

Mrs. Bunch To Retire

Mrs. Bertha B. Bunch, registrar of deeds, formally announced Monday that she will not be a candidate for re-election. The announcement was made at the regular monthly meeting of Chowan County commissioners. She serves as clerk to the board.

On December 1 Mrs. Bunch will round out 51 years in the registrar of deeds office, the last 19 as registrar. Her announcement did not come as a surprise to the board since she has indicated informally for some time that she would retire at the end of her present term.

The board mutually agreed that the salary for the post would remain at \$11,400, but will take steps to write a job description for the post. In addition to serving as clerk to the board the registrar of deeds in the past has been responsible for making up the tax bills.



Mrs. Bertha B. Bunch

Mrs. Bunch recommended to the board that the salary not be changed. However, it was stressed by several board members that it is a "working job" and not an "executive position".

Chairman C. A. Phillips said it was not the time nor place to say it but he felt compelled to point out that the county owes Mrs. Bunch a debt of gratitude for the services she has rendered the county.

David T. Bateman, vice chairman, added that he hates to see her "get out of the county's business."

"She is some kind of nice and easy to work with," added N. J. George.

Alton G. Elmore said Mrs. Bunch has elevated the integrity of the office to the place it now enjoys.

Phillips said he hopes that whoever is successful at the polls realizes that being registrar of deeds is a working job. To this George noted that the county only has negative control of the office through the budget. "But we cannot allow it to be made into an

Continued on Page 4

Mrs. Bunch Steps Down

Political winds began to blow along the Public Parade and the first to create a stir was the announcement by Mrs. Bertha B. Bunch that she would not be a candidate for re-election as registrar of deeds. Thus, on December 1 she will close the book on 51 years to service to Chowan County.

Mrs. Bunch's announcement to county commissioners came as no surprise to the political wags, it had been anticipated, but like death no one seemed to be prepared for it.

We have had a personal fondness for Mrs. Bunch.

She is a gracious lady of the first order who can tame anger with a pleasant smile, who can take a difficult situation and effortlessly smooth it out, who has an almost uncanny devotion to her duties as a public servant, and who has managed to retain the conviction that efficiency is not passe.

She believes in the work ethic. She is faithful and loyal, never seeking credit for herself but always doing for others. While politics have not been her "bag" she has managed to remain an elected official for 19 years. The other 32 years were spent working with her husband in the same office.

While she credits her husband with superior training in the office, those who know her realize that the adage about finding a good woman behind a successful man applies.

So, after 51 years of going to work every day to the same office in the same building, what next? She plans to "live one day at a time" and do some "volunteer work".

We hope she has many enjoyable years at this vocation. She should do well at it because we know of no one who has had more practice at giving their best to their community. That is why the transition will be less painful for Mrs. Bunch but more difficult for the citizenry.

"America's Images"

Next week is Girl Scout Week along the Public Parade and throughout the country. It is a fitting time to pause and pay respect to those who work at self-improvement as well as for building a greater community.

Girl Scouting here has had its ups and downs. At one point in the past few years it was practically non-existent. But through the determination and dedication of a new group of leaders the rebound has been impressive.

An announcement elsewhere in today's newspaper about Girl Scout Week activities also carries a warning. It is that many of the leaders now working with the young ladies in our community will soon be bowing out for a variety of reasons. Therefore, a new cry is going out for concerned women who want to see the program go forward.

"America's Images" has been chosen as the theme for the Bicentennial-year observance of Girl Scouting. And a more fitting handle could not be placed on those who participate in the program. For, we know of no finer image for America than to have a youth corps such as the Girls Scouts.

To help a girl now might keep a good image from souring. The image some have for our country today leaves much to be desired. A step toward improving this image can be in devoting a few hours each week to a Girl Scout program which is dedicated to the true American image.

Courtroom Notes

"Big court" is in session this week along the Public Parade and it again put on the scene two familiar gentlemen of the bar. Age has tamed one while a change of

Continued on Page 4



HEADMISTRESS HONORED—Melanie Morris was honored Friday night by students at Chowan Academy upon her retirement as headmistress. T. B. H. left, presents her a framed paiting of the academy as her husband, Herbert, looks on. "The 'Hollowell Show'" played to a stand-room-only audience, and was followed by a social.

Frinks Convicted by Jury On Drunk Driving Charge

FRINKS CONVICTED
Golden A. Frinks, civil rights activist, was convicted shortly before noon Wednesday in Chowan County Superior Court on a charge of drunk driving. The jury was composed of 11 whites and one Negro.

Judge Walter Cohoon sentenced him to six months, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs and fees for his court-appointed attorney.

Miss Morris Wins Again

GREENVILLE—A Chowan Academy freshman has won First Division honors in the High School Oratorical Contest, sponsored by the American Legion.

Melanie Morris of Hertford will compete at East Carolina University here April 10 for North Carolina Department honors. There are five divisions in the state.

As a division winner she was presented a Gold Medal and a \$50 U. S. Savings bond. There are approximately 62 posts in the five districts which make up the First Division.

The top winner in the department contest will receive a \$500 scholarship with second place winner getting a \$300 U. S. Savings Bond.

Five history professors judged the division contest here Monday. After the contestants gave their eight to 10-minute prepared speech they were required to give a three to five minute extemporaneous speech on a topic chosen by the judges.

Bill Phillips, oratorical contest chairman for Edward G. Bond Post 40, American Legion, said the post and district are quite pleased with Melanie's performance. "I am confident she will be a great representative of the division at the department level," Phillips stated.

Melanie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Morris of Hertford.

