

# County Population Up 14 Per Cent

Preliminary census figures for Chowan County show a population increase of 14 per cent in the past 10 years. The Town of Edenton showed a less dramatic 3.7 per cent increase.

County Manager Cliff Copeland released the figures, saying he is confident they are "in the ball park" and while there may be room for some contention Chowan County apparently received a more complete census of population than neighboring counties and towns.

The figures place Chowan County's population at 12,271, up from 10,764 in 1970. This is a dramatic rebound from previous declines in population.

Edenton's population is 5,138, according to the preliminary count, up from 4,956 10 years ago. W.B. Gardner, town administrator, expressed disappointment in the figures, saying they are in conflict with an independent census conducted less than two years ago to establish boundaries for ward voting.

Second Township, which includes Arrowhead and Chowan beaches and Center Hill, showed a 35.2 per cent increase. Population in this township is now 2,487, up from 1,840 established in 1970.

In all areas, population per household was down a great deal. In 1970 it was set at 3.38; this year it is 2.84 countywide. One observer noted that

had the number of people per housing unit remained the same the county's population would be near 16,000.

First Township, including Edenton, has a population of 7,595; Third Township, 1,284, just six more than 10 years ago; and Fourth Township, 905.

N.J. George, chairman, Chowan County Democratic Executive Committee, said Mrs. Snooky Bond, census coordinator, deserves a lot of praise for the diligent manner in which the census was carried out.

"I believe our precinct chairman provided the leadership to get the job done," George said. He paid special tribute to the Black Caucus and Civic League for contributions in the overall effort.

The census figures showed there are 5,164 housing units in Chowan County, a 42.9 per cent increase over 1970. Of this number, 2,022 of them are in Edenton. The figures show also that 6.8 per cent of the units in Edenton are vacant while the countywide vacancy rate is 16.4 per cent.

"If there is any real argument about the census figures it will be with the vacancy rate in housing units," one knowledgeable source said. "In a community where rental units are so hard to find it is difficult to understand how the enumerators arrived at such a high vacancy rate."



Pete Thompson C.B. Smith Dr. Vance Hamilton

## Business Banquet Is Planned

Plans are being made for a Business Appreciation Banquet, sponsored by the 10-county

Albemarle Area Development Association. C.B. Smith of Seabrook Blanching Corp., in Edenton, is chairman of the AADA Industrial Committee which is making arrangements for what is hoped will become an annual event.

The banquet will be held in October. However, selection of businesses to be recognized will be completed by August 22. The date of the banquet will be announced as soon as commitment is received from the keynote speaker; expected to be a popular public figure who has shown considerable interest in North-eastern North Carolina.

Smith told a planning committee group recently that the purpose is to have programs which will get more people involved in AADA. "We need to get people more enthused about AADA and broaden the base of interest and participation," he said.

Plans are being made for up to 400 people at the banquet where one business from each of the 10 counties - Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Continued on Page 4



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## Public Parade

### Lester T. Copeland

Chowan County commissioners were meeting in regular session on February 4. The meeting was being held in the Fourth Floor conference of the County Office Building.

It was business as usual. That is until 11:55 o'clock. Commissioner Lester T. Copeland excused himself. He went across the hall to the Board of Elections and filed for a second four-year term from the Third Township. Without a word, he returned to the meeting with his colleagues.

Yes, it was always business as usual with Lester Copeland. It was that way Monday. He was busy at his turkey farm on Route 1, Tyner, he was late for lunch, and his wife found him dead beside a truck he had just helped load.

With the truck loaded, he sent his workers to lunch. And as was his nature, he stayed behind to do the little tasks; to make sure everything was secure.

Lester Copeland literally worked himself to death! And at the age of 54 he lived a full life but there was so, so much remaining on his agenda. Though as Mr. Copeland would have had it, he died the way he lived - busy.

It is however, poetic that the Master Planner acted on the eve of more than 30 days of political rhetoric by Democrats and Republicans. Rhetoric of any nature irritated Mr. Copeland. He chose to cut straight to the core of Continued on Page 4



**INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION** — Tilmon Keel, center, vice president of Jimbo's Jumbos, discusses a major expansion project with officials of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. At right is Les Fagan, chairman of the Industrial Committee. Jerry Hendee, left, is the new chamber executive vice president. This is the second major expansion at the local peanut processing plant in less than a year.

## Jimbo's Jumbos Sets Industrial Expansion

In less than 10 months after a \$1-million expansion, Jimbo's Jumbos, Inc., on Peanut Drive, has begun work on another project. Construction of a 12,000-square-foot refrigerated storage building is underway.

J. Tilmon Keel, vice president, said the new facility will provide refrigerated storage for 5-million

pounds of peanuts. It represents a capital investment of \$250,000 for construction and some \$2-million in inventory.

Keel estimates that four or five additional employees will be needed to operate the palletized facility.

The facility will give Jimbo's Jumbos in plant capacity for peanuts needed in the processing plant during the summer months. At the present time the company uses commercial storage facilities, primarily in Suffolk, Va.

In late September, 1979, the local peanut processing plant put in operation a \$1-million facility which Keel said at the time could result in \$50-million in product sales annually. The additional processing capacity alone is 30-million pounds per year.

Keel repeated that the firm has the customer base to reach full plant production capacity in less than five years.

Keel and Harry Gard, president, have seen the plant increase production facilities to a 250,000 pound daily product capacity.

Officials at Jimbo's Jumbos envision that another 5-million cold storage facility will be needed in the not too distant future. They

## Tarheel Bank Assets Increase

**GATESVILLE** — A dramatic \$6-million increase in assets on June 30 was reported by Tarheel Bank & Trust Company, according to Robert E. Lee, executive vice president, cashier and trust officer. The major physical expansion of Tarheel during the year was the opening of a branch in Edenton Village Shopping Center.

