

Public Parade

Where's Edenton?

Recently the City of Rockingham joined a very select list of towns and cities across the nation and Tar Heelia in gaining "All-America City" designation.

Rockingham was the only city in North Carolina and, indeed, the only one in the South to receive the honor for 1979-80. Nine cities were chosen nationwide.

North Carolina has the most "All-American City" designations than any state in the U.S. The list reads like Who's Who in Tar Heel Cities and Towns, with one noticeable absence. It is Edenton.

In the past three decades, 17 towns and cities in this state have been selected for the All-America honor; three of them on two separate occasions.

One of the factors which was singled out in the Rockingham selection was citizen involvement in local governmental affairs. There have been unsuccessful efforts of this along the Public Parade. Another try needs to be made.

None of the Tar Heel recipients have been as small in population as Edenton. This should be an impetus rather than a liability. Strong points here include beautification of the waterfront, recreation, etc.

Those willing to promote Edenton as an "All-American City" need to get busy.

Who's Next?

First it was little Camden. Now it is big Pasquotank. Who's next in the current saga of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission?

The 10-county Albemarle Area is where regionalism in North Carolina began. Will it be the first to end? Emphatically not!

The organizational structure mandated by the federal Economic Development Administration make it almost impossible for the multi-county agency to operate at all, much less efficiently. To further add to the problems is the continuing chant of a new layer of government; another bureaucracy to try to keep a handle on.

Both of these constraints need not render ARPDC inefficient, ineffective, or useless. There are 16 other multi-county regional organizations in this state and each one has probably its own formula for coping with sticky problems, any one of which could spell disaster. They apparently have found solutions for problems before they became disastrous.

The problems experienced by ARPDC now, as well as in the past, cannot be blamed on a lack of leadership. A good case may be made for poor judgment and bad management in the administration. However, the same is not true regarding board members from throughout the Albemarle.

Bob Whitley, executive director, acted like a magician in bringing the Lead Regional Organization out of financial chaos. It has become evident that he doesn't have the same touch in personnel management and public relations with member governments.

The quality of leadership in the Albemarle Area is exceptional. The current ARPDC chairman, Don Bryan of Nags Head, is an example. Mayor Bryan is an experienced leader who is both innovative and creative. The board is composed of people of equal talent. Nevertheless, if they have mandatory constraints which prohibit them from exercising their ability it's all for naught.

A few years ago when employee's pay was stopped because of the financial crisis, no one failed to show up for work. This is not the current problem. The reverse could happen—there may be only a few people to pay.

This newspaper has always stood solidly behind the regionalism concept. This is still the case. The needs of the Albemarle are much greater than any person or group of people. Unfortunately, there are no winners in a situation like ARPDC is now.

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Public Hearing Is Scheduled

A public hearing has been set for 9 A.M. June 16 on the budget for 1980-81 which is a mere \$11,254 more than actual figures for the current year. The hearing will be held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the County Office Building.

Commissioners Monday morning accepted the budget as presented by the Finance Committee. It totals \$4,200,450 and requires a 5-cent tax increase per \$100 valuation to \$1.02. The county experience a \$2.3-million increase in the tax base and the county experienced a reduction of approximately \$60,000 in fund balances.

The fire district levy will continue to be three cents per \$100 valuation.

With a total valuation of \$145,081,000, the plan is to levy on \$13,783,000, meaning that every penny added to the tax rate will produce \$13,783 in revenue.

While the county started out with a budget totaling \$3,295,555 on July 1, 1979, amendments have amounted to \$893,641, as of May 15, for a total of \$4,189,196. This includes capital projects such as the Water Department.

The county, according to Manager Cliff Copeland, said the budget is projected on a 4.3 increase in revenue. "The Finance Committee came down pretty hard on everyone because it felt that the economy will not stand a higher tax rate," he added.

Commissioner George Jones, a member of the Finance Com-

mittee along with J. D. Peele, commented: "We have cut budget requests but not to the point that no one can't live with it."

