



## County Agrees To Lease Hospital Back To Board

Chowan County commissioners Monday adopted a resolution of intent which will lead to the new county hospital being leased to Chowan Hospital, Inc., for 20 years.

Chowan Hospital, Inc., a non-profit corporation, agrees to transfer all its property to the county.

All property, once the \$1-million in hospital bonds are sold, will be leased to the existing hospital board of trustees for "construction, operation and maintenance."

W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., hospital attorney, presented the resolution which had already been adopted by the board.

He and Jesse L. Harrell, hospital board chairman, said the plan followed the recommendation of Medical Care Commission.

During the discussion, Commissioner Dallas Jethro, Jr., inquired: "Suppose we want some changes made (in the hospital board or operation)?"

Earnhardt replied: "Your way of participating will be through your appointment of members to the board."

Thomas Surratt, hospital administrator, pointed out that the commissioners now name two members to the board and the combined boards or representatives name four members-at-large.

"You now have a fairly good representation," he added.

It was explained that the hospital board is currently composed of 12 members. The commissioners appoint two and one each is appointed by Edenton Town Council, Board of Public Works and Chowan Medical Society. A committee composed of representatives of these four groups appoint four additional members. The remaining three voting members are the chairman of county commissioners, the mayor and hospital treasurer.

Harrell said: "I don't see any improvement that you could make to get a good representation from throughout the county." He did assert that some discussion is being held concerning limiting the number of terms a board member can serve.

The attorney said if the county wants to go into the hospital business, no member of the board would object. To this Harrell added: "Whether you lease it to us or carry it yourself, I couldn't care less."

It was explained that the federal government requires that assurance be given that a facility will operate for the stated purpose before federal participation can be assured.

Voters in December, 1967, approved the sale of bonds for the construction of a new 60-bed hospital. Option has been exercised on a 25-acre site next to Chowan Medical Center.

Preliminary work is now underway and it is expected that the bonds will be sold within the year.



**TO SPEAK IN CHOWAN**—State Agriculture Commissioner James A. Graham will be principal speaker at the annual Edenton Chamber of Commerce Peanut Banquet February 16. The 7 P. M. banquet, honoring the top 50 producers in Chowan County, will be held at Rocky Hook Community Building. T. C. Byrum, Jr., is chairman of the Agriculture Committee and Earl Smith is handling arrangements for the banquet.

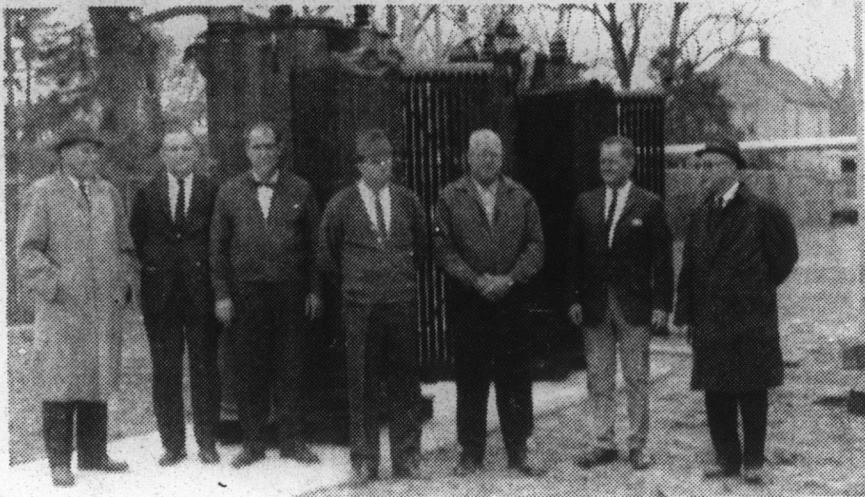
## Graham, Mabe Chosen To Compete For Student Title

John Graham, Jr., and Jeff Mabe have been selected as Outstanding Teenagers of America for 1967.

