

# Letters To Editor: Adult Education, Town Government Discussed

To the Editor:

In your article of March 30 pertaining to the joint meeting of Town Council and the Board of Public Works, may I take exception to the last sentence in your article, "He (Quinn) defended the Council action and opposed a referendum since the people did not vote to establish the Board 58 years ago".

It is true that I did defend Council action as you stated but at no point did I intend to give the impression that I would oppose this measure or any other being put to a vote of the people. At the outset of discussions relative to dissolving the E&W Board, it was my duty as a councilman to determine the procedure that had been followed in the creation of the board in 1909 and the enlargement from 3 to 5 members about 10 years ago. In both cases, Town Council requested action by the Legislature, and apparently it was considered a change in internal control, and the people of Edenton were not asked to vote in the matter.

We must remember that the E&W Department is another department of the town, the same as the Fire, Street, Sanitation, or Police departments, at all times and in all matters ultimately answerable to the governing body of the town.

Since it has been necessary to clarify your article of last week, it is my belief that the public's attention should be called to certain facts and observations, made solely by the writer:

(1) Council, at no time, has accused the E&W Board of inefficiency, and have at all times deemed the members to be honest, upright, dedicated public servants.

(2) Before Edenton adopt-

ed the City Manager (administrator) plan of government, it is possible that the services of two boards were required.

(3) In modernizing the town government and utilizing the services of the town administrator, town services have been improved and great strides have been made in the growth and progress of the town.

(4) Inasmuch as Town Council is solely responsible for the overall operation of all town services provided its citizens, it is deemed necessary that it, as a body, be the policy-making apparatus, with the town administrator implementing these policies.

(5) In the past, Edenton has had two boards, in effect, setting policy, thereby creating confusion and dissension in town government and in dealings with the public at large. Town Council has often found itself in the position of having to accept responsibility for policies and actions set by and performed by another board, without having knowledge of, or the privilege to consent or disagree with other.

(6) If Edenton hopes to continue to grow and progress, certainly it seems logical that equipment, personnel, and services will have to be continuously up-graded to modern, automated, economical levels. We do not believe this will always be possible by an out-moded form of town government.

(7) For 20 years, to my personal knowledge, friction and dissension has erupted between the Town Council and the E&W Board, and if these differences could have been resolved, it seems logical to assume that it would have been accomplished long ago. We do not believe this situation is in the best interest of the people of Edenton, and that it will surely retard progress.

For these reasons, my vote was cast for the transfer of all duties of the E&W Board to Town Council, with the town administrator carrying out the in-

structions given to him, through able and dedicated department heads. After all, town administration may be likened to corporate business, the taxpayers being stockholders, and Council being the Board of Directors.

To me, to attempt to administer the affairs of any corporation having two boards of directors, could only result in the same type of situation we have in our town. As in any corporate structure, no objection can be registered by the Board of Directors, if the stockholders desire to vote on any issue. As stated before, I do not now, or have I ever, objected to putting any issue to a vote by the people, if they so desire. After all, Council is the servant of the people, not their master.

It is regrettable that our legislators have been put in a bad light in this matter. After all, this is a local issue, with which they had no way of being familiar. It is my opinion that no one has "stalled" these deliberations, but have honestly delayed action until further information could be gathered. After all, this change has been seriously considered, discussed, and researched with the full knowledge of the E&W Board for a year, and final action was taken at a called meeting, with the Press present. It is true that the Press was asked not to publicize the decision until all members of the E&W Board could be notified in person, a common courtesy which Council deemed in keeping within good taste and out of respect for individual members. In my opinion, this does not constitute a so-called "secret meeting".

It is my hope that personalities not enter into this matter, as members of both boards are sincere in their convictions, and are without exception men of highest caliber. All of us, on both sides of the issue, must keep one thought foremost in our minds, that we are sworn to act in the best interest of all the peo-

ple of Edenton, regardless of personal feelings. My decision in this matter, to the best of my judgment, fulfilled my obligation to the people.

HENRY G. QUINN,  
Councilman at Large

One of the best and most attentive welding sessions ever held for adults at Chowan High School is now ending.