Tarheel assets at the reporting period were \$42,306,403.14, up from \$35,369,027.55 at the same time in Continued on Page 4

## Stalls Completes Career Center Two Year Study

Kenneth L. Stalls has completed two years of a successful feasibility study for the Tri-County Career Education Center and will return to his post as supervisor of Vocational Education in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties.

At the same time, Eugene Rascoe will return to the Vocational Education program at John A. Holmes High School with a challenge from one member of Edenton-Chowan Board of Education to develop a strong student club.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, explained that the Tri-County Steering Committee is extremely pleased with the study directed by Stalls. Funding has now been reduced to \$25,000 and it was felt it would not be wise to continue employing a director during the upcoming period of seeking funding for construction and equipment.

Stalls will continue to work with the committee and the Tri-County office will remain open at Perquimans County Schools in Hertford.

Cecil W. Fry pointed out that Holmes has never had a strong vocational education club. "This helps the student a great deal; it builds confidence in public speaking, etc.," he said. Continued on Page 4

## Fire Damages Bank Building

A downtown Edenton landmark, the Bank of North Carolina, N.A. Building, was heavily damaged by fire and smoke early Thursday morning. The first was contained to the board room, while extensive smoke damage was experienced in the main floor banking area. Some smoke damage was on the second floor of the three-story building.

Fire Chief Luther C. Parks said

the fire apparently originated in a sofa in the board room, which was set up for an early Thursday meeting.

Firemen were called at 4:40 A.M. after a policeman on patrol and Alvin Hollowell simultaneously reported the fire. Chief Parks said it was attacked through a window on West Eden Street.

Continued on Page 4

## Boll Weevil Effort Successful

By L.F. Amburn, Jr.  
(Second in a Series)

An unusual, brightly inverted colored cup on a five foot tall pole situated along field and roadsides in North Carolina this summer has raised considerable curiosity among travelers and residents



DECORATE ROADSIDE

according to state agriculture officials.

The odd looking contraption is a boll weevil trap and is a part of the cooperative undertaking by the state and federal governments and individual cotton growers to eliminate the destructive cotton pest.

In Chowan County the traps are still very much in evidence but those looking for boll weevils in them have become disappointed. The boll weevil eradication program has been so successful here some scouts and trap attendants haven't seen a weevil in nearly three years.

"Some of them wouldn't recognize one (boll weevil) if they saw it," joked Pete Thompson, county agricultural extension chairman.

"We've had quite a few calls from travelers just wanting to know what those things are," said N.C. Department of Agriculture's Pest Administrator Howard Singletary, "they are kind of strange looking."

The trap which is made from about 45 cents worth of materials, consists of a plastic cup, some screen, a small plastic box, a cigarette filter and yellow paint.

The cup is turned upside down and painted a shocking char-treuse, a highly visible color that is especially appealing to boll Continued on Page 4



Lester T. Copeland

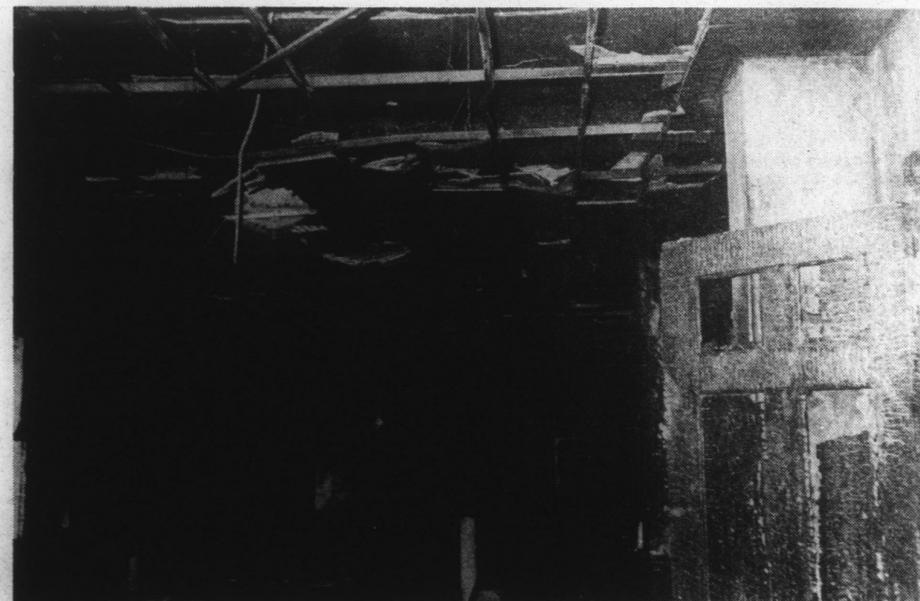
## Mr. Copeland, 54

Lester Taylor Copeland, Route 1, Tyner, died suddenly at his home Monday afternoon. He was 54.

Mr. Copeland, owner of Copeland & Sons Turkey Farms and other farming interests, was completing a four-year term on the Chowan County Board of Commissioners. He was unopposed for a second term, representing the Third Township on the five-member board.

He was a charter member of Ryland Ruritan Club and active in Ballards Bridge Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. He was also active in other community, county, regional and state un-

Continued on Page 4



**FIRE CONTAINED** — This photo by Flynn Surratt of The Chowan Herald staff shows the remains of the board room of Bank of North Carolina, N.A., in downtown Edenton which was heavily damaged by an early Thursday morning fire. Edenton Fire Department officials theorized that the fire started in a sofa in the room and the main portion of the bank was heavily damaged by smoke.