



## Jones Quits County Job; Post Is Filled

W. P. (Spec) Jones, tax supervisor in Chowan County for the past 14 years, resigned Monday and county commissioners immediately employed Sherlon Layton of the Rocky Hock section to replace him.

Jones, who is Administrator of Chowan Hospital and president of Spedic Vending Service, Inc., said in his letter of resignation that work in the tax office has increased to the point where he cannot carry on in the efficient manner he desired as well as do other activities.

The resignation apparently caught many of the five commissioners by surprise.

Chairman W. E. Bond said he had known for at least six months that Jones was anticipating this move and had talked with Layton about accepting the job.

He added that Layton, a farmer and ASCS worker, would accept the job for one year to see how it worked out.

Commissioner Dallas Jethro, Jr., said he would like to have some time to think it over but later said if other board members were ready to name a replacement he would not object.

From the discussion, it was apparent that only Chairman Bond and Commissioner J. Clarence Leary were aware of Jones' intentions.

Chairman Bond expressed regret that Jones was leaving the county employment. "I hate to see you leave us," the chairman said. "You have done an excellent job."

Commissioner Leary commended Jones for the work he has done and said he has been an asset to the county. "All the citizens of this county should appreciate what you have done in the tax office," he said.

Layton's appointment was effective Monday.

In his last official appearance as tax supervisor, Jones recommended that the board not change the valuation on 2,957 miles of power lines in Chowan which are owned by Roanoke Electric Membership Corp., of Rich Square.

Jones said the valuation was set by Southern Appraisers of Greensboro and was in line with what the Town of Edenton.

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## The Public Parade

### Forward, Then Backward

County commissioners on Monday took a step toward better government along The Public Parade, then passed up an excellent opportunity to go even further.

By establishing the Coroner-Medical Examiner system the board moved toward taking some of the guess work out of cause of deaths. A qualified medical expert has the knowledge necessary to quickly determine if a death was from natural cause or otherwise.

The coroner, once a powerful political figure in our system of government, will now function primarily when an inquest is necessary.

In Dr. David O. Wright as medical examiner, and Marvin Barham as coroner, the commissioners have a team that will function efficiently and ethically for the best interest of the county.

Therefore, the Coroner-Medical Examiner resolution was a good one.

A short time later in Monday's meeting, the board, "with regrets," accepted the resignation of W. P. (Spec) Jones as tax supervisor. While the resignation apparently caught three of the five commissioners by complete surprise, the board moved rapidly to name a replacement. He is Sherlon Layton.

Although Commissioner Dallas Jethro, Jr., wanted time to give the appointment some thought, Chairman W. E. Bond and Commissioner J. Clarence Leary pushed for an immediate decision.

By taking time to plan, and Jones said he would serve until a replacement was found, commissioners could have best served the county.

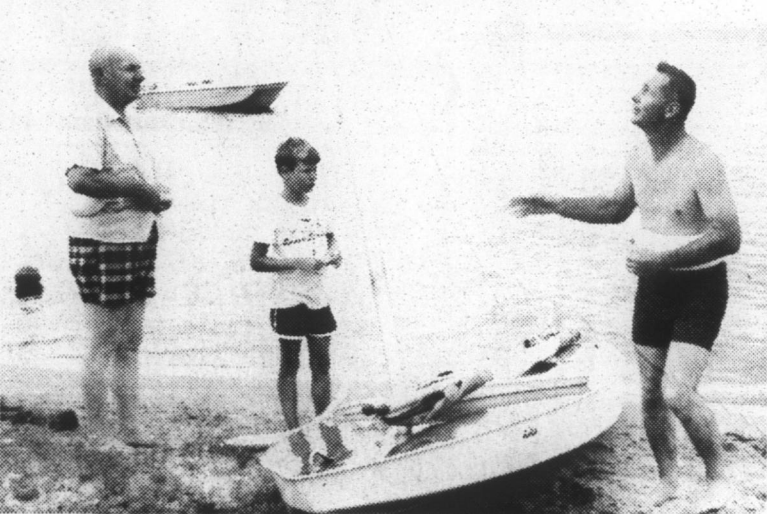
Right now Chowan has too, too many part-time positions. The county tax supervisor, treasurer, board chairman, and tax collector are a few. The county has also been asked by the Chowan and Edenton planning boards to employ a building inspector. Could not the tax supervisor's job be consolidated with this since both are interested in new construction.

Spec Jones has been a dedicated public servant and an exceptionally efficient tax supervisor. He was wise in stepping aside, however, since the responsibilities of his hospital administrator's position are rapidly increasing.

One cannot be tax supervisor and run a popularity contest. Spec knew this and didn't try. He has said on many occasions that he intended to treat everyone equally. This he did, as difficult.

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**INDEPENDENCE DAY, 1967 — As Old Glory waved throughout the nation Tuesday, many observed the July 4th holiday in various ways. Typical of those who sought relaxation on the waters in Edenton and Chowan County are those pictured below. At bottom left, George Alma Byrum records the sailing jaunt between rains by Graham White. Top right is Bruce Jones as he looks skyward to determine if there is sufficient breeze to move boat for himself and W. P. (Spec) Jones. George White awaits the word. Seeking refuge from the showers in bottom right are Mrs. Thomas C. Byrum, Jr., Mrs. L. F. Amburn, Jr., and Mrs. R. Elton Forehand.**



**NEW SUPERINTENDENT**—Supt. Bill Britt of Edenton-Chowan Schools pauses in front of John A. Holmes High School shortly after reporting to work July 1 to replace Supt. Hiram J. Mayo, who moved to Craven County. Supt. Britt comes here from Pasquotank County, where he was assistant superintendent of the Pasquotank-Elizabeth City Schools.

