

Judge Says Chowan Court House 'Inadequate'

Superior Court Judge Albert W. Cowper of Kinston Tuesday called Chowan County Court House "completely inadequate" and said it should be turned into a museum.

Judge Cowper said the structure has great historic value and is an architectural gem. "Sooner or later the county is going to have to construct a building," he said, at which time the court house should be made into a museum.

The jurist went on to say all facilities here are inadequate as far as the courts are concerned.

His comments came after he had read in open court a grand jury report that cited the need for additional space for the register of deeds.

"You may have started something here," he told the 18-member grand jury, headed by John L. Byrum, foreman.

The grand jury reported that inspection was made of the county offices and all were found to be in "poor" condition. "The county commissioners should investigate the possibility of replacing the building (Hotel Joseph H. ... before

any more tax money is spent in renovating the building," it was reported.

The report went on to cite that the rest rooms lacked soap, towels and paper and the windows were "below standards in cleanliness."

An earlier grand jury had reported the building unsafe for use as a county office building.

Chairman W. E. Bond, of Chowan County Board of Commissioners, later appeared before the same grand jury to report that an investigation of the building by a contractor had proven it to

be structurally sound. He said steps were being taken to bring the building up to desired standards as money became available.

The board has now terminated the lease with Houghton Ehringhaus and plans to make offices for Edenton-Chowan Schools on the third floor.

The current grand jury also asked some questions about Chowan County Jail. "What action has been made on the previous grand jury report concerning the possibility of replacing the existing jail facilities? Has a committee been

formed? If so, what progress has been made?"

These questions came after the jury had commended Jailer Glenn Perry for the cleanliness of the jail.

In addition to Byrum, panel members included: Elvin L. Spivey, Whit S. Stallings, William Lee Skinner, Arnold M. Driver, E. B. White, Jr., Clyde Thomas Slade, Mrs. Emily Brooks, Andrew Bonner, Oscar Fleming, C. E. Bass, Mrs. Beverly M. Harrell, Mrs. John W. Graham, Harry Nixon, Johnny C. Treadwell, Dewey R. Whitehurst, A. J. Martin and Kenneth L. Stalls.

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The Public Parade

Jury Reform — Hogwash

If results of the first jury for Chowan County Superior Court is any indication of what the establishment of a Jury Commission has done to selection of qualified people to pass judgment on law violators, this state is in a mess.

The General Assembly called it "jury reform" legislation and it has proven to be "jury destruction" in the March Term of Superior Court here.

First, the system has some merit. It makes most North Carolinians, doctors, lawyers, and Indian chiefs, eligible for jury duty. Practically all exemptions have been erased, providing a wider base for selection.

But this is about where the good of the "jury reform" measure stops. Instead of the jury lists being drawn in public by the county commissioners, with the assistance of the clerk of court, register of deeds and sheriff, they are now compiled from a box filled with discs that are later matched to cards.

Therefore, when the clerk of court draws a disc she doesn't have the faintest idea whose card it matches. She, and the register of deeds, don't know if

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Jaycee Birthday

Edenton Jaycees this week are celebrating two decades of service to this community.

Chartered in March, 1948, the club has posted an enviable record of service in many areas. Tonight (Thursday) club members will meet jointly at 7 o'clock with Exhausted Roosters (Jaycees who have aged out of the club) at the club's community building on Base Road.

Frank Habit, club president this year, and Jack Habit, a past president and Exhausted Rooster, have jointly arranged a program. All members and past members are encouraged to attend this celebration.

The club was chartered with 40 members, headed by Frank M. Holmes. T. C. Byrum, Jr., was vice president in 1948 with John A. Mitchener, Jr., serving as secretary and J. M. Boyce, treasurer. Directors included N. J. George, Elbert Copeland, Kermit Layton, Charles P. Wales, Jr., A. P. Hassell, Jr., and Edward H. Wozelka.

At the present time there are 67 club members.



1968 EDENTONIAN DEDICATED—Jill Crandall, editor of the 1968 Edentonian, yearbook at John A. Holmes High School, discusses the publication with Coach Marion Kirby, to whom the book was dedicated this year. Dedication was made last week during an assembly program at the school. This is always one of the highlights of the year for the school's senior class.

Yearbook Dedicated To Grid Coach

The Senior Class of John A. Holmes High School have dedicated the 1968 Edentonian, campus yearbook, to Head

Coach Marion Kirby.

Dedication was made last week during an assembly program by Jill Crandall, editor.

Cast Is Selected

John and Carol Becker will play the lead roles in Edenton Little Theater's presentation of Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians."

The selection of the cast for the May 9 and 11 production was announced this week by Mrs. Marsha Crandall, director.

This is the first mystery attempted by the local theatrical group.

"Ten Little Indians" will be the first production of the 1968 season for the Edenton Little Theater.

Mrs. Crandall announced that in addition to the Beckers, members of the cast will be: Allen Boyd Harless, Jr., Marginette Lassiter, Clarence Shackelford, Gerald Harrell, Glenn Mabe, Joe Thorud, Alice Twiddy, Alton Elmore and Frank Palumbo.

The handsome yearbook was dedicated to Coach Kirby with the following words:

"A great teacher, who instructs his classes with knowledge and imagination . . . a good friend, who listens with an open mind . . . and a winning coach who made the Aces champions of the East."

