

Business Activity Slows

Business activity in Chowan County in fiscal 1977-78, as reflected in gross retail sales, increased 6 per cent less than during the previous year. Gross retail sales totaled \$49,120,789, which is 8 per cent over 1976-77 while that year's business enjoyed

a 14 per cent increase over the prior year. Statewide, the increase was 13.24 per cent above the 1976-77 total while that year's business was only 9.89 per cent above the 1975-76 amount.

The total business reported in

the state for fiscal 1977-78 was nearly \$27.5-billion. Gross retail sales in the 10-county Albemarle Area were in excess of \$44 billion, up 7 per cent from the previous year.

Dare County's 16 per cent increase, to \$81,284,887, was the largest in the area. Gates County had a 1 per cent increase for \$15,988,631, and while Camden County recorded a 10 per cent increase in sales they were lowest in the area with \$9,718,066.

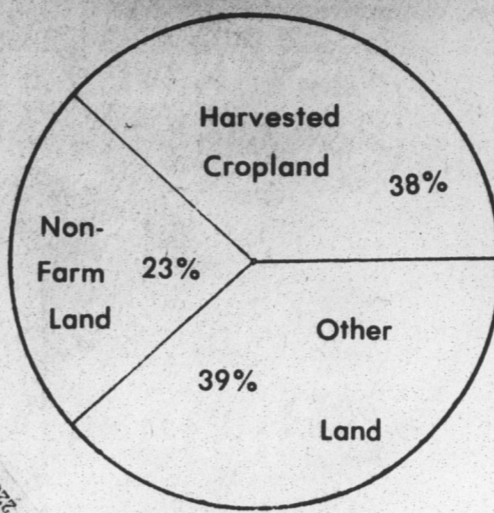
Pasquotank County's sales increased 9 per cent to \$140,672,671. Chowan's business activity ranked fourth in Northeastern North Carolina, trailing Pasquotank, Dare and Washington counties.

General merchandise and food sales totaled \$21,484,230 — \$10,750,918 and \$10,733,312 respectively — for 44 per cent of the total business in Chowan County recorded by the State Department of Revenue.

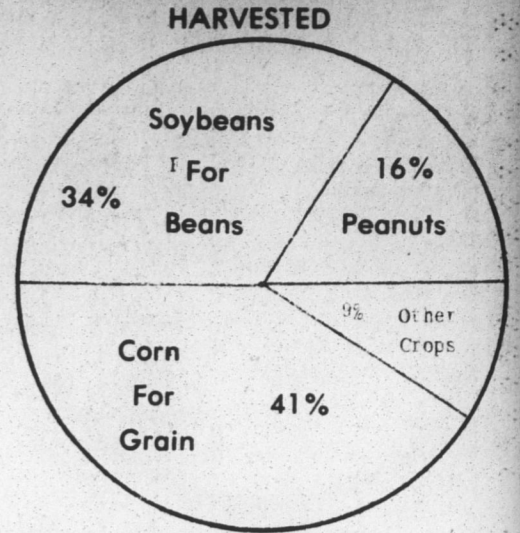
Automotive sales were \$6,299,703 and building materials, \$5,438,387. Furniture sales totaled \$1,501,888.

Four cities in the state had sales in excess of \$1-billion. They were: Charlotte, \$3,370,618,180; Greensboro, \$1,456,398; Raleigh, \$1,333,663,592; and Winston-Salem, \$1,180,004,576.

UTILIZATION OF ALL LAND



PERCENT OF TOTAL CROPS HARVESTED



Corn, Soybeans Top Crops Here

Thirty-eight per cent of all land in farms in Chowan County was harvested cropland in 1977, while 41 per cent of the harvested crops was corn for grain.

The 1977 Land Utilization and Crop Acreages report was compiled by the N.C. Crop & Livestock Reporting Services and released jointly by that agency and Chowan County commissioners.

Tracts with 10 or more acres accounted for 105,375 acres of land in the county. All land in farms totaled 80,802 of which 39,674 was in harvested cropland. There were 248 acres of idle cropland and 891 acres in pasture. The report shows 24,573 acres in the county with no significant agricultural production which is equal to 23 per cent of the land.

There were 16,530 acres of corn for grain the county during the report period and 13,416, or 34 per cent of the total harvested, in soybeans for bean. Peanuts were grown on 6,261 acres in this county or 16 per cent of the total. All other crops accounted for the other 9 per cent of harvested crops.

Sweet potatoes lead vegetables harvested with 295 acres reported. There were acres of cabbage, six acres of tomatoes, three acres of green peppers, 21 acres of cucumbers, and four acres of Irish potatoes.

