

## Decision Not Easy

The Edenton Town Council will meet tonight (Thursday) in a delayed monthly session. One of the important items on the agenda is reconsideration of a petition for rezoning a parcel of land — some 10 acres — at an apex of Highway 32 and the new U.S. 17 by-pass to allow for a shopping center.

It will not be an easy decision for our elected officials.

However, what they must keep foremost in their minds is that zoning is not a tool to be used to restrict trade and-or growth. Zoning should be considered as land classification separate and distinct from other areas because of its particular use.

There is but one access to the by-pass, except from each end. It is natural that the apex of such an interchange would eventually become commercial. Unlike some towns, Edenton is fortunate, in our opinion, that the interchange is so close to the municipal limits so essential utilities can be provided.

If the councilmen vote for the common good, rather than their selfish interests, then the ends of justice and their individual commitment to the citizenry will have been achieved. We can expect no less, although the decision may not be easy.

## The Leader

The cost of health care is in orbit, to say the least. Talk with any three people and you will get as many answers as to how best to solve the problem.

President Carter wants to put a ceiling on increases in hospital costs. Nonsense!

A finalist in the Junior Miss contest, from North Carolina, mind you, said Monday night she thought some type of socialized medicine would work best. Nonsense!

Getting the culprits out of the health care institutions as well as the physician's offices might be the only solution. But that won't be easy!

Additional regulations, which the first two opinions would foster, certainly isn't the answer. Also, further computerization of this and that also is adding to the disease rather than the cure.

But what is happening in North Carolina? It is addressed in a recent annual report distributed by Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

Benefit payments exceeded half a billion dollars in 1976.

The organization—the state's largest voluntary health plan—saw enrollment growth at the rate of 35 per cent of the Tar Heel population.

The average in-patient hospital claim was \$720, a rise of about 13 per cent over 1975.

The alternatives to hospitalization, such as outpatient surgery, home care by visiting nurses, self-care units in hospital, etc., are being stressed and well received. While there are those who would twist the statistics to suit themselves, extended care facilities are not the monsters they are painted to be in Medicaid. They provide a certain amount of cost containment which must become the creed of health care facilities and those who deliver services.

A cost containment program includes broad coverage to encourage use of alternative methods of health care delivery that provide high quality care at less cost. A public education program encourages the public to do their share in curbing the rise in costs by taking better care of themselves and by cooperating with better cost containment efforts.

This prompted Thomas A. Rose, plan president, to say: "We cannot reasonably expect costs to diminish; but we do think that with the full cooperation of all segments of the health care field, and the general public, the rate of increase in health care costs can be moderated."

It will, however, take more than efforts by the leader—Blue Cross-Blue Shield—in the health plan field. It will take you and me, who won't sacrifice quality but will insist that no stone remains unturned in this important field.

Continued On Page 4



**CONSERVATIVE HUDDLE**—U.S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd, Jr., of Virginia, second from right, huddled with other conservatives of the N.C. Congressional Club at a rally in Elizabeth City last Friday night. U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms of Raleigh, right, was the center of attraction. Among the promoters were Dewey Wells of Elizabeth City, left, and T.B.H. Wood of Edenton.

## Helms: Stop Socialist March

ELIZABETH CITY—U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms told an enthusiastic audience of more than 500 here Friday night the America must halt the march towards the socialist state and get its priorities straight.

A cheering audience frequently interrupted the popular spokesman for conservatism in the U.S. Senate as he made his remarks in introducing U.S. Sen. Harry F. Byrd, Jr., I-Va.

"We must not follow Great Britain into chaos," Sen. Helms declared.

Saying socialism denies every

## Weather Stalls Algae Bloom

Recent rain, wind and cool weather have aided in limiting an algae bloom in the Chowan River. This bloom, reported last week, was credited to natural causes.

Unlike previous problems with algae in the river, CF Industries at Tunis is not being blamed.

Grover Cook, supervisor of water quality monitoring with the N.C. Department of Natural & Economic Resources, said the latest bloom was caused by high concentrations of nutrients in the water. He said the bloom developed because of the lack of rain in the area.

"Light to moderate" blooms were noted between the Nottoway-Blackwater River headwaters in Virginia to Colerain in Bertie County.

Cook said the water levels on the Chowan were anywhere from six inches to one foot below normal at the time.

"This deficiency of rain in the Chowan basin has caused very high concentrations of nutrients in the water and this has precipitated the growth of green plant algae in the river," Cook was quoted as saying.

Continued On Page 4



**LEARNING BY DOING**—Employees of Fiberform last week concluded a Fire Prevention course by actually extinguishing a blaze under the supervision of Chief Luther Parks of Edenton Fire Department. At top right, Chief Parks lectures to some of the 30 members of the class prior to putting a match to fiberglass and a highly explosive chemical. At bottom right he demonstrates the proper use of a hose. Above, the chief stands back and watches as the "students" move in to douse the blaze, an exercise which was repeated several times.

