

Reynolds Will Close Avoca Farm Operation August 1st

J. Reynolds Tobacco Company announced that it plans to close the plant operations of its Avoca Division, which since 1963 has been experimenting with the production of flavo-ids for use in tobacco manufacturing. The plant equipment will be maintained in a stand-by status for future use, and agricultural experiments to improve the yield of the crop, which has been grown on the farm and under contract by local land owners, will be continued. During the peak summer season, Reynolds

employed 135 in the Avoca Division. There were 40 fulltime employees.

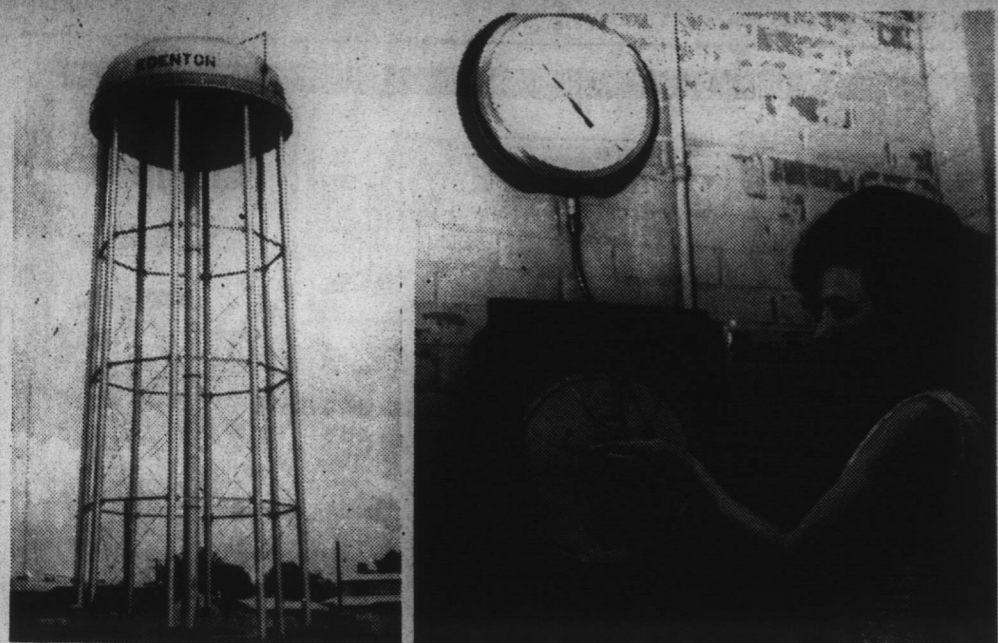
James D. Barnhill, Avoca Division manager, said local farmers were advised the first of this year that following the harvest of the 1967 crop, in mid-July, the growing contracts would not be renewed.

Barnhill also said that most of the regular farm employees will not be affected by the plant closing, and that the company is offering employment in Winston-Salem to all regular employees

displaced when the local plant operation is terminated.

Barnhill indicated that the company intends to continue its tobacco experimental program. Tobacco crop experiments to date have been concerned with variety testing, cultural practices, and mechanical harvesting and curing devices and procedures.

Barnhill also stated that Avoca would continue the experimental growing of a variety of agricultural crops, in cooperation with the U. S. and N. C. Departments of Agriculture.



WATER SYSTEM OUTGROWN—The water supply for Edenton has not been increased in 37 years, while demand has nearly doubled since 1955. Mrs. Janet Boswell, secretary in the Electric & Water Department, is shown in right photo checking the amount of water stored in the 300,000-gallon tank at left. Attempts are being made to maintain a 250,000 gallon supply. However, this is taxing pumps which must run almost continuously at two wells. Extended hot weather could make the water supply here critical.

Water System Is Taxed

The old supply and demand theory has caught up with the Town of Edenton — waterwise, that is.

At peak times water is being used so rapidly that pumps must operate on a near 24-hour basis in order to keep a safe supply of water in the single 300,000-gallon tank serving Edenton.

