

Ferd Made It!

Recently we commented along the Public Parade of Ferd L. Harrison's candidacy for a top position in the National League of Cities. Ferd made it! He is second vice president of the organization of towns and cities and is in line to be president in 1982-83.

The genial Mayor of Scotland Neck has a host of friends along the Public Parade. On behalf of them we want to say the recognition is warranted and couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

The National League of Cities represents more than 15,000 municipalities across the nation. Ferd's election marks the first time a North Carolina official has been given a top post in the organization. If things go according to hoyle—including Ferd's re-election as mayor—it will mark the first time an official from a small town under 25,000 has headed the National League of Cities.

Ferd and former Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., have a common bond. They both served as president of the N. C. League of Municipalities. It is believed that John would have gone further had he not run out of peanuts. Ferd's success is aided by his training as a FBI agent, a little known fact hereabouts.

Three 'D's'

Eastern North Carolina is an area described as the last frontier of Tar Heelia and the garden spot of the state. While things are never so good they can't get better, Eastern North Carolinians are patient and usually reap rewards from this trait.

One of the areas in which those meander along the Public Parade and throughout the region can boast is the field of education. By and large public schools are well financed, compared to other more or less rural regions. The region does excel in the area of higher education. East Carolina University in Greenville, College of The Albemarle and Elizabeth City State University in the Isle of Pasquotank are good bench marks.

Dr. Leo Jenkins set the tone for a progressive Eastern North Carolina during his tenure at ECU. Dr. Tom Brewer is not only building on the foundation Dr. Jenkins laid, but is blazing new trails of his own.

Dr. Marion Thorpe, chancellor at ECSU, is one of the most highly regarded and respected educators in the 16 campus Greater University of North Carolina system. Dr. Parker Chesson at College of The Albemarle holds equal rank in the Community College area.

While there is friendly competition within the systems, each campus compliments the other. This was most graphically shown a few years ago with all shoulders put to the wheel in the successful campaign to establish a Medical School at ECU. Since that time there have been, admittedly, some rumblings out of the "State" of Pitt. Those who feel that if it doesn't happen in Pitt County it won't be good for Eastern North Carolina are in the minority.

But leaders throughout the region must cooperate, compromise and promote the entire area, not just Edenton, Hertford, Elizabeth City, Greenville, etc.

One of the new leaders to surface is Dr. Brewer. He hasn't wasted in time in showing his colors. He is a "team" player who doesn't mind getting in the middle of things if he can be shown the benefit to be derived.

Dr. Brewer is a newcomer, so to speak. But he recently illustrated his deep feelings for the region when he asked not to be considered for the presidency of a top university. His actions demonstrate the real fiber of this educator. He has, in a relatively short period of time, made an impact for good in Eastern North Carolina. The area is better for his coming to ECU. The area will become even better for his decision not to be lured by money and

Continued On Page 4

Auditor Warns Of Low Funds Balance

Chowan County is on thin ice financially, to the point, in fact, that an extreme emergency could require the issuance of tax anticipation notes. J.P. Timberlake, of Timberlake & Sykes, PA, appeared Monday to make county commissioners "further aware of what your problems are."

Chairman C.A. Phillips said board members are aware of the seriousness of this situation and have a tight budget for 1980-81. He added that because of skyrocketing inflation and the state not paying an adequate share of mandated programs the county is unable to accumulate money for future projects.

Timberlake, whose firm has audited county books for nearly 20 years, also briefed commissioners on the need for establishing a policy for depreciation and fixed asset replacement in the Water Department. "Funds should be set

aside gradually now to meet possible needs in the future," he noted.

It was the second straight month the county's finances were aired. County Manager Cliff Copeland pointed out some thin spots when he distributed the annual audit in November.

The audit showed a mere \$6,100 in fund balance in the General Fund. This was again pointed out by Timberlake who said in this type economy the fund balance would be depleted with one simple resolution. "You are going to have to be extremely careful about what you do," he cautioned. "Hopefully you have a conservative budget," he continued, "and will take in more money this year than you spend."

The auditor commended the work of Copeland. "You now have a better control today," he said. "Cliff has a handle on where you

stand from time-to-time."

In discussing the insurance matter, Timberlake pointed out that contents at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library are insured for \$50,000 while it is estimated that they could not be replaced for three times that amount.

Timberlake did have some words of encouragement. "I am very pleased with the work done on the fixed asset inventory," he said. "This is an important part of the reporting mechanism and too, the county knows what property is owned and where it is located." He added that this is particularly important in case of a serious fire.

Phillips pointed out that the county has been unable to keep up with the inflation rate which is greater than ever seen in this country.

Mrs. Barbara Ward said the county will be hard pressed to find new sources of revenue from a

broadened tax base. "Until we get more to offer (in retail stores) we can't expect much increase in sales tax revenue," he said. "People in certain areas of the county don't come to Edenton when they go shopping. It is just a few miles further to have a better selection."

Alton G. Elmore said the county made a serious mistake several years ago by putting revenue sharing money into operating funds. "We are trying now to correct that," he said.

In conclusion, Timberlake said the county has been fortunate to have no emergencies during this time of high inflation.

As Phillips said the county must do something to establish some more reserve, Elmore theorized it wouldn't come unless that state assumed a proper share of mandated programs and gave counties better control over the

local budget.

