

# Judge, Jury Call It Inadequate Courthouse Again On Trial

Chowan County's historic courthouse, a gem of Georgian architecture and believed to be the oldest such facility still in continuous use, has again come under attack for its inadequacy. The most recent criticism was leveled this week by a Superior Court judge and followed the next day by the 18-member Grand

Jury. The Grand Jury, following the cue of Judge Howard H. Hubbard of Clinton in a statement Monday, said the "present facilities are deemed inadequate." The panel recommended that county commissioners take appropriate action to "provide adequate facilities for the carrying on of the county's business".

Commissioners were also requested to report at the next regular session of the Grand Jury what action has been or is presently being taken in this regard. A special term of Superior Court has been set for June 22 and that is the date on which the Grand Jury will assemble again.

W. M. Hare is chairman of the panel and B. Jack Padgett is secretary. The report was read in court by Judge Hubbard when the Grand Jury completed its business Tuesday afternoon.

After his formal charge to the jury Monday morning, the jurist said he had a general statement to make. He said Edenton has always been one of his favorite places. "You have a beautiful

town," he said and called the courthouse an "architectural gem".

"It, however, has served its usefulness as a courthouse," he continued. "I hope you good people of this county will find it possible to build you a courthouse that is adequate . . . and in the same architectural design."

Judge Hubbard said the present building should be preserved as a historic shrine and if not already, could be designated as a national shrine.

He cited the crowded conditions, which found Monday nearly as many people standing as were seated. He said the courtroom is not the only crowded part of the building, saying there is not room for officers to work.

"You are too prosperous and too modern a community not to do something about it," he concluded.

Turning to the audience, the judge apologized for the inadequate facilities. "I am sorry there are not enough seats for you," he said. "But you must remain quiet." Two times in 15 minutes

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Chowan County Courthouse, Erected in 1767

## Public Parade

### Changing Of The Guard

Chowan County commissioners are to be commended for their wisdom in selecting J. Clarence Leary as chairman. Also in delaying the appointment of a fifth member until after the May 2 Democratic Primary.

At the same time, Mr. Leary is to be congratulated for the high degree of trust and confidence placed in him by his colleagues. His acceptance of the chairmanship for the unexpired term of the late W. E. Bond is in character with his past willingness to go the second mile in the field of civic responsibility.

Action also taken last Wednesday morning would indicate the days of a salaried chairman of the commissioners is gone. It has been our belief for many years that county government along the Public Parade should be so structured as to require less time of the chairman.

Modern techniques, machinery, etc., make it possible for a structure of county government with fewer hands in the pot. The end result of this will be a saving on the tax rate—something every one, including the commissioners, welcome.

Chowan County is big business. It must be operated as such if we are not going to be taxed overboard. The commissioners must perfect every possible economy, be it through consolidation or other structural changes, which are in the best interest of the citizenry.

Action over the past few years to abolish payment of fees for services has been progressive. Other progressive action can and should be taken.

Chairman Leary is a veteran in the municipal arena. With the aid of fellow commissioners he is now in a greater position to bring about money-saving policies and practices. And we predict they are in the wings and will not be too long in making a debut.

### Too Much! Too Much!

This week has just been too much! And it all started out so well.

The fact that the overcast and drizzle obscured the Easter sunrise and the fabled "dance" which was to follow, didn't deter our Paul Gregory, his four brothers and sisters nor their mother. We just went along for the ride.

Sunday night there was a stimulating conversation with Don Evans of Rocky Mount. For those along the Public Parade who don't know Don, he is the father of Holt, Margaret, Elizabeth and Don-Don; the husband of the former Margaret Griffin and the son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Griffin.

The conversation was so stimulating that we heeded a bit of TV medicine to get to sleep. What we didn't know was that Merv Griffin, no relation of course to Lloyd, had scheduled such a show. He had the free-lovers of the Boston "community" on as well as Virginia Graham, spokesman for the middleclass female group.

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# THE CHOWAN HERALD



Volume XXXVII—No. 14.

Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, April 2, 1970.

Single Copy 10 Cents



**BLOOMING TEA POT**—The chairman of the forthcoming Garden of Eden-Historic Edenton, Inc., standard flower show, Mrs. Emily G. Amburn, holds an arrangement of flowers behind the symbolic tea pot here to promote the April 18 event. With her at left is Mrs. Nancy Wood, co-chairman. Flowers will be shown in historic public buildings in Edenton and St. Paul's Episcopal and St. Ann's Catholic churches will be open. The garden club plans to enter this show in national competition.

## Mitchener Named To Second Post

John A. Mitchener, Jr., today (Thursday) joined 29 other Tar Heels who make up the Citizens Advisory Committee on the General Assembly. Mitchener, former Edenton mayor and president of the N. C. League of Municipalities, was appointed to the committee by State Rep. Phil Godwin of Gates, speaker of the House of Representatives.

This is the second state-wide position to which Mitchener has been appointed in recent weeks. Gov. Bob Scott named him to the N. C. Marine Science Council

in late January.

The Citizens Advisory Committee is composed of 30 people appointed by Speaker Godwin and Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor. It was authorized by the 1969 General Assembly. Lt. Gov. Taylor and Speaker Godwin will hold the organizational meeting at 2 P. M., in the Governor's Conference Room in the Administration Building.