Several times last summer the water

supply was so low that it neared the critical stage. There would not have been sufficient water available to fight a major fire, authorities say.

The water supply of the Town of Edenton has not been increased since the early 1930's. There have been constantly increasing demands for water and it has now reached the point where something must be done, says Supt. R. N. Hines, Sr., of the Electric & Water Departments.

Speaking about the need for immediate steps to increase the supply of water, Supt. Hines pulls no bones. "We just can't postpone action any longer. We have got to do something to make sense with the people as well as ourselves."

The department, pumping from two wells established decades ago, attempts to maintain a supply of 250,000 gallons at all times. However, Supt. Hines points out that at times there is little more than a "stand pipe" full available.

While this summer there has been no extended period of hot weather, the superintendent says just three days running would create such a demand for water it would be impossible to maintain a safe supply for emergencies.

Recent industrialization along with more homes, businesses and air conditioners as well as a general increase in usage

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The Public Parade

Time For Action

Reports that the Town of Edenton water system is being taxed to the critical stage should alarm area citizens to the point of action. This community has experienced unprecedented growth in the past few years while most facilities have been added to, not expanded.

Edenton and Chowan County are now getting the first taste of the expense of progress. While at first it might prove less than palatable, this can be proper seasoned to make it digestible.

Nearly every citizen who meanders along The Public Parade enjoys the fruits of the healthy economic condition found here. Therefore, they should be willing to step up and foot their share of the bill.

In addition to an expanded water, sewer and electrical system, a new hospital is needed and open ditches need closing. Low cost housing is a must as is a rejuvenated recreation plan.

The play-as-you-go system is most desirable. However, when the times demand otherwise, this must be abandoned and a more logical approach taken. While our neighbors vote bonds for \$36,000 projects, and enjoy the improvements while paying for them, it has been the policy here to wait until sufficient cash was in hand to do the work.

Bond issues, while the roughest route, are the most sensible. And those who enjoy the music should be willing to pay the fiddler.

Unwelcomed News

Announcement this week that R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company will close down the plant operations of its Avoca Division came as a complete surprise. To say it was a bit of unwelcomed news to those who meander along The Public Parade would be putting it mildly.

Although Avoca is located in neighboring Bertie County, a pretty healthy share of the payroll found its way into Chowan. Many of the 40 permanent employees, as well as the nearly 100 others who worked at Avoca during the harvest season, lived on this side of the river.

The payroll, however, will be but one void left in this community.

Reynolds sent high caliber management to the Avoca operation. The departure of such people as J. D. Barnhill, division manager, Aubrey Davis, and others will be felt on the local scene.

The Winston-Salem based tobacco firm has a tremendous investment in the Avoca operation. It is hopeful that

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Rains Welcomed

The soaking rains over the weekend were welcomed by Chowan County farmers and pushed the rainfall total for the first 10 days of July to 2.56 inches.

J. H. Conger, Sr., veteran weather observer here, recorded 1.84 inches in the 24-hour period from Saturday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. Most of the rain, Conger said, fell during heavy showers early Sunday morning.

The first third of July saw almost as much rainfall as was recorded during the entire month of May. Conger measured 2.91 inches then.

Rainfall in June, which farm officials say saved much of the crop, was recorded by Conger at 4.07 inches.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XXXIV.—No. 28. Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina 27932 Thursday, July 13, 1967. Single Copy 10 Cents

Local Group Given Funds For Projects

Historic Edenton, Inc., was given \$36,000 by the 1967 General Assembly for continued restoration of three historic sites here and to take initial steps toward establishment of a visitor center-museum.

The group had asked for \$50,000.

W. B. Gardner, chairman of the Board of Directors, said the funds will be spent during the coming months as follows:

Barker House, \$5,600 for restoration and painting.

Cupola House, \$7,650 for work on the second and third floors.

Iredell House, \$15,871 for restoration and repairs.

