

# Emphasis On Cotton Program Draws Support

By L. F. AMBURN, JR.  
(Fourth in a Series)

Edenton Cotton Mills is Chowan County's oldest industry and continues to set the pace of a healthy business climate in Northeastern North Carolina. Therefore, it is a matter of course that corporate officials enthusiastically support renewed emphasis on cotton as a major field crop in the Albemarle Area. C. A. Phillips, president, points out that Edenton Cotton Mills will be unable to purchase raw

materials directly from the gin but has reason to believe his company will be seeing an increased amount of locally grown cotton in its product mix.

Edenton Cotton Mills furnishes yarn to the knitting trade.

Phillips, who also is chairman of Chowan County commissioners, said recently he sees nothing but good signs for cotton as the costs of synthetics soar. Furthermore, he said the quality of Carolina cotton has increased as the result

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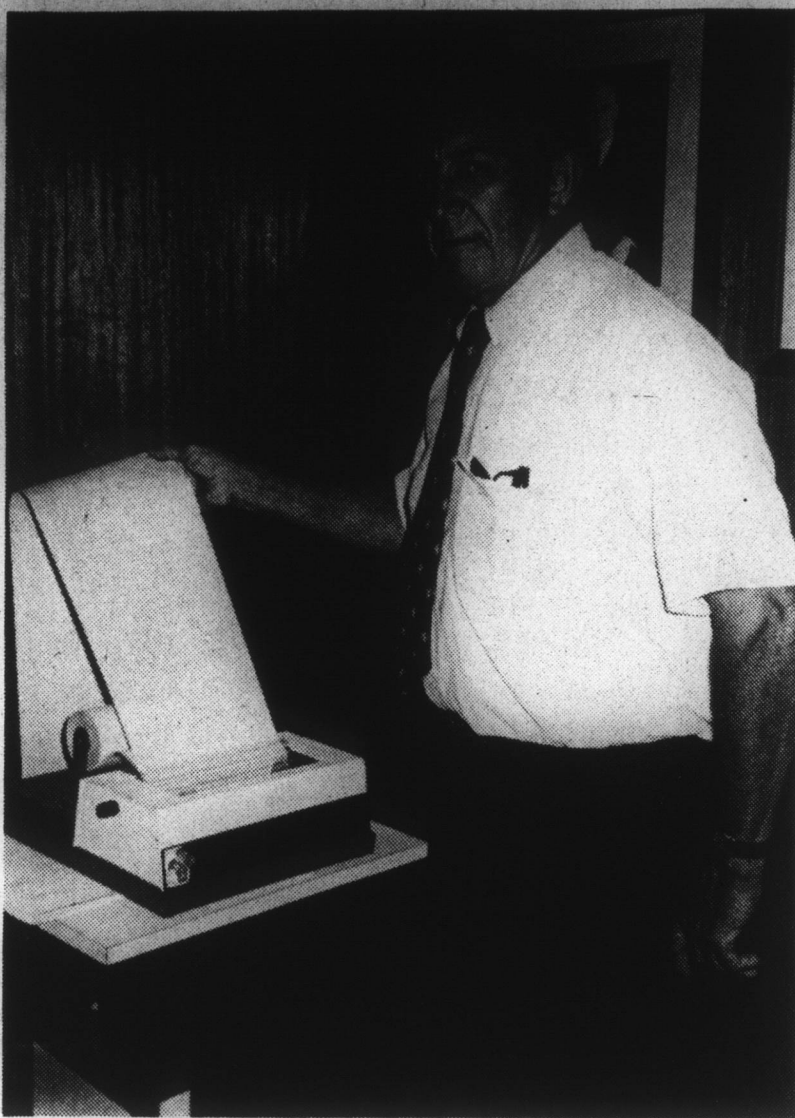
## Cotton Breeding Line Is Developed

A cotton breeding line has been developed at North Carolina State University that could contribute to the development of commercial varieties with resistance to some of the major insect pests of the crop. The breeding stock, known as F2-BR-1, was developed by Dr. Joshua A. Lee, a U. S. Department of Agriculture scientist stationed at NC State and a member of the university's Department of Crop Science research faculty.

The breeding line contains a high level of condensed tannins in leaves and growing points. The scientist explained that these tannins are distasteful and toxic to various insect pests, such as spider mites, aphids and boll worms.

F2-BR-1 isn't suitable as a commercial variety but can be used by plant breeders in the development of insect resistance in new commercial varieties.

The cotton stems from a cross of a commercial upland variety - of the type grown in North Carolina and the South - by a primitive "houseyard" cotton of India. This "semi-wild" cotton is the source of the high tannin level in the breeding line developed by Lee.



SUPPORTS COTTON PROGRAM—C. A. Phillips, president of Edenton Cotton Mills, is shown here checking the latest raw material price delivered to his office via a tucker. Phillips, who is also chairman of Chowan County commissioners, is a strong supporter of agriculture, especially the expanding cotton program.

# Hospital Seeks Additional Beds

Chowan Hospital, Inc., backed by a resolution of support from Chowan County commissioners, filed a petition Monday seeking to add 15 acute beds for Region "R" in the State Medical Facilities Plan. Earlier the hospital filed application for a Certificate of Need for a 10-bed expansion.