The yearbook has a fabric cover and is generously illustrated with photographs. The inside front and back cover features a color photograph of the senior class.

Containing 129 pages, the 1968 Edentonian ends with the following:

"We, the Class of 1968, as we face the future can only remember the past. So we leave this yearbook as a lasting record of one class in many at John A. Holmes High School."

Trial Of Drinking Drivers Slows Court Pace Here

The trial of drunk driving cases slowed down the assault on a crowded Chowan County Superior Court calendar by Solicitor Herbert Small.

It took the biggest part of Monday and Tuesday to dispose of two jury trials and the third was being completed Wednesday morning.

Judge Albert W. Cowper of Kinston is presiding over the March Term of court which consisted of 54 criminal cases and four civil matters.

A jury Monday afternoon convicted

New Registration Begins Saturday

Registrars in Chowan County's six precincts will be at their respective polling places at 9 A. M., Saturday to begin the first new county-wide registration here in many years.

Mrs. George C. Hoskins, chairman. Chowan County Board of Elections, said the registrars will be available each Saturday through April 20 from 9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M., to register voters.

Additional registration for East and West Edenton precincts will be on Mondays, April 1 and 8; and Wednesdays, April 3 and 10 since there are a great deal more voters in these two precincts.

Mrs. Hoskins reminded everyone who plans to register to bring some type identification to verify their age. She said this could be a driver's license, family Bible, social security papers, or the like.

When a person in Edenton registers in this new registration he will not have to register again for town elections, Mrs. Hoskins explains. The county and town registration books are being combined in this loose-leaf system.

Everyone who wishes to vote in the forthcoming May 4 primary election must register between Saturday and April 20. A person seeking to vote must have resided in the State of North Carolina for one year and in the precinct in which he seeks to register for 30 days by the date of the primary election.

Precincts, polling places and registrars in Chowan County are:

West Edenton, Edenton Municipal Building, Mrs. S. F. Hicks.

East Edenton, Chowan County Court House, Mrs. J. E. Cozzens.

Center Hill, Rosser Bunch Store, Ralph Goodwin.

Wardville, H&H Grocery, H. R. Peele.

Rocky Hock, Rocky Hock Community Center, J. E. Peele.

Yeopim, H. A. Perry's Store, Mrs. Jasper Hassell.

Miles McKinley Dunlow of drunk driving. He was sentenced to 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$150 fine and costs.

Another jury Tuesday morning acquitted Edward Williams Walters, Sr., of the same offense. A drunk driving charge against Robert Curtis Owens was being considered by a jury at press-time.

Henry Johnson, Griffin Keys, William Black, Sr., Clarence Walker, Charles Matthew Mizelle and Horace Burch Taylor were all called and failed to appear.

The grand jury returned true bills of indictment against John Lee Holley for the capital offense of burglary and Alphonso Cooper for rape. The cases had not been called for trial by noon Wednesday.

No true bill was returned in the case where Douglas Felton Todd was charged with driving too fast for conditions.

In other cases called, the following action was taken:

Robert Donald Stallings, speeding, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$50

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Judge Naomi E. Morris

Seeking Election

Judge Naomi E. Morris of Wilson, the only woman serving on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, has deep-rooted family ties in Chowan County.

Her mother, Mrs. Blanche Boyce Morris, was born and grew up in Chowan and many relatives, including her uncle, Lonnie Boyce, now live in the county.

The Court of Appeals was created by the 1967 General Assembly, and the six initial judges were appointed by Gov. Dan Moore to serve until the 1968 General Election. All six filed for election but only two have opposition.

Chief Judge Raymond Mallard is being opposed by a Raleigh businessman, Kidd Brewer, whom he sentenced to prison several years ago. Judge Morris is being opposed by Attorney Walter Holton of Winston-Salem.

North Carolina is divided into four judicial divisions, and Judge Morris is

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Board Will Meet

The quarterly board meeting of the Albemarle Area Development Association will be held at Edenton Restaurant at 7:30 P. M., today (Thursday).

T. E. Haste, Jr., of Hertford, president, has urged representatives from the 10-county area served by AADA to be in attendance.

Haste said a special effort is being made to have a large delegation from each county at this meeting. He has asked that at least 10 people from each county be present.

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., of Edenton, and Frank Hollowell of Elizabeth City, will discuss the future of the AADA at this board meeting.



NORTH CAROLINA LITTLE SYMPHONY APPEARS HERE—Hundreds of school children and adults were treated Monday to performances by the North Carolina Little Symphony Orchestra at Ernest A. Swain Elementary School. Nearly 1,500 area citizens witnessed the two performances. The children's concert was held at 1:15 P. M.

with Dr. Benjamin Swain, director, leading the orchestra and Mrs. Swain describing the music. In the picture at left, The Swains are shown with Jim Dall and Susan Reeves as they watch an orchestra member prepare for the concert. The Little Symphony was joined in the second half of the evening concert by the Albemarle Choral

Society, directed by Dr. Richard Bair. John Beckert, left, southwest division president, is shown with the Swains, the Bairs and an unidentified orchestra member at the conclusion of the concert. The evening performance was sponsored by Chowan Arts Council, Mrs. Thomas Cheers, president.