



The Public Parade

Good Job, Boys!

Loose ends are now being gathered on the labor availability survey which has been in progress here for the past two weeks. Results indicate there is an ample supply of labor for Chris-Craft Corporation or other new industries.

The entire community owes a debt of gratitude to everyone who had a hand in the survey.

Since school was out before the survey could get underway, the job was more difficult than in the past. Too, the fact that a survey was conducted only 12 months ago didn't make it any easier to get people to complete the questionnaires.

Leaders in other communities have been impressed with the manner in which difficult jobs are done well in Edenton. So will Chris-Craft.

Out Of Character

Recently we discussed in this column the importance of keeping the public business in public. Apparently we missed connections with Edenton, Town Council.

Tuesday night, First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina made a formal request for a portion of the town's checking account business. Also, they wanted to participate in equal distribution of certificates of deposit.

After the presentation, Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., said he was sure councilmen wanted to give full "deliberation" to the request. Then he moved on to another item on the agenda.

The gavel sounded ending the regular monthly council meeting. Councilmen went into the mayor's office under the pretense of studying the proposed town budget.

It has since been learned that more than an hour was spent discussing which check to pick up to pay town bills. Final decision was made to alternate the checking account between the two banks.

Now, this newspaper will not remotely get involved in where the town keeps its money. But if public discussion on the question would embarrass any member of the council then it is time he excused himself.

The cloud of suspicion raised over another "secret" meeting played a big role in defeating one of the most progressive steps here in many years.

Edenton's handsome, comfortable council room is the place to take action on requests placed before the council. The mayor's office was not designed for this function.

Don't Cut Area Ties

Chowan County is considered as the hub of the Albemarle Area of North Carolina. Progress on many fronts have proven to all who care to investigate that we live in an area where the action is.

As those who meander along The Public Parade well know, this has come about through joint efforts. Now we find Chowan County backing out of a most important phase of orderly development—the Albemarle Area Regional Planning Commission.

County commissioners failed to go

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TOO CLOSE—Alfonso White, 33-year-old Merry Hill Negro, got his log truck too close to the curb as he rounded the curve at the Masonic Temple Monday afternoon and it struck a power pole and overturned. White escaped unhurt although sparks were flying from the broken wires. Damage to the truck was placed at \$100 but power was interrupted due to the fallen lines. The rig was owned by James Kermit Mizelle, Route 3, Edenton, and White was charged with failing to decrease his speed to avoid an accident. Capt. J. D. Parrish and Patrolman W. A. Satterfield investigated the mishap.

Council To Hear Labor Survey Tops 3,500 Project Experts

An urban renewal program for Edenton will be discussed within the next few weeks at a special meeting of Town Council.

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., asked Councilman Henry Quinn to arrange a meeting when it is suitable with firms interested in assisting in such a plan.

Councilman Quinn said he and Town Administrator W. B. Gardner have been in contact with three firms currently engaged in projects in North Carolina.

The councilman recommended that Edenton proceed as quickly as possible to develop an urban renewal program.

"I believe there is a need in Edenton for a program like this and now is the time," he said.

C. A. (Chuck) Benson, manager of the Edenton office of First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina, appeared to request a portion of the town's business. He said at one time the bank had several certificates of deposit but they have been cashed in as they matured, due to considerable capital expenditures by the town.

"We feel we have offered a contribution to Edenton," Benson said in requesting the Electric & Water Department account as of June 30. He also asked that the CD's be split as equally as possible.

R. Graham White, executive vice president of Peoples Bank & Trust Company

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Lawns Watched

Edenton Jaycees are again sponsoring a Lawn of the Month contest here.

Each month during the summer a winner will be chosen and will receive a prize which is donated by local firms.

Prizes in the contest include a lawn sprinkler from Hughes-Parker Hardware, one shrub from Leary Plant Farm and \$5 from the Jaycees.

Final questionnaires of an extensive labor availability survey were being tabulated today as Edenton Chamber of Commerce officials hailed the undertaking as a grand success.

Caswell Edmundson, chairman of the survey committee, reported 3,523 survey forms had been returned by noon Wednesday. He told a joint meeting of the Industrial and Merchants committees the survey which ended Saturday could very easily reach 4,000 as forms continued to come in.

