

The Public Parade

To And From

The following letters, one to the editor from Mayor Roy L. Harrell, the other from the editor to Mayor Harrell, address the subject of consolidation of local governments along the Public Parade. This is a subject about which much conversation will be generated in the weeks, months and years ahead.

To

Dear Mr. Amburn:

For some time now I have read in the local paper that you feel that the town and county should consolidate. You have implied that it would mean a savings to the taxpayer, both town and county.

As you are aware a committee has been appointed to look into this matter. As a member of this committee, I would appreciate it very much if you would share with me some of the things that you feel would take place in this change that would lead to a savings.

I would appreciate this information as soon as you find the time.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,
Roy L. Harrell
Mayor

From

Dear Mayor Harrell:

First off, let me say how delighted I am to learn that you read the "local paper". It was doubtful for a time; appearing that you spent your time listening to either "We Shall Overcome" or "How Great Thou Art".

Your assessment of my position on consolidation of town and county government is absolutely correct. I am confident that, over the long haul, it will result in a savings to the taxpayers.

The committee which you appointed at the insistence of Councilman Gil Burroughs, supported by the entire Town Council, is the best vehicle for obtaining information concerning the pros and cons of the one government concept along the Public Parade.

Each year, the town and county have an exhaustive financial audit. This audit is performed by Timberlake & Sykes, a local CPA firm in which we have great confidence.

Within the past year, Chowan County commissioners have had a furnishings audit to determine what will be required to occupy the new facility on Broad Street.

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Farmers Calling For Rainfall

Farmers in Chowan County and throughout most of Northeastern North Carolina need some of the rain which fell in May and June, according to Pete Thompson, county extension chairman.

"We haven't had enough rain to make our corn," he said Monday. The roots are on top of the ground due to the wet conditions during planting and the corn needs "a good soaking rain" every day or two.

Thompson pointed out that corn prices are favorable, all "we need to do is make some corn."

Farmers in Chowan County are pulling cantelopes this week, he noted. Thompson predicted a below normal yield in both cantelopes and watermelons.

Peanuts are small, according to Thompson, much smaller than normal for this time of the season. "We have got to do a good job of keeping diseases off and also hope for a late fall," he added.

A lot of the soybeans in this area were planted late. Therefore, the crop now needs a "good root soaker" to get them going good.

Tobacco harvest has begun while there will be a considerable amount to be harvested late because of conditions at planting. "The tobacco looks light, but generally it is pretty good," he said.

Coastal Waters Stocked With Striped Bass

Some 296,000 small striped bass (rock fish) were placed in Pamlico River, Albemarle Sound and Neuse River last week, according to Connell Purvis, director of the N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Edenton National Fish Hatchery had an excess and checked with Marine Fisheries and the Wildlife Commission for possible stocking sites.

The fish were stocked in coastal waters because fish of the same size (one inch) would be found there this time of year.

Albemarle Sound received 100,000, Pamlico River received 103,000 and Neuse River received 93,000.

Survivors should reach harvestable size in 12-14 months, Purvis said.

Fishermen have caught a lot of yearly striped bass (12-13 inches) in the Pamlico River this summer. Purvis said it has been several years since high numbers of yearlings were taken there. He said it is an indication of good spawning success last year.

There is a minimum-size limit of 12 inches for striped bass.

Scientists Warn Of River Algae Bloom

A significant build-up of algae in the Chowan River from Holiday Island to channel marker three below the Chowan River Bridge is leading scientists to believe that another massive bloom may be imminent.

The slow moving river currents coupled with warm temperatures and the presence of high nutrient levels and algae spores has made the likelihood of another bloom very strong.

At the same time, other coastal waters including Pamlico Sound, Chocowiny Creek and the Neuse River are reportedly being effected by algae blooms.

Dr. Robert Holman of the

Division of Environmental Management stated that factors contributing to the problem include municipal and industrial waste discharges, forestry and agricultural run-off, and possibly septic tank seepage.

Dr. Holman added he suspects nutrients are building up in the sediments of the river bed and are being recycled back in to the water. Documentation of discharge sources, and studies to determine the threshold levels of nutrients are continuing.

