

### Improving A Statistic

More and more people convicted of crimes along the Public Parade are finding it easier and easier to stay out of jail. At the same time they are facing judges who are making it more convenient for them to pay their debt to society through a fine and court costs.

Every time the General Assembly meets the bleeding hearts are on hand to plea for legislation which makes it more difficult to put a man behind bars and keep him there. The cost of maintaining a man in prison has sky-rocketed—much faster than inflation on the outside. There are no more people and more crime and the state can't keep up.

"Go to prison, behave yourself and you'll be out in no time," the judges said in the past. Now it goes like: "Receive a heavier fine, stay at home, pay the fine at the direction of the probation office and don't misbehave so that you will be found out."

The key to the latter is the probation officer. Time payment departments in the Clerk of Court's office have about closed down but the probation officer has been turned into a collector. And it ain't right!

Because of a bad collection experience, the payment of court charges has shifted from the clerk to the probation officer. The clerk has no staff to enforce court orders concerning payments. The probation officer has no time to do a similar job.

Everyone connected with law and justice is overworked. Statistics are in vogue as never before, as everyone at the higher level is attempting to justify his existence via a computer printout. The volumes of paper work have gone out of sight and so have demands on the time of enforcement personnel.

If fewer and fewer people were convicted of crimes along the Public Parade and elsewhere the problem would soon disappear. The jails would be less crowded.

And if judges would recognize that their no "installment" policy on the one hand places added work on another, then probation officers could counsel deserving probationers rather than be bill collectors for the courts. Should this be done, maybe probation repeaters would be a statistic we could herald with pride.

### Regionalism On Trial

Another level of government is in the process of being imposed upon citizens along the Public Parade, throughout Tar Heel and the nation. So says the former chairman of the Lead Regional Organization in the Albemarle, which could turn into a Council of Governments and ultimately another bureaucratic monster.

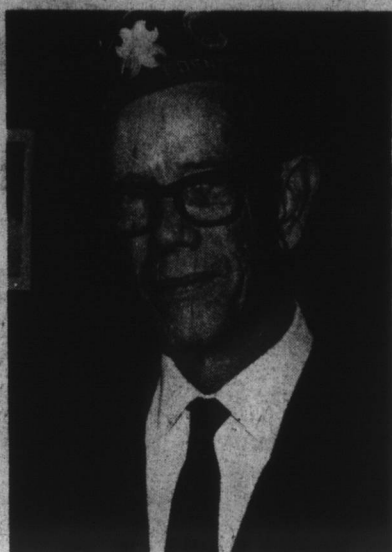
W. B. Gardner was the first chairman of the Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission. He served for three years in this capacity. Because of his philosophy of government in general and his vocation (Edenton Town Administrator) in particular, he has been an outspoken advocate of the agency remaining a planning agency.

Nevertheless, it has gobbled up programs. Some of the programs the agency foster, others it took in by mandate from the Holshouser Administration. Planning has become secondary to program operation for two reasons. There is little "visibility" in planning. Not only are program operations highly visible, that is where the money is.

This could not have been more graphically brought home than over in the Isle of the Pasquotank last week when an item on the agenda dealt with how information about the region from the regional organization should be disbursed to those representing member governments. Before the conversation on this mellowed there was an express of near anarchy from the staff.

Board members of ARPDC represent member governments. Apparently the critics didn't count noses because seven of the 10 counties in the Albemarle were present to hear the charge of disinterest. If a vote had been taken with staff members allowed

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Rev. H. Willard Lampe  
v. Lampe  
S. Post

Rev. Willard Lampe, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, has announced that he will seek the post of chaplain for the N. C. Department of the American Legion. His candidacy was announced this week.

Election to department posts will be held in Raleigh in June.

Mr. Lampe came to Edenton in 1975 after having resided in Nebraska. He has been an active member of Post 40 here, and currently is serving as First District chaplain.

He attended McCormick Seminary in Chicago in 1939 prior to joining the U. S. Army Chaplain School in 1943. During his tour of duty, he was stationed at Camp Edwards, Mass., Ft. Brady, Mich., Ft. Custer, Mich., Australia, New Guinea, Philippines, Okinawa, and Korea.

Mr. Lampe was decorated with the American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, Philippines Liberation Medal, Victory Medal, and the American Campaign Service Medal.

In 1946, he shifted to the U. S. Army Reserve where he served until his retirement in 1972.

Mr. Lampe and his wife, Charlotte, reside on West Queen Street. They have two daughters and one son.

