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hang around for the 261-item fireworks display, highlight of which will be a giant American Flag presentation.

It is unusual for a "proposed" community service organization to come on like gang busters. The future Optimists have all the appearance of paying their dues in advance. And their efforts will be something for all to enjoy.

#### Guest Editorial

For nearly the past week, the main topic of conversation around the county has been the Chowan River, boaters and the abandoned train trestle near Tunis.

The talk has been spurred by, but not limited to the sudden and tragic death Sunday afternoon of Billie Jo Rose, the 17 year old girl from Union who died in a boating accident near the trestle.

Some of the talk has even centered around accessing blame for the accident... and some of that is, we suppose, inevitable. Blame, if there is any, will officially be accessed by law enforcement officers after their investigation is completed. All other talk, at this point, is just that.

But three points stand clear: the need for and obedience of "rules of the river", much like the rules of the road with which we are all familiar; common courtesy on the river, much as it applies to other facets of our lives; and what to do, if anything, with the trestle.

The N.C. Wildlife Commission and international marine authorities, do have established guidelines for boating safety. The guidelines are worldwide in scope and apply on all bodies of water.

But like the conventional rules of the road, they have no meaning and no application unless boat skippers — whether of a six foot dingy or a 1,300 foot oil tanker — know the rules and apply them each time they are on the water.

Boats must be registered and licensed, but not boat operators. Why not? Why shouldn't individuals who want to operate a boat be required to take a skipper's exam with the difficulty of the exam directly proportional to the size of the craft the individual wants to operate?

During the past week we've heard much talk about high speed power boats almost literally flying up and down the river with apparently little or no regard for the life and property of others.

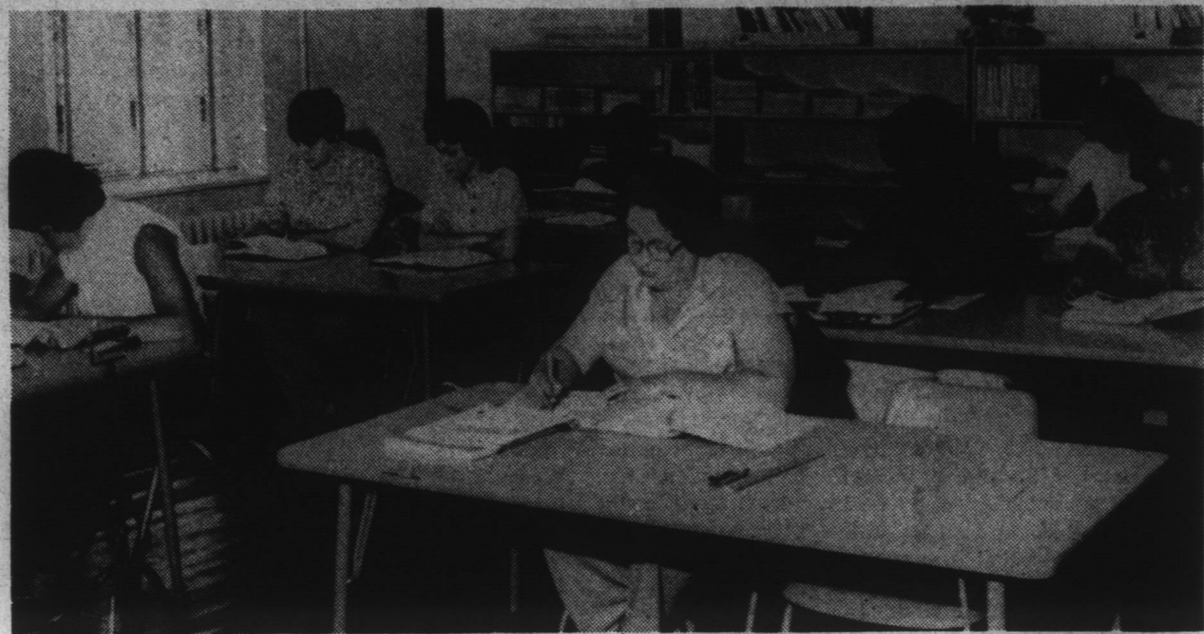
Perhaps a section of one side of the river should be devoted to power boat enthusiasts and appropriately marked with bouys so all boaters would know when they are approaching that area.