The report was compiled from information contributed by landowners. Data was collected by county commissioners through township listers or through a sample survey conducted by the sponsoring state service.

CHOWAN COUNTY

1% Retail Sales	\$ 45,802.03	\$ 4,725,131
2% Auto, Planes & Boats	57,642.59	2,969,805
Apparel	19,090.46	657,195
Automotive	68,781.30	6,299,703
Food	300,050.33	10,733,312
Furniture	36,906.12	1,501,888
General Merchandise	209,788.37	10,750,918
Building Materials	46,687.01	5,438,387
Unclassified Group	118,096.47	6,044,450
Use Tax — 1% & 3%	30,835.59	
Licenses — Wholesale & Reg.	530.00	

Gross Collections	Gross Retail Sales
\$ 934,210.27	\$ 49,120,789

Public Personnel

Bureaucratic Snafu

The Lincoln-Douglas debates remain a much discussed part of United State history. The Lincoln-Lee incident is gaining considerable notoriety and may become a contender for laurels as the bureaucratic snafu of the Hunt Administration in Tar Heelia.

It is not unusual in government for an employee with connections to be given a "lateral" transfer. It is, however, unusual for one to be fired and then rehired at a salary increase within a matter of days.

Every individual has particular talents. Sec. Howard N. Lee of the Department of Natural Resources & Community Development got the opinion that Harvey M. Lincoln didn't have the touch, at a salary of \$29,000, for operating the federal jobs program (CETA). So he fired him.

The standard operating procedure in such a case is a lot of hell raising by the person being discharged. This was not the case and we number among those who wondered why it didn't happen.

A couple of days later, the man who Sec. Lee found lacking in leadership and performance in the CETA slot, was picked up by State Budget Officer John A. Williams, at a slightly higher salary.

Sec. Lee is being made to look like the goat in this bureaucratic snafu and Gov. Jim Hunt is said by a bosom buddy not to have paid much attention to the incident.

After the dust rose, Mr. Williams asked Sec. Lee if he had any "problem" with the situation. "No," the secretary replied. But when the dust settles it will be recorded in the annals of the Hunt Administration as a 24-karat example of the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing, while the body tries to preach coordination and cooperation to everyone else.

It is time for the appearance of the director of this governmental combo.

Community Involvement

Remember the summer you went back to see your old high school or elementary school? Chances are you could almost hear a pin drop as your footsteps traveled down the corridor to your old classroom. But times are changing and now schools across the state are buzzing with activity not only in the summer but after school, at night, and even on weekends for people of all ages.

A Community Schools Act was established by the 1977 General Assembly to encourage greater community involvement in schools by citizens in the community and to encourage their use of the school facility. Approximately 71 local school units were funded by the 1977 General Assembly to hire a community

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New High School Not Necessary Say Opponents

Saying "new facilities does not assure improved educational performance", a group of citizens organized Thursday of last week to oppose the \$3.5-million school bond referendum on September 19.

The committee expressed support for better education and for adequate educational facilities, but said they can be accomplished without a new high school.

"Everyone knows that better education in Chowan County depends on dedicated and qualified teachers, effective classroom discipline, greater efforts by students and more caring by parents," it was stated in a "fact sheet" made available to The Chowan Herald yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

Co-chairmen of the Interested Citizens Opposed to The Bond Issue are: Bill Whichard, David Bateman, Carlton Perry and Capt. Al Howard. George Alma Byrum is treasurer with W.P. (Spec) Jones serving as poster chairman.

The committee further alleges that the existing buildings have been neglected by Edenton-Chowan Board of Education and Chowan County Commissioners. "We submit that proper maintenance would have alleviated many of these (maintenance) problems," it is stated.

In another area, it is claimed that the need has not been established, and the building of a new school will not result in the proper utilization of existing buildings.

At still another point, it is questioned whether the \$3.5-million, plus \$500,000 in State Bond funds will be adequate to accomplish what the board of education plans.

Speaking at last week's meeting, Bateman warned against bringing high school consolidation into the bond issue discussing. He said it would "split our force."

Later, John A. Mitchener, III, disagreed, saying consolidation and the bond issue should be joined.

Aces To Battle Pirates

The Edenton Aces go after their first gridiron victory of the young season Friday night against the Perquimans Pirates at Hicks Field. Kickoff is 8 P.M.

The Aces will be rebounding from a thrashing by Northeastern in Elizabeth City last week. The Eagles proved too much for the Aces to the tune of 38-0. It was the second straight year the non-conference foe had kept the Aces scoreless.