### Bike-A-Thon Set

A Bike-A-Thon to raise funds for the Easter Seals campaign will again be held in Chowan County and has been incorporated into the four-day Edenton-Chowan Bicentennial Arts Festival program.

Mike Johnson, recreation director, announces that the third annual event will take place on April 10, beginning at 2 P.M. All persons interested in participating are asked to sign-up at National Guard Armory.

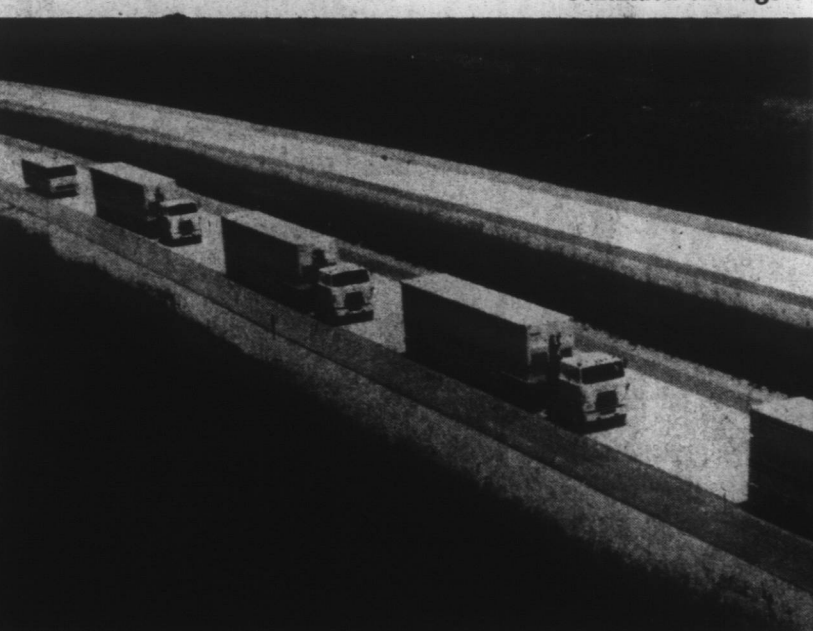
"There will be six fantastic prizes this year to be given to both boys and girls who turn in the most money from 18 years of age and down," Johnson pointed out. Bicycles are being donated by Goodyear and Belk-Tyler.

Participants have sponsors sign up to contribute so much per mile completed on the 18-mile course.

### Meeting Slated

Coordinated promotions for Edenton will be the subject of a special meeting of merchants set for March 25 at the Municipal Building. The meeting will begin at 8 P.M.

Bill Norvell, chairman, Merchants Committee, Edenton Chamber of Commerce, has requested that all merchants meet with committee members to discuss a promotional program.



A MOVING EXPERIENCE—The Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan on its way to cities and towns across the United States. Filled with exciting shows and displays about our nation's history, the Bicentennial Caravan will tour through December 1976. It will be in Edenton next month during the Bicentennial Arts Festival.

## Polls Prepare For Primary

More than 5,000 registered voters in Chowan County can cast a ballot for their choice of a presidential candidate, pass on two state constitutional amendments and a bond issue. However, a light vote is predicted. (A sample ballot and instructions for voting is printed on Page 4-C of today's newspaper.)

This primary Democrats can vote only for Democrats, the constitutional amendments and the bond issue. Republicans can vote only for Republicans and the other three questions.

American Party members, Independents and those registered

as no-party cannot vote for any candidate but can vote on the three questions. However, a person registered as no-party can, on the day of the primary, go to the registrar of the precinct in which he is registered and tell the registrar that he would like to declare a party.

The polls open at 6:30 A.M. and close at 7:30 P.M. Curbside voting will be allowed for those persons who are unable to go into the voting enclosure. The hours for curbside voting is limited to from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

The voting machines will be used, except for absentee ballots. The deadline for voting absentee is

already passed, except for people becoming ill after March 17, when a near relative may apply with an application signed by a physician.

Further information about voting regulations can be obtained from Mrs. Byron P. Kehayes, chairman, Chowan County Board of Elections, or Mrs. Joseph M. Thorud, executive secretary.

Total registration in Chowan County is 5,002. There are 4,538 Democrats, 406 Republicans, eight American Party members, 23 Independents and 27 with no-party affiliation.

The polling places are as follows:  
East Edenton—County Office

Building on East King Street.  
West Edenton—Municipal Building at the foot of Broad.  
Rocky Hook—Rescue Squad Building behind Earl Smith's Store.

Center Hill—Center Hill Community Building at Tyner.  
Wardville—Wards Community Building on Highway 32.  
Yeopim—Edenton Municipal Airport.



