

Letters To The Herald's Editor

Dear Editor,
All we can do now is express our regret at the defeat of the recent school bond issue.

It is true that Chowan County possesses some of the most idyllic natural resources in North Carolina, perhaps in the United States. But it is my contention that my home county is neglecting its most important natural resource — its children and young adults.

It is unrealistic and untrue to claim that quality education is being provided within the current facilities. I know because I was a student in that system from 1960 to 1973. During that 12-year period little or no progress was made at Chowan High School, in terms of course offerings and facilities. And Chowan High School was the name given to a school housing grades 1 through 12.

Two of my prominent memories concern the hard-felt lack of library and science laboratory facilities. I remember researching current events and historical topics whose references came from popular magazines stacked in a back room and a 15-drawer card catalogue at most. The science lab was even worse. I recall the time when some 12 new microscopes were added to our collection of decrepit facilities, and even then we weren't allowed to use them since they were brand new and we weren't to break them.

As a freshman in college I used a microscope alone for the first time, and I researched from boundless professional periodicals and there was an entire room filled with a card catalogue. I could continue the deficiencies of my primary and secondary education, but they have been adequately covered in the September 14, "Chowan Herald's "We Hurt."

Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, Chowan County is part of the world, not a secluded niche; and we are oriented toward the future, not content to remain in the present. Students in our current system are not adequately prepared for the future with the limited skills and knowledge that are offered. An unlimited host of educational disciplines exist outside the three R's and most primary and secondary schools across our state and nation already know this.

It is true that new buildings will not necessarily provide the ultimate answer to quality education. But it is a start and an incentive to students, teachers, and the community. With new facilities a more heterogenous group of educators will be drawn into the Chowan County school system. And

potential new residents will not think twice about moving here if they are assured their children will receive as good if not better an education as was offered in their previous home towns. This is not to say that teachers born and bred in Chowan County are not able and innovative, but in addition to our own it is important to encourage teachers from different backgrounds and cultures to offer their intellectual wares to impressionable students.

The French language, for instance, is not the only Romance language (the only foreign language offered at C.H.S. There is also Spanish and Italian, not to mention German and Russian and many others; which will be in demand in the future as a viable skill in employment opportunities. It is important for a young student to view himself in contrast with others unlike himself in order to aid him in cultivating his personal attitudes, beliefs, intentions, and behaviors. A broad education can better equip the student to do so.

Another benefit of improved education and facilities has been neglected. It will pay off. Expanded job markets will result right here in our own county, should quality education be bolstered now. Its county bred student-citizens will be encouraged to 'come home' if they have something to come home to.

It is also true that taxes would have increased. But it would have occurred for a noble cause. The fight for the passage of the school bond issue did not pass today, but in all probability, it will pass one day in the near future.

Yours cordially,
Vicki Leary Hager
P.S. As an addendum, I might note a flaw in a

defense used by opponents to the bond issue in their statement that old dormitories, classrooms, and administrative buildings of our state universities are still used. Justifiably so. They are used, but not abused. Many dollars were spent to refurbish and renovate these buildings, and at the same time modern buildings were and are constructed to accommodate the demand for expansion. The original Carolina Playmaker's Theater, for instance, is still in minimal use due to its inadequacy as a performing stage and poor acoustics. During 1977 (the year of my graduation from UNC) a massive ultra-modern dramatics complex was being built to eventually replace its predecessor. And to think of precious Chowan County tax dollars are contributing to our state university facilities.

How sorely the Chowan County school system lacks of cultural events. That is due partly to insufficient stage accommodations. A ballet dancer's grande tour jete would land him or her right into the wings of the CHS stage. Only, sadly enough, at CHS there are no wings.

It seems that every election campaign produces its share of distortions and clever innuendoes. John Ingram's remarks concerning Sen. Jesse Helms' tobacco record, however, appear to win first prize for outrageous political jabber.

Sen. Helms, as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, succeeded in restoring over \$3-million in tobacco research funds to the agriculture budget. This \$3-million investment in the future of tobacco came

under heavy fire from anti-tobacco forces. On the floor of the Senate, Jesse Helms led the fight to keep it in the budget.