"I am extremely pleased and appreciate all the work which has gone into this project in the past two weeks," the chairman said.

The survey was requested last month by Chris-Craft Corporation, world's largest builders of motor boats. The nationally known concern took option on 54.05 acres on the Albemarle Sound near Edenton Municipal Airport and said they would await results of the survey before making a decision on the size of their Chowan County operation.

Company officials were being contacted this week but no further announcement is expected for several weeks.

W. P. (Spec) Jones, Industrial Committee chairman, said while the survey returns were not as great as in the one conducted last year, he thought it was better than anticipated since the schools could not participate. The survey was requested too late to get the forms distributed by students.

"In my opinion this is a true picture as to the availability of labor in this area," Jones said. The forms were distributed in Chowan and seven neighboring counties, including those on the coast.

The chamber president, W. B. Gardner,

County Pulls Out

At last week's meeting of Chowan County commissioners, Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., presented a resolution for Chowan's continued participation in the 10-county Albemarle Area planning program. It would cost the county about \$1,500 over a two-year period.

Mitchener is currently chairman of this group, being Chowan's representative on the board. Commissioners said this work was being planned by the county planning board and decided to discontinue participation with the other counties.

Discussion was also held concerning the new Jury Commission and appointment of a coroner. Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court, was instructed to investigate further the use of a medical examiner in the county to work with the coroner.

Commissioners gave endorsement to a

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Owens Is Injured

Billy Owens was treated at Chowan Hospital Friday for injuries he received when he was thrown from a boat in the Albemarle Sound.

Owens was a passenger in a boat being operated by Robert Lane when the craft struck an object and bounced around. Owens was thrown out of the boat and struck by the motor's propeller.

The accident victim was rushed to Chowan Hospital by Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad where he was treated for extensive cuts about his head, arms and body.

Big Budget Is Approved; Rate Is Held

Chowan County will have an \$823,598.03 budget for fiscal 1967-68 and the tax rate will remain at \$1.55 per \$100 valuation. The special levy for rural fire protection outside the Town of Edenton will be five cents.

At a special budget session Monday, Chowan County commissioners approved the budget, which includes funds for participation in N. C. Local Government Employees' Retirement System.

Sixteen employees will participate in the system here and the county's share next year is estimated to be \$4,496.03.

Mrs. J. D. Elliott, county accountant, said the county was already financing retirement for employees in many departments. The cost for retirement in the schools, health department, welfare department, library, and Civil Defense amounts to more than \$13,000 annually.

The county budget is based on a valuation of \$28 million. Mrs. Elliott said the levy will produce \$434,000 with the remaining \$389,598 coming from other sources.

Edenton-Chowan Schools will operate on a combined budget of \$281,787.36. The 87-cent levy for schools will produce \$243,600 with the additional \$38,187.36 anticipated from fines, forfeitures, and other taxes. The school levy is up three cents from 1966-67.

The next biggest item in the budget is welfare. The welfare budget is \$258,703 but all except \$28,000 comes from state and federal funds. Therefore, the levy for this portion of the budget is 10 cents.

The county will again levy four cents for capital improvements and the \$11,200 derived from this will help re-pay the Town of Edenton for funds borrowed to extend water and sewer to industrial sites outside the town limits.

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BANK OFFICIALS TOUR LOCAL PLANT—Mitchell F. Allen, Jr., right, president of First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina, leads a group of directors of the bank's state and local board on a tour of George C. Moore Company's plant here. Allen is shown with Edward Puryear, plant manager, as they test some of the elastic material produced by the Moore firm. Later the bank group had a luncheon, followed by a meeting in the institution's Edenton office. Another picture on Page 16.

Youth Corps Aids 57 Area Students

Fifty-seven Chowan County school students are participating in the summer program of the Neighborhood Youth Corps, according to John T. Biggers, director.

Biggers said the students, out of school for the summer, started work at various public jobs June 5 and will work until September 1.

"The desire to work was proven when all of these enrollees started work with no vacation from school," Biggers said. The enrollees work 32 hours per week and are paid \$1.25 per hour.

Biggers and his assistant, Robert H. Mathes, point out that the enrollees are employed to receive work experience that will assist them in future employment and also to receive pay that may help them in necessities needed for the next school term.

