



Coach Dean Smith

## Quarter Century

Sports talk is not one of the top priority items for this corner. While we cut our journalistic teeth at the sports desk (our "Bud's Eye View" was a real tub thumper), we have limited our circle along the Public Parade to the Edenton Aces and the UNC Tar Heels.

It is really coincidental that 1957 was a good year for the Tar Heels. It was likewise a good year for us.

By the time the NCAA tournament rolled around a quarter century ago, we had pretty well committed to being part of a marriage. If there was any doubt about what was to begin on June 1, it was wiped away by the enthusiasm of our bride-to-be when the Tar Heels took three overtimes to defeat Kansas State in the NCAA finals. She felt if she could endure that, we would be easy. Everything got better after that.

We recalled 1957 in silence Monday night as Coach Dean Smith captured his first NCAA title in seven trips to the final four. It was a great night for all Tar Heels, all six-million who inhabit this state. In fact, it was so good that Dr. Carlton Blalock, retired director of the Agricultural Extension Service at the West Raleigh Branch of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was the first to call and congratulate us.

We won't need any such calls on June 1. We'll remember a quarter of a century ago, but it won't have all the drama (trauma, maybe) of the UNC-Georgetown barn-burner.

## Our Firemen

Next week is "Fire Awareness Week" in North Carolina. Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has designated the week in recognition of the 1,283 fire departments and more than 40,000 firefighters in Tar Heelia.

It is fitting that special attention be focused on the two departments who do a fantastic job along the Public Parade. The Edenton Fire Department, and its counterpart up at Center Hill-Crossroads rank among the best to be found anywhere. Both of the departments do more with the talent and money available than the vast majority of fire departments.

Firefighters are valiant public servants. Their commitment to dedication and sacrifices are unequalled. It takes a "special breed of cat" to be a fireman, and somewhere in all of us has been a nation as youngsters to join the cadre of smoke chasers. The shiny red fire truck attracts the adventure in us.

In 30 years of journalism, we have grown to love and admire the fireman, be he a paid professional or an equally trained volunteer. We have championed their cause publicly and privately because in every corner we have looked the fire service isn't adequately appreciated or financially funded. While more recent economic conditions have caused public agencies to tighten the belt, the fire service has been doing it all along.

In the "Great Society" and all the rest of the federal buzz designations, there has not been the first program which gives direct assistance to the fire service. And we should hang our heads in shame!

As we said, we have had considerable experience with firemen. There have been but

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# East Edenton Drainage Project Work Begins

By Jeffrey W. Winslow

The culmination of two and a half years of preliminary work by the Soil Conservation Service came together recently when construction began on the East Edenton Drainage Project. Work on the \$119,857.40 project is taking place beside the Masonic Unanimity Lodge on Water Street.

According to Stanton Harrell, Soil Conservationist Technician, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) began work in August of 1979, when they received a request from the Edenton Town Administrator to look into the flooding problems occurring in the East Edenton District following high tides and rainfall. A preliminary report was completed by the SCS in 1980, setting the stage for actual construction. The existing system had failed because of low elevation.

The East Edenton Drainage Project will actually consist of four parts: a pump to discharge excess water back out into the Sound; a sump pit where the pump will actually sit; tide gates to keep the Sound water from coming back through the pipes; and an earth fill, to keep water from high tides from coming back over into the street.

Everything from Broad St. to Oakum St. and up to Albemarle

St., covering an area of 80 - 85 acres, drains out into the Sound through the pipe located by Water St. The water flows down by force of natural gravity, and when rains or high tides occur, the water backs up in the pipe and comes out through storm drains in the streets. This causes severe flooding conditions in several of the streets located in the East Edenton District.



**FLOODING PROBLEMS** — Soil Conservationist Technician measures the depth of water on Water St. caused by high tides. Work recently began on the East Edenton Drainage Project to alleviate this and other flooding in the eastern section of Edenton.

According to the new plan, the storm drains will be rerouted to prevent this flooding. The water will still drain the same way, but tide gates will be installed to prevent the water from backing up through the pipe. When the water reaches these gates, they will automatically close, forcing the water back into the Sound.

The elevation of the Sound is about 1.4 feet above sea level.

When the water rises to about -3 feet below sea level, the new pump will come on and pump the water out of a new 23 - inch discharge pipe located east of Johnson Bridge. The 3.7 foot tall earth fill along Water St. will prevent the water from coming over the bank back into the street. The new pump will have adjustable floats that will measure the depth of the water.

