

Armed Robbery Suspect Is Sought

For Kitty

'Tis the season to be jolly and for giving gifts. Two generous gifts were left in our typewriter Tuesday morning. They were in the form of checks to the Kitty Evans Barringer Fund.

One was from Edward G. Bond, Post 40, American Legion. The other from D.F. Walker, retired principal of the school along the Public Parade which bears his name.

As a trustee of the fund, we have accepted checks and turned them over to Peoples Bank & Trust Company. We mention these two here because they come at a time when Edenton United Methodist Church, in cooperation with this newspaper and WCDJ, are gearing up for a radio-thon for the young accident victim.

The benefit will take place December 21. Beginning at 6 A.M. the radio-thon will be conducted during WCDJ's entire broadcast day, ending at 5 P.M. During this time people from throughout the community will have an opportunity to help the church raise at least \$10,000 to defray mounting medical bills. It comes the day before Mrs. Barringer is allowed to return home from Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville for the Christmas holidays.

We hope there will be a lot of "For Kitty" callers and others who want to donate through other means as a way of saying "Merry Christmas" to a lovely person who met with misfortune on October 1. To show that our heart is in the right place, we have agreed to listen to the radio next Thursday. We're doing it all for Kitty.

Design Not Accident

Chowan County commissioners have a track record of supporting public education along the Public Parade. That record is now in jeopardy. And it is happening by design rather than by accident.

The guardians of our coffers may have become spoiled. They got a free countywide water system and a free courthouse and detention facility, placed on a site they purchased.

These were two priority items, with the schools being next in line. Taxes were increased considerably in order to obtain a block in downtown Edenton for the courthouse detention facility project, only to be healthily reduced this year.

A \$3.9-million school bond referendum was defeated in September and it is apparent everyone, save the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, thought that was behind us. The board is committed to consolidation. An alternate plan approved prior to the bond referendum was reaffirmed last month.

The "best alternate" to new construction was a plan to renovate and purchase mobile classrooms. The cost, including two new buses, is \$150,000. The school board is looking to their guardians for relief.

At Tuesday's joint meeting to discuss the school board's request, a petition in opposition to con-

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SEARCH FOR CLUES — Frank Nixon, center, Edenton store manager and Max Mercer, general manager of the S&R Super Market chain, are pictured here outside the office talking with Capt. C.H. Williams and Patrolman D.E. Jethro (back to camera). An armed robber took an unidentified amount of cash from the store Tuesday night.

A masked gunman Tuesday night robbed S&R Super Market on West Queen Street and shot an assistant manager prior to escaping with an undetermined amount of cash.

Police Chief J.D. Parrish said the robber hid in the store prior to the 10 P.M. closing. The gunman and Paul Blake Stokly, 22, Route 3, Hertford, the assistant manager, scuffled in the store's office before Stokly was taken at gun-point to a rest room where he was shot and locked up with Wayne Chappell, the teen-age bag boy. He was not seriously injured.

Chief Parrish said the Edenton Police Department was notified of the robbery at 10:45 and all available law enforcement in the area responded. Chief Parrish and Capt. C.H. Williams headed the investigation at the site and members of Chowan County

Sheriff's Department and the State Highway Patrol responded.

SBI Agent Ken Insoe of Williamston joined in the investigation Wednesday morning. Chief Parrish said the investigation had thus far turned up little evidence.

This is the chain of events of the crime, as pieced together from police reports:

Stokly was in the office checking up. Chappell was cleaning floors. Chappell went to the area next to the meat market to put up a bucket and mop. The robber was standing in the doorway, wearing gloves, a ski mask and pointing a pistol at Chappell.

The teenager was ordered to get into the rest room. He was asked several times who else was in the store.

The gunman then went to the office where he confronted Stokly. The assistant manager knocked the pistol from the man and they had a scuffle. The gun went off and Stokly was unable to get the gun.

Stokly was told to go to the rest room and enroute was told several times: "I ought to shoot you." When he was put into the rest room with Chappell he was shot. The bullet hit his little finger and went into his right leg.

The gunman then went back to the office and took the undetermined amount of cash from a floor safe which was open. It is believed that he returned to the

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AT CRIME SCENE — Police Chief J.D. Parrish is shown in the blood-stained rest room at S&R Super Market where Blake Stokly, assistant manager, was shot by a robber Tuesday night. Stokly and Wayne Chappell, a teenage bag boy, were locked in the rest room but escaped after the armed robber had left through a side door.

Relief Expected

The howl raised by Vepco electric customers in Eastern North Carolina is expected to result in some rate relief and the utility firm's "lemonade" ads have drawn a parallel of mismanagement.

Furthermore, heated discussion of the rate question and what higher utility rates do or don't do to economic development caused the chairman of Operation Overcharge to declare that a Vepco official "came close to calling our governor a liar."

Richard S. Coiner was discussing in a newsletter Vepco's response to Gov. Jim Hunt's charge that the high utility rates adversely affected economic development in the 22 counties Vepco serves in this state.

Stanley Hege, a member of the

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Hours Extended

Stores in downtown Edenton will stay open until 7 P.M. beginning Friday and continuing until Christmas, according to the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce.

Robert Moore, executive vice president, said the majority of the local stores will be closed December 25 and 26 for the holiday. This is the same schedule being observed by the Town of Edenton, Chowan County and financial institutions in the area.

The decision to extend the hours stores will be open was made Wednesday in order to make it more convenient for the shoppers, it was noted.



Leaders from throughout the Albemarle Area were in attendance at Monday night's public meeting here.

