

ALL IS READY FOR BRIDGE EVENT Governor Felicitates East On Great Project

Thousands Invited To Celebration By McLean In Message

Declares All Sections of State Rejoice With East in Completion of Bridge, Uniting All in Inseparable Entity

Through the columns of The Daily Advance, Angus W. McLean, Governor of North Carolina, sends greeting to the people of the Northeast, and a word of felicitation on the completion of the Chowan Bridge, to be celebrated in Edenton on Wednesday, July 20.

The Governor found it impracticable to be present, for the reason that the celebration falls during his annual vacation of one month in Wisconsin. His message follows:

To the people of Northeastern North Carolina: Greeting:

It is with peculiar pleasure and satisfaction that I take advantage of this opportunity offered by Mr. Herbert Peele, editor of The Elizabeth City Advance, to address this word of greeting to the people living in the oldest portion of the State, on the occasion of the opening of the great Chowan bridge across the Chowan River.

In the first place, it gives me peculiar satisfaction that I happened to have been Governor of the great State of North Carolina during the period when the plans for this great bridge, stretching for nearly two miles across the mighty Chowan River, were first conceived, to have had a part in urging the authorization of the bridge, and to have witnessed its completion. And it affords me distinct pleasure to be able to tell the people of the section of the State that will benefit most directly from this bridge that all of the other sections of the State rejoice with them over it, and appreciate the opportunity of having had a part in making it possible. For this bridge is not only something for which you should be proud, but something for which the entire State should be proud.

So I congratulate you on the successful completion of this new bridge first on the greatness of the project from an engineering standpoint, for it is one of the greatest undertakings of its kind, not only in this State, but in the Nation. But even more do I congratulate you on the far-reaching significance of this bridge, for the purpose it will serve will far outweigh the time, money and energy consumed in its building, for it is going to prove one of the best investments the State of North Carolina ever made.

Primarily, it seems to me, this bridge forms the last remaining link that was needed to bind the entire State into one inseparable entity and make the State of North Carolina one solid unit. For while these Northeastern counties have been among the most outstanding in the State since its very beginning, their early settlers having come down to the Albemarle Sound country from Jamestown as early as 1653, these great rivers have served as natural barriers for centuries to easy access, communication and intercourse with the other people of the State. The result has been that while the people of the other sections of the State knew of you, heard of you, and felt related to you, they really did not know you, because it was so difficult to get to you.

But now this great bridge has removed that barrier, and has brought you back again into your rightful position with the rest of the State, so that the other sections might well say to you "welcome home," as at last you are united physically as well as spiritually, with that great Commonwealth which is North Carolina.

The fact that the great section across Albemarle Sound has not been physically connected with the rest of the State heretofore, has meant that in the past you naturally have had to go over into one sister state of Virginia to do most

Beauty Spots Along the Historic Trail



Two remarkable views along the Virginia Dare Trail, which came into existence with the bridging of the lower Chowan River, and a map of the trail. Above is the famed Chowanoke Willow, at the town limits of Edenton. Under it the official guests at the celebration will be welcomed. At the right is Hayes, residence of Governor Samuel Johnston, near Edenton.



Virginia Dare Trail Beckons America's Tourist Throng to Land of Loveliness and Opportunity Amid Historic Shrines of the State and Nation

By RALPH POOL

Across that ancient province of Albemarle, cradle of the great State of North Carolina, to the spot where was born the first child of English parents in America, there stretches a wide highway that is to be christened on Wednesday, July 20, as the Virginia Dare Trail.

The christening will be an incident in a celebration marking the completion of the Chowan Bridge across lower Chowan River near Edenton. This is as it should be, inasmuch as the Virginia Dare Trail, as an unbroken highway across the Albemarle District, did not come into being until the great new bridge was finished.

Beginning at the Roanoke River at Williamston, the Virginia Dare Trail takes a straightway north-easterly course for some 85 miles to the shores of Currituck Sound at Currituck Courthouse. Thence it runs in a southeasterly direction 30 miles to the tip of the Currituck peninsula at Point Harbor. From that point, ferries carry the trail to Kitty Hawk Bay, on the North Carolina Coast, and to Roanoke Island, birthplace of Virginia Dare.

At its southeasternmost end, the Virginia Dare Trail is at the gateway to North Carolina's unexcelled coastal playground, whose fishing and hunting are famed the Nation over, and whose other recreational opportunities are just becoming generally known to the world at large. At its western terminal at Williamston, the trail connects with State Highways 30, 90 and 125, giving ready access to all the remainder of North Carolina.