# 12 Attend CRC Hearing

Chowan County's public hearing, one of 20 in the coastal area, on proposed Areas of Environmental Concern was held Tuesday night by the Coastal Resources Commission. The hearings are mandated under the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974.

Twelve people, including two county commissioners, attended the hearing in the Fourth Floor conference room of the County Office Building.

T. Erie Haste, Jr., of Hertford, a

commission member, was joined by Frank Furlough of Columbia at the hearing. County Commissioners Alton G. Elmore and J.D. Peele also attended.

Five staff members of CRC and the N.C. Department of Natural & Economic Resources; a local planner; W.B. Gardner and L.F. Amburn, Jr., Coastal Resources Advisory Committee members, rounded out the audience.

Haste, with the use of slides, described the definitions of AEC's, practically none of which would

affect landowners in Chowan County. He said, in an exchange with Peele after the official hearing had been recessed, CRC's role in development within AEC's is merely to provide property owners with information. "Most of the cases are already covered by some type permit," he added.

After the 20-minute presentation by Haste and a brief discussion with Peele, the remainder of the two-hour hearing was spent in group small talk about matters not related to CAMA.

## Norfolk Men Make First Appearance

Two Norfolk, Va., men made a first appearance in Chowan County District Court Tuesday morning on charges of breaking and entering and larceny growing out of an investigation by the sheriff's department.

Stephen Bruce Goldsberry, 19, and Spencer Ray Autry, 20, face multiple felony counts after local law enforcement investigated a series of break-ins in the northern section of the county.

Judge Grafton G. Beaman presided and Asst. Dist. Atty. Richard Parker prosecuted the docket with the following action taken:

Joseph Warren Nowell, Jr., traffic violation, costs; failure to report an accident, dismissed.

Delanry Terrial Trafton, traffic violation, not guilty.

Carl Jean Rea, Sr., drunk driving, third offense, and transporting alcoholic beverage, 12 months. Notice of appeal entered.

Clyde William Spear, Jr., speeding, warrant ordered.

Johnny Wynn, no operator's license, dismissed.

Joseph Packard Noonan, Jr., traffic violation, costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Carolyn Belch Mizelle, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered; speeding, dismissed.

Tony Raymond Hare and Brenda Lee Sessoms, traffic violations, warrants ordered.

John Lee Parks, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

Patricia Kay Gill, traffic violation, costs. Notice of appeal.

James Edward Riddick, traffic violation, \$5 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

Darrell Lanston Hopkins, Jr., traffic violation, costs.



**YOU WANT MORE FOOD!**—"Mr. Bumble", played by Dave Holton, is shocked and astonished when "Oliver", Eric Strother, asks for a second helping. Accusing fingers point at the young lad as he is told of his punishment.

## Musical 'Oliver' Opens Here

Charles Dicken's famous novel "Oliver Twist" is the basis of the most ambitious undertaking of the Edenton Little Theater and John A. Holmes High School Cultural Arts Department to date.

Tonight (Thursday) the curtain will rise for the opening performance of "Oliver" adapted and written by Lionel Bart, one of England's most highly regarded authors and composers. Curtain time will be 8 P.M. at the Holmes High auditorium, with performances through Saturday night.

This musical comedy about a young orphan who grows up in the underworld of 19th century England enjoyed stunning popularity in New York and other large American cities during the 1960's after its arrival from across the Atlantic.

Now under the direction of John Becker, also a native born Englishman, this colorful musical comes to Edenton with a 40-member cast that features Eric Strother as "Oliver", Mel

Meekins, Jr. as "Fagan", Dave Holton as "Mr. Bumble", Mark Chilcoat as "Bill Sykes", and Pat Bond as "Nancy".

"This is the first joint effort between the Edenton Little Theater and Holmes High School Drama Department to produce a major musical. It represents quite a community project," Becker remarked.

Assistant director is Sandra Boyce, who as head of the Holmes High Drama Department, has directed several award winning plays. Shelby Strother is music director and art work is under the direction of Missy Harrell. J.H. Conger, Jr., a long-time member of the Little Theater, is producer.

In terms of directing and staging, Becker calls the play extremely demanding both in coordinating a large cast and crew as well as changing the numerous and elaborate sets.

A lot can be expected, though, from Becker who joined a touring company after completing his schooling at Charter House School in Surry England. He toured throughout the world with RAM Productions, beginning as a lighting technician and suddenly

Continued On Page 4

## Replacement Priority Sought

While the Albemarle Sound bridge has been declared safe for legal highway loads, district Department of Transportation officials have been making efforts to get a replacement priority assigned for it.

This information was contained in a letter from W.E. Moore, district engineer, to C.A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County Board of Commissioners.

At a meeting earlier this month the county board, in cooperation with Edenton Chamber of Commerce, went on record favoring an extensive study of the safety of the bridge which was extensively damaged by ice during the winter.

"There was an in-depth survey and study made on this bridge immediately following the ice damage last winter," Moore wrote. "Although the damage was extensive, necessary repairs were made to restore the bridge strength sufficient for carrying legal highway loads."

Moore said additional work on the bridge is planned for this summer.