Courtesy on behalf of one boater for another boater, whether it be a pleasure boater, a fisherman, skier or racer, should be upper most on everyone's mind when on the river.

The Golden Rule applies on water as much as it does on land.

But what about the trestle? We've heard it cussed and discussed, but we can't believe it was any more the cause of the wreck than the apple tree was the cause of the problems in the Garden of Eden. A contributing factor, yes. The sole cause, no.

If the laws of river traffic are known and obeyed, and if boat operators are courteous and kind, then there would be no problem



SUMMER STUDY — Students find concentration easy in the bright, pleasant surroundings of COA's Individualized Instruction Center at the Ernest A. Swain Elementary School. (COA photo)

## Thirty-Three Enrolled In Summer Program

While school is out for most Chowan County students, the local Individualized Instruction Center operated by College of the Albemarle at the Ernest A. Swain Elementary School, continues with "business as usual" during the summer months.

That's the way it's meant to be, according to Mary Partin, IIC coordinator. "Because every student here studies by choice, not

because they are required to," she said. The adult students have no regularly scheduled classes, she explained, but visit the IIC at times most suitable for them, and study at their own rate of speed.

There are 33 students who are working toward completion of requirements for either the General Educational Development (GED) high school equivalency certificate or an Adult High School diploma at the local division of COA's Learning Resources Center. There is no time restriction for finishing either program.

Mrs. Partin said the individual student determines by his or her own ability and the amount of time he or she can devote to study, how soon the work for a certificate or diploma will be finished. "For some, it may be just a matter of one or two months," she said. "Others may take a year or longer."

## Food Service

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc. will sponsor a Summer Food Service Program for the youth of Chowan County, reported Mrs. Fannie M. Bonner, county coordinator. The program will provide a nutritious hot lunch and recreational activities for 300 youth between the ages of 3 and 18.

The site for the program will be Ernest A. Swain Elementary School where it will operate from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M., daily, from June 23 until July 31 except on July 4. Applications may be obtained at the Chowan County EIC office at Edenton Municipal Airport.

Mrs. Bonner said EIC will not discriminate against any child on the basis of race, color, handicap or national origin.

with this trestle, or any other for that matter.

But since it is there, what about it? The railroad line between Nunery, Va. and Tunis was officially abandoned January 11 of this year by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, over the objections of some, but not enough area residents.

The trestle is no longer used and perhaps it should be removed, we don't know, but it ought to be considered. As long as it presents a barrier to river traffic, it should be well marked with caution signs on bouys and with lights for those boats on the river after dark. It would seem as though that is the responsibility of its owners, whether they are using it or not.

There is more at stake here than the death of Billie Jo Rose, tragic and useless though it be. There are hundreds — perhaps thousands of Billie Jo's on the Chowan and Roanoke rivers during the summer months. They are young, they are old. They are men, they are women. They are swimmers, they are non-swimmers. But no matter what combination of things they, might be, each one is part of us. And every user of the river should right now, commit himself to taking care of his Billie Jo.

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Ahoskie, N.C.

## Corn Is Effected

Due to the drought, some corn is getting in very bad condition. If the drought continues, some corn is approaching a point where rain will not help it, according to H.O. West, executive director, Chowan County ASCS.

Farmers that signed up at the ASCS Office to participate in the 1980 feed grain program, may be eligible for disaster payments.

"If your corn has failed to the extent that you are going to destroy it and plant another crop, you must report it to the ASCS office before the crop is destroyed," he said. "We will then send someone out to appraise it for disaster payments. If you decide you are going to leave the corn and harvest what is there, you will still qualify for a disaster payment if the yield is down 40 per cent below the established yield for your farm. You were notified of your yield April 7."

"If you decide to destroy now or have a 40 per cent cut in your yield this fall, contact us immediately."

## Tour Facility

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Lewis commented that the jail is both an attractive and a secure facility and is unique in its architectural beauty. He commented, too, that with the 1968 enactment of minimum standards laws, it is probably the sheriff's greatest liability. Lewis said the Sheriff's Department must maintain a commitment to professionalism in operating it. Sheriff Toppin said one of the benefits of housing prisoners locally will be increased patrolling by deputies that had previously spent a lot of time making transfers from Chowan County to Albemarle District Jail in Elizabeth City. The sheriff pointed out that during the last Superior Court session, 19 trips were made between the two locales.

