

# Matter Of Survival Hospital Seeks Regional Role

A movement is afoot to make Chowan Hospital a true regional facility which, according to its board chairman, is the only guarantee of survival.

The efforts have the backing of Chowan County commissioners who Monday named the first non-resident to the hospital board. He

is Lester Simpson, chairman, Perquimans County commissioners.

Also, it was suggested by Commissioner Lester Copeland that a name change for the facility may be in the immediate future.

J. Gilliam Wood, who is rotating off the board and as chairman,

and Smiley Weatherford, hospital director, reported to commissioners that immediate steps are being taken toward bed expansion and upgrading of equipment.

Wood and Weatherford presented a report on 1978 operations which showed a \$293,976 profit as compared to a loss of \$69,778 in 1977. Also, occupancy was reported to be in excess of 91 per cent.

Wood said the hospital is entering into a phase to take on regional appearance. Commissioner Alton G. Elmore agreed.

The chairman expressed concern about what is happening in the health care field, especially in Eastern North Carolina where there is a threat by Pitt Memorial Hospital to obtain additional beds. He said our area has two medical groups and both are talking about expanding, and this will justify additional beds.

"Edenton and our hospital is on its way to being a regional hospital and it has to come if we are to survive," Wood added.

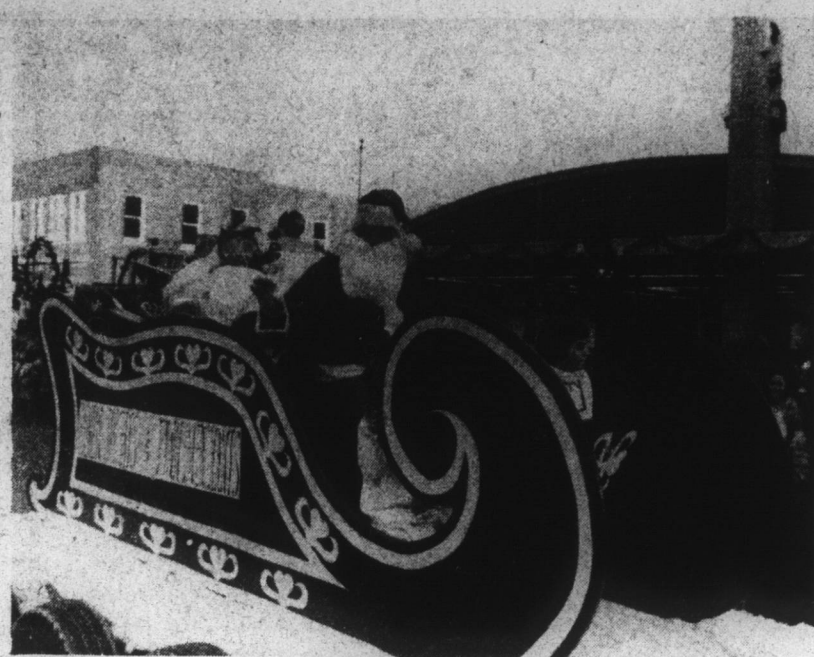
He and Weatherford are meeting today (Thursday) with Roy Selby, director of Eastern Health Systems Agency, to obtain guidance about bed expansion here. Also, a long-range planning study began this week and the out-of-state firm conducting it has been asked to first address the question of expansion.

The chairman commended Weatherford for the "very outstanding job" he has done in the past 15 months. The director responded that it was a total team effort. "We are extremely fortunate to have the people we have in this area to work with," Weatherford added.

The director said there is a definite need for additional hospital beds, but stressed that a determination must be made concerning the role of the hospital, not just beds.

Acknowledging the need for additional equipment, he said it is extremely expensive and the key

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**CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON BEGINS**—The Christmas shopping season in Edenton and Chowan County was ushered in Friday afternoon. And traditionally, Santa Claus made his first official appearance as the last unit in a colorful parade. Among the new entries was the mascot of the John A. Holmes High School Band, pictured at right. He made his first appearance at the Peanut Festival in October and predictions are that he will be around for a long time. (Photos by Allan Asbell).



