

Taxes and consolidation are at the pinnacle of the dirty word list along the Public Parade as the countdown continues for a September 19 School Bond Referendum. They are not only words but, moreover, issues to be coped with as voters prepare to cast an intelligent ballot on the \$3.5-million issue.

Taxes and consolidation are not new to any who meander along the Public Parade. It is, however, difficult to determine which is less popular. In a real sense, though, it should not be something which boggles the mind.

Taxes are a matter of fact. Consolidation of schools is a choice Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has made a matter of fact. Unfortunate as it is, they become extremely factual to the citizenry at the same time.

At the time merger of the administrative units of Chowan County and the Town of Edenton was discussed, merger was among the dirty words. Now and then someone would slip and use "consolidation" when "merger" was the word of the day.

Consolidation of the schools is just as certain today as merger of the administrative units was back then. It is something which must be planned skillfully, with the best interest of the students foremost.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is now totally committed to consolidation. The bond referendum, which would provide a new high school and allied facilities, does not figure as heavily in the board's decision as consolidation figures in the referendum.

To the citizens of Chowan County it is more than a matter of stewardship. All sorts of irrelevant and phony "issues" will be used to support this or that position. Each side of the bond referendum, those for as well as those against, is charged with the responsibility of being truly candid, dealing in facts rather than emotions.

The educational future of our children, regardless of the numbers, must not hinge on a couple of dirty words.

Emotions won't pay the freight. Facts just might help do the trick.

More On Schools

And while on the subject of public schools, it should be pointed out that education along the Public Parade is one of our biggest businesses. Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has approved a budget of \$4,425,638 for fiscal 1978-79. A mere \$683,842 of this comes from local tax funds.

Chowan County's budget for the same period is \$3.4-million, with nearly one-half (\$1.6-million) being in the Department of Social Services. The Town of Edenton, by comparison, has a \$5.4-million budget, the lion's share of which is connected with utilities.

The school board's budget included \$500,000 in capital outlay funds for new construction, the money coming from state bond funds. This is further evidence that the members are sincere in their decision to consolidate the schools, regardless of the results of the bond referendum on September 19.

Time and again the chairman of the county commissioners has told us that Chowan County is fiscally able to afford anything the citizens desire. With this financial foundation and with construction costs increasing so rapidly, the question before the citizens is whether or not the county can afford not to approve a long-term debt for a new school facility, at this time.

So long as an arm of government, like the schools, can operate a business with a budget \$1-million more than the county's budget on 15.5 per cent of local revenue the financial foundation will remain solid. The board of education has earned an "A" in stewardship. There is no reason to speculate on their ability to earn equally as good a mark on the consolidation-construction issue.

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# Farm Bureau Opposes Consolidation

Chowan County Farm Bureau surfaced Monday as an organized foe of a \$3.5-million school bond referendum here and Chairman N.J. George of the county commissioners publicly expressed his opposition to the issue.

The Farm Bureau's stand came in the form of a statement read by David Bateman, chairman of the legislative committee and a former county commissioner.

When questioned later by Commissioner Lester Copeland, the spokesman said the position was voted by the organization's board of directors Friday night. No general membership vote has been taken.

In the statement, reprinted in full, Bateman expressed disapproval of county employees using county equipment and facilities to "develop an arsenal, with the

cannon directed toward use in the promotion of this bond issue."

Chairman George said the commissioners had strongly requested that employees not work on the project on county time. Bateman pointed out that while he had heard two presentations from school employees, he was not charging that it was done during regular working hours.

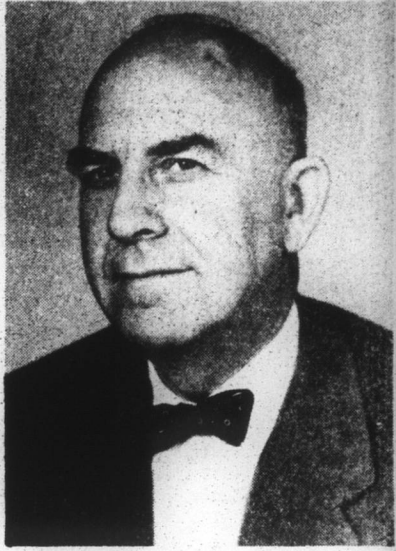
Bateman asked the commissioners if they wished to express their feelings about the September 19 referendum. To which George responded: "If I had to vote this morning I'd vote 'no' because I don't think the need has been shown."

