. He said a bill has been prepared for presentation to the General Assembly and a vote could be taken by mid-April, 1967 on the question.

Earnhardt, attorney for the county board, said the board has acted in good faith in attempting to comply with the guidelines of the Office of Education.

Supt. Hiram Mayo outlined progress which has been made within the two units

and said everyone should be gratified at the cooperative manner in which the two boards have worked in past months. He also cited a survey by the State Department of Public Instruction of all the schools in the county and the agreement by both boards to implement the recommendations of the survey team as a positive step toward better schools in Chowan County.

N. J. George, a member of the county board, said his unit is committed to the freedom of choice plan and would accept any student requesting transfer without regard of race. He added the same is true with regards to

faculty members. George, along with others in attendance including Bruce Jones of the city board, said the merger of the administrative units is the most important single thing facing the two boards at this time.

Those in attendance argued the merger of the administrative units would do away with district school lines and in a great measure solve many of the problems which exist.

Sealey explained his office could not force the schools to integrate. He said, however, if sufficient progress toward the goal was not made to satisfy the intent of the law then federal funds could be withheld.



POLICE EXECUTIVES MEET — Ranking police officers from the Coastal Plains area met in Edenton last week with Police Chief James H. Griffin as host. Chief Griffin, center is shown with chiefs of other departments in the region. The group met at the Municipal Building on Tuesday to discuss training programs and problems of mutual interest.

Cage Season Opens Friday

The Edenton Aces open defense of their 2-A Albemarle Conference cage crown Friday night in a game with Pasquotank Central at Elizabeth City.

Coach Jim Kinion said he would have his 14-member squad ready for action when the whistle sounds for the opening game of the basketball season.

Coach Kinion is highly pleased with pre-season drills and says while his team will not have the height enjoyed in past encounters, he will have the benefit of a strong bench.

"We are not as big as last year and will not be as strong on the boards," Coach Kinion stated. "However, we are deep in every position and there is real keen competition for starting berths."

The popular cage coach went on to say he has more boys who will see action than on any team he has ever coached. The prospects from his squad is such that at times he might alternate teams.

Coach Kinion was hesitant to specifically name his starting five for the Pasquotank game. But he said Wes Chesson, all conference and all east player last season would definitely be in the lineup at tip-off. He said other seniors who will probably start include Mike Overton, Thomas Willis, Brian.

All-East Honors To Local Players

RALEIGH — Wes Chesson, splendid quarterback for the Edenton Aces, is the only player in 2-A football to repeat on the 1966 All-East team as picked by the News and Observer.

Chesson is joined on this year's squad by teammate Mike Overton, a fine tackle. The two members of the Edenton squad were co-captains this year. Overton was picked for the second squad of All-East players last season.

Ahoskie, winner of the 2-A Albemarle Conference and undefeated in season play, also placed two players on the team. They were Paul Sharp and Dennis Everett. All of the players on the All-East team this year are seniors.

The Public Parade

NOT UNBEARABLE—Well, we went up to Washington Friday to hear the bureaucrats tell the local school boards how to educate the children of Chowan County.

It was enlightening to sit at the conference table and be told in no uncertain terms that the goal of the Office of Education is to abolish the dual school system in this county. How it comes about in Chowan County will be left to the local folks, they say.

The federal officials said they are not so concerned over the immediate problems, and can be somewhat sympathetic with the boards. But it is the long haul which interests them more.

We got the impression they will allow 26 Negro ninth graders from Chowan County to remain in D. F. Walker High School for the remainder of this school term. This is best for the education of the students involved.

They are not going to hold still for long though, unless more integration of students and faculty is realized in the county system.

But what impressed this writer more than any other single thing was the unity of purpose displayed by members of the county and city boards of education. These members are dedicated, to the man, to the merger of the two administrative units.

The agreement by the members on this point is proof positive that they are putting the children first. One school system here would give all the children, Negro and white, an opportunity to a better education. And it is to that end that the combined boards must work.

There will be some adjustment to be made by school patrons of both units. While at times it may not be too palatable it will not be too much to bear if everyone keeps the youth of our community foremost in their minds.