Coach Jimmy Addison drilled the Aces hard this week in preparation for the home opener. While several injuries were sustained last week there were no



NEW ACADEMY TEACHERS—Shown here are seven of the eight new faculty members at Chowan Academy. Left to right are: Mrs. Helen Woodard, Mrs. Anne Schenck, Miss Nelle Manning, Miss Virginia Riddle, Mrs. Darlene Swanner, Mrs. Annette Woglom and Rodney Lassiter. Cullen Dunston was not present at the time the picture was made. The academy opened for the 1978-79 term earlier this week.

Coastal Management Program Is Approved

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission and Advisory Council met at the N.C. Marine Resources Center-Roanoke Island, Manteo, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Robert W. Knecht, head of the Federal Office of Coastal Zone Management, U.S. Department of Commerce, announced approval of the State's Coastal Management Program.

Federal approval of the state's program brings with it consistency of federal programs with the coastal policies North Carolina develops for the 20-county coastal area and an expected \$1.4-million to fund the Coastal Management Program.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and Secretary of Natural Resources and Community Development

Howard N. Lee, and other federal, state, and local officials, were on hand for the announcement.

Gov. Hunt called the approval the signaling of a "new beginning" for the coastal counties and municipalities because they now have "blueprints for future land

Art Show Set

The Chowan Arts Council and Edenton-Chowan Peanut Festival invite all area artists to participate in an outdoor art show and sale October 8, at the Colonial Park on Edenton Bay from 1 P.M. to 6 P.M.

The show will be a featured attraction in the annual Peanut Festival which is a community celebration benefiting the local band program in the Edenton-Chowan Schools and is sponsored by the Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Association.

The show is open to all artists and craftsmen 18 years of age and older. Only original work may be entered.

A Best-in-the-Show award of \$100 will be presented.

An entry fee of \$10 will be charged, plus a 15 per cent commission on sales will be donated to the band program.

Registration will be closed on September 20.

For further information, contact: Mrs. Scott Harrell, Jr., Route 1, Box 354, Edenton, N.C. 27932, or the Chowan Arts Council, Inc., P.O. Box 341, Edenton, N.C. 27932.

use" which they developed themselves.

Joining Sec. Lee, the governor again restated the full support of his administration for the Coastal Area Management Act. He was high in his praise of the "unselfish and dedicated service" members of Coastal Resources Commission and Advisory Council.

Among those present was J. Gilliam Wood of Edenton, chairman of the Board of Natural Resources & Community Development.

The Coastal Resources Commission and Advisory Council is preparing policies to present to the secretary on three coastal issues: beach access and coastal recreation, shoreline erosion, and energy facility siting.

The commission's Environmental Committee discussed existing problems with development standards in coastal wetlands, estuarine waters, public trust areas and estuarine shoreline areas of environmental concern.

The Environmental Committee discussed possible revisions to these existing standards to overcome identified problems. The Environmental Committee received a report on the state's current water quality monitoring of the Albemarle Sound.

A.C. Turnage, Water quality engineer, reported on the state's monitoring efforts for the Albemarle Sound area. Generally,

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FmHA may not be able to finance a new high school because of the county's bonded indebtedness rating of 78.

Eddie Dick, county manager, told the board that a bond rating above 75 reduced greatly the chances that FmHA would fund anything other than water and sewer projects.

Later Dr. John Dunn, superintendent of schools, added that while FmHA objected to being singled out in the original motion, they should not be counted out completely.

Dick presented three possible methods of financing the school bonds if the referendum passes. The study included an analysis of the amount of the tax increase based on the current property valuation, analysis of the tax rate based on projected valuations, and an estimate of how early the bonds could be retired.

Under the first option, bonds would be sold on the open market with a pay back period of 24 years and an estimated interest rate of 6 1/4 per cent. The total sum would be \$6,420,312.00 and would require a tax levy of 27 cents.

If the 27 cent tax increase were applied to the debt each year, it could be paid off in 19 years, based on the current valuation. On the basis of the projected valuation, the debt could be paid off in 16 years. It was added, however, that the exact interest rate could not be determined until the bonds are offered and bid received.

Under the second option, FmHA would offer the lowest interest rate at 5 per cent and would

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Fish Fry Slated

Chowan County Shriners will have their annual benefit fish fry Saturday at the Scout Hut on North Broad Street. Plates will be served continuously from 11 A.M. until 7 P.M.

This will be the 12th annual event with the profit going to the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospitals and Burns Institutes. "Many local children have been helped by these hospitals and this is an opportunity for the citizens to show their appreciation," a spokesman said.

Plates are \$2.50 and facilities will be available for those who want to eat at the site.

**Bloodmobile Visit — Monday, Sept. 11 — American Legion Building
12 Noon Until 6 P. M.**