At this point the chairman said it

was uncertain that Farmers Home Administration could purchase the bonds for 40 years at 5 per cent. At a meeting Friday, FmHA officials said a new regulation prohibits their participation if a private firm offers a bid.

C.A. Phillips, former board chairman, said he felt it was almost a certainty that someone else would bid on non-taxable school bonds. Copeland said going on past history no one has bid on a 40-year period.

Bateman suggested that the board go for a shorter bonding period to encourage bids from the private sector, which would almost be out of reach of the county since the long-term FmHA program is



J.H. Conger, Sr.

## Conger, Sr. Earns Service Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — J.H. Conger, Sr., a volunteer weather observer for the National Weather Service since January, 1943, has been selected to receive the Thomas Jefferson Award. The names of seven winners selected nation-wide to receive this annual award were announced today.

Thomas Jefferson Awards were originated in 1959 for the National Weather Service to honor volunteer weather observers for unusual and outstanding achievements. It is the highest award the National Weather Service presents to volunteer observers. The award is named for Jefferson because the statesman-scientist made an almost unbroken series of weather observations from 1776 to 1816.

Conger was honored for unselfish and dedicated service in continuing a family tradition of weather observing and storm warning that began in the last century. In fact, the records maintained by the Congers at Edenton, are among the longest in the state.

The National Weather Service has nearly 12,000 volunteer observers who make and record daily weather observations in all parts of the United States. The valuable information they gather is processed and published by the Environmental Data Service, another major component of NOAA, and becomes a valuable part of the Nation's weather history.

## Trash Container Abuse Results In Relocation

A convenient trash container location on U.S. 17 (business), north of Edenton, will be relocated at the request of the property owner. Abuse by those who use the containers has been cited as the reason for the request by James O. Perry, Jr.

Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator, said he has received a letter from Perry saying "the public just will not do things in a neat and proper manner."

"Everything looks bad all the time, and in addition, my driveway and pavement have been destroyed with the traffic," he wrote.

Jethro said the Perry site has been one of the most popular and convenient location for trash containers in the county. Where will he move them in the general vicinity? "I don't know of a single place," he said.

Chowan County commissioners have received numerous complaints about abuse of the garbage collection system. Sheriff Troy Topplin has been instructed to enforce the \$200 fine ordinance regarding the deposit of unauthorized trash in and around the containers.

Jethro said without the complete cooperation of the public other handy sites could be abandoned at the request of the property owner where the containers are placed.

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CITED — Mrs. Mary Parrish, center, receives her plaque from Dr. T.C. Blalock while Mrs. Frances Ward looks on. She was named a State 4-H leader.

## 4-H Leader Is Recognized

Mrs. Mary J. Parrish, Route 2, Edenton, was recognized recently in Raleigh as one of North Carolina's 14 outstanding volunteer 4-H leaders for 1978.

Her recognition came at a luncheon for 4-H leaders during State 4-H Congress. Dr. T.C. Blalock, director of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, presented Mrs. Parrish with a plaque. On hand for the presentation was Mrs. Frances Ward, Chowan County home economics agent.

Mrs. Parrish was nominated for the state honor by Murray Goodwin, Chowan agricultural extension agent, who called her "an enthusiastic 4-H leader who is always ready to serve in almost any capacity."

Mrs. Parrish was one of the original leaders who established the Yeopim 4-H Club 15 years ago. Under her leadership, club members have participated in many events and won many district, state and national honors.

## Manslaughter Arrest Made

A 46-year-old Negro is being held in Tri-County Jail in Elizabeth City in lieu of bond on multiple charges — including manslaughter — growing out of an incident Saturday night in rural Chowan County.

William Henry Gordon, Route 1, Tyner, is charged in the traffic death of Earl Booker Privott, 48, Route 3, Edenton.

Sheriff Troy Topplin apprehended Gordon on Highway 32 shortly after the 10:35 P.M. incident. Privott, rushed to Chowan Hospital by the Rocky Hock Unit of the Rescue Squad, was pronounced dead on arrival.

