

In these columns will be found a fair presentation of local and county news of general interest.

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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A HOME NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CHOWAN COUNTY

Volume III.—Number 6.

Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, February 6, 1936.

\$1.25 Per Year

## Negro Murderously Assaults Wm. J. Harris In Grocery Store

### Abraham Nowell Confessed to Deed Wednesday Morning

#### FIVE ARRESTS

### Inflicted Over Two Dozen Wounds on Head With Poker

Fifteen hours after William J. Harris, 82, beloved East Church Street store keeper affectionately known for a quarter century or more as "Uncle Billy" Harris, had been murderously struck down and robbed in his little place of business late Tuesday afternoon, Abraham Nowell, 23, Negro log woods worker in the Yeopim section, confessed to the brutality, and, because of the still serious condition of his victim and the feeling evidenced about town, was spirited to the Central prison at Raleigh by Sheriff J. A. Bunch and Officer R. L. Pratt.

Four other captives rounded up in a somewhat general scouring of the neighborhood and woods in the New Town section were immediately released by the authorities. A small sum of money, estimated as around \$25, taken by Nowell at the time he struck "Uncle Billy" into semi-consciousness, was found by the police where Nowell had said he had secreted it in a stump in the terrain near his house.

As the police were able to glean the facts "Uncle Billy" was setting up a new stove pipe in his store when Nowell, who works on the J. Henderson Dail farm and is the son of a colored preacher, entered the Harris store with a small sack of flour under his arm. The Negro insists it was never his intent to rob or commit the assault and that his manner was friendly, so much so that he helped "Uncle Billy" fix his stove pipe. A customer necessitated that "Uncle Billy" make change and it was then Nowell says he saw the old man take a bag of small cash from behind his counter. From that moment Nowell avows he lost control of himself and grabbed a poker and struck "Uncle Billy" twice with it, although later surgical attention conveyed the inference that more blows than two had been rained upon the old man's head.

Immediately after the crime Nowell fled, and "Uncle Billy" heroically struggled to his feet, fastened up his store, and with blood pouring from a score of head wounds, walked to his home on Oakum Street to notify Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Boyce, who lived with him.

Dr. L. P. Williams was sent for and the police notified.

Almost immediately the whole town knew of the awfulness of the attack on the beloved old groceryman and Sheriff Bunch and the town constabulary went to work immediately. Nowell was rounded up as the second captive after Mrs. Boyce had said she had seen him previously in "Uncle Billy's" place. Subsequently it was bruited about a (Continued on Page Five)

## Prayer Meeting Called Off At M. E. Church

Due to the very disagreeable weather, Rev. George Blount, pastor of the Methodist Church, has announced that the mid-week prayer service has been called off until further notice. Attendance at these meetings has been vitally affected by the extremely cold and inclement weather. The services will be resumed just as soon as the weather permits, and the study of a timely book will be a feature of these Wednesday night meetings.

The discontinuance of the prayer meetings went into effect Wednesday of this week.

## Elihu T. Copeland Funeral Tuesday

Funeral services were held from the home for Mr. Elihu T. Copeland, age 74, on Tuesday afternoon, with Pastor W. T. C. Briggs officiating. He was assisted by Rev. John T. Byrum. Burial took place in the Boyce burying ground near the home of Mr. T. D. Boyce, Icaria.

Mr. Copeland had held his church membership for years with the Chappell Hill Baptist Church, near which he had also lived. He is survived by his wife, who is almost the same age, and a son, and by other relatives.

## NEW MANAGER



WILEY J. P. EARNHARDT  
New manager of the Taylor Theatre who will take over the entire management on Wednesday, February 12. He is familiarly known as "Jimmy."

## NEW MANAGER IS EMPLOYED BY TAYLOR THEATRE

Wiley Earnhardt, of Elizabeth City, Will Take Charge Wednesday February 12

Of interest to many in Edenton and this section is the announcement made by Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Taylor that Wiley J. P. Earnhardt has been secured to manage the Taylor Theatre. This information follows rumors during the last week to the effect that the theatre had been sold, which rumors are unfounded.

Mr. Earnhardt, familiarly known as "Jimmy" by his friends, has for the past eight years been assistant manager at the Carolina and Alkrama Theatres in Elizabeth City, and in being made manager of the local theatre will have entire charge. He plans to make many changes and will devote his entire time to the building up of theatre patronage, and says his first job will be to freshen up and beautify the marquee and lobby.

The new manager, originally from Concord, N. C., will take over his new duties on Wednesday, February 12. He is thoroughly acquainted with the theatre business and assures patrons of the Taylor that they may expect to see the best pictures the industry affords.