Commissioner Elmore told the Ruritans the courthouse-jail project nearly met with disaster when historic interests delayed application for \$1.8-million in grant funds to within days of the deadline. He said the architect was forced to relocate the jail at the last minute because of the discovery of a tannery on the project site.

The commissioner said total cost of the project was \$2,490,000 and that it has been paid in full.

longer."

This summer, the IIC is open five days each week, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. For those who work during the day, or have other commitments, the facility is open two nights each week, on Monday and Wednesday, from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.

Mrs. Partin explained that the IIC not only provides opportunities for adults to complete their studies for high school graduation, but it also offers self-study courses for college preparation as well as in many other areas of interest. "Persons who have been, or hope to be accepted in a college-level program may enroll to strengthen weaknesses in their high school backgrounds," she said.

## Nitrogen

Continued from Page 1  
estimated at \$3.4-million in capital costs with up to \$1-million in operation and maintenance cost.

At a 7 P.M. public hearing on renewal of CFI's existing permit, it appeared that the company and state had agreed on terms. The permit would however, be available for amendment at a later date.

Dr. Bob Holman of Edenton, scientist-in-charge of the Chowan River Restoration Plan, said the algae problem is a lot further along now than last year at the same time. "And it will probably get worse," he predicted.

Capt. Howard said the problem appears to be some two months ahead of the past year.

Dr. Neil Grigg, assistant secretary, State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development and director, State Division of Environmental Management, reported that an "audit team" of outstanding environmental scientist will be in North Carolina in July. Dr. Grigg said he hoped the outcome would include suggestions of whether the state need to require CFI to do certain other things.

He said the Sirrine report will be helpful in the future. "We got a lot of mileage of out money," he added. He expressed hopes that sufficient evidence about the cause of the algae blooms in the Chowan can be obtained to obtain fuller cooperation from Virginia in cleanup efforts.

Capt. Howard said the next meeting of the task force will be held in Raleigh to receive te report of the audit team being arranged by the federal environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, Ga., and Philadelphia, Pa.

## Cooperative Is Formed

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and Lindsay Ray Bunch round out the board of directors.

Interested growers first met January 23 to discuss means of establishing a gin in this area. Farmers Cooperative Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, did the feasibility study. Roy Shaw of N.C. Rural Fund for Development assisted in preparing the FmHA application.

The gin is expected to be in operation by October 1. The cooperative will employ seven people during the four-month operation the first season.

## Says Biologist: River's Death Imminent

WINSTON-SALEM — A Wake Forest University biologist says the Albemarle Sound's effective usefulness for industry, towns and commercial and sports fishing will be ended by the year 2,000 unless current pollution of the sound is curbed.

Dr. Gerald W. Esch recently completed a three-year study of the sound and said that discharges from industries, towns and farms enter and accumulate in the rivers that empty into the sound.

The result, he said, is that the "useful life expectancy of the sound is being reduced daily." The sound is 52 miles long, from five to 15 miles wide and plays an important role in the state's economy.

Esch said the problem can be solved when "there is extensive cooperation between officials of towns and industries and farmers. Also, the State of Virginia will have to help because the Chowan River begins in Virginia and receives substantial pollution there."

The Chowan is one of eight rivers emptying into the sound. Esch and Dr. Terry Hazen, a biologist at the University of Puerto Rico, examined water in the sound as part of their recently-completed research on red-sore disease in fish. The disease is a serious and increasingly widespread problem in the Southeast. During the last 10 years it has affected game and commercial fish throughout the area.

The University of North Carolina Water Resources Research Institute made a \$76,000 grant for the study.

Esch and Hazen, who was doing post-doctoral work at Wake Forest during the time, found high levels of nutrients which cause algae blooms and low levels of oxygen in the water. The nutrients also contribute to conditions associated with outbreaks of red-sore disease. Esch said that in 87 per cent of water samples made at 31 testing stations in the sound shown the phosphorus content to be too high.

"Unless action is taken soon to

control nutrient inputs to the sound and its tributaries," Esch said, "we will have more red-sore disease, more blue-green algae blooms, more terrible odors, less efficient and more costly commercial fishing and even worse sports fishing."

An outbreak of the disease in the sound in 1976 killed approximately 95 per cent of the white perch population. And 50 per cent of the commercial catch of all fish species had to be discarded because of the unsightly red sores.