Bogus Money

Bogus \$20 bills of "better than average quality" turned up in deposits made by three local firms Monday.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish said tellers at Peoples Bank & Trust Company found the bills in deposits made by Tastee Freez, A&P, and Hardee's. He said the bills, bearing the same serial number, were of "better than average quality" which took a keen eye to catch.

The police department has contacted surrounding departments but there have been no further reports of the bogus money being discovered.

Chief Parrish said the local investigation indicated that the money was put into circulation here sometime late Friday afternoon or early evening. The 1969 series bills had the serial number F90797489B.

Two of three Norfolk, Va., brothers, who have been the subject of extensive manhunts in Chowan County within the past 60 days, were given active prison terms in Chowan County Superior Court this week.

Arthur Jay Evans, through plea bargaining, was given six and one-half years for breaking and entering and escape from Chowan County jail. His brother, Wilbert Lee, was given eight years. He had an additional charge of assaulting an officer during the successful escape.

A third brother, Melvin Shapiro, is awaiting trial.

Judge Walter Cohoon of Elizabeth City imposed the sentences after Asst. Dist. Atty. Keith Teague, also of Elizabeth City, informed him that plea bargaining had been involved in the cases.

The Evans brothers were charged with breaking and entering at a rural Chowan County home. They were chased by Lloyd Overton to the Chowan-Perquimans line in Yeopim Township and later fled into the woods. After an extensive manhunt they were arrested and placed in jail.

Later they, along with Sylvester Armstead, escaped from the jail after they overpowered the jailer who was removing a mattress from one of the cells.

Armstead was also given an active sentence totaling four years for escape and assault or aid and

Continued on Page 4



YOUNG FISHERMAN—Bob Noneman, six, proudly holds two of the three rock fish he landed Tuesday afternoon while fishing with his father, Walter, in Albemarle Sound. Such a catch as this is certain to whet the appetite of local anglers who will want to do Bob one better. The largest of the three fish weighed six pounds, according to the elder Noneman.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XLII.—No. 10. Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, March 4, 1976. Single Copy 10 Cents.

Agreement Is Reached

Dickerson, Inc., contractors on the U. S. 17-by-pass, and Chowan County commissioners have reached an agreement that will allow completion of the county-wide water system without delay.

The agreement was reached at a meeting on Wednesday of last week. Earlier, the contractor had refused to allow construction of water lines across highway right-of-way. State Department of Transportation officials had said they have nothing to do with the matter.

The commissioners went on record "to do whatever was necessary to insure Dickerson, Inc., with surety bond or whatever was needed to get easement for the water lines."

Company officials were to meet with representatives of Bryant Utilities, water system contractor, county attorney to draft the final agreement.

"Our people are agreeable to any arrangement," stated C. A. Phillips, board chairman. "We're confident we'll take care of the problem with a prompt solution."

Alton G. Elmore, a commissioner, said: "We don't want Dickerson to spend a single

Continued on Page 4



"TO THE MAX"—Is the current motto of the Holmes Drama Club, which aspires to the maximum winning and outstanding performance award in state competition of the Carolina Dramatic Association, soon to take place. Ecstatic over their recent win in regional competition are, left to right, first row: Pat Bond, Elizabeth Stevens, Mrs. Sandra Boyce, drama instructor, Kitty Cox and Jackie Parker. Second row: Ray Tew, Janet Harrell, Allison Jordan, Win Dale, and Maru Amburn are equally as happy.

Drama Club Award Winners

The trip from Edenton to Rocky Mount proved to be a happy journey for the John A. Holmes Drama Club, which presented "A Happy Journey from Camden to Trenton" in the Eastern Regional Competition for the Carolina Dramatic Association on February 28.

Superb acting, directing, staging, and general performance won them an award for their school and a position among the top four schools selected for outstanding performance. Sixteen schools participated in this drama

competition. This is the second time in three years that the Holmes Drama Club has been honored for its Outstanding Performance.

Janet Harrell, a member of the Holmes Drama Club, also had the distinction of receiving an award for Outstanding Acting Performance.

As a result of being chosen to the top four position, the Drama Club is eligible to participate in the state competition of the Carolina Dramatic Association in High Point on March 12 and 13. Under the direction of Mrs. Sandra Boyce, drama instructor, they will again present "A Happy Journey from Camden to Trenton", in hopes that their journey from Edenton to High Point will be equally as rewarding.

Flea Market To Be Held

Don't throw it away!
Historic Edenton is sponsoring a Flea Market on April 10 from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M. at the Woolard Building across from the library. Any and all donations will be greatly appreciated.

For those who would like someone to pick up anything, please call The Barker House. "We will have storage space there, until the date of the Flea Market," a spokesman said.

For any persons desiring to sell personally, in a van, station wagon, etc. a \$10 fee will be charged and parking space will be provided. In the event of inclement weather, there will be tables inside.

Those wishing to personally sell inside, a \$5 fee will be charged.

Bring your "White Elephants" by the Barker House or they will be picked up. They may be somebody else's treasure!

Registered Voters Total 5,002

There are now 5,002 registered voters in Chowan County. This was reported by Mrs. Joseph M. Thorud, executive secretary, Chowan County Board of Elections.

Of those registered 4,538 are Democrats and 406 are Republicans. The American Party has eight; 23 are Independents; and 27 have no-party affiliation. By precinct, the registered voters include: East Edenton 1,570; West Edenton, 1,537; Rocky Hock, 503; Center Hill, 407; Wardville, 502; and Yeopim, 483.

Mrs. Thorud pointed out that there was not much interest in this county in registering for the

Continued on Page 4

Bloodmobile Visit Monday 12-Noon To 6 P. M. Fellowship Hall, Edenton Baptist Church Goal: 125 Pints