

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

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Chowan's Criminal Docket In Superior Court Quickly Cleared By Judge Burgwyn

Final Case of Term Disposed of Early Tuesday Morning

STIFF SENTENCES

Habit, Crabtree and von Wischon Cases of Most Interest

Before winding up one of the shortest sessions of Superior Court ever held in this county Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn brought compassion and mercy into the consideration of a number of defendants before him, one a hardened criminal, on Monday. Outside of the Habit case, probably the most expectantly interesting to Chowan and treated of in an adjacent column, the arraignment of Kurtweid von Wischon, Norfolk seaman, safe cracker and burglar, and Johnny W. Crabtree, bigamist, occasioned the most attention by a crowded court room.

Where everyone felt that von Wischon would be railroaded for a great term of years, the court brought surprise by imposing a somewhat modest penalty of but 5 to 7 years. As for Crabtree, he was sent to the roads for an indeterminate term of from 3 to 7 years.

Von Wischon, when arrested here in early summer after burglarizing the Jenkins Motor Company office and being caught the same night in Hertford with the Edenton spoils in his possession, was a pretty cocky fellow who seemed to bow defiance to the law and its authorities. But on Monday it was different. His bravado gave way to tears as he sobbed dramatically and bitterly when Clerk Dixon read openly a letter von Wischon had written Judge Burgwyn, begging for mercy and saying he was at the end of the trail and wished to start afresh.

The court remarked he felt the time for sorrow had passed, but that he would be as merciful as he could. He kindly lectured the prisoner, imposed the sentence in Central Prison (Continued on Page Five)

Seats Arrive For New Auditorium At Edenton School

Gordon Murphy, Jr., Is Elected to Replace Brothers

OPENS MONDAY

Superintendent Holmes Says Everything Will Be In Readiness

Seats for the new Edenton High School auditorium arrived Wednesday and Superintendent John A. Holmes is hopeful that all will be in place for the opening of school next Monday morning. Work is being pushed rapidly at the school and by the time the doors are thrown open Mr. Holmes is confident everything will be in readiness. Painting about the school has been completed and with the new auditorium and practically new class rooms, teachers and school officials are expecting an auspicious opening and a very successful term of school.

A new teacher has been elected to replace Wilbur Brothers, who resigned as science teacher, the new man being Gordon Murphy, Jr., of Nashville, Tenn. Mr. Murphy is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and received his Master Degree at Peabody Institute. He has served as a student teacher at Vanderbilt as well as substitute teacher in the Nashville city schools. He has studied all the sciences, and though he had not definitely decided up to Wednesday night, Mr. Holmes believes he will accept the position and will make a valuable member of the faculty.

Home economics will be an added course at the school this year, with Miss Madeline Trask, of Wilmington, as teacher. The commercial course will also again be available, taught by Mrs. James Speight. Mr. Holmes announced Wednesday that of last year's commercial class, seven have secured permanent positions.

Kramer Appoints Observing Aids In Big War Maneuver

Four Warning Posts Designated Will Cover Chowan County

INSTRUCTIONS

Spires Put In Charge of Telephone Communication During Test

Selection of four chief observing aides and the naming of E. W. Spires as the chief of the telephonic communications for all of Chowan, together with some new instructions and warnings to be followed by every county resident, were some of the announcements made yesterday by C. E. Kramer, county chief of operations in the war maneuver to be conducted by the government throughout eastern North Carolina around the middle of next month.

The maneuver, intended to detect an incoming enemy corps of bombing planes destined to destroy Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville, will be on for two weeks prior to October 17, and Chowan County is reckoned as one of the pivotal points of such detection.

There will be four observation posts located here, not on so elaborate a scale as in other sections for they will be void of the great sound and sight apparatus used by the War Department, but each post to be manned by army observers and local civilians.

Once any planes have been heard or seen by the ears or eyes of these observing posts telephone flashes will be shot on at once to Fort Bragg, and will be considered as a sufficient warning to make the proposed onslaught battle.

Mr. Kramer, recently named as Chowan chieftain by Mayor Flora, of Elizabeth City, who is handling the entire series of warning nets in the counties north of the Sound, is quite enthusiastic over Chowan's part in the maneuver and is hopeful of good results.

For two of the posts, Sections 1 and 3, Mr. Kramer has named two leading national guard proponents here, Roy L. Spry and Captain Pearly L. Baumgardner, of Center Hill. Captain Pat H. Bell, Chowan bridge tender, will operate Post No. 2, and Thomas B. Wood, of "Athol," will be in charge of Post No. 4. These and Mr. Spires will be the Kramer chief aides throughout the maneuver.

Mr. Kramer brings out that all these posts will be manned by volunteer observers picked from the American Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, Boy Scouts and all other civic, commercial and fraternal organizations. The members of the local National Guard ambulance unit will be asked to play a very important part in the program.