**PAPER GAME** — "Checkerboard" was the key word at 9:21 A.M. Tuesday as Chowan County participated in the largest civil preparedness exercise since 1968. Murray Ashley seated, CP director here, is shown with Capt. James Brabble of the U.S. Army Reserve at a briefing just after the war games on paper became operational.

## Public Parade

### Another First

Judge Ralph A. Walker of Greensboro is meandering along the Public Parade this week during a criminal term of Chowan County Superior Court. He commented to prospective jurors Tuesday morning that this is one of his favorite places to hold court, yet the historic facility leaves a lot to be desired.

Judge Walker, an avid outdoorsman, stopped short of admitting that Hayes Plantation is one of the favorite spots to bird hunt. We have learned on good authority that the jurist obtained lodging for his dogs before finding a room for himself.

Unfortunately, Asst. Dist. Atty. Keith Teague has kept the court busy well past sundown and it hasn't been fitting weather to hunt anyway.

Judge Walker's trip, however, gained him a first. Wednesday morning a female defendant was tried for willful speed competition. The amiable jurist said it was the first case to his knowledge where women were involved in some sort of speed competition.

"I realize, though, women are doing a lot of things traditionally left up to us men," he quipped.

### Sheriff Thompson

Wallace Leslie Thompson was born in Chowan County 87 years ago. He died in Elizabeth City Friday.

He didn't meander along the Public Parade long before moving to Elizabeth City, where he spent a lifetime seeking solutions rather than adding to problems. He was buried there Sunday afternoon and thus departed a sage of the Isle of Pasquotank.

In 1932 he became a county commissioner in his adopted land, serving for six years. He was appointed sheriff in 1939 and served continuously until his retirement in 1962.

Sheriff Thompson was the widower of Minnie Markham Thompson. He was a devoted husband. The Thompsons had four children, two of which we number in our closest circle of friends.

R.M. (Pete) Thompson returned to his father's birthplace several years ago as county extension chairman. W.F. (Mickey) Thompson remains in Elizabeth City.

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## Planned 'Attack' Checks Readiness

Don't panic. But on the morning of November 17th, a major land war erupted in the heart of Europe, and Tuesday there was an all out nuclear exchange between the United States and the U.S.S.R.

No, this is not a preview of Irwin Allen's next disaster movie, nor is it the result of some psychic's glimpse into a gloomy crystal ball.

The nuclear attack — a mock emergency, of course — is simply the scenario for a civil defense exercise to be conducted by the Region III headquarters of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency (DCPA).

Involving 84 North Carolina counties and seven other states, this is the largest exercise since 1968, both in terms of the number of agencies participating and in the types of activities to be performed.

Murray Ashley, CP director in Chowan County, started Monday to "increasereadiness" in response to communications from headquarters in Raleigh. Heads of government were briefed, the local emergency plan was reviewed and there was a moderate increase in public information.

But when "Checkerboard" was sounded at 9:21 A.M. Tuesday things really began to happen at the CP office in Chowan County

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## Referendum Set

A peanut referendum dealing with continuation of the \$1 per ton assessment for the period 1979-1984 will be held December 14. Balloting will be from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

H.O. West, executive director of the Chowan County ASC, said ballots may be cast at Byrum's Service Center, Earl Smith's Store, M&R Servicer and the ASCS office on East King Street.

All farmers — owners, tenants, and sharecroppers who were engaged in the production of peanuts on a commercial basis during the year 1978 will be eligible to vote in the referendum. Funds derived from the assessment will go to promote all phases of production, marketing and use of peanuts.

The N. C. Peanut Growers Association reports that the value of the crop in this state has increased from \$29.3-million in 1963 to \$66.1-million in 1978.

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Board Of Education Finalizes Plans

Edenton-Chowan of Education took the final legal step towards consolidation with Monday night's resolution to establish a comprehensive high school in Edenton to serve the entire county.

The seven-member board's vote was unanimous on a motion by Mrs. Emily G. Amburn. There was no discussion of the resolution read by Dr. John Dunn, superintendent.