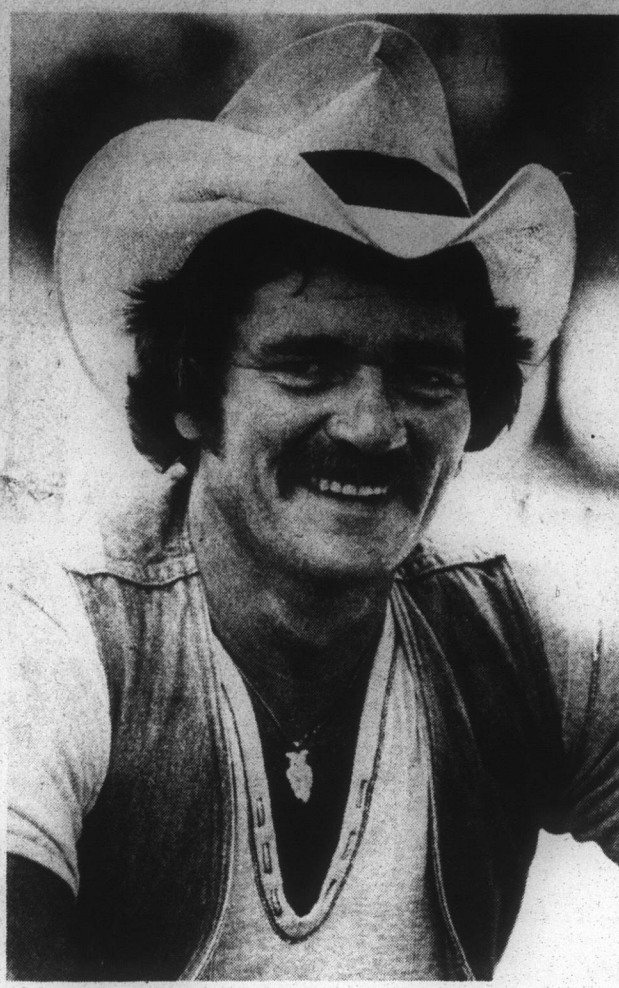
After insuring the survival of funds for the Oxford and other tobacco research stations, Sen. Helms cast his vote against the \$23-billion Agriculture Bill. Although John Ingram has failed to mention it, Sen. Helms' vote was based on the fact that the overall bill was too costly, appropriating even more money than the President felt could be spent wisely. Apparently, Mr. Ingram does not support President Carter on questions of fiscal responsibility, as Sen. Helms does. Among the many provisions, which Mr. Ingram so heartily favored and Sen. Helms so valiantly opposed, was a \$6 billion food stamp budget.

Inflation is the Number One threat to the American economy and balancing the federal budget is the only way to fight it. Had the Agriculture Bill been scraped, the miniscule tobacco research appropriation would have been protected. The fat, like the \$6-billion food stamp proposal, could have been cut. John Ingram's attack on Sen. Helms demonstrates both lack of legislative knowledge and his lack of concern for hard-pressed taxpayers. While posing as a friend of the working man, John Ingram continues to spout the liberal, welfare line.

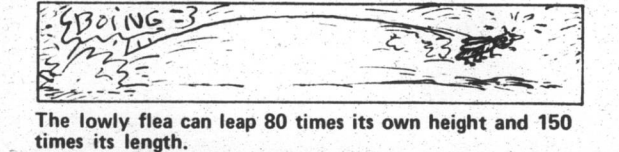
Sincerely,
Bob Harris



A national census is called for in the U.S. Constitution. It provides that a counting take place every 10 years.



CUTS RECORD — Nashville recording artist Ed Bruce sings "Pride in Tobacco," the new theme song for the "Pride in Tobacco" program.



The lowly flea can leap 80 times its own height and 150 times its length.

Tobacco Merits Praised in Song

WINSTON-SALEM — "Pride in Tobacco," the informational program designed to unite the tobacco industry, now has a theme song.

Entitled "Pride in Tobacco," the song tells the story of a tobacco farmer and the love he feels for the crop that has supported his family through the generations.

The song is being distributed by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. to all radio stations in North Carolina as another aspect of the "Pride in Tobacco" program unveiled in June. Each copy of the 45 rpm record is printed with the familiar "Pride in Tobacco" thumbs-up logo.

County music star Ed Bruce recorded "Pride in Tobacco" in Nashville recently. Although the song has a light country flair, it should also appeal to pop music fans as well.

The song is designated to help stress the positive aspects of tobacco and the Contributions the crop makes to North Carolina's economy. The "Pride in Tobacco" program seeks to bring together all persons with an interest in tobacco.

GOOD PSYCHOLOGY



TRAVELING LONG DISTANCES BY CAR CAN BE HARD ON THE NERVES OF BOTH DRIVER AND PASSENGERS. THAT'S WHY IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CARRY ALONG A COOLER OF ICEE TEA AND A SNACK AND TO MAKE PERIODIC REST STOPS ALONG THE WAY. IT DOES A LOT TO BREAK UP THE MONOTONY OF A LONG RIDE AND WILL IMPROVE TEMPEES, TOO!

Job Counselor Schedules Visit

Hazel Tayloe, Job Corps counselor, is scheduled to be at the Chowan County Department of Social Services during the morning hours of October 4.

Man Reports For CG Duty

Coast Guard Lt. (junior grade) Paul K. Westcott, whose wife, Lucretia, is the daughter of Fontaine Boutwell, 18 Westover Heights, Edenton, has reported for duty at the 2nd Coast Guard District Office, St. Louis.

A 1974 graduate of Framingham State College, Framingham, Mass., with a bachelor of science degree, he joined the Coast Guard in January, 1975.

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Jewelry Jottings

— by —
R. W. DAVIS

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