

# Cold Weather Trend Grips Area

By Flynn Surratt

A high pressure arctic air system has continued to affect Chowan County as all of Northeastern North Carolina this week. While some warming is expected today (Thursday), another surge is anticipated by Saturday, possibly bringing rain or snow.

Below normal temperatures as of Wednesday continued to tax electrical and water systems, and citizens are still being urged to conserve power in the wake of a 5 per cent voltage reduction by Vepco.

The county was most seriously effected Monday, when Vepco generating stations were threatened with shut-

downs. James Martin, director of utilities, reported the shortage of power was apparently caused by cooling water intakes at generating stations freezing up. Generators overheated as a result.

Public and private schools closed around noon, and local industry cooperated in energy conserving measures.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, expressed his appreciation to industrial plants for their cooperation "in a difficult situation". Gardner said by plants shutting down it enabled the town to continue to serve residential and business customers. He advises citizens to keep thermostats turned lower and avoid using unnecessary lights and appliances.

Vepco does not anticipate being forced to interrupt service to any customers although the voltage reduction will remain in effect.

The demand for electricity so far has been lower than Monday, but still above previous winter levels. They added that the power generating situation has improved with the return to service of several large units including those at Surry and Yorktown.

Graham Farless, Chowan County Water Department director, reported service to Cape Colony was interrupted Monday when a 10-inch valve froze. A similar freeze-up affected all of northern Chowan County, Tuesday night, bringing the Sheriff's Department out to assist the Water Department in restoring service to residents living as far north and east as the Gates and Perquimans county lines.

Fire Chief Luther Parks reported two fires Monday—the only alarms answered so far during the freeze.

At 11:45 A. M. fire completely destroyed the home of Della Hassell on the Thomas Wood farm near Chowan Golf and Country Club. There was no one at home at the time of the fire as the five children were in school and the mother had gone to return an ax to the neighbor.

Chief Parks said the children returned from school as firemen fought the blaze. Cause of the fire was undetermined.

At 12:08 P. M. firemen went to the Beatrice Jordan home at 314 South Oakum Street where a bed was on fire.

The chief said the occupant was attempting to start a fire in a stove when the bed caught fire. Damage was slight.

J. H. Conger, Sr., recorded a low temperature of 6 degrees Fahrenheit on Monday. Winds have been light except in gusts and westerly. Tides have been down about two feet, and most of the Albemarle Sound visible from Edenton has been frozen.

## Teaming Up

Physicians along the Public Parade have responded promptly and professionally to a plan by Chowan Hospital Board of Directors to recruit additional medical manpower. Enthusiastic support by doctors already practicing in the community certainly will improve the atmosphere for prospects.

Another thing the action by the medical staff last week will do is to curb the feeling that the physicians run the hospital and have the last word regarding the location of other doctors in the community.

Thomas M. Surratt will soon be leaving Chowan Hospital for new challenges in Carteret County. In the nine years he has meandered along the Public Parade he has made bold innovations regarding health care here.

Regardless of what hat he wore he toiled long and hard (sometimes under most difficult circumstances) to have Chowan Hospital recognized as treating, in every way possible, the total medical ills of the citizens.

In the past few years the concept, while sound at the time, has changed like so many other things. He was among the first to recognize this fact and moved with dispatch to affect changes; not so much for a change itself but because it was just good business.

Through the process the physicians have backed him up. The expansion of the Emergency Room services is a recent example. Without medical staff approval, regardless of how tacit at times, it would have been most difficult if not impossible for the hospital board to implement the plan.

The community must now applaud the latest display by the medical staff to recognize the problem and offer unqualified assistance in doing something about it. We can be proud of our medical complex and we are fortunate to have among our citizens physicians who want to see the facilities utilized to the fullest.

## Close Call

There were 125 deaths on Tar Heel highways and streets during seven holiday weekends in 1976. The N.C. State Motor Club had predicted that 122 people would die in traffic accidents during the period.

That is a close call by any standards.

"Unfortunately our estimates are usually rather accurate," commented Thomas B. Watkins, chairman of the state-wide organization. "And that means tragedy on our highways."

The purpose of the club's predictions prior to holiday weekends is to make the traveling public more alert and more safety conscious. "We do not intend for our estimates to scare," Mr. Watkins said. "Rather, we want to cause an awareness of potential dangers on the highways."

Like the saying goes, when you are driving you know what you are going to do but the other fellow might have a different plan. The closeness of the predictions and actual deaths is somewhat scary but it shows the motor club folks know what they are talking about.

## J. A. Webb, Jr.

The community mourns the death on January 13 of Josiah Anthony Webb, Jr. At 67 the Route

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## Semester Break

All public school students in Chowan County will receive a mid-semester break on Friday and Monday. This student holiday follows the completion of mid-term exams on January 20.

Teachers and administrators will follow the regular work-day schedule on these two days. These two days were set aside on the school calendar by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education to allow teachers time for grading and posting examination scores and completing reports marking the first semester's end.

Student report cards will be sent home on January 27.



**TEMPTING FATE**— Two local students taking advantage of the early closing of schools Monday paused at the waterfront and tested the strength of ice forming in Edenton Bay. As temperatures continue to hover in the teens and below, not only the Albemarle Sound has been effected by the unusual weather. VEPCO generating stations which supply the Town of Edenton and Chowan County with power experienced difficulty early in the week, and the Chowan County Water Department has been busy working on freezing pipes and valves. Most town and county services, however, have remained unaffected. (Surratt Photo).