The board has moved steadily towards consolidation of the high schools and general reorganization since merger of the administrative units in Edenton and the county a number of years ago. The latest plan was approved in May, 1978, and a bond referendum called to support construction of a new high school outside Edenton.

When the referendum was soundly defeated, a committee

was formed to make recommendations for consolidation and reorganization within existing facilities. This plan, with a price tag of \$150,000, is to be implemented in the fall of 1979.

Dr. Dunn said after adoption of the resolution that he would begin immediately to establish committees to work toward combining facilities and to form curriculums.

This was in response to questions posed by Gil Burroughs of the Holmes faculty about involvement of faculty in the decision-making process.

Chairman Eugene Jordan opted for an early meeting with Chowan County commissioners to discuss financing of the consolidation plan. "We have been delayed up to this point and we'll request a meeting as soon as possible," he

said. The resolution stated that the local board, in cooperation with the state board, had "in mind

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## New Physician To Serve Area

In a major effort toward alleviating the physician shortage in several counties of Northeastern North Carolina, today the Albemarle Family Health Services and the Northeastern Rural Health Development Association in cooperation with the U.S. Public Health services announce that Dr. George Knowles will be moving to the area in the near future with his family.

Dr. Knowles is a board certified internist with specialty training in pulmonary diseases, diabetes, anemias, and endocrine diseases.

Dr. Clement Lucas and Dr. Richard Hines of the Albemarle

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## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Albemarle Area Development Association will be held December 18 at Angler's Cove Restaurant in Perquimans County, according to Wayne Ashley, president.

Ashley said the event will begin at 6:30 P.M. with a social and a banquet to follow at 7 o'clock.

Rep. Sam Bundy of Farmville will be the guest speaker. Rep. Bundy is a former educator who is widely acclaimed as an after dinner speaker.

Community Development Awards as well as Industrial Awards in the 10-county area will be presented. New officers will be installed.

Tickets for the banquet may be obtained through the Agricultural Extension Offices in the various counties. They are \$7 per ticket.



Dr. George Knowles

## Barringer Fund Goal Set

Edenton United Methodist Church has set a \$10,000 goal for the Kitty Evans Barringer Fund. A special committee, headed by Mrs. Frances Hollowell, is making plans for a Radio-Thon on December 21 over WCDJ to secure the funds.

Mrs. Barringer, a member of the church, was critically injured in an automobile accident on October 1. She is making steady improvement at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville and is expected to be allowed to come home for a few days over the Christmas holidays.

Rev. Richard R. Blankenhorn, pastor of the local church, said a well organized campaign is being waged to assist the family in mounting hospital and doctors bills. The charges now exceed \$20,000.

The Radio-Thon will consume the entire day's activities at WCDJ, according to Terry Jones who

just recently completed a highly successful benefit. It will begin at 6 A.M. and continue until 5 P.M.

Mrs. Hollowell said collection stations are being established at Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, M&R Servicer, Toppin's Self Service, W.E. Smith's Store, Lee's Grocery, A&P, Winn-Dixie, Big Value Drug, P&Q, Bank of North Carolina, and Hollowell & Blount.

Serving on her committee are: L.F. Amburn, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John R. Smith, Sidney Albritton, Mrs. Charlotte Waller, Mrs. C.B. Smith, Jill Stutzman, Susan Downum, Martha Harless and Mrs. Blankenhorn.

The Kitty Evans Barringer Fund was established several weeks ago to accept contributions from throughout the area on behalf of the accident victim. Max S. Busby, Sheriff Troy Toppin and Amburn are trustees of the fund.



**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**—Dr. J.H. Horton, right, and Cecil W. Fry, Sr., were sworn in Monday as members of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. Administering the oaths is Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court. Dr. Horton is beginning his final consecutive term on the board while Fry, a former school administrator, begins his first term.



**COMMISSIONERS TAKE OATHS**—Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court, administered the oath of office to three county commissioners Monday morning. Left to right are: George Jones, J.D. Peele and C.A. Phillips. Peele and Phillips were incumbents starting a new four-year term.

Chowan River Report At Public Meeting

Monday At The Courthouse  
7 P.M.