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education had requested \$907,681 for current expenses and \$110,447 for capital outlay. The committee approved \$776,342, or 10.7 per cent increase in current expenses. For capital outlay the request was decreased by \$20,000, and the committee agreed to fund \$64,585, a 44.6 per cent increase. Copeland said the school board has \$30,000 to put into capital items, including four new buses needed for reorganization in September.

Peele said the lack of growth in the county in the past year has hurt. "It made it necessary to put

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FACE LIFT — Local painters are giving the historic Cupola House fresh coats of paint for a new appearance. Work began this week to paint the landmark its original color, beige. The project is the result of work by restoration specialists with the Division of Archives and History.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. XLVI-No. 23

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, June 5, 1980

Single Copies 20 Cents.

Named To Policy Council

John A. Mitchener, III, 1000 West Queen Street, has been elected to the State Legislative Policy Council. He will represent the 21-county First Congressional District.



John A. Mitchener, III

The Collection Department of the Town of Edenton today (Thursday) opens in the space which formerly housed the Police Department in the Municipal Building.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said the collection of utility bills as well as taxes will be in the new quarters. The office will be open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday.

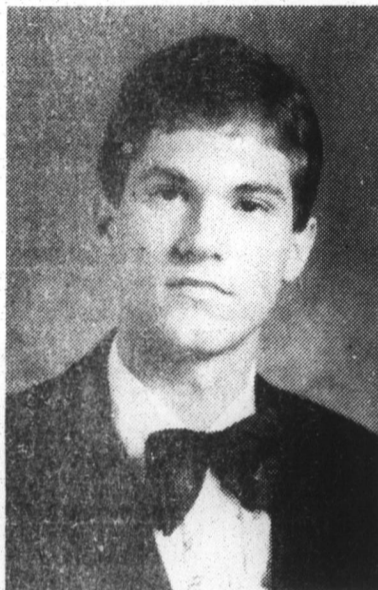
Entrance to the Collection Department is on Water Street.

N. J. George, chairman, Chowan County Democratic Executive Committee, promoted Mitchener for the position during a caucus of party chairmen at the District Convention held Saturday in Washington.

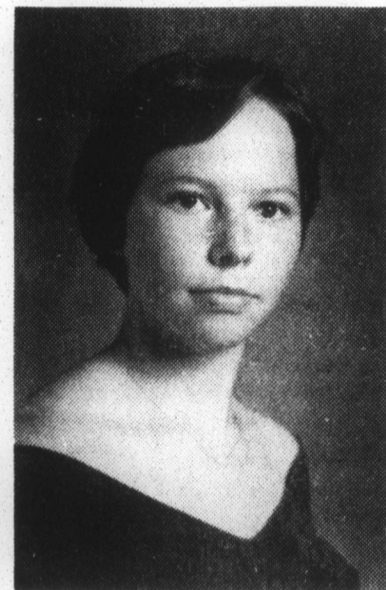
George said the Chowan Delegation was solid behind Rep. Charles D. Evans of Dare County for a slot as a Carter delegate to the National Democratic Convention. Other district delegates included: Joseph M. Parker of Ahoskie, who was also elected convention chairman; and Betty S. Meggs of Elizabeth City. Carter alternates are: O. Darryl Smith of Washington County; Doris L. Thompson of Emerald Isle and Everline Mitchell of Dover.

The Kennedy delegate is J. Edward Leathers of Williamston. Rep. Walter B. Jones appointed Parker, a Hertford County newspaper publisher, as temporary chairman and he was later elected to the permanent post. He succeeds the late Larmer Midgett of Elizabeth City who held the post since appointed by the late Rep. Herbert Bonner.

In addition to George and Mitchener, local delegates to the district gathering included: Dr. J. H. Horton, Rev. J. L. Fenner, Mrs. Helen Hollowell, Mrs. Ruth Frinks, Mrs. Novella P. Wilson, Mrs. Lueta Sellers, Wilbur Pierce, A. C. Hudson, Mrs. Elizabeth Byrd and Felix Chambers.