Following an extensive investigation which carried into the early hours of Sunday, State Trooper P.J. Mitchell charged Gordon with manslaughter, hit and run, drunk driving, speeding and leaving the scene of an accident. His bond was set at \$12,000.

Gordon was identified as the driver of a pickup truck which allegedly struck Privott as he stood along the side of Sandy Ridge road at the scene of an earlier mishap. There was only slight

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## Test Scores: Upper Grades Behind

Students in five grades of Edenton-Chowan Schools scored on par with those throughout the Northeastern North Carolina region on a battery of achievement tests administered in the spring of 1978. The scores were nearly state and national averages in the first second and third grades but slipped in the sixth grade and even fell more drastically in the ninth grade.

In a presentation to Edenton-Chowan Board of Education at a meeting Monday night, Mrs. Mary Horton said schools now have more test information on students than has ever been available at a given time. She said school officials should now dwell on what they are going to do with the results.

Later in her remarks, the local official who is a member of the

state commission which devised the tests, she said: "It is this way. What are we going to do about it (the low scores)? It is here and we have just got to do something about it."

Dr. J.H. Horton, her husband and a school board member, remarked: "We have had similar information before and we were going to put emphasis on the

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ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS ON READING, MATHEMATICS, LANGUAGE, SPELLING AND TOTAL BATTERY FOR NORM-REFERENCED TESTS FOR THIRD, SIXTH, AND NINTH GRADE STUDENTS IN THE Edenton-Chowan SCHOOL SYSTEM, IN THE STATE, AND IN REGION I

	THIRD GRADE			SIXTH GRADE			NINTH GRADE		
	Edenton-Chowan System	State	Region I	Edenton-Chowan System	State	Region I	Edenton-Chowan System	State	Region I
<b>Reading</b>									
Grade Equivalent	3.5	3.5	3.4	6.1	6.3	5.9	8.0	9.0	8.3
Percentile Rank	42	43	41	42	44	39	32	44	36
<b>Mathematics</b>									
Grade Equivalent	3.4	3.6	3.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	8.3	9.0	8.5
Percentile Rank	34	44	42	45	46	42	34	43	36
<b>Language</b>									
Grade Equivalent	3.7	3.6	3.6	6.4	6.6	6.2	8.0	9.3	8.4
Percentile Rank	51	47	46	45	48	43	34	47	39
<b>Spelling</b>									
Grade Equivalent	4.1	3.8	3.9	8.5	7.1	7.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percentile Rank	59	52	55	61	53	54	41	54	51
<b>Total Battery</b>									
Grade Equivalent	3.5	3.5	3.5	6.3	6.4	6.2	8.0	9.0	8.4
Percentile Rank	39	43	41	43	45	41	32	44	37

## Parent Conferences Slated To Explain Test Scores

Parents of the 1039 students tested in grades one, two, three, six and nine in Edenton-Chowan Schools will have the opportunity on August 23 and August 24 to have their child's individual scores explained in detail. The tests, which were administered uniformly to all North Carolina students on these grade levels as the result of action by the 1977 General Assembly, were designed to measure students' proficiency, skill, and knowledge in the areas of reading, math, and language.

School personnel and volunteers will contact parents individually by telephone and letter to schedule appointments with the student's last year teacher for full explanation of test results. For the convenience of all, appointments will be set up from 1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. on August 23. Conferences will be held from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. on August 24.

"It is hoped that all parents will take advantage of these conferences," voiced Jim Pressley, Director of Instruction, "to find out how their child performed or where he needs help."

"The results of these tests will be most beneficial to parents, teachers and administrators in pinpointing strengths and learning difficulty areas needing concentrated instruction to improve performance," Pressley noted. "The school system will place emphasis this year on using the test results to develop student curriculum, as well as centering staff development, for teachers around these results," he added.

The recently received results of the first state-wide testing in North Carolina show in grade equivalent and percentile rank how Edenton-Chowan's students compared with other students in the region, state, and nation.



Debbie Jordan

## In Honor Club

Debbie Jordan, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lin Jordan, Route 2, Edenton, has been tapped into the select N.C. 4-H Honor Club founded in 1931 by L.R. Harrill. Less than one-half of one per cent of N.C. 4-H'ers are selected for

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