The city and county administrative units can become one, the students given an opportunity to a better school system, and the entire community go forward in harmony in spite of the federal government. And it is to this end that all must be dedicated.

RIGHT DIRECTION — A decision by Chowan County commissioners last month to do away with the fee system

of paying local officials was a step toward better, more efficient government.

In prior years the clerk of court and register of deeds was paid mainly via fees collected in their respective offices. Monday the clerk of court will go on the state payroll, thus eliminating the fee system in this office.

The sheriff of Chowan County is paid a salary, travel allowance and receives fees for collection of taxes. Sheriff Earl Goodwin is one (Continued on Page Seven)



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New Telephone Cutover Slated Friday Night

ELIZABETH CITY — Albemarle Metro will be officially inaugurated here this Friday night when Harry T. Westcott, chairman of the North Carolina Utility Commission, places the initial call through The Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company's 3,900-square-mile toll-free calling system.

The historic first call by the chairman will be made as the highlight of a gathering of mayors, chamber of commerce and civic club presidents, telephonic equipment manufacturers and engineers, representatives of area news media and company officials. A dinner for the group, which was originally brought together in April of 1965, when the idea of Albemarle Metro was introduced, has been scheduled at 7 o'clock in the ballroom of the Virginia Dare Hotel.

It will mark the culmination of some four years of planning, engineering and expansion by the local company. The overall conversion to toll free dialing represents an expenditure of nearly \$2.5 million.

Friday's cutover into the Albemarle Metro Area will include three new exchanges at Weeksville, Shiloh and (Continued on Page Seven)

Santa Claus Arrives Here Today

Today is the big day for all children in Edenton and surrounding counties, for this is the day jolly old Santa Claus comes to town. The annual Christmas Pa-

rade is scheduled to begin at John A. Holmes High School at 4 o'clock and continue down Broad Street to the Court House Green. There will be cheerlead-

ers, majorettes, and the participating bands will be John A. Holmes High School, D. F. Walker High School, Elizabeth City High School, Plymouth High School, Washington County Union School, the Perquimans County Marching Unit, and the ROTC Color Guard and Drill Team from East Carolina College.

There will be seven floats depicting the Christmas Story, each one competing for first prize which will be \$25. Second and third prizes will be given and all floats will receive a cash award.

Riding in the parade will be the Homecoming Queen of Chowan High School, Miss Ruth Ann Bass and Miss Chowan High, Miss Peggy Bunch. Also there will be the D. F. Walker Homecoming Queen, Miss Carolyn White and her escorts.

John A. Holmes High School will be represented by Miss Sanfra Ange, Homecoming Queen and Miss Hettie Wallace, princess.

Also riding in the parade will be the winner of the Junior Miss Contest being sponsored by the First District Jaycees, as well as representatives from several civic clubs and town and county officials.

Another feature to delight the children will be the clowns. Smoky The Bear is expected to make his appearance and many other features too numerous to mention.

Of course, the star of the entire event will be Santa Claus. (Continued on Page Seven)



READY FOR ALBEMARLE METRO — New telephone directories were distributed in the area this week by Norfolk-Carolina Telephone Company in preparation to the cutover of Albemarle Metro phone service. The directories contain the listings of nearly 13,000 area subscribers, most of whom will have toll-free service in a 3,900-square-mile area beginning Friday. The new directory is admired in the photo above by Mrs. Betty Tilley of Hertford.

Local Officials Will Take Oaths

The launching of a new era in courts in the First District will take place in Elizabeth City Monday as officials take the oath of office administered by Superior Court Resident Judge Walter W. Cohoon.

In the seven-county Northeastern North Carolina area, Monday will begin the uniform system of inferior courts. Instead of seven county courts, there will be two circuit riding judges who will hold court at specified times in the counties.

Fentress Horner of Elizabeth City has been named chief judge for the district. W. S. Privott of Edenton is the other district jurist. While Judge Horner has been scheduled to hold court in the district during the first two weeks in December, he has asked Judge Privott to preside Tuesday at the first court in Chowan County under the new system.