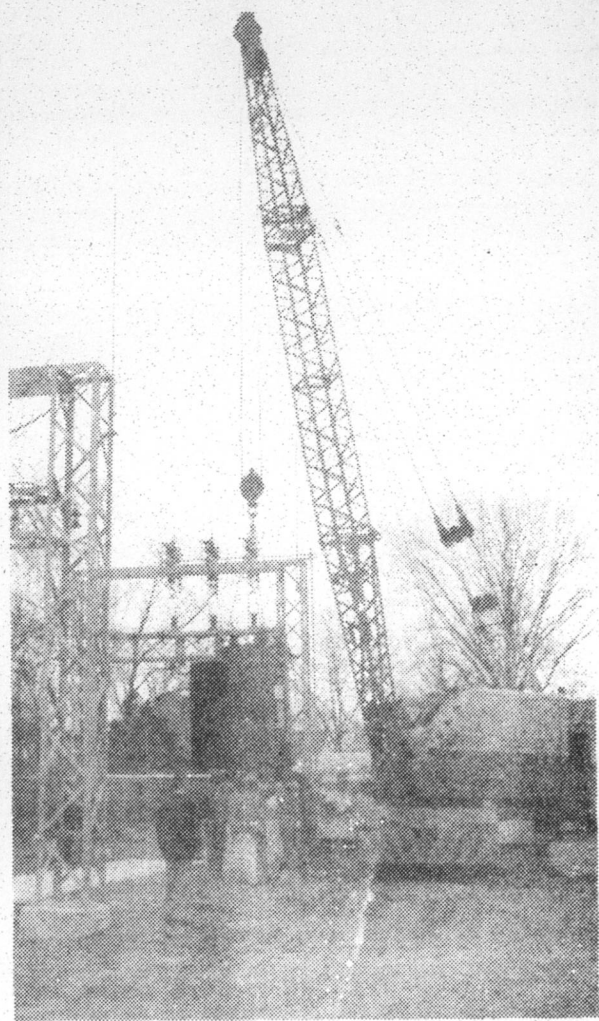
The students, nominated for this honor by John A. Holmes High School, will compete for state and national awards in the program. They were selected on the basis of ability and achievement.

John Putnam, president of the Outstanding Americans Foundation, has said it is the goal of this awards program "to recognize and encourage the ability and achievements of today's young people. They are America's leaders of tomorrow."

Graham is an outstanding Senior at Holmes High. He is president of the Student Council and last year served as chief marshal. He is a member of the



**ELECTRIC SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**—Four giant transformers were put into place at the Freemason Street substation of Edenton's Electric & Water Department Thursday. It marked completion of the first step in a \$490,000 improvement project. At right, a crane lowers one of the transformers. Above, top, members of the Board of Public Works and Town Councilman Luther C. Parks are shown in front of the expensive items. Left to right are: W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., Jesse L. Harrell, Parks, J. H. Conger, Jr., T. C. Byrum, Jr., J. P. Ricks, Jr., and Supt. Richard N. Hines. In the bottom picture are the "four black cats" as they rest on their pad.



## Local Electric System Being Improved

"The three black cats have increased in size and become four."

This was the smiling statement of Supt. Richard N. Hines of the Electric & Water Department, during an interview this week.

Edenton's electric system is undergoing a sizable improvement and up-rating of facilities.

Between March 9 and 16, 1968, the first steps in this direction are scheduled to be completed. This will mark the

completion of a double circuit line from Jackson Street to Granville down Freemason Street.

The conversion of Jackson Street Substation to a switching station, and a change of voltage level purchased from VEPCO from 4160 volts to 12,470 volts will be made. The installation of transformers and facilities at the Freemason Street Plant will be completed.

This construction work and cutover has been accomplished by the E&W Department personnel at a cost of \$65,000 which is well under the engineer's estimate of \$72,000 for this phase of the work.

This makes possible further up-rating of the facilities which at present can handle 5,500 Kw. This will be changed to a 20,000 Kw level. To reach this, however, will entail considerable more construction work and it is anticipated most of it will be accomplished by the Department's personnel between now and 1975.

Engineering estimates covering this work amount to \$491,000.

Edenton's electric system's past growth rate supports the basic 15 per cent per year increased used by the engineer to anticipate the needed 20,000 Kw level by 1975.

In 1908 when the Town Council took steps to make available to the citizens of

## Action Taken To Provide Offices

A request from Edenton-Chowan Board of Education for an administrative building was denied by county commissioners Monday, who moved to terminate the lease on a portion of Hotel Joseph Hewes Building and renovate a

part of the structure to provide the school superintendent with office space.