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## Hylton Eyes Morehead Scholarship

**CHAPEL HILL** — Joel W. Hylton, a senior at John A. Holmes High School, is a District I finalist in competition for 1977 Morehead Awards to study at the University of North Carolina here.

Hylton was among six district nominees chosen as finalists. He is the son of Mrs. Frances B. Hylton of Edenton and Joel W. Hylton, Sr., of Annapolis, Md.

The finalists were selected from 23 nominees picked earlier by county committees from 18 counties in District I. Interviews were conducted by the District Selection Committee in Williamston on Monday. The nominees come from Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

Each of the 10 Morehead districts in the state will select six finalists to appear for interviews with the foundation's Central Selection Committee in Chapel Hill February 25-28. In addition, 52 nominees from 26 independent preparatory schools throughout the eastern United States will be interviewed at the Morehead Foundation during this period.

Morehead Awards provide all-expense paid undergraduate educations at UNC-CH. The value of an award for a North Carolina resident is currently \$11,000 for four years of study. Modeled after the Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford, England, its purpose is to attract to UNC-CH young men and women who will enhance the University's stature through their presence on campus and make significant contributions to it and to society in later life.

The late John Motley Morehead, a native of Spray and an 1891 graduate of UNC-CH, established the program in 1951. Since then, more than 1,000 Morehead Scholars have attended the university. There are currently 212 Morehead Scholars studying on campus. Morehead, an engineer and part founder of Union Carbide Corporation, lived in Rye, N. Y., until his death in 1965. Current chairman of the Morehead Foundation trustees is Hugh G. Chatham of Elkin.

## Committee Mans Physician Search

The medical staff at Chowan Hospital has asked the board of directors to establish a committee to actively seek additional physicians in selected specialties.

At a meeting of Chowan-Perquimans Medical Society on January 11, Dr. Clement Lucas and Dr. David Wright were appointed as medical staff representatives to work directly with the board of directors.

"The medical staff requests the board of directors to appoint a sub-committee to work with us in initiating plans for physician recruitment and the further expansion of our health services," it was stated in a letter to J. Gilliam Wood, board chairman. The letter was signed by Dr. Edward G. Bond, president of the medical society; and Dr. Robert E. Lane, chief of staff.

Earlier Dr. Lane had stated at a board meeting that the medical staff recognized the problem faced by the hospital in maintaining a health financial status and would fully support an active physician recruitment program.

In the letter to Wood specific specialties suggested were an ophthalmologist, another gynecologist, one to three more internists or family physicians and a pediatrician.

The text of the letter follows: "The medical staff of Chowan Hospital for some time has been concerned with the need to expand

and improve the health services offered to the citizens of Chowan County and its surrounding counties. We believe that the recruitment of additional physicians in certain selected specialties, as well as the expansion of hospital services based on a sound fiscal structure are vital and necessary to ensure the health of all our citizens.

"As a result of these concerns, the Medical Staff on January 11, 1977, endorsed unanimously a motion to work with the Chowan Hospital Board of Directors and

other interested citizens in the community to begin the active recruitment of new physicians and to develop the necessary long-range planning for the expansion of our health services in the community.

"We have an excellent modern hospital, which you, the board, and the chief executive officer run most efficiently. It is also our realization that new doctors (especially an ophthalmologist, another gynecologist, one to three more internists or family physicians, and a pediatrician)

would help with the present patient load, but also increase our hospital census and thus help the financial soundness of the hospital. In turn, this would help the hospital improve its array of services provided to our people. Another specific need your board and the medical staff are well aware of is the expansion of the hospital Emergency Room services.

"All of the medical staff are willing to work together with the board, the hospital's chief

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## Alton Clark DSA Recipient

Alton Clark, president of Edenton Jaycees, is recipient of that organization's Distinguished Service Award for 1976.

Clark was presented the DSA last Thursday night during an annual banquet at Edenton Jaycee Community Building. Making the announcement was Mayor Roy L. Harrell who pointed out some of Clark's accomplishments in the community.

The most recent DSA winner is associated with Peoples Bank & Trust Company. Earlier he was with Atlantic Credit in Edenton. He and his family reside at Cape Colony.

In accepting the award Clark said it made him want to try harder in the future. To the

audience of Jaycees, Exhausted Roosters, past DSA winners and guests he said: "You deserve this more than I do."

Lee Shillito of Hickory was keynote speaker and talked about the Jaycee responsibility to the community and the fact they are interested in people not projects.

The speaker said a person should consider his failure but "you can't be afraid to fail." Later he defined success as "not being afraid to fail."

The speaker was introduced by Woody Copeland.

Others on the program included Clark, Morris Small, Wayne Sawyer, Gerry Phelps and Lewis Evans.

## Farm Related Meetings Set

R. M. Thompson, county extension agent, reported that several meetings of interest to local farmers have been scheduled during the remainder of January.

On Friday a sweet potato meeting is slated to begin at 10:30 A. M. in Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant. A dutch luncheon is included.

A peanut meeting to be held at the American Legion Building is planned for January 25, beginning at 2 P. M. Astor Perry will discuss recommendations for 1977.

Oak Grove Community Building will be the site of a vegetable meeting on January 27. It will begin at 7 P. M. and watermelon varieties will be discussed.



**GUEST SPEAKER** — Leo Shillito of Hickory, above left, was keynote speaker at the Jaycee DSA Banquet last Thursday night. He is shown chatting with W. B. Gardner and Mrs. Ethel LaVoie.



**CLARK AWARDED** — Alton Clark, left, president of the Edenton Jaycees, was recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. He is shown above with his wife, Gail, and Mayor Roy L. Harrell.