Most of the summer workers are participants in the regular program during the school year.

The enrollees serve the community

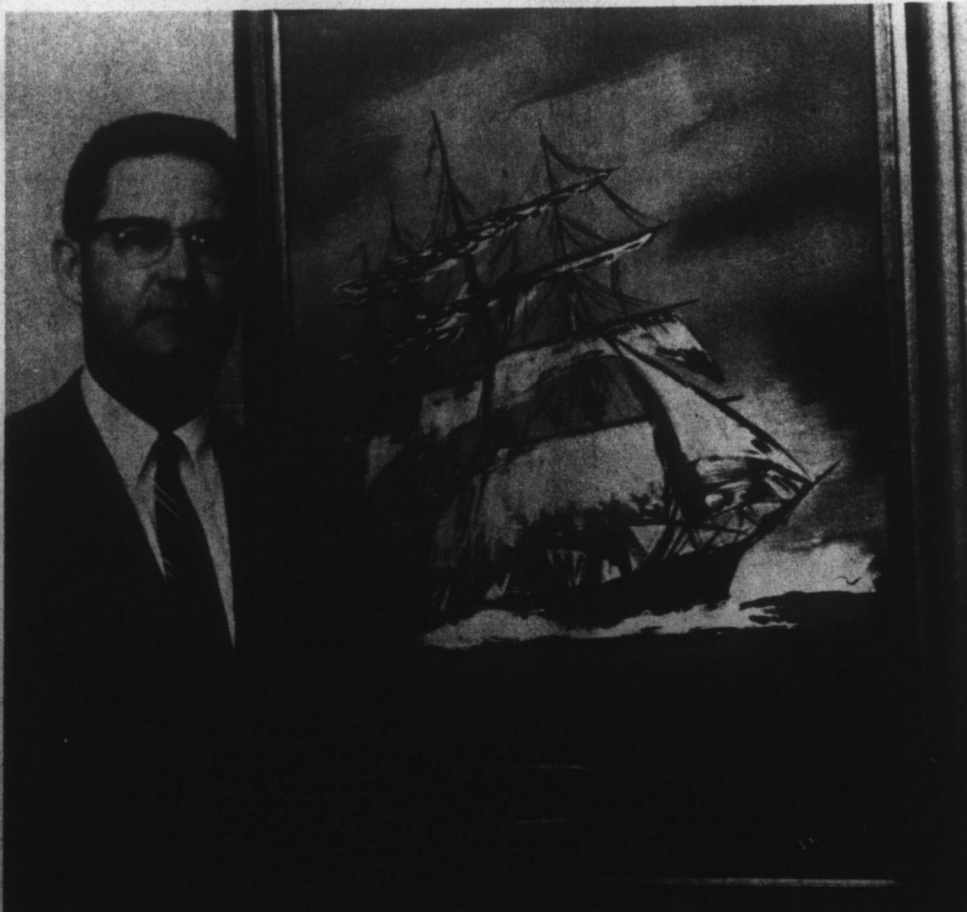
by working with public and private non-profit organizations.

Agencies in this area accepting students include: Edenton Police Department, E&W Department, Street Department, Agriculture Extension office, Airport Commission, ESEA, D. F. Walker school, John A. Holmes school, Ernest A. Swain Elementary School, Neighborhood Youth Corps office, Chowan High School and State Veterinarian Department.

Biggers said the bulk of these enrollees in Chowan County are working in maintenance type jobs, while others are working as library aides, cafeteria aides, office and clerical aides and ground and beautification aides.

The NYC spends \$41,000 in this county on the student program on a 12-month basis.

The NYC program is sponsored by the Economic Improvement Council with headquarters in Elizabeth City. NYC offices are at Edenton Municipal Airport.



MR. CHAIRMAN—A new committee was added to the list of groups working for Edenton Chamber of Commerce—an Art Committee. W. B. Gardner, president, has named C. A. (Chuck) Benson to head the new group. A great deal of interest has been generated here in all phases of the arts and the chamber hopes, through Benson's committee, to stimulate others to participate in activities along this line. Benson is pictured next to an attractive painting in the board room of First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina here.