

# Tannery, Artifacts Found

## Another Mile

The lengthy development of the courthouse-jail project Public Parade has seen off. At times it appeared to be unending.

This week a new deadline was set. But it will be up to firms outside the county to meet it. We speak of the 2:30 P.M. deadline on September 16 for construction bids to be submitted. Official notification is printed elsewhere in today's edition.

But eagerly awaiting the bid opening will be Chowan County commissioners. They have \$1.8-million from a federal grant to construct the facilities. However, unforeseen delays could have produced development costs beyond the budget.

The bottom line, therefore, will be carefully watched during the bid tally process. It will be something other than just another deadline since the county has already passed the "go" or "no go" stage.

## Open Waterfront

The Town of Edenton has now done what should have been done years ago, purchase the Byrum property on the waterfront.

When the town could have obtained the property for probably half what is now to be paid the political climate was not right. One of the owners, George Alma Byrum, was mayor.

However, a lot of conversation would have been avoided had the councilmen possessed sufficient foresight to purchase the property regardless of who the owners were.

Thanks to "generous donations," at least one of which was in the five figures, the town can now own the property for less cash money than at the earlier time. So, it is a good deal for the town and the Byrums.

This newspaper had not taken a position on efforts of the owners to develop the small tract by erecting townhouses. For this we have been criticized.

We maintain a feeling that there is just so much government can tell a man he can't do with property he owns. When it goes to the extreme the government should own the land if its highest and best use is to keep it for all the people to enjoy.

Therefore, we were not disturbed about what the Byrums wanted to do with the tract, but the principle involved. Too much restraint of free enterprise and the right of ownership is dangerous. When this happens, then it is time for the ownership to change, which

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**BOTTLE REMAINS** — Pat Garrow, senior archaeologist with Soil Systems, Inc., displays several glass shards from old bottles found at the Chowan County Courthouse Jail site.



**TANNERY WALL FOUND** — Charles Haecker and Mark Cochran labor at the location of the main wall of an old tannery, found to be in an unusually good condition. Tools of the archaeologists include a shovel, used commonly, and a four-inch auger which enables soil samples to be taken without seriously endangering artifacts located in the ground.

## House Damaged In Accident

A car struck a house on SR 1002 early Friday morning leaving some \$11,500 in property damage. The driver was only slightly injured and the house was unoccupied.

Wade Thomas Nixon, 18, Route 1, Tyner, was identified by State Trooper M.J. McArthur as driver of the 1968 Chevrolet involved in

By Flynn Surratt  
The remains of the main tannery wall, tanning vats, a lime kiln, and other structures have been confirmed by a team headed by Pat Garrow, senior archaeologist with Soil Systems, Inc., on the site of the Chowan County Courthouse jail complex during the first three days of intensive study.

As of Wednesday, the archaeological team had pinned down the location of the main tannery wall following confirmation of the presence of the tanning vats. The vats were located by a number of means including the Sauthier map, a four-inch auger taking test borings, and Ph meter which measures acidity levels in the soil.

Garrow reported the tests yielded pieces of the wood flooring in several of the vats, identified as white pine. He credited the fine level of preservation to the fact that the vats are located below

ground-water level, and water is often an excellent preservative, though a factor making excavation a special problem.

Other testing led to the discovery of a lime kiln where shells were burned to obtain limestone used in the leather preparation process.

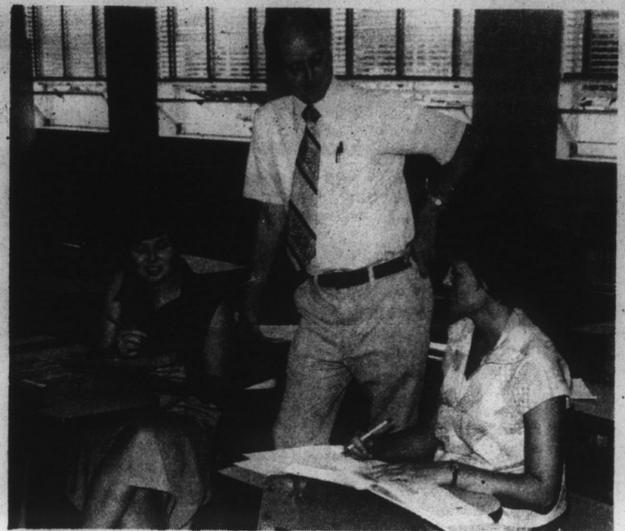
Checking into deeds dating back to 1762, Garrow also reported that the southeast corner of the site was the location of another structure believed to be a tobacco and snuff factory. Although no description of the facility is available, it is known that the factory was owned by a man named Halsey and that the business was sold in a Sheriff's sale in 1769.