Mr. Earnhardt has an attractive wife and a young son and upon arrival in Edenton early next week will live temporarily at the Hotel Joseph Hewes.

## Coach Brogden Plans For Football Practice

Coach Leon Brogden of the Edenton High School, is already planning for football during the 1936 season and plans to start spring training as soon as the weather permits after the State boxing tournament at Chapel Hill on February 10 and 11.

The equipment was inspected this week and repairs made, so that it will be ready to pass out to candidates when the call is made. Mr. Brogden doesn't know exactly how many of last year's team will be in the lineup next year but has every reason to believe that the school will have a strong team.

## Hog Killing Time Now Nearing End

Though hog-killing in Chowan County has been underway for some time, quite a few farmers have this task still ahead of them. According to reports an ample supply of hogs has been killed for home consumption, much of which has been put up for use during the coming months.

Approximately 10,000 hogs have been raised in the County by about 1000 farmers. An average of five hogs per family has been killed for home consumption, leaving something like 3000 slaughtered for sale to the trade and 2000 sold alive.

## LEAP YEAR DANCE ON FRIDAY NIGHT

Ladies of St. Mary's Guild Sponsor Unique Affair Over Edenton Cafe

Plans have been completed for a Cabaret Leap Year dance to be held on Friday evening, February 7, over the Edenton Cafe, the affair being sponsored by St. Mary's Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Those in charge of the dance have announced that there will be many special attractions for the entertainment of those attending, chief among which will be solo dancing by Miss Martha Outlaw and her pupils of Elizabeth City.

Music for the dance will be furnished by Fred Barr's Orchestra. Tables and chairs will be arranged for those who do not care to dance.

Mike Kehayas, manager of the Edenton Cafe, has re-arranged the second floor over the cafe, making of it a very attractive and comfortable room in which to hold dances or similar affairs. A large crowd is expected to attend the dance tomorrow night.

## Edenton Thawing Out Of Hard Freeze

Ground hogs and snow birds hereabouts on their proverbial day of maneuvering/last Sunday may have satisfied the skeptical that plenty more winter is in the offing, but the first four days of this week left the theory open to doubt. Rain and a rapidly rising temperature, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, cracked Old Boreas an awful wallop and restored thoughts of better climatic times to come, and no one has objected in the slightest.

Plenty of noticeable changes have been observed. For the first time since the great cold of 1918 the Alabamie Sound was frozen solid from shore to shore and old-timers say it might have been possible last Sunday morning to have driven a mule and log sled across it—a feat however, no one dared to essay. The same ice condition developed in the Roanoke, Cashie and Chowan rivers, and Tuesday the rapid thaw broke the barriers and the three waterways, propelled by a lively wind, drove the floes into the Sound, which had also started to crumble.

Down along the Edenton waterfront the sight was entrancing Tuesday afternoon as the swirling cakes crashed and tumbled about each other with a heavy roar in their eagerness to go onward toward the ocean. Naturally the bergs piled up about the Norfolk and Southern railroad bridge, slightly damaged in a similar situation in 1918, and extra railroad crews from New Bern and Washington were hurried to the scene to be on watch. Tuesday night and Wednesday morning it was deemed advisable to resort to dynamiting to protect the structure and all the available powder that could be secured in Edenton was secured. The reports of the explosions could be heard in Edenton and occasioned some wonderment.

W. A. Everett, operator of the Edenton-Mackeys ferry, reported Wednesday that the line had resumed operations after 8 days of idleness due to the ice. The situation provided "Bill" with his customary statement "Now, see here, if we only had a steel ferry boat we never would have to stoop running. Can't you get us a steel boat?" The Herald agreed to pass his inquiry on but could offer no encouragement.

## Mrs. Nejam Will Not Open Fruit Store Here

The rumors afloat in Edenton that Mrs. A. Nejam, owner of the building now occupied by Chap's New Deal, will open a fruit store when the place is vacated by the present tenant is unfounded. This information appeared in a story in The Herald last week in connection with Arthur Chappell buying the Satterfield building, but has been denied by Mrs. Nejam.

In a letter to The Herald Mrs. Nejam says, in part: "Fortunately, my financial position is such that I do not have to engage in any business at all, and being pleasantly located in my own beautiful home here in Jackson, I have no intention what ever of leaving here." Mrs. Nejam further says the rumor referred to is utterly unfounded and somewhat embarrassing. Therefore, The Herald gladly gives space to the correction of the statement.