Those wishing to volunteer their help are urged to communicate with the county chief or any of his assistants. Ladies, says Mr. Kramer, will (Continued on Page Five)

Capehart Resigns

George Capehart, who was virtually drafted into the position of Scoutmaster of the Edenton Boy Scout troop about a year ago, resigned late last week. Mr. Capehart was more or less dissatisfied with the progress made by the local troop and frankly admitted that he was not adapted to the particular job thrust upon him.

Kermit Layton, who has for years been associated with the local troop as assistant Scoutmaster, and is thoroughly acquainted with Scout work, has been appointed by the troop committee to succeed Mr. Capehart. Mr. Layton will be succeeded as assistant Scoutmaster by Colon Sawyer.

578 Is Enrollment In County's White Schools First Day

Chowan High Hopes to Get Extra Elementary Teacher

3 NEW TEACHERS

Principal and Superintendent Pleased With Interest

Much pleasure has been expressed by Superintendent W. J. Taylor over the interest shown by parents and scholars at the opening of the mid-county white schools last Monday, and he is hopeful that this year's total attendance, particularly at the new high school at Cross Roads can even yet be forced up to an all-year high.

While the enrollment at Chowan High, according to Principal P. L. Baumgardner, is noted at 425, out of an aggregate of 578 in all the mid-county white institutions, and with 128 of these enrolled in the high school grades in the new school, both Mr. Taylor and Mr. Baumgardner are hoping that the elementary attendance score will be further increased during the first two weeks prior to September 26.

The reason for this is obvious to the teaching heads. An enrollment of fifty scholars in the first grade at the county high school has provoked a situation that is proving of embarrassment. The possibly overcrowded situation with the present faculty staff could be relieved, it was explained, if the attendance showed an increase sufficient to permit the (Please Turn to Page Four)

New Register Book At St. Paul's Church

Gift of Robert A. Foster Presented Monday By E. W. Spires

Due to the generosity of Robert A. Foster, of Somerville, N. J., St. Paul's Church is now in possession of a brand new register book. The gift was presented in behalf of Mr. Foster at the meeting of the vestry Monday night by E. W. Spires. The register replaces an old book which is highly prized in that it contains many prominent signatures from all over the country as well as other nations.

Mr. Foster has a great deal of affection for Edenton and many of its citizens, it being remembered that by much research on his part authentic data was secured for inscription on the Joseph Hewes monument when erected on the Court House Green. Mr. Foster also, at great expense, salvaged the old records of Unanimity Lodge and neatly bound the minute books. He also donated a register book to the lodge as well as the Copola House.

Mr. Foster plans to pay another visit to Edenton some time in October, at which time he will be accompanied by his wife, who at present is improving after several years illness.

Weighty Matters Confront Town Council At Long Monthly Meeting Held Tuesday Night; Special Session Called For Friday

Pittsburgh Sounds Its Trumpet

Double-barreled in its intent was the following letter, happily praiseworthy of the recent special bridge edition of The Chowan Herald, and elaborately more so in its endorsement of the Albemarle as a place to live and die in, which reached the editor this week from Vincent C. Dwyer, of 1606 Murray Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. The epistle which speaks for itself and envies the editor "who can lie down under the beautiful blue skies of North Carolina and rest your weary bones on her sweet, warm sod," is as follows:

"Dr. Mr. Editor: "Some kind and unknown soul mailed to me a copy of 'The Chowan Herald' of August 18th, 1938.

"First, may I specifically congratulate you and the publishers of 'The Chowan Herald,' on the extent and excellence, both editorially and typographically of your paper. It is a distinct credit to any city anywhere in these United States.

"Then, if I may, I want to ex-

press my pleasure in traveling through your truly wonderful State. No where have I enjoyed my travels more; nowhere have I met with more cordial contacts with residents. Indeed, (and I would not want you to broadcast this) when I have accumulated enough of this-here-local-gelt-I and my friend have the firm intention of heing to our beloved State of North Carolina to live—and I mean to LIVE.

"From the beautiful, enticing shores and beaches; the marches and meadows of the wonderful coastline, to the plateau and beyond to the great mountains, North Carolina has in it what Nature created best, for every him, use and fancy.

"So, to my unknown North Carolina friend, who sent me your good paper, I say, with sincerity and gratitude, 'Thanks, Thanks, Friend, a million,' whom-ever you are, I envy you who can lie down under the beautiful skies of North Carolina and rest your weary bones on her sweet, warm sod."

Pressure Brought On School Board To Buy Band Bus

Feeling Prevails Band Is In Fact Part of School

NEED ADMITTED

Liability Involved Now Appears to Be Principal Holdup

Though several other affairs were in progress at the same time, a goodly number of Chamber of Commerce members met Thursday night at the call of President Joseph H. Conger primarily to discuss the idea of securing a bus to transport the Edenton High School band. Several efforts had been made to secure funds with which to purchase a bus, and when these failed an appeal was made to the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a movement which would add this much needed equipment.