That site would have been the site of the jail facility, although plans were changed to locate the jail at the northeast corner instead.

At the southwest corner, Garrow says a number of enclosures were located that could have been anything from a garden to livestock facilities. Later construction and demolition at that point destroyed all of the remains.

Actual excavation is planned for a 60 feet x 150 feet tract where an outside privy was located. The archaeologists will strip the area, one soil layer at a time until the project is complete. Otherwise, the work will mostly involve only intensive surveys with contracts

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**PREPARING FOR STUDENTS** — Mary Ralph, left, a new math instructor at Holmes High School, is shown above with Linda Nichols, P.E. instructor, as they chat with Dr. John Dunn, superintendent while preparing the groundwork for the upcoming school year.

## Teachers Begin Work Early

School opened Monday for the 145 teachers employed by Edenton-Chowan Schools. They will have until August 29 before students report for their first day of orientation and registration.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, explained that the extra 10-day period extends the teachers' employment to a full 10 months as authorized by the General Assembly several years ago.

The teachers, of which 13 are new to the local system, will use the extra time to become oriented to

their respective places of employment. Time will be spent in teacher conferences and workshops and in preparing lesson and classroom plans so that classes can get underway at the onset of the new school year.

A half-day of orientation for students will begin at 8:30 A.M. on August 29, with the first full day of classes beginning Tuesday, Dr. Dunn stated.

This year's total enrollment is expected to number at 2,650 for kindergarten through grade 12.

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## Actions Blocked

Efforts to keep townhouses from being built on Edenton Bay near the Masonic Temple have apparently been successful. The Town of Edenton has entered into an agreement to purchase the property from George Alma and Thomas Byrum.

The purchase price was not disclosed.

Town Council approved the purchase at a special meeting Monday afternoon after "generous donations" were received from the private sector.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, said "the town will

have little cash money in the site of another waterfront park."

Not revealing the purchase price or how much was donated, Gardner said a "generous portion was raised from anonymous donors." Without the donations, he added, the town would have been unable to acquire the additional waterfront property.

Gardner said this is another step in the town's effort to obtain title to property on Edenton's waterfront.

However, the town will have to bear the cost of development. Gardner said the town has not had time to discuss the extent of development to take place in the area.

The Byrums had obtained a special use permit from the Board of Adjustments to put townhouses on the waterfront site. Just last week a group known as "Citizens to Save The Edenton Waterfront" employed an attorney "for the purpose of contesting the legality" of the permit.

The Board of Adjustment action

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## Meeting Slated

The annual meeting of Edenton Chamber of Commerce has been set for September 29. It will be held at Chowan Golf & Country Club.

The decision was made Thursday at the monthly meeting of the board of directors. At that time Dr. A.F. Downum, Jr., president, appointed the following to the nominating committee: Morris Small, Jr., Bill Norvell, Jack Evans, Cam Byrum and himself.

The board also discussed erecting signs on or near the U.S. 17 by-pass and plans of the Merchants Committee to conduct town-wide promotions.

## Referendum

The Chowan County Board of Election has certified that a sufficient number of registered voters in the Town of Edenton have signed a petition to call a referendum on a change in the method of electing councilmen.

