



Public Parade

Good Judgement

H. W. (Pete) Whitley of Murfreesboro, chairman of the State Environmental Management Commission, has removed himself as hearing officer of the proposed administrative hearing on the problems with the Chowan River in general and CF Industries in particular. In doing so, Mr. Whitley showed good judgment—something he has lacked in the past.

When the EMC staff requested the hearing on August 14, Mr. Whitley started running his mouth before he engaged his brain. He berated Dr. Neil Grigg, division director and assistant secretary of the N. C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. And while he called such a hearing a "nuisance" he vowed not only to chair the panel but to personally name two other members to serve with him.

Mr. Whitley's actions are reprehensible. However, his recent blow could almost be predicted because of his past record of a sometime lone ally of CF Industries. In fact, at a meeting along the Public Parade last Wednesday the suggestion of possible conflict of interest was raised. Mr. Whitley denied it in a later interview.

There is now a faint hope that Mr. Whitley can be rehabilitated. In the decision to not chair the administrative hearing, he showed good judgment. This was repeated when he named Dr. James Wallace of Chapel Hill, EMC vice chairman, to the position. The other panel members are P. Greer Johnson and Rep. Roger Bone.

At the insistence of Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., the Chowan Restoration Task Force was formed as a grass roots link to DNRCM. Capt. Al Howard of Arrowhead Beach is task force chairman and is doing an outstanding job in this position. Without close monitoring, not only of the conditions of the Chowan River but what the politicians are doing, there can be no hope for restoring the river to the pre-1972 condition. The Task Force is doing this.

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Statements Draw Fire From Task Force

The Chowan Regional Task Force has taken issue over statements by Environmental Management Commission chairman H. W. "Pete" Whitley of Murfreesboro concerning CF Industries role in pollution of the Chowan River and has called for Whitley not to preside over a formal hearing on the matter. The Task Force met last Wednesday at the Municipal Building in Edenton.

Members of the Task Force reviewed minutes of the August 14 meeting of the Environmental Management Commission during which Whitley stated the river is in better shape than it has been in five or six years. Whitley is credited to have said "I can't see where kicking a dead horse is going to do any good."

Task Force members instructed their chairman, A. M. Howard of Arrowhead Beach, to inform

Whitley of their "deep concern" over his statements about the Division of Environmental Management's staff efforts to clean up and reduce the contaminated runoff from the CF plant property.

He was also instructed to inform Whitley that since he has reached a determination relative to the need for a special order to clean up the CF property, the Task Force questions that validity of such a

hearing being chaired by an individual who has publicly stated his position.

"If he is unable to rise above selfish and local interests in matters concerning a larger area, he should resign as chairman of the Environmental Management Commission" said J. Gilliam Wood, a Task Force member.

Whitley, a Hertford County resident and owner of Tuscarora Beach, located upstream of the CF Industries site, was cited as having defeated the plants clean up. It was noted that CF Industries provides about 12 per cent of Hertford County's tax base.

Discussion was also heard over Whitley's expressed concern that discharge standards established by the Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification for the Meherrin River, which feeds into the

Chowan River, would prevent locating an aluminum plant in Murfreesboro. According to the EMC minutes, he questioned why Murfreesboro and North Carolina should be denied the revenue from operation of the plant when it could locate over the state line in Virginia and obtain a site with no problem, thereby discharging more into the river.

The Task Force expressed its dismay that Whitley's concern for water quality is preceded by his concern for possible loss of revenue for Hertford County and the state.

The group went on record as giving its complete support to work by the DEM to restore water quality in the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound.

A tentative date of October 10 is
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Permit Variance Is Denied

Two members of the Chowan Regional Task Force believe their presence and comments during a meeting of the Environmental Management Commission last Thursday in Raleigh may have been the only thing to save the pollution plagued Chowan River from further harm by an aluminum processing firm from Massachusetts seeking to locate in Murfreesboro on the Meherrin River. That body of water feeds directly into the Chowan.

A. M. Howard, chairman of the Task Force, and another member W. E. Smith, attended the day-long session. Howard spoke against a request for a special order that would have allowed Murfreesboro's waste treatment plant to exceed its capacity in order to receive effluent from the proposed aluminum processing plant.

The Task Force chairman said in an interview this week, the Division of Environmental

Management told the EMC that the present waste treatment plant would allow the discharge of 2,000 parts per million of phosphorus into the Meherrin River. When a new waste treatment facility for Murfreesboro is completed and in operation, the proposed industry would still discharge 417 parts per million as compared to one per million recommended for nutrient sensitive waters.