Chris Harmon, Valedictorian
Holmes High School



Amy Lane, Salutatorian
Holmes High School



Valerie Winslow, Valedictorian
Chowan High School



Darlene Saunders, Salutatorian
Chowan High School

Cupola House Gets Face Lift

Edentonians can look forward to a change in scenery as the Cupola House, the town's oldest landmark and certainly among its most distinguished, is painted a new and different color. As a result of several weeks of meticulous paint research performed this spring by restoration specialists from the Division of Archives and History, the Cupola House exterior will soon be beige.

According to restorationist Al Honeycutt, the color, which was quite popular in England during the 18th century, was developed to resemble the color of Portland stone. By removing pieces of clapboard from the west side of the house, and by examining the original gable finial (which was stored for years in the Barker House attic), it was determined that the tan color indeed represented the earliest coat of paint that was ever put on the house. Both exterior walls and trim work will be painted beige. The shutters will remain a shade of green. Honeycutt reported that there were not, in fact, many coats of paint on the Cupola House.

The new painting will be financed by a grant to the Cupola House Association, made possible in 1978, through the Division of Archives and History.

Board Requests Joint Meeting

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will hold a joint meeting, next week, with the Chowan County commissioners concerning the \$840,727 total county appropriation to the school system for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

During the school board's regular meeting Monday night, Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, said they face budget cuts of \$147,401 as a result of approval of that figure.

The appropriation represents an increase of \$87,007 above the 1979-80 allocation of \$753,720. Less \$65,000 for four new school buses, the school system will be operating on a total of \$22,007 in new funds for both current expense and capital outlay, he said. Dr. Dunn pointed out that sum will be more than depleted by salary adjustments alone.

Board members expressed concern over the appropriation, saying it was their understanding the \$65,000 for buses was to have been in addition to the regular budget request.

Commencements Set

Diplomas and Certificates signifying completion of high school careers will be presented in separate ceremonies to two-hundred and seven Chowan County students at John A. Holmes High School and Chowan High School on June 8 and 9.

Combined Baccalaureate and Graduation exercises for the Holmes Class of 1980 will begin at 4 P.M. Sunday June 8 on Hicks Field in Edenton. Dr. John B. Dunn, schools superintendent, will award the exit documents to Holmes' one-hundred and fifty two students. He will share the platform with Greg Todd, principal of Holmes High. James Pressley, director of instruction for Edenton-Chowan Schools, will be guest speaker.

Chris Harmon, Valedictorian and Amy Lane, Salutatorian will have the honors of addressing their fellow classmates during the graduation ceremony.

Special music will be provided by the Concert Choir and the John A. Holmes High School Band under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Strother.

Commencement exercises for Chowan High School's Class of 1980 will begin with the Baccalaureate Service on June 8 at 8 P.M. in the school's auditorium. Addressing Chowan's final graduating class will be Rev. George Cooke, pastor of Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church. Mrs. Shirley Perry and Winston Dail, teachers, along with Principal

John Guard will also appear in the program.

Chowan High School's formal graduation exercise will be held Monday, June 9 at 8 P.M. in the school's auditorium. Assisted by Mrs. Marvis Hendrix, retired Chowan teacher, Dr. John Dunn, school superintendent will present diplomas and certificates to the fifty-five students crossing this stage for the last time.

Speaking honors during the ceremony will be shared by Valerie Winslow, Valedictorian; Darlene Saunders, Salutatorian; Gail Felton, Outstanding Graduate; Arnold Sanford, Senior