It was pointed out by Speaker Godwin that the committee is to study the legislative needs, organization, facilities, and functions with the goal of improving and strengthening the ability of the General Assembly to fulfill its responsibilities in the state's representative democracy. The study will be broad and comprehensive in scope.

The Senate Joint Resolution also cites the need for such a study by "outstanding citizens from all walks of life" and the assembly to make use of the knowledge and views of citizens concerning legislative improvement. The committee, composed of three Senators, three House members and 24 people not con-

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## Low Bid Taken

Birsch Construction Corp., of Norfolk, Va., submitted the low bid of \$199,749.45 for primary and secondary road work in Chowan, Gates, Pasquotank, and Perquimans counties.

The bid was accepted last week by State Highway Commission. It was one of 30 projects in 37 counties involving 420 miles of road construction. The total bids were \$18,985,759.35.

The area project is 20.7 miles of resurfacing, sand asphalt base, surface and bituminous concrete surface on six sections of primary roads on U. S. 17-158 and Highway 32-168 (part), and five roads.

## Jury Halts Trial Of Leary

A hearing was conducted in Chowan County Superior Court Wednesday morning to determine the mental competence of James W. Leary, 69, 203 East Water Street, to stand trial on two felony counts.

The jury was selected Tuesday afternoon to answer the issue put by Judge Howard H. Hubbard of Clinton. Defense

Attorney W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., requested such a determination when So-

James W. Leary has been found not to have the mental capacity to stand trial on two felony charges. This was the decision of a Superior Court jury which deliberated 30 minutes before answering the issue at 1 P. M. Wednesday.

Judge Howard H. Hubbard said he would sign an order sending the defendant to Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro.

## Hearing April 13 On Bond Question

Citizens of Edenton will have an opportunity to quiz Town Councilmen about the \$600,000 water and sewer referendum at a public hearing April 13. The hearing will be held in the Municipal Building, beginning at 8 P. M.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner said the public hearing would conclude a series of meetings being conducted by Mayor George Alma Byrum and Jesse L. Harrell, chairman, Board of Public Works, to discuss the May 2 issue. Other meetings have been held with residents of neighborhoods to be affected by the extension project, scheduled to cost nearly \$1-million.

The town has received a federal grant in the amount of \$329,500. Developers of Morgan Park will pay \$35,000.

The project includes water and sewer extension to Morgan Park, Paradise Road, Albemarle Street, Hertford Road and sewer to the new Chowan Hospital site. It also includes a 500,000 gallon elevated water tank—considered of primary need for fire protection as well as water distribution. The town will also dig another well.

licitor Herbert Small of Elizabeth City arraigned Leary on charges of first degree burglary and assault with intent to commit rape.

The charges grew out of an alleged burglary and assault on Miss Mary Elliott, 209 East Water Street on the night of September 26, 1969. Leary has been confined in jail or Cherry Hospital since his arrest in a boat in Edenton Bay shortly after the alleged crime.

Earnhardt submitted evidence that Leary had had mental disorders requiring his hospitalization on 13 occasions as far back as 1922. He said the diagnosis of a qualified physician on March

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## Legion Program

Veterans Administration hospitals, the one in Durham in particular, will be the topic for Tuesday's meeting of Edward G. Bond Post No. 40, American Legion.

Sheriff Troy Toppin, post commander, said John Puckett and William Shepard, both of Durham, will be at the meeting which begins with a dinner at 7 P. M.

Puckett is director of administration and Shepard is administrator of the Durham facility.

Sheriff Toppin said Vietnam veterans are issued a special invitation.

## Evans To Chair Advisory Council

Wallace B. Evans, 217 South Oakum Street, has been named by Mayor George Alma Byrum to chair the Citizens Advisory Council for the Town of Edenton. Evans replaces William H. Bunch who has moved from Edenton.

The council is composed of neighbor-

hood committee leaders and advises the Town Council on matters affecting the community.

Mayor Byrum said while Evans is a recent resident of Edenton he has through the years proven himself as a genuine leader. "He has shown outstanding leadership in the past in many areas and he will do a fine job as head of our Citizens Advisory Council."

Evans, 31, is a lifelong resident of Chowan County but moved to Edenton in July, 1969. He is a partner in Hughes-Parker Hardware, where he has been employed for the past 14 years. He lived on Route 3 prior to moving to Oakum Street.

The chairman has been active in Edenton Jaycees for 10 years and presently serves as chairman of that organization's board of directors. He was president in 1968-69 and had served as vice-president and a board member prior to that. He is also Northeast Regional membership chairman, which includes work with 36 clubs.

Evans, the 1967 DSA winner, was chairman of the Jaycee committee which spearheaded the \$1-million Hospital Bond Referendum two years ago. He has been on the board of Edenton Chamber of Commerce, serving as treasurer for one year.

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Wallace B. Evans



**FORMER RESIDENT IS OUTER BANKS BEAUTY QUEEN**—Sanfra Lynn Ange of Nags Head, shown with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ange, was selected as "Miss Dare County of 1970" in the beauty and talent show at Manteo Saturday night. She is 21 years old, a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi, and the only North Carolina currently a member of that university's famous "Dixie Darlings" marching group. She succeeds Bonnie Surrall of Hatteras, who won the "Miss Dare" title in 1969. Queen Sanfra and her parents were residents of Edenton before they moved to Nags Head to make their home. (Avecock Brown Photo)