Where Hospitality Reigns From Williamston, it is twelve miles over the trail to Windsor, county seat of Bertie, a fertile domain noted for the hospitality of its people and for the beauty and charm of its daughters. Windsor is a beautiful old town with wide streets shaded by ancient elms in all their stately majesty. Notable among its beautiful homes is Windsor Castle, with the broad verandas and tall white columns characteristic of the romantic ante-bellum era in North Carolina.

Windsor Castle is the residence of Judge Francis D. Winston, former Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina, and among the State's most eminent living sons. One follows the trail 16 miles from Windsor eastward before suddenly coming upon the broad expanse of Chowan River, at the point where the mile and a half Chowan Bridge joins Bertie and Chowan Counties. That spot is known as Eden House, from the fact that it is close by the site on which stood the residence of Charles Eden, Colonial governor of North Carolina.

Governor Eden long is accused of having been in partnership with one Edward Teach, or Thatch, notorious freebooter who ravaged Colonial shipping in the early 1700's, and who has gone down in history under the title of Blackbeard, by reason of his heavy growth of whiskers, in which tradition records that he took great pride. Blackbeard finally was slain in a hand-to-hand battle with one Lieutenant Maynard of Ocracoke Inlet.

Further along the trail, there is an old house whose gable ends are of brick brought by ship from England. There Blackbeard is reputed to have had a rendezvous during his freebooting days—but more of that later.

Edenton Has Unique Charm Governor Eden died in 1722, and was buried in a grove of willows close by his home. The willows still stand, beside the Virginia Dare Trail, a stone's throw from the great new bridge; but they shelter the mortal remains of the governor no longer. Many years after his death, his casket was exhumed and buried again in Old St. Paul's churchyard, in Edenton, where it reposes to this day.

On across the bridge, and for four miles more, one travels before arriving in Edenton, famed as Colonial capital of the State and as one of the most picturesquely beautiful towns in America. Edenton was named for Governor Charles Eden, and was incorporated as a town about the year 1722.

The visitors interested in history, legendary and in beautifully preserved types of architecture dating back to the earliest days of the Albemarle Colony, may spend a month in Edenton with pleasure and profit. Of all its ancient buildings, perhaps the most interesting is St. Paul's Church, a structure of red brick dating back to the year 1736.

On down Broad street, in Edenton, one follows the Virginia Dare Trail twelve miles across Chowan and Perquimans Counties to the hospitable old town of Hertford, on whose courthouse reposes the first deed recorded in North Carolina. It sets forth that on March 1, 1661, for a consideration, George Durant acquired a tract of land, acreage not given, from Kileocanew, of Kileocanew, Indian king of Yoeplim.

The tract in question lay in what is known now as Durant's Neck, a peninsula lying between Perquimans and Little Rivers. Students of history find especial interest in the transaction from the fact that it antedated William Penn's purchase in Pennsylvania by some twenty years, and thus apparently was the first instance in which English settlers in the New World recompensed the Indians for lands originally theirs.

Just across Perquimans River from Durant's Neck, and also in Perquimans County, is Harvey's Neck, homeland of the Harveys, one of the leading families in Co-

struction of the bridge was begun April 22, 1926, with the driving of the first steel-reinforced concrete pile. Preliminary activities had been started some two months before that date when the contractors, the Sanford & Brooks Company, of Baltimore, Norfolk and Charleston, established a construction camp on the waterfront just outside Edenton, and began casting the concrete piling. Each pile required some 30 days to harden before it could be driven into the bottom of Chowan River.

The last pile was driven February 17, last. There still remained much additional work, and this was finished the last week in June. On June 29, State Highway Department engineers inspected the finished structure, and approved it. The bridge was thrown open to traffic on Friday, July 1, without ceremony.

Total Cost \$531,250 The approximate cost of the bridge alone was \$531,250. This means that, in order to keep up the interest on the investment at 4 per cent, the structure must earn \$21,250 a year. Adding \$4,000 for operating costs and repairs, it is found that \$25,000 in round numbers, is required annually in earnings, without considering retirement of the bonds.