Petitioning the Division of Facility Services for the amendment of the area bed need allocation is the first step outlined in the new plan for such action, according to David L. Henson, hospital director.

The recently revised plan shows an excess of five beds in the 10-county Albemarle Area. Henson said with this documented excess of beds the hospital's application for additional medical-surgical beds would likely be disapproved at the state review level.

"This might provide Chowan Hospital its only recourse insofar as being in a position of eliminating this obstacle to having its application approved," Henson explained to county commissioners Monday morning. He went on to explain that even if the petition to amend the plan is successful, the hospital will still have its application reviewed by the Health Systems Agency (of which Henson is a member) and by the State Health Coordinating Council.

C. A. Phillips, county board chairman and hospital advocate, said hospital officials have done a study which shows the need is here for additional facilities. "Dr. (C. Clement) Lucas has a large staff that has contributed greatly to the improved census at the hospital," he added.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore proposed that proper people move ahead, going to court if necessary, to get "the needed facilities for our people."

Henson said the hospital had maintained a phenomenal 92 per cent occupancy since October.

## Excellence Award Is Earned

Gov. Jim Hunt has announced that Edenton in Chowan County is a winner of the Governor's Community of Excellence Award for the second straight year.

The award will be presented to those communities under 15,000 persons which meet requirements designed by the N. C. Department of Commerce to make them more competitive in recruiting industry.

Mrs. Peggy Anne Vaughan again coordinated the presentation for Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce.

Nearly 120 communities have applied for the award.

"This award doesn't guarantee that a new industry will locate within a community. But, we know from experience that meeting the requirements to win the award will give a community an edge when recruiting industry," Gov. Hunt said.

He added, "It will be more difficult to recruit an industry to an area that can't meet the requirements of the awards program."

Communities were judged on the following standards:

An economic promotion organization must exist for the purpose of promoting the com-

munity for industrial plant location.

A development corporation must exist. The corporation must have the ability to finance the construction of industrial buildings that can be leased or sold to industrial clients, and that can option purchase and sell property.

## W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr. Buried On Monday

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon for W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., prominent local attorney and former state legislator, who died early Sunday after a long cancer illness. He was 48 and resided at 107 Blount Street.

The services were held in St. Paul's Episcopal Church with Rev. Raymond Storie officiating. Burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery with Williford-Barham Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

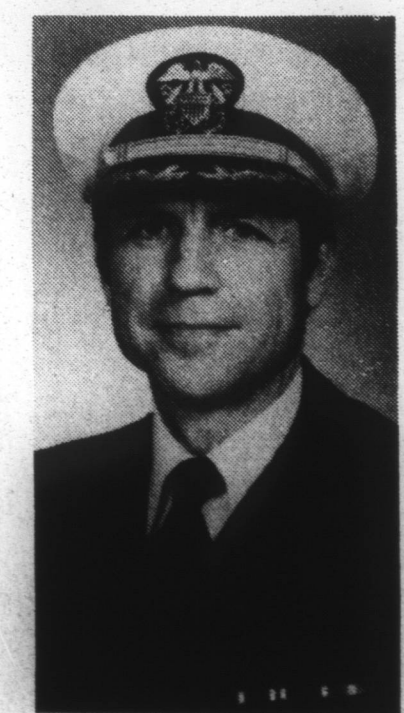
Pallbearers were: Max S. Busby, T. B. H. Wood, William B. Gardner, Walter B. Jones, Jr., Dr. Allen L. Hornthal, J. Gilliam Wood, Bernard P. Burroughs and Clay B. Foreman.

A native of Pasquotank County, Mr. Earnhardt was born August 27, 1931, son of Wiley Jacob Propst and Carrie Miller Earnhardt. He was married to Mrs. Judy Horne Earnhardt.

In addition to his parents and wife, surviving are two children: Mark Wiley and Clare Thompson Earnhardt. Mr. Earnhardt graduated from Duke University in 1953. He served in the U. S. Navy from 1953 to 1956 and received his law degree from Duke University in 1960. He retired from the U. S. Reserve in August of 1979 with the rank of captain.

He represented Chowan County in the 1965 session of the N. C. General Assembly; was a former member of the Board of Governors of the N. C. Bar Association; member and past president of Edenton Rotary Club and served on the vestry at St. Paul's.

Mr. Earnhardt was attorney for the Town of Edenton at the time of his death.



W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr.

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## Public Parade

### W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr.

One of life's certainties—death—has recorded another victim along the Public Parade. Jim Earnhardt was called early Sunday to practice before the Great Tribunal.

Jim lost a battle with cancer at the age of 48. It was a touch-and-go contest until about 4 A.M. Sunday when the Supreme Jurist called a forceful citizen in this community to his Heavenly rewards.

The death of Jim Earnhardt further reduces the cadre of attorneys along the Public Parade. He became the third in his profession here to succumb to death since January, 1979.

Even at a midpoint in life, Jim experienced and accomplished so much. And along the way he gave more weight to contributing than receiving plaudits for his community performances.