## RELIEF REQUESTS CAUSES WORRY TO COMMISSIONERS

### Many Take Attitude It's Up to County to Furnish All Needs

#### HEAT RECORD ROOM

### Discuss Placing County WPA Projects In One Building

Though little of importance came before the Chowan County Commissioners at their monthly meeting on Monday, the session extended over into the afternoon. Practically the entire session was consumed dealing with relief cases, quite a few appearing before the Commissioners in person requesting help, aside from the list in the hands of W. J. Taylor, County Welfare officer. With each subsequent meeting of the Commissioners, there is an increasing demand made on the County for relief, causing them considerable worry in view of the fact that the County's relief bill is already considerably above the budget. The County is now giving a large sum for relief and especially during the cold weather the demand has been greater.

Due to the severe weather a trio of Edenton attorneys also added to the worries of the Commissioners when R. C. Holland, W. S. Privott and J. N. Pruden appeared before the group and requested something done to heat the room adjoining the register of deeds' office, and in which is stored records. The attorneys explained that it is necessary for them very frequently to enter the room to look up records, but that the room is so cold they are unable to remain long enough to complete their work, and further, that it endangers their health. The Commissioners agreed with the attorneys, and voted to furnish an electric stove if the city would pay for the current. The proper solution to the situation is a (Continued on Page Five)

## EDENTON SCOUTS SPONSORING PLAY

### "Miss Blue Bonnet" Will Be Presented In School Auditorium On February 13 and 14

Miss Ellis Ballance, play director of the Wayne P. Seawell Producing Company, of Atlanta, Ga., arrived in Edenton Tuesday to formulate plans for the presentation of "Miss Blue Bonnet," a three-act comedy which will be sponsored by the Edenton Boy Scout troop.

The play will be presented at the Edenton High School auditorium on Thursday and Friday nights, February 13 and 14, the proceeds of the entertainment going to the Boy Scouts.

Miss Ballance is already at work securing a cast for the entertainment, which will be composed entirely of local talent, and as soon as enough characters are secured rehearsals will be held. The play, a comedy, is filled with laugh-provoking incidents and John Graham, Scoutmaster of the Edenton troop, feels sure citizens will cooperate with the boys in staging a successful entertainment.

## Red Men District Meeting Tonight

Due to the bad weather last Thursday, the meeting of the First District of the Improved Order of Red Men, which was to have been held in Elizabeth City, was postponed. This meeting, however, will be held tonight, and members of Chowan Tribe are especially urged to be present.

Matters of importance to the Order will be discussed, following which refreshments will be served.

## Four Candidates Now In Senatorial Race

W. T. Brown, of Perquimans County, has announced himself as a candidate for the senate from the First District, and early this week was mingling among his friends in Edenton. He has served three terms in the lower house of the General Assembly from his county and now aspires to represent the district.

Besides Mr. Brown, there are three other candidates for the Senate: Miss Ethel Parker, of Gatesville; Jerry Hughes, of Elizabeth City, and W. I. Halstead, of South Mills.

## Chowan River Bridge Threatened By Fire

### Herald Adds New Weekly Features

Starting with this issue, The Herald has secured a few new features for its readers. Among them is a weekly humorous story by the late Will Rogers, which undoubtedly will be welcomed by many Herald subscribers. Another feature each week will be "Just Humans" by Gene Carr appearing on the editorial page and depicting possible every day occurrences.

Besides, there will be two other features, one a timely saying by Dinah, and a short "Do You Know" strip so popular in newspapers of today.

The Herald is happy to be able to present these features and trust that they will prove interesting to all subscribers.

## Helms And Dail Speak To Rotarians

M. W. Jackson will have charge of the program at the meeting of the Edenton Rotary Club at the luncheon today. Mr. Jackson's theme will be the dairy business as it applies to the welfare of a community.

The Rotarians at last Thursday's meeting were entertained as well as enlightened by an address by Chief of Police G. A. Helms and State Patrolman George Dail, who were specially invited guests of the Club.

Mr. Helms in his talk stressed the importance of cooperation of citizens in law enforcement, saying it is not only the duty of a citizen to report violations but also to testify in court. He likewise urged parents of children to aid in keeping children off the streets while roller skating, and emphasized the care motorists should take especially when driving in the vicinity of the school building in preventing injuries to school children. For the information of motorists, Mr. Helms reminded his hearers that the speed limit within the city is 25 miles an hour, 20 miles in the business district and 15 miles in the school zone and at street intersections.

Mr. Dail gave a brief history of the State Highway Patrol bringing out the fact that since the Patrol was formed in 1929 with 37 men, it now has 121 on the force. In his estimation, one of the most important factors tending to safety on the highways is the drivers' license law, which is playing an important part in taking off the highways incompetent, reckless and drunken drivers. Over 1000 drivers' licenses have been revoked since the law went into effect.

