

Why Two?

It now appears that voters along the Public Parade and throughout North Carolina will be spending a lot of time in the election process during the last six months of 1982. By the time you read this the General Assembly will have decided on a schedule for elections which separates county elections from those for state House and Senate, state matters and the U. S. Congress.

The election process is expensive. It costs close to \$500,000 to hold a statewide election. Every two years local and congressional elections are run concurrently with state balloting and this makes it most cost-effective.

The latest word prior to this writing was that a June 10 date was to be set for county elections and a future date for the state offices and Congress.

Why two?

We wouldn't dare question the motives of members of the General Assembly but we can see some definite benefits for the incumbents in separate voting. A heavy vote, say with attraction of local candidates, works in favor of the challengers. And it costs just as much to have a big vote as it does a small one-half as much if it turns out that the polls have to be open twice when once would suffice.

One down east legislator was quoted on TV as saying "the people in the counties are anxious to get the local elections over with." But there would be no damage done if the "people in the counties" waited just a little bit longer.

At a time when every local government across Tar Heelia is in a budget crunch, as is the State of North Carolina, it seems foolish to stretch the budgets even more by giving an unnecessary election.

Let's see here. If you have a county primary election, a runoff, a separate primary election and runoff for other offices in the state, that will add up to about as many elections as it took sessions for members of the General Assembly to reapportion itself.

Even two for the price of one wouldn't be a bargain. If all this confusion is generated by a General Assembly elected every two years with a conservative in Washington, we'd hate to think of what would happen if we were weak enough to approve four-year terms with the liberals getting control of the federal government.

Enough's Enough!

Our cultural cup runneth over! Jasper Hassell claims he got enough culture and brownie points to last a couple of years when he showed up for the recent ballet performance along the Public Parade. Our culture level is likewise as low so our cultural cup runneth over, not by our own doings but because of what even a bad lawyer could prove to be a conspiracy.

In this column last week we mingled culture and Methodism. Since that time—in just three short days, in fact—it has been culture and Baptist as well as a sprinkling of Presbyterian and Episcopalian.

If we can get to the bingo game at St. Anne's tonight (Thursday) then it will all be wrapped up in the span of April.

Anna Kay Manning, the youngest of two daughters of Pete and Betty, is one of our favorite young ladies. She sorta is of our vintage along the Public Parade. We were disappointed, quite naturally, when her senior organ recital was cancelled last month because of illness. It was rescheduled for Sunday at Campbell University in Buies Creek, a quality Baptist supported institution of higher education.

There was the equivalent of a bus load of Edentonians in the audience at Turner Auditorium for the 4 P.M. recital. We were exposed to top quality music for 30 minutes and then joined Anna Kay at a lovely reception.

While walking to the reception we were treated to a capsule history of the then Buies Creek Academy of 1919. Johnny Currin passed through the academy that

Continued On Page 4

State's Second Senatorial District Gets Redrawn

Under pressure from the U.S. Department of Justice, the new Second Senatorial District in Northeastern North Carolina has been redrawn to include a 55 per cent minority population. Chowan County remains in the district.

Sen. J.J. (Monk) Harrington of Bertie County presided over the subcommittee which approved the plan and sent it to the Senate. He said when the plan with a 51.7 per cent minority population was adopted that he would take his chances of re-election with the heavy minority total.

"I'm the one that's right in the middle of it," he is reported as saying as he opened the subcommittee meeting.

Sen. Melvin R. Daniels of Pasquotank, who has been critical of the way the other plan was drawn, served on the subcommittee. Earlier, Sen. Harrington admitted that as a committee member he chose the counties he wanted to make up the new district.