His superior command of situations, his foresight and his professionalism made him immediately suspect in some quarters. His mannerisms bordered on conceit but beneath the facade was a tender heart as big as the whole world. Selfishness was not a virtue.

Jim Earnhardt laughed easily; with you but not at you. By precept and example he was always in full command.

During his tenure along the Public Parade he moved from an Eagle Scout to a Navy captain; from a country lawyer to a state

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## Board Taps Reserve For Bus

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education voted Monday night to dip into a \$25,000 unappropriated reserve account for \$2,000 to pay the local share of a 25-passenger bus for Alternative School and handicapped students. Some \$15,000 in state and federal funds

### Mrs. Griffin Dies

Mrs. Margaret Belle Walters Griffin, 107 North Granville Street, died Sunday in Norfolk General Hospital.

Mrs. Griffin, a former school teacher, was active in Edenton United Methodist Church, Edenton Tea Party Chapter, DAR, Edenton BPW Club and Delta Kappa Gamma. She was the wife of Lloyd E. Griffin.

A native of Perquimans County, she was born February 17, 1894, daughter of the late Thomas B. and Margaret Stokes Walters.

In addition to her husband, surviving is a son, Dr. Lloyd E. Griffin, Jr., of Elizabeth City; two daughters, Mrs. Margaret G. Evans of Rocky Mount; and Mrs. Mary G. Douglass of Raleigh; and 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 11 A.M. Tuesday in Edenton United Methodist Church with Rev. Richard Blankenhorn and Dr. John Allen officiating. Burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were: A. B. Harless, Jr., West W. Byrum, Jr., W. Herbert Hollowell, Jr., George Alma Byrum, J. Clarence Leary, Jr. and Joseph Thorud.

are available for the purpose.

At the same time, board members delayed at least for 30 days a decision on closing down the welding shop at Chowan Junior High School.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, said if the mini-bus is purchased it would allow the system to add night transportation for students to the Alternative School, as well as transport three handicapped students during the day. The unit would be equipped with a wide door for wheelchairs and a power lift.

He said Law Enforcement Assistance Administration money is available for the purchase, as are funds from contract transportation sources for the handicapped. He said the bus would be

available for the opening of school September 2.

Mrs. Clara Boswell, Alternative School principal, said last year the school had 28 day students from the rural area and eight night students. She projected an increase in high school students if transportation is available over a 30-mile route.

Dr. Dunn said once the bus is acquired it would be maintained and operated by the state in the same manner as existing school buses.

The motion, which passed 3-1, Continued on Page 4

## EPA Responds

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is giving "careful attention" to recommendations to the Chowan Regional Task Force concerning pulp and paper regulations. Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District released a letter from EPA, acknowledging his interest in the matter as well as task force recommendations.

Susanne L. Wellford, acting director, EPA Office of Legislation, told Rep. Jones the agency appreciates expressed concern about difficulties created by the fact that the Chown River is located in two different EPA regions.

Capt. Alfred Howard of Arrowhead, task force chairman, said he is encouraged by the support Rep. Jones and Sen. Jesse Helms have given recommendations recently submitted.

Rep. Jones wrote August 1: "Be assured of my deep and continuing interest in this matter, and as soon as there is a further report, I will again be in touch with you."

## Vandals Strike

Vandals struck the new Queen Anne Park on Water Street late Monday with five recently planted bushes being stolen.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish said it was reported shortly before midnight Monday that a car with a white man, woman and child inside stopped at the park. They were seen pulling up the bushes and placing them in the trunk of the car.



NOMINEE CERTIFIED — Mrs. Anne H. Bunch, right, has been certified with Chowan County Board of Elections as Democratic nominee for county commissioner from Third Township. She will appear on the ballot in the place of the late Lester Copeland. Shown with her is Mrs. Harriet Sawyer, elections director.

## No Action On Nominee

Chowan County Democratic Party Executive Committee's recommendation of Mrs. Anne H. Bunch to fill the unexpired term of the late Lester Copeland failed to get action Monday by county commissioners.

Chairman C. A. Phillips explained that the board has 60 days in which to act on the recommendation, adding that the board will make a decision prior to the September 14 deadline.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore, who also serves on the Democratic Executive Committee, pushed for a decision Monday. He backed off after a round of discussion in which Commissioner George

Jones called for a two-week deadline and Commissioner J. D. Peele said the opposition he had received from Mrs. Bunch's nomination rendered him unprepared to vote.

"I am ready to make a motion but it sounds like I wouldn't get a second anyway," Elmore said.

Elmore said it seemed highly unusual for the commissioners to consider a name other than that recommended by the party's Executive Committee. He questioned the reason for a delay.

Peele reported that "a lot of people in that end of the county (Third Township) are opposed" to Mrs. Bunch.



CHAIRMEN DISCUSS MEMORANDUM — R. M. (Pete) Thompson, left, county extension chairman, and C. A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County commissioners, discuss the Memorandum of Understanding between the county and Agricultural Extension Service. The local board approved the memorandum at a meeting Monday.