The Patrolman stressed the importance of driving on the right side of the highway, even if no cars are in sight. He was asked numerous questions by the Rotarians, one of which was the cause of most wrecks on the highways. Mr. Dail gave it as his opinion that by far the greater portion of wrecks are due directly to high rate of speed, saying that 45 miles an hour is the speed limit. He recited instances where patrolmen, when ordering motorists to have minor repairs made immediately, have been accused of being in cahoot with certain filling stations, but that despite many handicaps the patrolmen continue to carry out the law as far as possible.

## New Jersey Man Writes Poem About Edenton

An interesting poem written by Harry G. More, editor and publisher of the Millburn-Short Hills Item of Millburn, New Jersey, has just been received by C. P. Wales. Mr. Wales, by the way, had previously sent the New Jersey man a quantity of pecans and peanuts, and Mr. More was loud in his praises to Mr. Wales, the nuts possibly being the inspiration of the poem, which is as follows:

If the lowly bean of Boston makes Its residents astute  
What reason then has Edenton To fail to follow suit.

Take glory where you find it In tea and earthy nut  
Let the other fellow laugh from out His ante-Bellum rut.

When all the nuts are counted Outside of Eden Town  
'Twill be good by forever to You little peanut town.

### Serious Damage Averted By Edenton Fire Department

#### CABLE BROKE

### Fire Breaks Out Second Time Late Tuesday Night

Edenton citizens were right much concerned Monday morning when it was reported that the Chowan River bridge was on fire, resulting in the large Edenton Fire Department truck being sent to the scene.

Despite a drizzling rain the bridge had caught fire about midway between the Chowan County side and the drawbridge in the middle. The fire was caused by a cross circuit in the power cable which is hung close to the bridge supports. The cable had burned off the heavy insulation, and ignited the wooden supports, spreading under the bridge and to the other side. The flames were whipping up over the bridge when the Edenton firemen arrived on the scene, burning the surface of the wooden structure for a distance of about 50 feet.

The firemen experienced extreme difficulty in fighting the flames, being forced to break a hole in a layer of ice about three inches thick in order to secure water and then had to break the ice in order to move about in a boat to fight the fire, which had spread not only along the sides but under the bridge as well.

The fire was discovered by a Mr. Cheek, who was driving a truck for the Maryland Biscuit Company, of Baltimore, and reported to Captain Pat Bell, bridgekeeper. Mr. Bell immediately called Edenton to have the power turned off and asked for aid.

After the fire had been extinguished a thorough investigation was made of the burned portion of the bridge to determine whether or not it was safe for traffic. The flames, however, did not eat deep into the timber and automobiles were allowed to pass, with the warning to drive slow.

The fire attracted many of the highway officials and employees, including Julien Wood, a member of the State Highway Commission, who was very much concerned about the safety in crossing the bridge, but upon a report of a corps of inspectors, was of the opinion the bridge was safe.

Another fire broke out on the bridge about 10 o'clock Tuesday night, and the Edenton Fire Department was again called to the scene.

A thorough inspection was made Tuesday under the bridge by State officials, and though no fire could be detected, it evidently was not out, for no reason for the second outbreak could be given except that the heated asphalt caused the fire. It occurred under the bridge at the same section of the bridge that burned Monday.

Ice in the river, however, had disappeared and the firemen had little difficulty in fighting the blaze from a small skiff. Traffic was allowed to cross the bridge immediately after the fire was extinguished.

## 22 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NAMED ON HONOR ROLL

### Girls Overwhelmingly In Majority On Selected List For Fourth Month of School

Twenty-two students in the Edenton High School were fortunate enough to earn a place on the honor roll of the school for the fourth month just closed. The eighth grade placed the largest number on the exclusive list with eight, six girls and two boys. Of the entire list there were only four boys out of the 22 to gain this coveted honor.

Following are the students included in the list:

Eleventh Grade—Evelyn Brown, Rebecca Hollowell, Billy Gregory, Mildred Ward, and Sarah Elizabeth White.

Tenth Grade—Wendell Copeland, Dorothy Bufflap, Mabel Ruth Harrell and Dorothy Saunders.

Ninth Grade—Jennie Ruth McAlilly Junius Davis, Evelyn Hollowell, Elizabeth Dail, and Mary Forehand.

Eighth Grade—Alex White, Anna Wood, Mya Weaver, Helen Edwards, Edna Mae Wilkins, Billy Shepard, Mary White, Madaline Habit.