The SCS will pay 50 per cent of the \$119,857.40 project under the Resource Conservation and Development program, and the remaining cost will be paid by the Town of Edenton. Town Administrator Sam Noble said that

storm drain lines will be installed from the pump to Water St. and to King St. These will be paid by the Powell Bill for Road Drainage. Their remaining share of the cost will be paid from general funds.

Harrell said that the existing facility is antique, out of date. He added, "We're providing this particular part of town with an artificial pump outlet to protect against a 10 - year storm, which equals 6 inches of rainfall every 24 hours."

The construction has a completion date of 139 calendar days, or 99 work days. Harrell said they hope to have finished by the latter part of June.

## Chowan County Special Olympics Huge Success

Once again Chowan County has demonstrated its sympathetic consciousness of the plight of its underprivileged "Special Children". The second annual Chowan County Special Olympics gave handicapped and mentally retarded children an opportunity to display their courage and perseverance as they competed for recognition in our community.

As the sponsoring organization, the Chowan - Edenton Optimist Club expressed sincere gratitude

to the Edenton Jaycees, the Edenton Jaycettes, the Advance Ruritan Club, the Edenton Sweetheart Club, the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Center Hill - Crossroads Fire Dept. and Radio Station WCDJ for the many volunteered hours spent on Hick's Field this past Saturday morning (March 27). Additionally, many financial contributions from throughout Chowan County were put to good use in support of the Olympics, and each dollar is greatly appreciated.

The outstanding success of the two - hour event was directed by Mrs. Betsy Kelly as she coordinated the efforts of the educational personell within the Edenton - Chowan County school system.

In the words of the chairman of the Special Olympics project, Dr. Leibert Devine, "Ya'll dun good!"

## Easter Cantata Sunday Afternoon

Sunday Afternoon at five o'clock, the Adult Choir of the Edenton Baptist Church will render an Easter cantata entitled "Jesus Lives ... Forever!" Written by Eugene McCammon, this work is a new cantata celebrating Jesus' resurrection. Joyous, triumphant, praise - filled music and text exalts Jesus' finished work.

Under the direction of James H. Hyatt, Minister of Music of the church, the choir will be accompanied by Earl G. Harrell at the organ, and Mrs. James H. Bass as pianist. Alton Elmore will be narrator for the musical service, and soloist will be Mrs. Larry McClure.

The public is invited to attend. Nursery facilities will be provided.

## Unemployment Figures At 56 Percent

Unemployment rose in 56 per cent of North Carolina's 100 counties - including Chowan - from January to February, the Employment Security Commission reports.

The rate in Chowan County in February was placed at 12.9 per cent. The statewide rate was 9.3 per cent and the national unadjusted rate for the month was 9.6 per cent.

Chowan was one of 58 counties in the state to record double - digit unemployment. Tyrrell had 22 per cent unemployment in February while Dare posted 22.1 per cent; Hyde, 15.4 per cent; Washington, 11.4 per cent; Perquimans, 10.9; and Currituck, 10.4 per cent.

Unemployment percentages in other Albemarle Area counties totaled: Camden, 7.9; Gates, 6.8; and Pasquotank, 9.8.

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**MANAGER TOPS IN STATE** — Jimmy Stallings of Edenton, second from left, accepts a trophy from G. D. Culp after being named top agency manager by N.C. Farm Bureau Insurance. Others are: Merrell Gay, district sales manager, and Mrs. Stallings.

## Agency Manager Honored

Jimmy E. Stallings of Chowan County was announced by G. D. Culp, general manager of Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, as the state's Most Outstanding Agency Manager (Category II) for 1981. Stallings was selected for this coveted honor because of his agency's outstanding sales and service record during 1981 for multi - lines of insurance.

In making the announcement, Culp said of Stallings, "This

## Judge Braswell To Preside Monday

Judge E. Maurice Braswell of Fayetteville will preside over a term of Chowan County Superior Court which convenes here Monday. Asst. Dist. Atty. H. P. Williams, Jr., will prosecute the docket.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court, has circulated the calendar for the criminal term. The cases on the grand jury calendar range from first degree burglary to assault.

Monday morning will also be the time for arraignments and motions.

At 2 P.M. Monday the trial calendar is expected to be reached. There are 38 cases to be tried. The cases range from simple affray to first degree burglary.

manager has rendered exceptional service to Farm Bureau members for many years." His county production record for 1981 included a 16.54 per cent increase in Fire and Casualty Sales balanced with Life Insurance Sales totaling \$3,572,747 of life insurance protection.