The latest Second Senatorial District, which must be approved by the federal agency, would include Chowan, Bertie, Gates Hertford and Northampton counties; parts of Edgecombe,

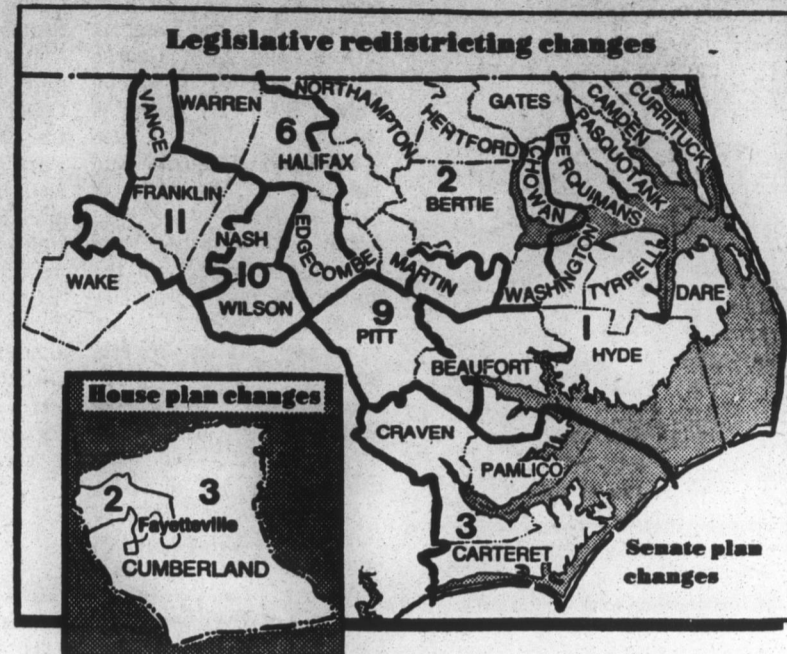
Washington, Halifax and Martin counties.

The First District would consist of Camden, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans

and Tyrrell counties; and parts of Washington and Beaufort.

Other affected districts beyond

the ones in Northeastern North Carolina are the Third, Sixth, Ninth, 10th, and 11th.



(The above map Courtesy of the News and Observer.)

David Mertz, Macks Store Manager Is Merchant Of The Month

David Mertz, manager of Macks in Edenton, has been selected as Merchant of the Month for April.

David Mertz, a Virginia native, first began working with the Macks system at the age of 16. He began as a stockboy in the Macks store in Havelock, N.C. His first visit to Edenton came a year later, when he worked as Assistant Manager here. Following brief stays in Sanford, N.C. and Clinton, N.C. as Assistant Manager, Mertz became Manager of the Macks store in Fayetteville, N.C. This was accomplished while he was only 19 years old.

After six months there, Mertz and his manager's position moved to Statesville, N.C., then to South Carolina in Timmonsville and Myrtle Beach, then back to Sanford, N.C.

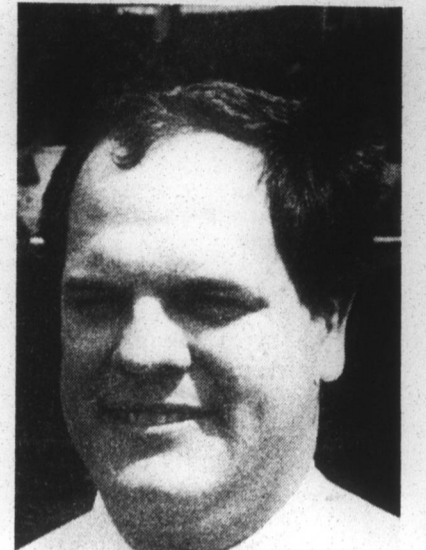
"I requested to come back to Edenton," said Mertz. "It's a good place to raise children; a nice quiet town with good people."

David Mertz's favorite hobby is photography. He has been involved in store photography for four years. He also had the job of taking 425 pictures for the store, while in Sanford, in two weekends.

He and his wife, Gloria, have

two children, Steven, who is eight years old, and Michael, who is four. They make their home at Rt. 2 in Edenton and are members of the Church of Christ.

"We (Macks) have been here in Edenton for a long time," said Mertz. "We plan on staying for quite awhile yet."



David Mertz

Unemployment Rate Is Down

Chowan County fell from double-digit unemployment in March and was one-half a percentage point below the average in North Carolina. The rate last month was set a 9.2 per cent, down substantially from 12.9 in February but up from the 7.3 per cent in March, 1981.

