

Jury Returns Indictments For Fraud

CRC Visit

By the time most of you read this the Coastal Resources Commission will have concluded a two-day meeting at Chowan Golf & Country Club. To welcome them, then, would be a tardy gesture.

However, we didn't want to let the opportunity pass to mention the vast amount of leadership and expertise represented on the 15-member commission and the quality of the support staff.

The Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 has weathered more than its share of storms. The rocky road, however, has caused tough men to get tougher; determined men to become more determined.

While many of the complaints have been valid, and has brought about second and third looks at a particular part of the program, the vast majority have come from people with vested interest.

CRC has been determined from the start to make it a people's program, not one where the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing; not a monument to any individual or administration; but something which lessens the burden on those who want to develop sensibly, not destroy carelessly and with reckless abandon.

CRC, because of the leadership mentioned earlier, is managing to find the gray area between the environmentalist and developers. And that's not easy.

Teamwork

Action by a Chowan County Grand Jury earlier this week brought to 54 the number of insurance fraud indictments involving five men in two counties. It apparently has brought to a close an exhaustive investigation spanning more than 12 months.

The defendants, including the Mayor of Columbia, are scheduled for trial in Perquimans County Superior Court in August; in Chowan in September.

Dist. Atty. Tom Watts feels comfortable with the state's evidence, primarily because of the painstaking manner in which the investigation was carried out.

The DA has described the operation as a "well organized fraud scheme" which was difficult to get a handle on.

The first complaint was made to Sheriff Troy Toppin. He assigned Chief Deputy Glenn Perry to the case. Gene Hartsell of the Investigative Division, State Department of Insurance, came down from Henderson and has just about camped out along the Public Parade.

DA Watts gave the duty of coordinating the investigation to Richard Parker, an able assistant who was prosecuting the docket here when 34 indictments were returned Monday morning.

So, you can see this is a fine example of the team work patience and professionalism which abound in law enforcement in Northeastern North Carolina. The example is set at the top but the muscle is applied all the way down the ladder.

Teamwork, not competition for headlines, is the name of the game.

New Concept

Rep. Walter B. Jones and Sen. Robert Morgan announced from Washington, D.C., last Wednesday approval of a \$200,000 grant for Northeastern Rural Health Development Association. Thus ended an important phase in NRHDA's efforts to make primary medical and dental care more accessible to some 28,000 citizens along the Public Parade and five other counties in the Albemarle Area.

While the project is popular among the people, it has brought angry protests from professionals. During the past 11 months it has at times appeared to be a case of who had the most muscle and knew where to apply it.

Although the application has been funded for the first year of a three-year demonstration project, people in Chowan, Bertie, Perquimans, Gates and Tyrrell counties can't expect to see instant results. While the sponsoring association and its providers have

The lid was put on an alleged insurance fraud investigation Monday when a Chowan County Grand Jury returned 34 indictments against four men — three Negroes and a white agency manager in Carteret County. Among those indicted was Mayor George R. Rowsom of Columbia, who operates funeral homes in Northeastern North Carolina.

Mayor Rowsom and two others indicted Monday — Clarence L. (Barney) Badham and Joseph Earl Dixon — were charged with offenses in Perquimans County on May 8. George L. Rowsom, the mayor's son, was indicted in Perquimans but not in Chowan.

Wilbur Lawrence Allio, Route 2, Newport, was charged in bills which allege his participation in violation of insurance laws as well as forgery. He is an agent for United Insurance Company of Little Rock, Ark.

Dist. Atty. Tom Watts of Elizabeth City announced the new indictments. He said they grew out of a continued investigation of "a well organized fraud scheme" involving insurance.

An assistant DA, Richard Parker who is prosecuting the criminal docket in Superior Court here this week, has handled the indictments. Appearing before the grand jury was Gene Hartsell of Henderson who is with the Investigative Division of the State Department of Insurance.

The district attorney said Chief Deputy Glenn Perry of Chowan County Sheriff's Department has

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DISTRICT WINNERS—These are the Chowan County 4-H'ers who won district contests during Activity Day last week in Hyde County. Seated are: Susan Bunch, Angela Layden, Elizabeth Hornthal, Patricia Ashley, David Jordan and Greg Brabble. Standing, first row, Debbie Jordan, Gwen Spivey, Vanessa Spivey, Jewel Langley, Gary Copeland, Sarah Chappell, Kevin Twine and Anna Goodwin. Back row: Sarah Coston, Leon Rouson, Al Ward, Sue Bunch, and Darlene Everson. (Photo by Jane Parrish).

4-H'ers Take District Wins

The theme for a recent gathering of 4-H'ers was "Freedom to Be", and no addition to this phrase could be more appropriate to the Chowan County 4-H'ers than "WINNERS"!