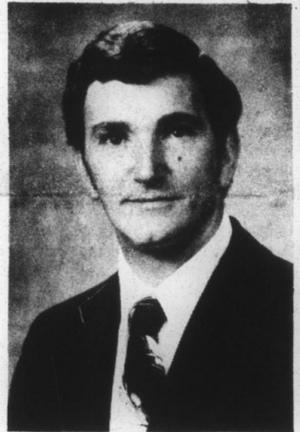
Mrs. Joseph Thorud, executive secretary, has informed Town Administrator W. B. Gardner that 248 names on the petition are those of registered voters. The petitions, circulated by Mayor Roy L. Harrell, bore 255 signatures.

Mayor Harrell last week urged members of the Town Council to set machinery in motion to have a referendum to determine if the people wanted to return to "ward voting" on councilmen. He had circulated the petition to strengthen his case and when he did not get a favorable response from the councilmen, he went the petition route.

At a special meeting Monday afternoon, Gardner reported on the certification but did not get a motion to call the election. It is understood that the referendum will be held at the time of the general election on November 8.

The regular municipal election will be held at the same time.

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Rev. Jimmy C. Whitfield

## Campmeeting

The 53rd. annual Happy Home Campmeeting will be held from Thursday through August 28. The campground is located 17 miles north of Edenton, off Highway 32.

The guest speaker for these services will be Rev. Jimmy C. Whitfield of Mount Olive. Mr. Whitfield is a graduate of Holmes Theological Seminary in Greenville, S.C.

For the past 10 years he has resided in Florida and served as pastor and Christian Education Director of the Florida Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. He has ministered in several youth camps and campmeetings.

Services will be held daily at 10:30 A.M., 3 P.M., and at 8 P.M. Beginning August 21, special youth services will be held each evening at 7 P.M.

On August 22, at 8 P.M., Leverage Tripp and his song Revival Band will be featured.

Camping facilities plus meals at reasonable rates will be available during the campmeeting.

For further information contact Rev. C.G. Chappell at 221-4039.

## Petitions Filed

Less than a week after Edenton Town Council denied petitions to rezone two parcels adjacent to U.S. 17 by-pass, the developers filed new petitions in their three-year effort to build a shopping center and other commercial establishments on Virginia Road.

W.J.P. Earnhardt, Jr., and Bernard P. Burroughs are asking that a 10-acre tract on the south side be changed from R-20 to Shopping Center and a like tract

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**HEAVY PROPERTY DAMAGE** — Wade Thomas Nixon, 18, Route 1, Tyner, escaped serious injury when the 1968 Chevrolet, shown here went out of control early Friday morning and struck the front of a house on SR 1002 near Small's Crossroads. The house, owned by Mrs. John D. Hobbs, was unoccupied at the time of the 2 A.M. accident. State Trooper M.J. McArthur has estimated total property damage at \$11,500.



the accident. Time of the accident was placed at 2 A.M. but it was not discovered until several hours later.

Damage to the home of Mrs. John D. Hobbs was placed at \$10,000 and \$1,500 on the car, which was declared a total loss.

Nixon was charged with drunk driving, reckless driving, and failure to report an accident.

Investigation showed that the Nixon vehicle was traveling at a high rate of speed when it went out of control as it came out of a curve in the road. The vehicle ran off the right side of the road, crossed a ditch and traveled a considerable distance before striking the house.

Trooper McArthur reported that the seven-room dwelling was knocked six to 10 inches off the foundation.

## Mrs. Clark Earns Promotion

ROCKY MOUNT — Mrs. Gail G. Clark, head bookkeeper in the Edenton office of Peoples Bank and Trust Company has been promoted to the office of assistant cashier. The promotion was announced today by Peoples Bank Senior Vice President, Vann Johnson.

A native of Pitt County, Mrs. Clark is a graduate of Belvoir-Folkland High School. She joined Peoples Bank in 1966 following seven years banking experience with the Greenville office of NCNB.

## Tax Revenues

A total of \$73,566.88 in sales tax revenue for the quarter ending June 30 has been received by Chowan County and the Town of Edenton.

Distributed on the ad valorem basis, the county received \$55,703.16 while the remaining \$17,863.72 went to the town.



Mrs. Gail G. Clark