In other matters, the board approved Chowan County's inclusion to a state law regarding the shining of lights in deer areas. The matter was supported by Sheriff Troy Toppin and George Sawyer, wildlife protector.

The board approved a request from Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission that Chowan County be included in an Area Housing Opportunity Plan. No additional costs are expected.

The board also approved a personal property schedule for the Tax Department and authorized Copeland to enter into a contract for a study of the county's insurance needs, including Edenton-Chowan Schools, Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department and Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad.

Furthermore, the county is joining in speaking against proposed increases in telephone rates since there is a wide range from one area to another.

The board approved the placing of the State Administrative Code in the Register of Deeds office.

OJT Program Begins Feb. 9

An eight months classroom and on-the-job training program designed to introduce men and women to the basic skills of electricians, carpenters, heating and air conditioning mechanics, marine diesel mechanics and boat builders will begin February 9, 1981, in Hertford and Nags Head. The program is being made possible through the co-sponsorship of the N.C. Department of Labor's Skill Training Improvement Program (STIP) and the Albemarle Area Apprenticeship Association.

Applications will be processed December 18 at Employment Security Commission, 201 West Ehringhaus Street, Elizabeth City, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.; and also December 19 at Employment Security Commission, 709 North Broad Street, Edenton, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

To be eligible an applicant must be at least 18 years of age and be a resident of Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrell, Gates, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank or Washington county. An applicant must be a member of a family who either receives public assistance or a member of a family whose total income during the previous six months does not exceed poverty level. Also, the applicant must have been unemployed for seven consecutive days prior to application, or working part-time but seeking full-time work, or enrolled

Continued On Page 4

Fall Production Opens Tonight

Beginning tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock in John A. Holmes Auditorium, the Holmes Drama Club will present "See How They Run," by Phillip King. This play is a delightful farce which mixes mistaken identities, zany characters and spies into a fun-filled evening's entertainment for the whole family.

Performances are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with \$2 admission at the door.

Cast members are Krista Hare, Tracy Harrell, Rose Hawkins, Mary Ann Hollowell, Suzanne Roundtree, Frank Parrish, Eric Rose and Mike Terry. Harriet Abbe is assistant director with Susan Lamb as stage manager.

Director Hugh Dial stated, "The cast has enjoyed rehearsing this production. We have been working for quite a period of time because of the football-supporting postponement. This is a fine group of young people. I urge all of Chowan County to spend a comical evening with us this weekend."

Franchise Is Approved For Cable TV System

Construction will begin at the first of the year on a cable television system to serve the town of Edenton. A franchise to Albemarle Cable TV was approved by the Town Council during their meeting Tuesday night. The company is a division of Compass Corporation.

Approval of the franchise followed a second reading of the agreement by Don Vincenti, company representative.

Service will be available to a portion of the town between four and five months after the beginning of construction. Television will be available townwide within

the year.

Viewers will be able to select from four different packages and will have the capability of receiving up to 25 channels. A special sports station as well as Home Box Office, a movie service provided at an additional fee, will be offered. Local broadcasts will be made possible by a studio to be built in town.

The service will not be available outside of the city limits.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, reported that the town will proceed with development of land application waste treatment facility. He told the council that at a December 8 meeting with Environmental Protection Agency officials, it was learned the town will not be able to continue discharging treated waste into the Albemarle Sound.

A detailed engineering study to determine the cost and feasibility of the project will be conducted over a six to eight month period.

Continued On Page 4

Choral Society Christmas Concert

At 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon the Edenton Choral Society will present its annual Christmas Concert at Edenton Baptist Church.

Mrs. Shelby Strother is director of the musical group and has arranged a varied program of Christmas music. The program includes an unusual arrangement of "Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming," a delight to the ear, and "I Wonder As I Wander", to please those who appreciate the traditional carols.

Another facet of Christmas music is represented by Mozart's rousing "Gloria."

The public is invited to this musical celebration of the Christmas season.

Continued On Page 4



TAKE OATH — Mrs. Barbara Ward and Alton G. Elmore were administered the oath as a Chowan County commissioner Monday morning. Presiding was Mrs. Lena M. Leary, left, clerk of Superior Court.

Phillips Re-Elected Commission Chairman

C. A. Phillips, president of Edenton Cotton Mills, was re-elected chairman of Chowan County Board of Commissioners Monday. At the annual reorganization of the board, J.D. Peele was named to another term as vice chairman.

At the opening of the December meeting, Mrs. Lena M. Leary,

clerk of Superior Court, administered the oath of office to Alton G. Elmore and Mrs. Barbara Ward.

Elmore begins his third four-year term. Mrs. Ward was named by the board to fill the unexpired term of the late Lester Copeland. She and Elmore were elected in November without opposition.



SAMPLE WASSAIL BOWL — People from throughout the area turned out Sunday for pre-Christmas activities at the James Iredell and Cupola houses. Here, Mrs. John Donovan pours a cup of the brew while Mrs. Mary Lou Shepard serves Mrs. Emily G. Amburn.



IN PERIOD COSTUMES — Misses Liza Vaughan, standing, and Stephanie Creighton make a pretty picture at the James Iredell House last Sunday during pre-Christmas activities in Edenton.



PERFORM — Members of the Edenton Choral Society presented music during "Christmas in the Iredell House" Sunday afternoon. (Staff Photos by Maru Amburn.)