Harold Johnson of the Elizabeth City office, Division of Marine Fisheries, reported a program is now underway to determine the

effects, if any, of the algae on fish eggs and larvae. Deterioration of water quality in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound has already reduced the adult fish population, but this can be expected to improve as the causes of the algae problem are dealt with.

Red sores on fish are an indirect result of the algae problem. Johnson explained warm water temperatures and algae growth reduce the water's ability to retain oxygen. This results in a stress condition that lowers the ability of fish to fight bacterial infection.

Dr. Holman affirmed that the blue-green algae could pose a problem to human health as well. The algae excretes a toxin as a defense mechanism to maintain its dominance. Humans exposed to a sufficient concentration of the toxin could experience skin and mucous membrane irritation or

could become ill from swallowing the water. He added, however, that unless the algae is thick enough to form patches, it should be safe for swimmers using some measure of common sense.

Around the first of August a biologist and research specialist will join Dr. Holman here. Due to budget restrictions, however, specimen analyses will continue to be handled by a Raleigh laboratory.

A test conducted by Dr. Holman on June 26 demonstrated that the situation is compounded by the flow of the river itself. A dye was dropped into the river at a point just south of the state line. In observing its movement, he found the river reverses flow at some points, meaning the river cannot flush out nutrient discharges fast enough to prevent algae growth.

Hospital Facing Possible Investigation By HEW

Chowan Hospital faces a possible investigation by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare following a complaint which questions the lack of minority representation on the board of trustees.

Jesse L. Harrell, hospital board chairman, said Monday the institution has received a letter from HEW advising them of the complaint but he is not sure whether or not an investigation will take place.

A HEW spokesman has acknowledged that a complaint has been filed and a determination is to be made as to the department's authority to conduct any

type investigation.

At the present time there is one minority member of the board. She is Mrs. Daisy Bemby who was appointed recently to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Mary Horton.

Harrell pointed out also that the most now has representation from Perquimans County. Lester Simpson, former Perquimans County Board of Commissioners chairman, is the first person from outside of Chowan County to serve on the board.

Harrell said an attempt has been made to find out the origin of the complaint but efforts along this line have not been successful.



UGLY SIGHT — Edenton Bay was an ugly sight over the weekend, and a new bulkhead around the site of Queen Anne Park won't do much to improve the picture. Extensive algae blooms in the water have caused fish to die, foreclosed, and made area waters unfit for recreational use. And from all reports, the ugly sight is going to linger on for some time to come.

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PARK EXPANSION — Fuel storage tanks at the old J. H. Conger & Son plant on Dock Street are being removed to make way for additional development of the waterfront on Edenton Bay. Plans call for a portion of the site, purchased by the Town of Edenton, to be used for the expansion of Colonial Park. The inset shows an abandoned gasoline pump at the site which went out of service when the product was 27.9 cents per gallon. Remember?

Two Named To BNC Posts

HOBBSVILLE — The Bank of North Carolina, N.A., has named Walter H. Harlow as agricultural consultant for Gates, Perquimans and Chowan counties, according to John Kabas, senior vice president.

At the same time, James W. Ball, Jr., of Edenton, was named assistant vice president and executive of the Hobbsville Branch.

In his new capacity, Harlow will be working with the BNC branches in the three-county area with respect to the development of agricultural-related business.

Harlow joined the Bank of North Carolina in 1972 as a result of the merger of the Bank of Hobbsville and has served as executive of the Hobbsville office since that time. He had been with the predecessor bank since 1961.

Harlow is married to the former Ada Shaw and they have one son and two daughters. He has been active in civic affairs in the Gates County area, serving on the Gates County Planning Board, Sunbury Investment Club, and Gates County Natural Resources

Commission.

A native of Elizabeth City, Ball

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Bloodmobile Sets Visit Monday

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the American Legion Building from 12-noon until 6 P.M. Monday. Bill Smith, county volunteer chairman for Edenton Jaycees, has set a quota of 125 units.

Smith said this will be the first visit of the new fiscal year and he encourages donors to meet the quota. There will be five visits during the fiscal with additional dates set on October 1, December 10, February 25, and May 12.

The chairman said he would like to thank the people for their support over the past few years. He said his co-chairman, Blake Harmon, donors and volunteers have contributed to the success of the blood program in Chowan County.

Bloodmobile Visit Monday - 12 Noon Until 6 P. M. - American Legion Building
Quota: 125 Units