The remainder of the money will be available to begin work on establishing the visitor center-museum at the Barker House.

Rep. Philip Godwin of Gatesville and Rep. W. T. Culpepper, Jr., of Elizabeth City, supported the Historic Edenton bid in the General Assembly.

In 1963 the General Assembly appropriated \$24,100 for the Cupola and Barker houses. Then in 1965, the three sites were given \$31,200.

The group is working towards efficiently presenting a centralized Edenton program and Gardner said further steps will be taken to establish the visitor center-museum.

Chancel Dramas Scheduled July 20

First Presbyterian Church here will be the scene July 20 for the presentation of two chancel dramas by the Ministerial Association of East Carolina University in Greenville. The program begins at 8 o'clock.

"He Came Seeking" by Mary Hamlin, and "The Sandbox" by Edward Albee are the two dramas being presented with actors being drama majors at ECU.

There will be a social hour following the productions.

Rev. Warren Nance, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, said while the Presbyterian Churches in this area are



ALASKA BOUND—Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Kehayes and son, Martin, leave soon for Minto, Alaska, where the young Episcopal rector will be the priest in charge of St. Barnabas Mission. The Kehayes' recently visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Kehayes, 103 Pembroke Circle, prior to departing for his new duties.

Kehayes Couple To Serve Alaskans

By Kate Busslap

Even as a small boy, Tom Kehayes had dreamed of some day going to Alaska and now the dream has come true.

Tom, an ordained Episcopal minister, his wife, Kristin, and infant son, Martin, will leave in a few weeks for Minto, Alaska, where he will be the priest in charge of St. Barnabas Mission.

Minto, a small settlement of 200 In-

dians, is situated on the Tawana River, about 50 miles from Fairbanks.

The Kehayes family will live in a two room house, one room upstairs and one down, heated by a wood stove, the wood being chopped by Tom himself, about 10 cords a year.

Minto, with an average temperature of 28 degrees, getting sometimes as low as 60 degrees below zero, is accessible only by air or water, so all their provisions must be bought on a long range plan, including food, with the exception of fresh meats brought in by the hunter. The nearest hospital is situated at Fairbanks, however, since Kristin Kehayes is a registered nurse, she will be able, with the aid of Short Wave Radio Public Health Service Instructions, to take care of all minor illnesses occurring in the settlement.

To most of us, this seems like a big and perhaps terrifying enterprise, but the young Kehayes family, with their implicit faith in God and belief that these are His plans, do not seem at all skeptical or frightened by their plans to serve in this remote part of the world.

Farmers To Vote On 4 Questions

Farmers producing peanuts, cotton and tobacco in Chowan County will join with others throughout North Carolina Tuesday in an important referendum.

Tar Heel cotton farmers will be asked to vote on the collection of up to 25 cents per bale in 1969 through 1973 to keep the N. C. Cotton Promotion Association in business.

Peanut farmers will be asked to vote on the continuation of a two-cent-per-100-pound assessment on peanuts for 1968 through 1973 crops.

For tobacco farmers, the two votes involve acreage-poundage marketing quotas and price supports and the continuation of Tobacco Associates.

Voting will be from 7 A. M., to 7 P. M., Tuesday in the following places: "A" Community—ASCS Office. "B" Community—Earl Smith's Store. "C" Community—H&H Grocery.

H. O. West, ASCS Office Manager in Chowan, said allotments here for the three crops involved includes: Peanuts, 6,255.3 acres; cotton, 2,806.7 acres; and tobacco, 463.37 acres.

FIRE STATION TO BE DEDICATED—Dedication and open house at the handsome new Edenton Fire Station, located at the corner of North Broad Street and Park Avenue, will be held Sunday, July 23. Plans for the event, which climaxes more than 25 years of planning, are being made by Fire Chief W. J. Yates, Councilman-at-Large J. D. Elliott and W. B. Gardner, town administrator. Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., and other town officials will participate on the program. Details will be announced next week.

