



CO-CHAIRMEN FOR HOSPITAL BALL CHOSEN — Mrs. C. B. (Thelma) Smith, left, President of the Chowan Hospital Auxiliary, recently chose Mr. and Mrs. Walter Abbe as co-chairmen of the Chowan Hospital Auxiliary Charity Ball. The event will be on February 20 at the new National Guard Armory on Base Road. Proceeds will be used for hospital equipment and also for items needed at B and C units.

4-H News: Skating Trip Held

By Jewel Langley
Co. Council
Vice President
Chowan County's annual skating trip to Spinning Wheels Rink in Elizabeth City, has been another success. Approximately 75 4-H'ers, leaders, parents and agents participated in this years skating trip. A short tour of Elizabeth City State University Campus was also included along with our trip. All participants surely enjoyed the afternoon full of fun and fellowship. We are thankful that the Board of Education allowed us to use the activity bus for this recreational event.

The Carolina Review: Transportation Workers Commended

The Weather ... The only news in North Carolina last week was the weather. And the only mystery was whether it was good news or bad. Depending on one's outlook — or pocketbook — it was either-or.

Schools, factories and offices were closed. The kids were happy as were some of the workers. But not those who lost money in the deal and not the students when they wish to go swimming on school make-up days in June. Swimming?

Despite heavy snows and severe icing, state offices in Raleigh remained open,

though the hours were somewhat curtailed for three days. State workers who didn't make it to the office will have to take vacation time or petty leave.

Fortunately, regardless of dire warnings and public service broadcast appeals to the contrary, travel in Raleigh was not as dangerous or immobilized as contended. Probably in other parts of the state, especially in rural areas, that was the case.

But transportation workers seem to have done a Herculean job in providing highway access. Depart-

ment officials said close to 5,000 workers participated in the statewide effort to spread sand and salt and clear roadways.

The most dangerous aspect of travel in last week's terrible conditions seemed to be the lack of respect people were willing to give the ice and snow.

Only 10 years ago, a winter storm of this magnitude would have brought North Carolina to a standstill. Is it imagination or is it fairly obvious that North Carolinians of recent years have been carrying on much like business as usual?

Court Ruling ... Another storm broke last week in Raleigh that could have a more far-reaching impact — especially upon state government and its executive make-up. The North Carolina Supreme Court overturned a 1980 state law that automatically reserved for legislators four seats on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission.

The EMC was created by the Legislature as an executive - administrative arm to carry out environmental laws enacted by the lawmakers. In the enabling legislation, the lawmakers set aside four seats on the commission expressly for themselves.

The court's opinion ruled that the Legislature had violated the state constitution's principle of separation of powers by creating a board to carry out environmental laws and then putting legislators on the board to influence its actions.

The rub goes away beyond the EMC. By week's end, discussion was growing around whether any state board or commission that has seats set aside for legislators and also is responsible for carrying out state law can be considered safe from the court's ruling.

Another 49 governing boards or commissions have seats for legislators set aside by law. That list includes the Advisory Budget

Commission — the most powerful and sought after appointive commission seat in state government.

Apparently boards and commissions that are limited to studying issues with members of the executive branch or to advising the executive branch on policy are not affected.

Hunt spokesperson, Stephanie Bass, said Friday

that the governor, who was in Washington on Democratic Party business, would have no comment until he and administration lawyers could study the entire brief.

Appearance suggest that lawmakers will no longer, as a matter of habit, attach riders to appointive legislation that automatically gives them executive powers.

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Dollar Bill's History

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Adams. In Adams' allegorical scene, the mythical Greek hero Hercules was torn between the charms of a maiden representing Virtue and the tempting life of the sloth. Franklin called for a depiction of Moses dividing the Red Sea. Jefferson wanted to show the children of Israel wandering through the wilderness.

Fortunately, the Congress wasn't thrilled by any of the founding fathers' designs, nor was it moved by a second committee's proposed seal depicting on a shield a warrior and a figure representing Peace.

The eagle didn't show up in any proposed designs until a third committee was formed, and even then, the bird played a minor role in another allegorical scene. Finally, in 1782, Congress turned the matter over to its secretary, Charles Thomson, who gets credit for first using the eagle as the central element in the seal's design.

One member of the original committee, Ben Franklin, was unimpressed even after the Congress adopted a seal designed around the eagle. Franklin called the new national symbol "a bird of bad moral character" that "does not get his living honestly," referring to the fact that the bald eagle often steals its food from other birds. Franklin also wrote — perhaps facetiously — that although the turkey was vain and silly" he would have preferred it as the national emblem.

Franklin was by no means the last American to criticize the eagle. For the next 150 years frontiersmen, ranchers, and farmers gunned them down as predators and varmints. Not until 1940 did Congress outlaw the shooting of eagles.

Because they sometimes feed on dead animals, bald eagles are still put down by some critics as scavengers, but President John F. Kennedy spoke for most Americans 20 years ago, says National Wildlife, when he called the "fierce beauty and independence of this great bird" an apt symbol of the "strength and freedom of America."

Now, throughout most of the country, the bald eagle is struggling, not to maintain its honor but to survive as a species. Due to loss of habitat, the ingestion of deadly pesticides, illegal shooting, and other causes it is listed as "endangered" in 43 of the lower 48 states and "threatened" in the other five — Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

The "Year of the Eagle" was proclaimed to remind all Americans that the country's living symbol, like many other species of wildlife, is on the endangered list, and that as President Kennedy said, "we shall have failed a trust if we permit the eagle to disappear."

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