Jim Mulligan, director of the DEM Washington office, recommended the variance be denied based on facts concerning the proposed industry and its impact on the waste treatment plant and the receiving waters.

But in three prior instances during the day, variances in discharge permits were allowed over the opposing opinions of the Division of Environmental Management.

"If the Task Force hadn't been there, based on EMC's previous actions, the permit variance would have been allowed", Howard stated. "In each case, the commission overrode the staff recommendations and in each case, it amounted to the granting

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Stalls Earns Army Promotion



Lt. Col. Kenneth L. Stalls

Kenneth L. Stalls, 21 Queen Anne Place, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the N. C. Army National Guard and has been assigned as assistant commandant of the North Carolina Military Academy at Fort Bragg. The announcement

was made this week.

Prior to his new assignment, Col. Stalls served as executive officer of the First Battalion, 119th Infantry in Ahsokie with the rank of major. Before that he served as commanding officer of Company C, First Battalion, 119th Infantry in Elizabeth City after having served as intelligence officer of the 30th Infantry Brigade in Clinton.

Col. Stalls military career began in 1953 where he was on active duty in the U. S. Army until honorably discharged in 1956.

Col. Stalls authored a military staff study titled "The Threat Force-Potential Adversary Concept."

He is director of vocational education in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties, a post he returned to after a leave of absence during which he served as director of the Tri-County Career Center feasibility study.

Stalls is a former principal of John A. Holmes High School and Chowan High School.

Historical Commission Sets Funds Drive

A month-long fund raising campaign by the Edenton Historical Commission will begin Monday and will continue through October 23, reported J. Gilliam Wood, EHC chairman, and Bill Norvell, operations chairman. They explained the campaign is being held in an effort to defray increased costs, raise the level of

promotional efforts and increase the visitation rate.

Norvell reported that business solicitations, which were not conducted last year, will be headed up by Mrs. Cathy Busby, drive chairman for Friends of Historic Edenton. Mrs. Maxine Bullard will chair individual solicitations. The Historical Commission campaign is held in conjunction with the Cupola House and Iredell House associations.

While tourism increased this year, additional funds are still needed for distributing promotional materials in new areas and to cover the cost of 50,000 brochures as well as another brochure for the Biennial Pilgrimage, next year. In addition, there has been a marked

increase in the inventory of the gift shop operated by Historic Edenton.

"We don't have the support of various foundations to fund historic interests," Wood commented. "It is up to the business community."

"Our historic sites bring more visitors than any other single thing in Edenton," he continued.

Part of the extended effort at promoting tourism here is the Tea Party Celebration slated for October 25. Businesses contributing to the commission effort will be listed in the Tea Party booklet as supporters of Historic Edenton.

There will be increased emphasis on seeking bus touring groups, Norvell stated.

1980 Chowan County Fair Will Open Next Monday

One of the most exciting fairs ever opens September 22 at the American Legion fairgrounds on U.S. 17 South business. A variety of entertainment, exhibits and arts and crafts displays will mark the 1980 edition of the Edward G. Bond Post 40 sponsored affair, scheduled to run for six days.

Country singer Melissa Lewis will headline the week's entertainment with two shows nightly, Thursday and Friday at 8 P.M. and 9:30 P.M. Those attending will also be able to enjoy music of the Rocky Hock Rebels, Second Chance, The Good Old Boys and the Singing Laymen. A square dancing exhibition by the Colonial Squares is planned for Wednesday.

Tuesday and Wednesday will be "kiddie days" with children under 12 receiving free admission. Thursday will be Senior Citizens Day. There will be music and a fun program starting at 6 P.M. All

citizens age 65 and over will be admitted free.

Eighteen thrillrides, concessions and shows will be provided by Fun Fair Amusements of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Highlighting Tuesday and Wednesday nights activities will be a fireworks display, scheduled for around 8:15.

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Error Is Noted

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of superior court, said an earlier announcement that the grand jury members only would report for duty in Chowan County Superior Court on Monday at 10 A.M. was in error.

All citizens notified to report for duty are to appear Monday, not Tuesday as previously reported. Judge Richard D. Allsbrook of Roanoke Rapids will preside over the court session next week.



OPEN HOUSE IS HELD — Members and guests of the old Company D, 105th Medical Regiment and Company C, 1st BN, 119th Infantry gathered at the National Guard Armory for a banquet last Saturday night, prior to an open house Sunday afternoon. Fire demonstrations were held throughout the day to the delight of a large number of youngsters who visited the armory to



see real Army weapons on display. In addition, the First North Carolina Volunteers provided demonstrations and a showing of civil war era uniforms and weaponry. The National Guard Ladies Auxiliary provided refreshments for the reunited soldiers and the many visitors.