This award was presented to Stallings at the Annual Sales Conference of the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies held in Charlotte at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. He was escorted to the stage by his district sales manager, Merrell Gay, and a trophy was presented by Paul J. Lancaster, Jr., state sales manager of Farm Bureau Insurance Companies.

Stallings began his Farm Bureau career as an agent in Chowan County in December, 1970. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Edenton.

## Gross Retail Sales Revealed

Gross retail sales in North Carolina were placed at \$3.6-billion by the State Department of Revenue. In Chowan County the sales were \$6,107,624.

Retail sales figures from other Albemarle Area counties during

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## 466 Received Low Income Energy Assistance Last Month

Four hundred sixty-six households in Chowan County received a total of \$62,451 in low-income energy assistance payments last month. They were part of \$20.9-million distributed by the N. C. Department of Human Resources.

A total of 142,000 low-income households were included for help with this winter's heating bills.

According to George Flemming, assistant director of the department's Division of Social Services, the one-time payments vary from \$60 to \$514 per household in private living arrangements with the average payment being approximately \$147. "The amount of payment each household will be receiving depends on the number of people in the household, their income, the climatic region of the state where they live, and the type fuel used for heating."

Flemming said that eligibility for the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance payments was determined by county social services departments during

November and December based on eligibility standards established by the state.

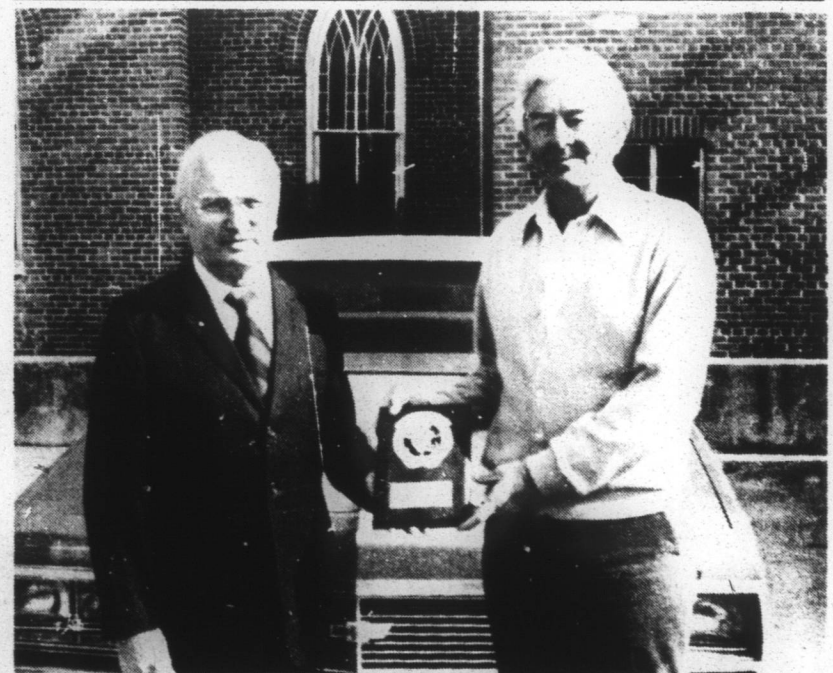
North Carolina was originally authorized to receive \$35.5-million in federal Low-Income Energy

Assistance funds for this year, according to Flemming. "Congress has still not taken final action on the 1981-82 federal budget, but thus far, the state has been appropriated a smaller amount that total only \$26.4-million. From that amount, \$2.2-million has been allocated to the energy Division in the State Department of Commerce which is being used for the weatherization of homes of the poor across the state. Another \$786,000 was allocated to county social services departments for a heating crisis intervention program."

## Income Tax Help Available

Don Alred, local revenue officer for the North Carolina Department of Revenue, advises that personnel to assist in filing State Income and Intangibles Tax returns will be available on Tuesdays of each week through April 15. The office is located at Room 201, Bank of North Carolina Building, Edenton, N. C. and assistance is available on this day between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Mr. Alred requests that taxpayers bring the pre-addressed forms which were mailed to them from Raleigh. Taxpayers filing their own returns should mail those which indicate a refund to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Post Office Box R, Raleigh, North Carolina 27634; other completed returns should be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Post Office Box 25000, Raleigh, North Carolina 27640.



**RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD** — W. M. "Bill" Cozart, right, receives an award for outstanding performance in driving over 1,000,000 miles without a preventable accident from post master James Bond. The award is given by the National Safety Council. Cozart, who delivers RFD 1 in Edenton, has been with the Post Office for over 25 years.