The event was the District Activity Day held in Hyde County last Thursday for which Chowan won first place in 12 areas of competition. Representing the 15 counties in the Northeastern District were entries in demon-



PAST AND PRESENT—Dr. Parker Chesson of Elizabeth City, chairman of the Coastal Resources Commission, and David Stick of Kitty Hawk, immediate past chairman, admire a certificate presented to them by CRC members by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

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Jury Convicts Potts

Samuel Thomas Potts, 38, of Cape Colony, was convicted in Chowan County Superior Court Tuesday afternoon of three counts of crime against nature. Judge Harry C. Martin of Asheville delayed sentencing until Wednesday.

A jury deliberated one hour and

five minutes before returning the verdicts.

The panel heard more than three hours of testimony. The prosecuting witness was a 12-year-old-girl. The defendant's step-daughter, also 12, was a state's witness in preliminary stages of the case but testified for the defense Tuesday.

It was a case which Asst. Dist. Atty. Richard Parker described to the jury as making him sick on his stomach.

Potts has been held in Tri-County Jail in Elizabeth City in lieu of \$60,000 bond since his arrest late last month.

Other action taken included: Thomas Adolph Holley, drunk driving, second offense, seven months, suspended upon payment of \$400 fine and costs; assault with a deadly weapon, seven months in prison.

Laverne Holley, allowing drunk

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Perquimans Club Planning Show

The Perquimans County Horse and Pony Club will hold their annual Fourth of July Show. The show will begin at 1 o'clock on Tuesday at the show ring on Joe Perry's Farm, four miles west of Hertford.

There will be classes for children and adults, consisting of halter, trail, western and English pleasure, roadster, costume, tie a ribbon on the goat's tail, barrel race, pole bending, mail bag, fastest horse around the ring, and many others.

There will be an intermission and the Colonial Squares of Edenton will entertain with square dancing and clogging.

The concession stand will be open.

CRC Requests Detailed Study

The Coastal Resources Commission will ask for a congressional mandate to the U.S. Corps of Engineers to develop a detailed study of long range water resources from Chesapeake Bay to Pamlico Sound. This is another demonstration of strong support for protecting these resources in the coastal zone.

Meeting at Chowan Golf & Country Club, overlooking Albemarle Sound, a formal resolution was unanimously passed by the 15-member commission asking the N.C. congressional delegation to pass an act authorizing the study.

Introduced by Eugene Tomlinson, a commission member who is Mayor of Southport, and seconded by Axson Smith of Belhaven, the resolution requests

that the study include environmental impact assessments on "water to the ocean barrier caused by withdrawal of fresh water from their tributaries."

The action was suggested by David Stick of Kitty Hawk, a former commission chairman. Stick described the action on the part of the commission as being a "positive step toward finding the solution to what has become a negative question."

Dr. Parker Chesson of Elizabeth City, chairman, called the Roanoke and Chowan rivers, and the entire Albemarle Sound Basin, "among our greatest assets." He continued by saying those who live in the area are "not selfish, but just want to make sure what we have is maintained. It is very, very important to this area."

Later Dr. Chesson told representatives of the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers, that the CRC position on withdrawal of water from any tributary of the sound basin prior to a comprehensive study of the impact on and the quality of the resource had not changed.

The resolution ended a presentation by Bob Nordstrom, a representative of the corps, who detailed programs of a two and one-half year study mandated by Congress to find new water sources for Southeastern Hampton Roads, Va.

He said the Pea Creek alternative which would draw water from Kerr Lake, could be implemented without construction of a major impoundment and without any adverse affect on the Roanoke River, a tributary to the sound.

Frank Furlough of Columbia, a commission member who is an outspoken foe of any withdrawal — let alone a project which would take 70-million gallons a day — said algae is already appearing in Albemarle Sound, primarily due to the nutrient problem, coupled with the flow.

During his presentation, Nordstrom repeated an earlier statement that the alternative dealing with the Chowan River had been dropped from consideration.

In reply to a question, he said the study is not just to find water but to consider the impact withdrawal will have on the area. This prompted Stick's recom-

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Judge Fines Absent Juror

A man subpoenaed for jury duty in Chowan County Superior Court was fined \$50 Monday when he failed to appear.

Simon B. Rich, Jr., Route 2, Edenton, was given 10 days to show just cause why he didn't respond to the jury summons. The findings by Judge Harry C. Martin was that Rich had also failed to appear at a prior session.

The order noted that Rich's wife had called Monday to say her husband would not be in court and had gone to New York.



FRIENDLY FOES—Frank Furlough of Columbia, a CRC member, talks with Bob Nordstrom of the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers, following a discussion of alternative sources of water for Southeastern Hampton Roads, Va. Furlough is an outspoken foe of the alternatives.



CALLS FOR STUDY—Eugene Tomlinson of Southport, second from left, discusses a Coastal Resources Commission resolution calling for a long range water resource study, with Chowan County officials. Left to right are: Lester Copeland, C.A. Phillips and County Manager Eddie Dick. The CRC met Wednesday and Thursday at Chowan Golf & Country Club.