Judge Privott, Sheriff Earl Goodwin, Magistrate Ralph Parrish and Mrs. Lena M. Leary, court clerk, will be in Elizabeth City Monday to take their oaths.

They will return to Edenton, where Mrs. Leary will administer the oath of other county officials.

Because of the ceremonies in Elizabeth City, Chowan County Court House will be idle until approximately 11 A. M. No business will be transacted in the Court House until Mrs. Leary has given the local officials their oaths.

Therefore, Chowan County commissioners will not meet until 11 A. M., instead of the regular 9 A. M. hour.

Pou Cites Importance Of Good Farm Practices

Good farming practices are saving consumers of America more than \$11 billion a year and improved techniques will mean greater reduction in food costs in the future.

Dr. J. W. Pou of Greenville, a ranking authority in agriculture in the southeast, told his audience of soil and water conservation enthusiasts here last week that continued advancements in farming will be necessary to keep a balanced food economy in the years ahead.

Dr. Pou, vice president of Wachovia Bank & Trust Company, said residents of urban areas are the real beneficiary of efficiency in farming. However, they are gaining control of our government and do not understand the problems faced by farmers.

The speaker went on to say the farm surplus of America is vanishing. Yet, he added, 75 per cent of the people of the world go to bed hungry each night.

Dr. Pou called on our leaders in government to use food to fight conflicts instead of "our young men."

Because of the increased demands for food, he said farmers are being called on to step up production. N. C. farmers are to be commended for the good job they are doing, yet they cannot relax on these laurels, he added.

Dr. Pou said Eastern North Carolina is the breadbasket of Eastern America. Fewer people are producing more with increase in farm income being from \$405 million in 1955 to \$700 million in 1965.

He called on people in the rural areas to provide

technical training for the young people and to increase the emphasis on conservation and use of greater water resources.

Dr. Pou hailed the Soil Conservation Service for being effective in gaining the interest of farm people and holding it. He said building up soil is a basic investment

favorable season and harvest for the farmer against un-

Earlier, Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, reminded his audience that soil and water conservation is not something seasonal. He said, too, it will never go out of style.

"We have no choice but to

continue the total picture of agriculture," the congressman said.

He added that the farm programs are misunderstood by those who represent the urban areas. Therefore, he said agriculture needs stronger support from those closely connected with it.

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HUDDLE AT SOIL CONSERVATION BANQUET — Rep. Walter B. Jones of Farmville, center, huddles here with local and district farm and business leaders at the annual Northeastern Area banquet of N. C. Association, Soil & Water Conservation Districts held in Edenton last week. Left to right are: Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., L. C. Bunch of Chowan County, area vice chairman; Dr. J. W. Pou, vice president, Wachovia Bank & Trust Company, Greenville; and A. C. Edwards of Greene County, area chairman. More than 300 people interested in soil and water conservation were on hand for the 11th annual banquet held at Edenton National Guard Armory.

Junior Miss

Pageant Held

HERTFORD — Miss Linda Christine Hand of Gatesville Monday was crowned Hertford Junior Miss of 1967 at a gala pageant held at Perquimans County High School auditorium.

First runner-up was Miss Sanfra Ange of Edenton. The third place in the pageant went to Miss Ellen Harrell of Elizabeth City.

Fourteen contestants entered the first Junior Miss contest in this district, sponsored by Hertford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In winning the title and an opportunity to compete in the state Junior Miss contest in Charlotte, Miss Hand won three of the five medals given in the contest. She was cited for youth fitness, scholarship and interview with the judges.

Miss Carol Pennington of Plymouth won a medal for poise while the performing arts citation went to Miss Deborah Stokes of Elizabeth City.

Judges for the contest were: Mrs. Robert L. Hollowell, Mrs. Ted Bissette, Mrs. Bessie Culpepper, Pat Flanagan and Doward Jones.

Spruill To Aid Local Veterans

John Lee Spruill, Chowan County Veterans Service officer, will be at the local Employment Security Commission office Thursday afternoons during December and January to assist those receiving VA benefits and wishing help in completing their VA Income Questionnaires.

Spruill said there are important changes in the 1966 and 1967 VA Income Questionnaires that should not be overlooked.