The bonds are to run for a period of 22 years, ending with a sinking fund for their retirement equally over that length of time. It is seen that a little more than \$24,000 a year would be required. Adding that to the \$25,000 overhead for interest, operation and repairs, one arrives at a total of \$49,000 as the required annual revenue. If the bridge is to pay its own way, Make it \$50,000, for safety's sake.

Epochal Structure Enduring Monument To Faith of People

Boldly Flung Across Lower Reaches of Broad Chowan River, Bridge Appears Destined to Serve State for Century

MUSIC AND POMP AND PAGEANTRY AT CELEBRATION

West to Greet East at Bertie Side of Great Structure, Symbolic of Union of Glorious State

LONG CHIEF SPEAKER

By RALPH POOL

Pageantry and music at the Bertie County end of the new Chowan Bridge at Eden House, commemorative of the breaking of the river barrier between the Northeastern counties and the remainder of the State, will open the great bridge celebration to be held there and in Edenton on Wednesday, July 20.

The ceremonies at the bridge will begin at 11 o'clock. The Coast Guard cutter Pamlico will be moored close at hand, with a 22-piece band from Fort Bragg aboard to furnish music for the occasion. The ribbons, white and blue intertwined, will be held across the bridge by Miss Virginia Askey, representing Bertie, and Mrs. J. L. Hassell, formerly Miss Elizabeth Wiggins, on behalf of Chowan.

A group of representatives from the seven counties to the east of the bridge will stand at the ribbon barrier, facing west. They will be greeted from the Bertie side by Lieutenant-Governor J. Elmer Long, who will welcome them in token of the bridging of the broad Chowan. Frank Kugler, member of the State Highway Commission from the First District, will then advance and sever the ribbons.

To Represent Region The representatives of the various Northeastern counties, and the party they will have in the pageantry at the bridge, follow: Little Miss Margaret Hines, of Manteo, impersonating Virginia Dare for Dare County; B. Warner Evans, of Edenton, as Governor Samuel Johnston, for Chowan; R. M. Riddick, Sr., of Gatesville, as General Horatio Gates, for Gates; W. F. Morgan, as John Harvey, Revolutionary leader, for Perquimans; Representative J. Kenyon Wilson, of Elizabeth City, as General Isaac Gregory, for Pasquotank; W. S. Berry, as the Earl of Camden, for Camden; and C. R. Morris, as the late Governor Samuel Jarvis, for Currituck.

After those ceremonies, the official party from the east will proceed to Eden House, turn and fall in behind the official party from the west, and the combined motorcade will journey some four miles to the west.

On the other hand, with flying machines coming to the fore as well as automobiles, the motorcade will be a sight to behold. (Continued on Page 5)

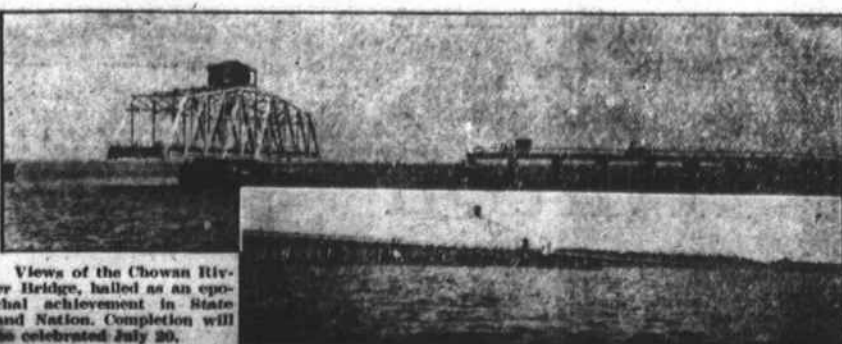
THROW TO TAKE BASKET LUNCHES TO BRIDGE EVENT

Basket lunches will be the order of the day at the Chowan Bridge celebration. The throng on hand for the festivities will be invited to enjoy their lunches under Edenton's lavish shade, and for those who do not bring baskets, sandwiches and cold drinks will be obtainable at many street booths.

Mayor J. L. Wiggins, of Edenton, announces that every precaution will be taken against excessive prices at the booths. With some 300 official guests to be taken care of at luncheon, those in charge of the celebration decided it would be impracticable to undertake to feed the thousands of other visitors expected.

The great new bridge will be thrown open to the use of the public, free of charge, on the day of the celebration. (Continued on Page 5)

The Reason for the Great Celebration



Views of the Chowan River and bridge, hailed as an epochal achievement in State and Nation. Completion will be celebrated July 20.