Total unemployment rose in March to a rate of 9.7 per cent,

according to figures announced by the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The rate represents 285,400 jobless state residents. In February, the unemployment rate was 9.3 per cent. For March, 1981, the rate was 6.9 per cent.

While unemployment declined in Chowan County, the jobless rate rose in 52 of the state's 100 counties. The rate declined in 43 other counties and remained the same in four.

The broad-based rise in unemployment reflected a slight increase in the statewide jobless rate from February to March. The national unadjusted rate in March was 9.5 per cent, slightly below the 9.6 per cent in February. The current statewide total unemployment for North Carolina exceeded the national unadjusted rate for the first time since 1975.

Sixty-five counties in the state had double-digit unemployment rates in March. They included in the Albemarle Area: Tyrrell, 19.8; Dare, 18.6; Hyde, 14.3; Washington, 11.5; and Perquimans, 10.5. Rates in the other Northeastern North Carolina counties was: Camden, 7.4; Currituck, 8.6; Gates, 5.8; and Pasquotank, 9.1.

Continued On Page 4

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XLVII - No. 16 Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, April 29, 1982 Single Copies 25 Cents



MAY DAY FEATURE ATTRACTION — The Buck Swamp Kickin' Cloggers are among May Day attractions beginning at 10 A.M. Saturday at the Rocky Hock Community Center. The events are being sponsored by the Chowan Arts Council.

Art Council Gears Up For May Day

The Chowan Arts Council is assembling an impressive array of performers to appear during May Play Day, an arts festival to be held Saturday at Rocky Hock Community Center. Over 30 amateur and professional artist have been scheduled to perform

autoharp, harmonica, dulcimer and fiddle. Jan, born and reared in Murphy, learned many of his songs from his Appalachian relatives and neighbors.

Although Davidson minored in folklore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and studied literature at the

University of Edinburgh, Scotland, his musical education has been informal and "by ear." He learned to play guitar by watching people who gathered in gas stations in Murphy. Jan was one of the creators of "Diamond Studs," a stage musical which ran off Broadway in New York, and he was musical director of "Appalachia Sounding."

Continued On Page 4

Chaffin Presides Over Docket

The following cases were heard April 27 in the Chowan County District Court by the presiding Judge, John T. Chaffin.

Blaine Allen Weyant, reckless driving, 60 days suspended 2 years, \$100 fine and cost of court, and ordered to surrender his license for 10 days.

Sunitaben Patel, improper passing, \$25 fine and cost of court.

Mary Holley, worthless check, dismissed.

Lloyd Wayne Holley, worthless check, dismissed.

Willie McCoy Rankings, passing a stopped school bus, 30 days suspended 2 years, \$100 fine and cost of court. Appealed.

Nora B. Mitchell, three counts of worthless check consolidated for judgement, 30 days suspended 2 years, \$25 fine, ordered to pay the cost of court in each case and pay a \$21 restitution to Bridge-Turn. Appealed.

Ernest Leon Brooks, no operator's license and resisting arrest consolidated for judgement, 90 days suspended 2 years, \$150 fine, ordered to pay the cost of court in each case and not operate a motor vehicle until licensed to do so. He took the 90 days commitment.



Jan Davidson

on both an indoor and outdoor stage, which will provide almost 10 hours of continuous entertainment, beginning at 10 A.M.

Other May Play Day features will include arts and crafts displays by area people. Exhibitors will display their work under the trees, easily accessible to passersby. Among the craftsmen will be Emmett Jones, who makes detailed replicas of house-drawn wagons. Jones exhibited his craft at Yorktown, Va., last fall during the Yorktown festival.

Among the performing artists there will be Jan Davidson, who plays guitar, fretless banjo,



TOYS FOR PRESCHOOLERS—Some of the Chowan County residents involved in the new project that exposes children with learning disabilities to toys and books that stimulate learning are, left to right, Suzanne Parker and her son, Lin, Elsie Hare, Sue Parrish, Pat Storie, Mary Julia Parrish and Shirley Swain. Chowan County is one of five counties involved in the project.