Commissioners listened as school board members and Supt. Bill Britt outlined the need for additional office space.

Dr. Edward G. Bond, chairman, said space is needed for a minimum of 10 offices and the board has looked into several different locations. After finding nothing suitable, the board had a preliminary plan made that was acceptable to them.

He said it was for 2,700 square feet. The estimated cost is \$50,000.

Bruce F. Jones, a school board member, said more space is needed now because of federal programs. "The superintendent has more people directly under his supervision," he added.

Other board members expressed the urgency of the situation.

Chairman W. E. Bond assured school officials that commissioners are aware of the need for additional space. "Some-

Continued on Page 4

## Claims Decrease

There are currently 70 less people here filing claims for unemployment insurance than last year at the same time, according to R. E. Cheek, office manager in Edenton for Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

Cheek said this indicates better economic conditions in the area.

In a report of activities during January, Cheek said 142 new applications were taken, 66 from women and 26 from veterans. There are now 382 applications on active file.

Eighty people were referred for jobs during the month and 48 actually secured positions.

Personnel in the office conducted 57 job counseling interviews, mainly among high school seniors.

## Overton Winner

C. J. Overton, Jr., of Edenton, has been named eastern regional winner of the N. C. Wildlife Federation's award in the field of wildlife conservation.

Overton is district supervisor with the Protection Division of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

D. Station Inscoe, chairman of the N. C. Conservation Education Foundation, announced the winners.

## State School Term Being Discussed

The North Carolina school term runs for 180 days per year. With the exception of summer terms in some systems, buildings stand idle one-fourth of each year. Are we being inefficient and wasteful? Are children being short-changed in getting an education?

Business does not operate in this fashion. Neither do schools in most places outside the United States. In 51 foreign countries, the average elementary school has 210 days; the average secondary school has 204 days.

The Governor's Study Commission on

the Public School System is currently studying the feasibility of keeping schools open year-round.

One plan under consideration would divide a school year of 11 months into four equal quarters. All schools would be closed during July. About 75 per cent of the student body would be in school during any given quarter. The remaining 25 per cent would be on vacation. Or, a child could elect to attend school for all four quarters and finish high school in three years.

The advantages, economically, are considerable. Teachers could go on an 11 month contract. If 75 per cent of the pupils are in school at any given time, schools could reduce their staffs by 25 per cent. Likewise, available building

Continued on Page 4

## Lots Of Good

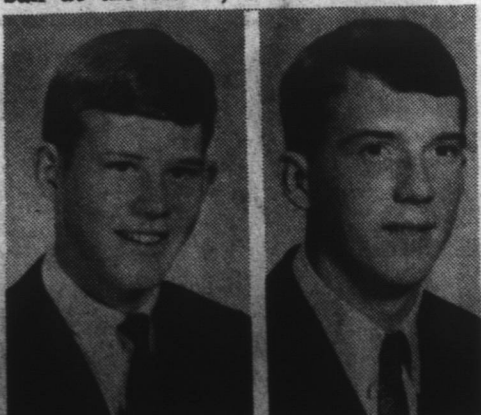
Well, we went up to Elizabeth City Saturday night to meet the Secretary of Agriculture and find out what he is doing for the farmer.

A press conference had been planned for 6 P. M. Since not many public officials welcome such a confrontation, we were little surprised when 6:15 came and the bright lights for the TV cameras had not been turned on.

But it wasn't Orville Freeman's fault. He was trapped in a receiving line and by the time he had passed so many pleasantries, he was prepared to face the reporters. Moreover, he was ready for the soft seat.

In his opening remarks he called this area the "cradle" of America's soybean industry. He then related another Tar Heel success story. Naturally it dealt

Continued on Page 4



John Graham and Jeff Mabe

The Chowan Herald is cooperating with the Governor's Study Commission in attempting to find out what the people think of some of the issues about the schools. What do you think of the proposed four-quarter plan? Send your responses directly to the Governor's Study Commission on the Public School System of North Carolina, Box 22, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602.

- I have children in school. I favor the four-quarter plan.
- I do not have children in school. I favor the 4-quarter plan.
- I favor the present system of 9 months and a voluntary summer school program.
- I favor extending the school term to 10 months.