## Britt: Schools Have New Opportunity

Edenton-Chowan Schools now have an opportunity to expand vocational training, thereby better preparing for society the drop-outs and students who do not continue their education beyond high school.

Supt. Bill Britt says these two groups of the student population need someone to go to bat for them. This is exactly what he intends to do.

The new superintendent, pausing from unpacking chores for a brief interview, praised local school officials as well as the citizens for the fine reputation local schools enjoy.

However, he says more emphasis needs to be placed on giving the student not going on to college, or who drops out of school in the ninth or 10th grade a tool with which to make a contribution to society.

He believes the most neglected area

is the student who stays in school for 12 years and isn't going on to college. This student, Supt. Britt says, walks across the stage, gets his high school diploma and asks: "Now, what am I going to do?" This is a hard question to answer, he admits.

Supt. Britt says most school systems are not answering this question.

He believes industry should expect the school system to work hand and glove in training not only young people but adults. In this respect, the educator says high school today goes further than basic education.

Supt. Britt feels school systems, in Eastern North Carolina particularly, are doing a better than average job in preparing students for college or advanced training after high school. "We should continue to strive to produce this type student," he adds.

Turning to the local scene, the superintendent said Edenton has always had a good name in school circles. Being a native of Bertie County and gaining all of his school experience in this area, he has been aware of the type schools in

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## Report Is Given

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Thursday night was advised not to push for a speedy trial of a Federal Court suit brought last year by several Negroes against the old Chowan County board.

W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., attorney, said he did not see where the board would gain by requesting early trial of the matter. He said since the board had filed a desegregation plan with Federal Judge John Larkins the next step should be by the jurist.

Supt. Bill Britt said this week the schools would operate on the plan as submitted to the judge.

The board abandoned plans to purchase or rent space for the superintendent's office. They voted to formally request Chowan County commissioners to provide adequate office space.

James M. Bond, town treasurer, was also designated as treasurer for school funds. He is to be paid \$15 per month.

Supt. Britt was asked to contact the architectural firm of Frebee & Walters

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## New System For Coroner Is Approved

Chowan County is now operating under the Coroner-Medical Examiner system with Marvin Barham being named to fill the unexpired term of Carroll A. Boyce as Coroner and Dr. David O. Wright being named the county's first Medical Examiner.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court, recommended the appointment of Barham and Dr. Wright after several weeks of studying the new system. She said the system is a forward step for the county since a qualified medical expert will determine the cause of death in most cases.

Under the system, the Medical Examiner will rule on deaths and the only time the Coroner will be required is when an inquest is necessary.

Also, the Medical Examiner can assign duties to other doctors when he is not available.

Dr. Wright is appointed for one year and will receive \$20 per case.

W. E. Bond, chairman, said more and more counties are adopting this system.

Commissioners expressed pleasure with the acceptance of Barham and Dr. Wright to the county positions.

Also, commissioners named W. E. Smith to the Jury Commission.

Mrs. Leary will name one member and the third member will be chosen by Judge Walter Cahoon.

The Jury Commission was established state-wide by the 1967 General Assembly and will begin functioning January 1, 1968.

Judge Chester Morris of Coinjock has been recommended by Gov. Dan K. Moore for appointment to the Intermediate Court. Judge Morris is retired First District Resident Judge who is now a special Superior Court jurist. Commissioners authorized a letter of recommendation to Gov. Moore in behalf of the judge.

The Chowan and Edenton planning boards recommended the appointment of a building inspector. Commissioners tabled action pending action by Edenton

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## Space Available

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education was told Monday they should consult Chowan County commissioners before spending a large sum of money on a superintendent's office.

Chairman W. E. Bond told board members at a joint meeting of the two groups he is confident commissioners can find adequate space for the office.

"Before you spend a lot of money for a new office, let's get together and work on that," the chairman told Dr. Edward G. Bond, chairman of the education board.

Supt. Bill Britt told the chairman the school board Thursday night voted to formally request the commissioners to provide adequate office space.

Earlier, Commissioner J. Clarence Leary said the board can find suitable office space for the superintendent. Pointing to Hotel Joseph Hewes, the board member said: "With all that building we can certainly provide them the space."

The board of education had discussed purchase of an old home on North Broad Street for \$16,000 or renting offices in First National Bank Building for \$4,000 per year.

The purpose of the joint meeting was to appoint a member to Chowan ABC Board.

R. F. Elliott, chairman, was the only applicant and was re-appointed.

## Bids Asked On Edenton Road Jobs

The State Highway Commission has called for bids on July 25 on 25 projects including two in the Town of Edenton.

Included in the request for bids are the Virginia Road and East Church Street projects.

The request calls for 0.594 mile of grading, bituminous concrete base, surface and curb and gutter in widening and resurfacing U. S. 17 and Highway 32—the Virginia Road and East Church Street projects.

Discussion of the Virginia Road project, from Filberts Creek to the Triangle Restaurant, has been underway for some

time. The state has purchased the restaurant property in order to correct what is considered a major traffic bottleneck in the area.

Town Council recently requested Town Administrator W. B. Gardner to ask for a meeting with district highway officials before action is taken on the East Church Street project. If such a meeting has been arranged no date has been announced.

The East Church Street project carries a top priority and at an earlier meeting with highway officials, Town Council favored this over the widening of West Queen Street.