Red-sore disease produces purulent lesions in fish, frequently followed by death, according to Esch.

"The scales erode. They actually fall off, and the tissues underneath erode," he said. "Ultimately, unless the fish recovers, the bacterial organisms are picked up in the bloodstream and damage the kidneys and liver."

The disease does not discriminate with respect to fish, Esch said. "It will attack virtually anything, with some exceptions." An outbreak in Florida was even reported to have killed several species of reptiles, including snakes, turtles and alligators.

The study was aimed at determining what water quality characteristics lead to outbreaks of red-sore disease. Esch and Hazen found that a number of factors are related to the disease, the most apparent being high levels of phosphate and total phosphorous. These nutrients promote the disease in two ways. High levels of nutrients help promote high densities of the bacterium which is the major cause of red-sore disease. They also promote conditions that cause stress, or a lowered body condition, in fish, making them susceptible to the disease.

Copies of the research report are available free to residents of North Carolina (\$8 out-of-state) from the Water Resources Research Institute, 124 Riddick, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 27650.

## Spruill Does Not Plan To Resign

Town Councilman Harry Spruill said this week he does not plan to resign although he is temporarily residing outside the Fourth Ward. The question arose when the councilman lived outside the town limits for a brief period of time.

"I was elected by voters in a town-wide election and not just the people of the Fourth Ward," the councilman said.

Councilman Spruill resided at

821 Cabarrus Street in the Fourth Ward at the time of his election to a four-year term in 1977. He now lives at 22 Hawthorne Road in the Third Ward.

Four councilmen are now elected by voters in their respective wards. Prior to the 1979 election there was a ward residency requirement but councilmen were voted on by all eligible voters in Edenton.

## Fourth Of July Schedule

- 10:00 A.M. - SAILBOAT RACE — Sponsored by the Queen Anne Sailing Club (headquarters at Edenton Marina) race in bay on prescribed course.
- 12:00 N - BAKE SALE — Barker House Visitor Center-Museum, by Edenton Historical Commission.
- 12:15 P.M. - 4th OF JULY PARADE — Sponsored by the Edenton Jaycees. Start at new park, go up Broad Street and end at Holmes High School.
- 1:00 P.M. - HORSESHOE PITCHING CONTEST — Beside Municipal Building in park.
- II - GREASY POLE CLIMB — Behind Municipal Building in kiddie park. Sponsored by the VFW of Edenton.
- 8:00 P.M. - CAR SMASH — Sponsored by the Masonic Lodge in Lodge front lawn.
- DUNKING MACHINE — Sponsored by the Edenton Jaycees in new park.
- BINGO — On the Courthouse green up near the Courthouse.
- FRISBEE TOSSING CONTEST — On Colonial Street.
- TUG OF WAR — In five people teams, at the new park.
- BOAT RIDES — Sponsored by Fiberform. Tour begins at the pier behind Municipal Bldg. Goes to Marina and back (20 min. ride)
- 2:00 P.M. - PENNY HUNT — To be held in third & fourth sections of Courthouse green. 5,000 pennies. (Ages 2-6), (Ages 7-12).
- 3:00 P.M. - SKI SHOW — Sponsored by the Pembroke Ski Club at Pembroke Creek. Hour and half of trick and show type ski skills.
- 4:30 P.M. - WATERMELON EATING CONTEST — At the new park.
- 6:00 P.M. - BICYCLE RACES — In front of John A. Holmes High School, 20"-24" & 26"; 3 & 10 speed.
- 7:00 P.M. - AEROBATICS DEMONSTRATION — Bi-plane doing gravity and death-defying stunts over the Edenton Bay. (Pending pilot availability & weather permitting)
- 7:30 P.M. - SACK RACES — Three legged and full sack, on Courthouse green.
- 8:00 P.M. - STREET DANCES — Two bands at two different locations and sponsored by the Edenton Jaycees.
- 9:45 P.M. - A Special Patriotic Ceremony preceded by the Drawing of the Winner of the \$100 Bill.
- 10:00 P.M. - A Two Thousand Dollar Fireworks Display from a barge near the first market in Edenton Bay.
- 10:45 P.M. - Days Events will end with a Giant American Flag (Fireworks) sponsored by Edward G. Bond Post 49, American Legion.

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