

Chamber Considering Consolidation

By Karen Gamble
View Staff

A committee to study the feasibility of consolidating the three Cleveland county chamber of commerce will be established by the Shelby Chamber of Commerce.

During the April 19 meeting of the board of directors of the Shelby Chamber of Commerce, Don Shields was appointed by the board to form and chair the committee.

"By combining our efforts we can have a more effective chamber," said Shields about the consolidation proposal. "I totally believe in and am committed to a consolidated chamber."

According to Shields consolidation could enable the one chamber to expand staff to include an expert in the field of seeking new industry. None of the chambers now have such a position.

According to Shields, the committee will consist not only of Shelby chamber directors but

directors from the two other chambers as well. The selection of the committee members should be complete by the next scheduled board meeting on May 17.

"I haven't heard any opposition," said Shields. "As it seems now I think we could have a consolidated chamber by January of 1984."

Bigger does not necessarily mean better, according to Randy Williams, president of the Upper Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce.

"People here are independent," said Williams. "I think the general feeling of our members is that they would not want consolidation."

Williams feels the Upper Cleveland County Chamber can accomplish more under its present organization. The chamber there is currently involved with establishing a produce mart in the area. According to Williams, farmers in the upper Cleveland area now just carry their product

to a distributor in Hendersonville, N.C. The chamber hopes to encourage a distributor to locate in upper Cleveland County thus eliminating the long drive by the farmers. According to the Williams, the Shelby area would not share their interest in issues such as this.

"There has always been animosity toward Shelby," said Williams. "Consolidation would increase the power of Shelby. I don't think a consolidated chamber would be interested in the welfare of upper Cleveland County."

According to the chamber relations office of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, it is not unusual for chambers to consolidate.

"In the last ten to fifteen years it has become more popular," said a spokesperson for the chamber relations office. "I have talked to three or four chambers in the last month who are considering a region-wide consolidation."

According to the chamber relations office most chambers cite duplication of service as the main reason for consolidation. A problem or issue may affect the whole area and can be better served by one main chamber than several smaller ones, said spokesperson.

Talk of consolidation comes at a time when the Shelby chamber is considering construction of a new office building. Chamber directors agreed during the April meeting to purchase the property located at the corner of West Warren and South Lafayette streets for future development.

"I don't know if the new building has anything to do with the consolidation effort," said Mike Chrisawn, executive vice-president of the Shelby Chamber of Commerce. "This would offer a good situation to handle the added staff is needed."

"It (consolidation) makes better sense than what we presently have, I firmly believe anything

that takes place in the county, will be felt by the entire county, such as a plant closing or a new industry coming in."

More efficient service was the main reason the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce was established in 1972, according to Ron Leitch, executive vice-president of the chamber. Before consolidation, Catawba County had two chambers, the Greater Hickory Chamber of Commerce and the Eastern Catawba Chamber of Commerce. Because of both chambers interest in the furniture market and the Catawba Valley Hosery Association, it was felt the county could be better served by a consolidated effort.

According to Leitch, consolidating the chambers was not an easy task, "Discussions had gone on for over 20 years," he said. "In 1960 when Hickory built the new chamber building there was a great deal of discussion"

Leitch feels that there is a natural tendency for people to be hesitant about such a change. "Anytime you have an organization, you have loyalties," he said.

According to the chamber relations office, consolidation has proven to be a lengthy process everywhere. "There has to be ratification of new bylaws, consideration must be given to working out new membership and there are the problems of staffing," the spokesperson said.

"I don't know that much about the consolidation proposal yet," said Bill Grissom, president of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce. "We've talked about it as a board and the response was mixed. I'll have to learn more about it before I'll know how I will feel."

"Anything that would make our area a better community, I'm for it," said Horace Ledford, president of the Shelby chamber. "But I'm not for bigness just for the sake of bigness."

The Foothills View

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BOILING SPRINGS NC

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No Wimps From Space

Change Of Pace For Earl Owensby

"This will not be another red neck, blood and guts type movie," said Earl Owensby about the horror film *Tales of The Third Dimension*.

Owensby announced Wednesday that Regency Productions of Shelby will begin filming May 16 of *Tales*, a segment of which Earl Owensby will direct.

John Brock and Charles Heath, partners in Regency Productions, announced that the motion picture, which is being produced in cooperation with The Earl Owensby Studio, will involve a total of four directors.

"We're real proud to have Earl making his debut in directing on a Regency Production film," said Brock. "It lets us know that he has a special interest in our films."

The film is divided into three short stories. Moderating during the entire motion picture is a mechanical skeleton. Owensby will direct this portion of the film. According to Owensby, special emphasis has been placed on the use of special effects in the film. "The skeleton will ap-

pear to come out into the audience," he said.

Worth Keeter III is the supervising director on the project. Keeter has directed seven films. He was the screen writer for the motion picture *Wolfman* and is also the author of "The Guardians," the short story in *Tales of The Third Dimension* of which he will direct.

Thom McIntyre, the scriptwriter for many Owensby productions, wrote a segment of the film titled, "Young Blood," which he will direct.

"Visions of Sugar-Plums" was written by Todd Durham and will be directed by Durham. Durham is the screenwriter of *Wimps From Space* and *Poison Apples*.