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Improvements Suggested

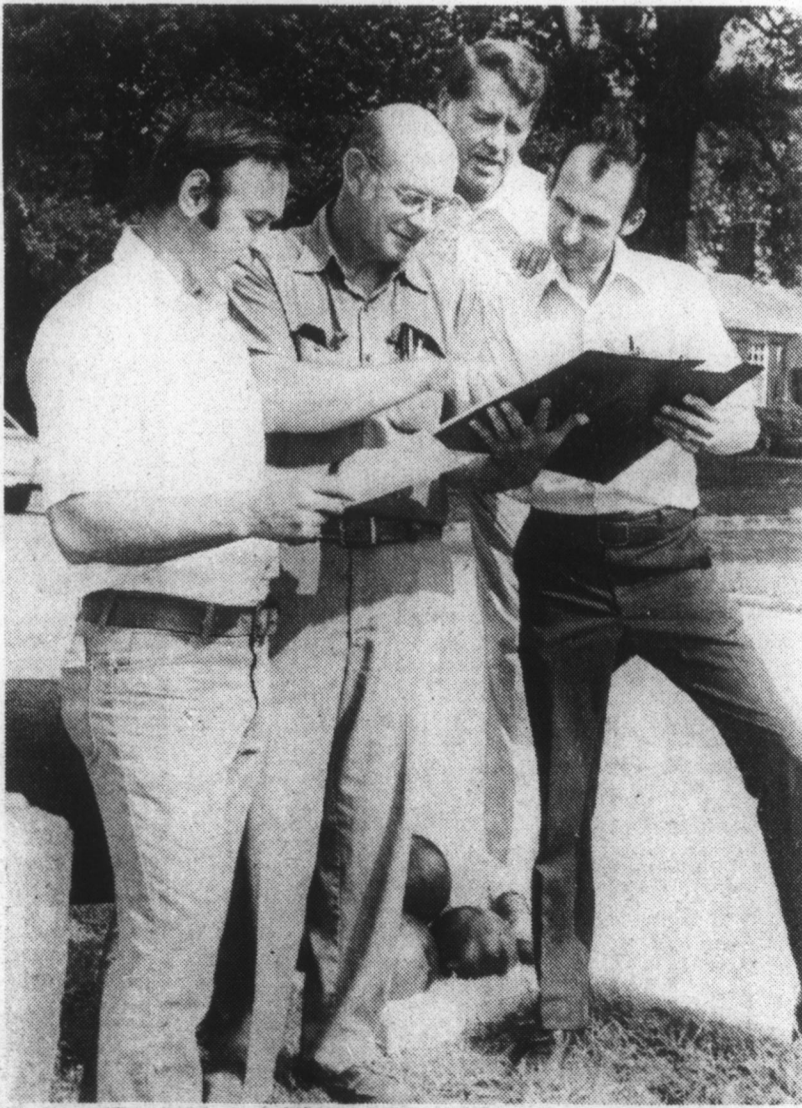
County Manager Cliff Copeland had a solemn five-point message for the board of commissioners Monday when he presented the Finance Committee's budget recommendation.

Copeland, who has been in the administrative post here for the past year, exercised his "prerogative" in mentioning areas in which the county needs improvement and made comments on the general direction of the county. The list was as follows:

1. The County is now operating on dangerously low reserves. Available General Fund - fund balance as of June 30, 1979, was placed at \$10,392. General Fund - fund balance available for appropriation as of June 30, 1980, will probably total similar amounts. Such limited fund balances restrain cash flow, inhibit investments and provide little cushion if the County were to experience a major funding need. Efforts must be taken within the next two or three years to increase our General Fund - fund balance to approximately \$300,000 to \$400,000.

2. The County must continue to improve on its internal management controls. While the financial accounting system recently implemented by the County has undoubtedly enhanced our financial accounting efforts, we must also work to improve our contract compliance procedures, budget amendment process and records storage.

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OPTIMISTS PLAN FOR FOURTH — The biggest fireworks display on the coast of North Carolina has been planned by the newly formed Optimist Club for this Fourth of July. A full day of games and activities will be included in the celebration. Richard Dixon, left, president-elect and chairman of the Fourth of July project, is shown with Optimist directors Ted Wright, Jim Aylesworth and Bruce Creekmore as they make plans for the event. Both WCDJ and WBXB have scheduled radiothons this Saturday to help the club raise funds for the project.

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