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School Board Awaiting Decision

Chowan County commissioners will make a decision by January 1 on a request from Edenton-Chowan Board of Education for \$150,000 to finance a school consolidation plan. The plan requires renovations to existing buildings, the purchase of 10 mobile classrooms, and two new buses. The plan as approved by the

school board in May, 1978, and reaffirmed following defeat of a \$3.9-million bond referendum, calls for discontinuing the use of Ernest A. Swain Elementary School for school purposes.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, told commissioners at a meeting Tuesday morning that he is of the opinion the school board will

perfect a consolidation plan even if the request for funding is not approved. He said he could recommend an alternate plan which would require placing the ninth grade at a campus other than John A. Holmes. (There will be approximately 224 students in this grade next year.)

Strongest opposition to the board's plan came from Chairman C.A. Phillips and Commissioner J.D. Peele. Phillips is opposed to spending money on temporary measures. Peele "cannot see taxing people for money with the school board sitting on money." This was in reference to \$500,000 in state bond money which Dr. Dunn said can only be spent on new construction.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore said consolidation was in the back of people's minds more than a decade ago when he headed a citizens committee that was successful in obtaining a favorable vote on merger of administrative units in Edenton and the county. He said the commissioners recognized a need with regards to the courthouse project and levied for it. He added: "I believe we have such a need here..." and should "levy for what we have to."

A fourth commissioner, Lester Copeland asked his colleagues to put "selfish motives and personalities aside" and put "our children's needs first." He suggested possible means of obtaining the money, none of which was looked on with sufficient favor to get action.

Dr. Dunn admitted that the board has \$60,000 in operating funds which could be made available for the capital improvement project, but only if the county changed its method of funding the school budget.

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Chowan River Is 'Dead'

The Chowan River is dead and the Albemarle Sound is extremely sick. There was an admission here Monday night that there is no quick cure for the situation as it exists.

Even if the State of North Carolina can prove a discharge, or unusual discharges of nitrogen into the algae-choked river it is doubtful it could be stopped, according to the state's top en-

vironmental engineer, A.F. McRorie of Raleigh.

Some 200 people crowded into Chowan County Courthouse to hear the state's first quarterly report on what has been found through a stepped up monitoring system in the river.

McRorie and his aides said hundreds of pounds of nitrogen is entering the river in the vicinity of the CF Industries plant at Tunis. However, they cannot pinpoint any discharge other than what is allowed by permit.

In fact, a spokesman for the state said the plant is putting back less nitrogen on a daily basis than it is withdrawing from the river. This prompted Charles A. Creighton, president of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce to observe with a tongue-in-cheek comment that CFI appeared to be helping clean up the river.

Studies by state officials indicate that an estimated 1,200 pounds of nitrogen per day is entering the river in the CFI area. As of Monday night they had not determined how it is getting there.

It was stated that the Chowan River has been targeted as top priority by the Division of Environmental Management with more money and time allocated to the project than any other in the

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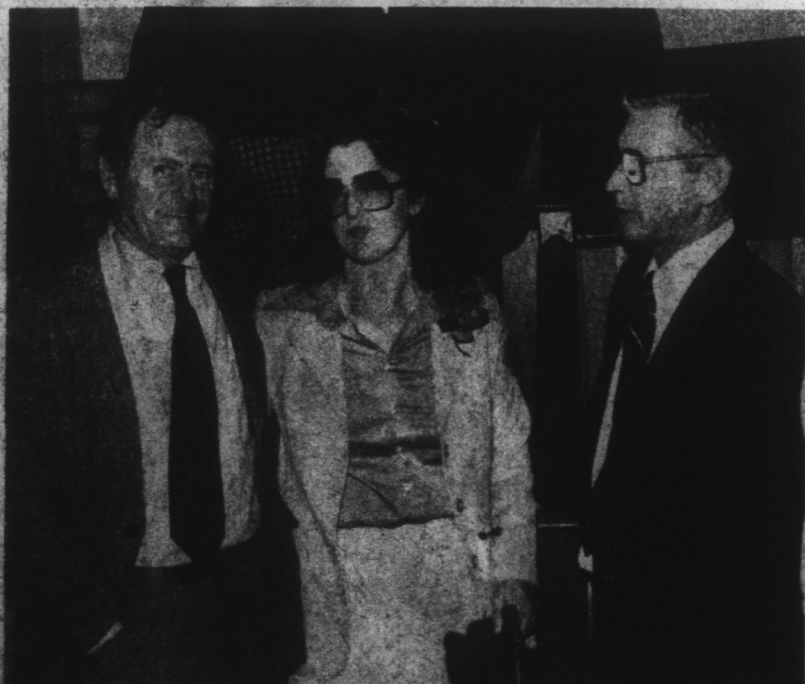
Change Requested

Tarheel Bank & Trust Company has made application to change the location of the approved, but unopened branch in Edenton. Originally the branch was to be located at 1108 North Broad Street but is now proposed at the corner of North Broad and Coke Avenue in Edenton Village Shopping Center.

The bank has approval of the N.C. Banking Commission as well as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to open a branch in Edenton.

On June 30, 1978, the Gatesville-based bank had assets of nearly \$33-million and operated branches in Lewiston, Winton, Murrefreesboro and Ahsoskie.

The branch would give Edenton three banking institutions.



Gilliam Wood

Miss Betsy Warren

A.F. McRorie



Alton G. Elmore

Dr. Gus Witherspoon

W.B. Gardner



A.F. McRorie

Eddie Dick

Pete Whitley

Call 482-2104 Next Thursday, 6 A.M. to 5 P.M. 'For Kitty'