Irl Dixon, an expert in the field of 3-D filming, will be the director of photography in *Tales of The Third Dimension*.

This is the second Regency Productions film with a third film projected to be announced in the summer of 1983. Regency Productions' first film was titled *Hit the Road Running*.

From Treasured Recipes To Treasured Life



Julius Hoyle of the Boiling Springs Rescue Squad accepts a \$500 check from Miriam Glenn of the Boiling Springs Extension Homemakers Club. The money comes from the sale of the club's *Treasured Recipes* cookbook.

Special Olympics Finance Workshop At G-W College

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The tenth annual Cleveland County Special Olympics will be held again this year at Gardner-Webb College's Spangler Stadium on Thursday, April 28.

The activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a parade featuring Hardee's T.V. personality Road Runner as this year's grand marshal. The olympics will conclude at 2:15 p.m. with the presentation of the medals and trophies.

Participating in the 20 different events will be over 200 students from the Children's Center, the Mental Health Day Care Center, the First Baptist Church Adult Day Care Center, along with the alumni of the Children's Center and the physically handicapped students from Graham School.

"Teachers and parents both have told me the children look forward to the olympics as much as they do Christmas," said Dr. Lonnie Proctor, professor of health and physical education at G-W and co-ordinator of the Cleveland County Special Olympics. In addition to the students feeling a sense of accomplishment that comes from participation, Mrs. Proctor feels that the olympics also brings the students' families closer together. "During our first olympics only two families came to watch," said Mrs. Proctor. "Now the majority of the families come even if they have to get off work."

In other college news—topics as varied as insurance needs, savings plans and how to read the financial pages will be discussed

during a family financial planning seminar beginning Tuesday, May 5 at Gardner-Webb College.

The seminar, sponsored by the Broyhill Academy of Gardner-Webb, will include five sessions to be held each Tuesday evening from May 5 until June 2. The sessions, which are open to the public free of charge, will be held in the seminar room of the Dover Library from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The seminar will cover a wide range of planning needs important to young couples just starting out, as well as couples nearing retirement. The first session, to be presented by Jake Garmon of Investors Diversified Services in Charlotte, N.C., will cover the area of establishing net worth and identifying financial goals.

Other sessions will include William F. LeGrand of Shelby speaking on insurance protection and Dale Winn of Boiling Springs First Federal Savings and Loan speaking on savings plans. Concluding the seminar will be Sam Galloway of Smith Barney, Harris Upham in Spartanburg, S.C. speaking on investments and Fritz Russell of Shelby's First National Bank speaking on estate planning.

Persons interested in attending the seminar should call the Broyhill Academy office at 434-2361 ext. 261.

Gardner-Webb is a liberal arts college affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of N.C., offering associate, bachelor and master's degrees. The college is noted for its independence of federal funding.

It's Rash To Call Poison Ivy An Ivy, Says NC Botanist

This native plant pest has been spreading rampantly, much to the distress of susceptible people; there are very few who are truly immune.

Poison ivy is not an ivy at all, although it is capable of attaching itself to posts, walls and trees and climbing to great heights. It belongs to the sumac family and like its cousins, **poison oak and poison sumac, contains in all its parts a sticky resin capable of creating irritation.**

Gardeners frequently may develop rashes from contact with poison ivy roots not otherwise visible. Smoke from burning of these plants can also be a source of very severe irritation.

While some people claim to be so sensitive that they develop a rash and itch without ever

touching poison ivy, the likelihood is that they have, in fact, made a secondary contact with pets, work clothes or shoes that have touched the plant and contain the toxic resin. The resin remains for months, and dead plants can produce irritation for a year or more.

There are many remedies for the itching and rash of poison ivy including some uncertain or dubious ones long honored in folklore: smearing the orange flowers, leaves or stems of jewel weed on the affected skin, or the application of the sap from a leaf of aloe vera, a common house plant. A paste of moist baking soda can relieve the itching, and many commercial preparations based on calamine, or more recently containing cortison derivatives, are found in the

drugstores. Those excessively sensitive may require immunization through injections available from their physicians.

The most important aspect of poison ivy control is to prevent its establishment in the garden or at the edges of driveways and roads. There are effective weed-killer sprays sometimes requiring two applications a week apart for vigorous plants. Care in application is necessary to avoid killing desirable plants nearby.

Pulling up the poison ivy plants also is a good method but requires extreme care to avoid contact with any part of the plant by using heavy gloves and long-sleeved garments. Thorough washing with warm soapy water after such work is advisable.

Many people have learned to

recognize the poison ivy plant from its characteristic compound leaf containing three leaflets and to differentiate it from the harmless Virginia creeper, which resembles it but contains five leaflets. It is a good plan to know the plant is all seasons and in all its forms, including the rough brown, rope-like vines growing to the tree-tops locally.

The N.C. Botanical Garden maintains some labeled poison ivy plants on the nature trails and in the Coastal Plain habitat so that visitors may be able to learn to identify the—and poison oak and poison sumac as well—at different times of the year.

Families also may wish to consider teaching their children to recognize these toxic plants by bringing them to the Botanical Garden, thus reducing their chances for sensitization.