These classes have been going on for the past four or five years, approximately ten or twelve nights a year with minor handicaps. Soon after classes started this year, we were told that no funds were available for adult education due to the county not adhering to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Some way had to be found to keep these classes going as we were already enrolled. So with the untiring effort of E. S. White, head of the Vocational Agriculture Department, and J. P. Snipes, principal of Chowan High School, with the help of John Hassel, Supervisor, Agriculture Education and official of College of the Albemarle, we have just finished a successful session.

Cecil Fry aided in getting the classes enrolled under the sponsorship of the College of the Albemarle but this made each member enrolled have to pay a \$2 enrollment fee plus the amount necessary for materials used in the classes.

With materials contributed by members of the class, the use of the equipment of my own, torches, welding tables, plus several hundred pounds of steel during these and previous classes, with the arc welding equipment being furnished by Seaboard Oxygen Service, Plymouth, and Earl Harrell of Edenton Livestock; it has been possible thus far.

Due to the fact that the loaned welding equipment is being disposed of and a vote is coming up for a merger of the school boards, the feeling we find

from the voters of the county is that classes at Chowan will not be held another year unless, we the people of the county, who are interested in the interests, welfare and well-being of every citizen of the county, take it upon ourselves to carry it on in the interest of everyone.

A few years ago a bond issue was held with Chowan High School PTA being told if the issue passed one of the first things to be had was a complete workshop at Chowan with necessary equipment.

To the voters of the county this seemed like a necessary asset for this part of the county.

The bond issue was passed; since then the people have been told that the funds are still being held in Raleigh, and no funds have been available for facilities or equipment at Chowan.

Several years ago when I was treasurer of Chowan PTA, a typing class was badly needed.

This class was started by the PTA having to buy the first typewriters in order to get the class started.

Our welding classes have been held in the coal supply bin in order to carry on.

This year we had 30 enrolled in the welding classes and 15 enrolled in small engines and participation

has been from the whole county.

The classes were open to anyone interested in fundamentals of arc oxyacetylene welding and burning, preferably adults, with no exceptions to race, color or creed with our thankfulness for having the privilege of learning and being able to pass some help on to those who seem so eager to learn things with which they are not familiar.

It is gratifying to see busy people put forth so much effort to try and help themselves.

EMMETT P. JONES

## Sunday School Lesson

Continued from Page 12

reaches of the world in which we live. We are constrained, as Christians, to make ardent disciples of all nations; but first we must make disciples of ourselves, as an individual and as a nation.

To do this we must not regard the Holy Spirit as someone or something of which we go in awe; we must—primarily—regard it as a dear, close, personal friend.

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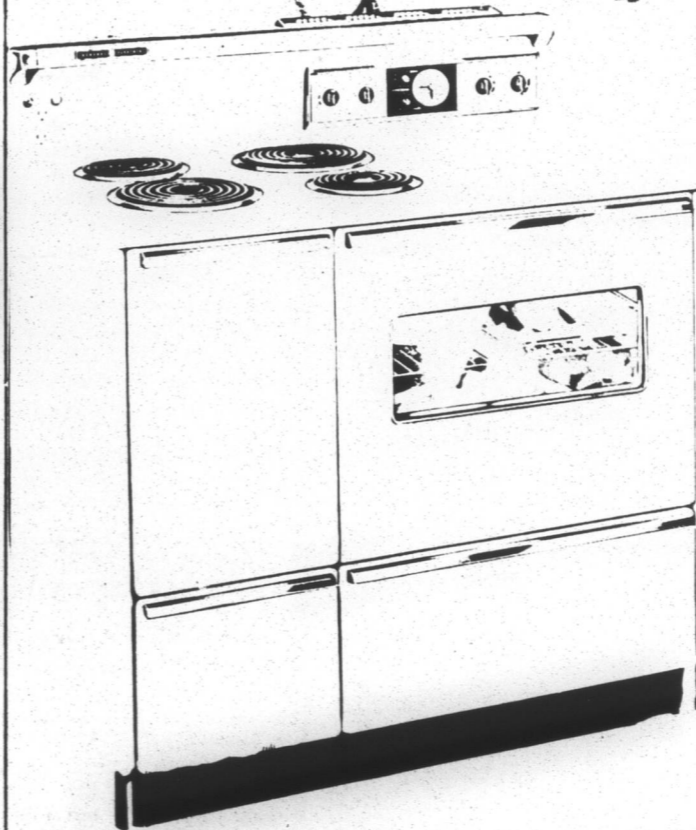
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