Dr. Abraham Holtzman

## Commissioners Set Salary

The salary for the new Chowan County Register of Deeds will be \$10,000 annually. This decision was made Monday night by county commissioners.

C. A. Phillips, chairman, said the motion also calls for a 40-hour week for the person holding the position. He said it is understood that the register of deeds could serve as clerk to the board of commissioners.

Mrs. Bertha B. Bunch, in announcing her forthcoming retirement earlier this month, requested that no change be made in the salary. She is drawing \$11,400.

Mrs. Bunch has served as registrar for 19 years and has worked in the office for 51 years. She will not seek re-election, therefore, will retire on December 1.

Mrs. Anne Spruill and Mrs. Jean Bunch have already announced as candidates.

Commissioners action came following a public hearing at the Ryland Community Building to discuss formation of a fire district by a Perquimans County volunteer unit but with a service area which covers a portion of Chowan County.

After considerable discussion Phillips was authorized to form a committee composed of Perquimans commissioners, representatives of the Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Department and the Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Department and local commissioners.

Elwood Inscow of the State Department of Insurance will be invited to meet with the group. The final decision will rest with the Chowan commissioners.

In other action, the board approved the participation of Edenton-Chowan Schools in a pilot program sponsored by the Local Government Commission. Also, the animal control officer is being transferred from the Sheriff's Department to the coordinator's office.

All commissioners were present for the meeting.

## Commission Is Criticized

ELIZABETH CITY—Board members of the Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission were openly criticized here Thursday night by two staff members attending the regular board meeting.

After Ray Beckler was unanimously named acting director in the absence of Wesley Cullipher, the appointment was challenged by Mrs. Bunny White of the Aging Program. She questioned whether or not Beckler had been associated with ARPDC a sufficient length of time to be thoroughly familiar with the programs.

T. R. Spruill of Washington County, chairman, had chosen Beckler for the post on an interim basis until the board meeting. Beckler has headed the Human Resources Division since July, 1975.

Mrs. White, over the objections of some board members, went on to request that staff members be

## Forum Set For Tuesday

"President and Congress: Conflict Over War Powers and Impoundment" will be the topic of Dr. Abraham Holtzman at 7:30 P.M. Tuesday at Chowan County Courthouse.

The second speaker in the American Experiment, a series of Bicentennial forums, Dr. Holtzman is a N. C. State University Department of Politics professor whose research includes American political parties, interest groups, Congress and the Presidency.

His talk will touch on the separation of powers of the two bodies, the difference between the two institutions, the tremendous growth of Presidential power, the conflict over who may involve

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## Bill Passes House

Legislation to allow peanut producers to transfer their federal growing allotments between counties and states has passed the House and awaits action in the Senate.

A national wire service reported Monday's action which came on a voice vote. It would exempt growing areas devastated by natural disasters, such as floods, from the current ban that prohibits transfer of allotments between counties.

The Senate earlier approved a similar bill but must act on the House version before the final measure is sent to the White House.



Sen. Robert Morgan

## County Provides Laboratory

Edenton and Chowan County is serving as a laboratory for U. S. representatives working on rural development in foreign countries. Some 22 employees of the USDA's Agency for International Development Monday began a 17-

day study program here.

James Weaver and Dick Blue, AID officials, are directing the program which began with an overview of local government. R. M. (Pete) Thompson, county extension chairman, put together the program which was kicked off with talks by C. A. Phillips, Roy L. Harrell, W. B. Gardner, and L. F. Amburn, Jr.

Phillips, chairman of the Chowan County commissioners, told the group at the Municipal Building that the area claims no record for achievement. "If we have anything going for us it is that we are hospitable people," he said.

The chairman also explained some of the diverse activities of local government. "There are things going on that would have been considered unprecedented only a few years ago," he noted.

He said planning is a key

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## Sen Morgan

### To Open Park

U. S. Sen. Robert Morgan will speak at the dedication of Edenton's waterfront park development at 4:30 P.M. on April 9.

In making the announcement, J. Clarence Leary, Jr., chairman of Bicentennial activities here, said this will be one of the major events scheduled during the Edenton-Chowan Bicentennial Arts Festival. "We are fortunate to be able to have the popular U. S. Senator as speaker for the dedication," he said.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said further details of the dedication will be announced later.

The festival gets underway on April 8 and concludes April 11 with a sailboat race sponsored by Edenton Yacht Club.

Edenton will host the U. S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Caravan as part of festival activities, April 8-9. To be set up at the Barker House Visitor Center-

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