At the same time the meeting was being held a Building and Loan session was in progress, the band was parading on Broad Street and a game of soft ball was being played on (Continued on Page Five)

Football Season For High School Opens On Friday

Columbia High School Will Be Season's First Opponent

ON HOME FIELD

Friday Night's Game at Rocky Mount Forced To Be Called Off

Though it was expected to raise the curtain for Edenton High School's football season Friday night, a game with Rocky Mount High School was called off, thus postponing the opening until Friday, the 23rd.

Coach Dave Holton had a game scheduled for tomorrow night to be played in Rocky Mount, but due to a Piedmont League baseball game the stadium could not be secured.

The curtain will be raised for Edenton High School's football season Friday afternoon when Coach David Holton's outfit will tackle Columbia school. The game will take place on Hicks Field at 3 (Continued on Page Five)

Lions Club Anxious For Night Football

Committee Appointed to Make Necessary Arrangements

Night football games claimed the attention of the Lions Club at their meeting Monday night which resulted in the appointment of a committee composed of Graham Byrum, Kenneth Floors, William Privott and Clarence Leary, who were instructed to make an investigation of likely games that could be scheduled and arrange the flood lights for the purpose.

The Lions also went on record to cooperate in every possible way with the anti-aircraft maneuver to be put on during October in which Chowan County has been designated to take an active part.

For the information of members and hinting at better attendance during the months ahead, Secretary W. J. Taylor told those present that for the past seven months the club has had an average attendance of 75 per cent which was considered very good in that it included the summer months during which time many of the members were on vacations.

One new member, W. C. Bunch, superintendent of the U. S. Fish Hatchery, was added to the club. He was placed on the club's safety committee, composed of George Dail and Geddes Potter.

Failure to Make Sewer Connections Causing Menace

\$1 RATE EXPECTED

Pressure of Business Caused Delay on Budget Action

Faced with many important matters, Town Council on Tuesday night held one of the busiest and most lengthy meetings in several months. It was originally proposed to approve the year's budget and set the tax rate, but due to the amount of business confronting the group, this matter will be acted upon at a special meeting to be held Friday night. However, before adjournment Albert Byrum, chairman of the finance committee, briefly reported a tentative set up arranged earlier in the month and despite several boosts in appropriations, it was his opinion that the town's business can be adequately carried on with the same tax rate as last year, which is \$1.00 on the \$100 valuation.

Several requests for financial assistance were presented Tuesday night, all of which will be considered at Friday's meeting when the tax rate will be determined.

William Privott, spokesman for a delegation representing various organizations and interested citizens, appealed for town aid in furnishing a monthly salary for the scoutmaster of the Edenton Boy Scout troop. Mr. Privott very ably presented the (Continued on Page Four)

Judge Burgwyn Is High In His Praise Of Chowan County

Says Albemarle Unable To Repay Debt of Gratitude to Julien Wood

BRIEF CHARGE

Urges Children to Be Familiar With History of County

Prior to the Monday consideration of a number of cases on the criminal docket, all of them of striking and unusual interest to this section, together with the imposition of severe but merciful sentences, Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn swerved from the usual procedure in charging the newly designated grand jury, of which John G. Wood was named as foreman, and principally confined his remarks to much praiseworthy comment for Chowan's ancient history, its primal men and what they did in hewing civilization out of a quagmire wilderness, and particularly, to the gratification of a crowded court room, spoke in warm praise of Julien Wood, Edenton's first citizen and former State Highway Commissioner.

The eminent jurist said all North Carolina, and especially the entire Albemarle, will ever remain under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Wood, which it can never repay. His services as an earnest conferee in all highway matters, his initial and lasting interest in the location, construction and dedication of the new Sound bridge, have made this debt a paramount one and worthy of the zeal of Pericles, the early Grecian builder and road enthusiast. The Judge did not cite the Pericles reference, but it is fitting, nevertheless, and was in his thoughts, he said Monday night.

Mr. Wood was not in court to hear the eulogy but learned of it later, and spoke in thanks to the Judge about it. The latter said, "Mr. Wood, I meant it all, but commendation is poor pay." "I have been amply repaid in a thousand ways," said the local banker.

In starting his charge, which avoided all lengthy references to interpretations of the law, save to call brief attention to drunken driving, dance hall irregularities, school bus imperfections, and the work of all county officials, Judge Burgwyn gave as his reason that the people today are well (Continued on Page Seven)

A Prisoner Speaks

In just what sort of a psychological or philosophical way a professional criminal's mind works during his haunting unoccupied hours in prison, was, perhaps, never better shown than by a letter penciled by Kurt von Wischon, diminutive Norfolk, Va., seaman, safe cracker and burglar, the Albemarle No. 1 offender, read in open court here Monday at the very start, almost, of the Chowan Superior fall term. Von Wischon sent the epistle, carefully and beautifully written, intelligently phrased, penitent in tenor, admitting his past foredoomed his future as hopeless, but begging for the customary one more chance, to Judge W. H. S. Burgwyn, of Jackson. The jurist read it kindly, commented considerably on it, and said the time had passed to be sorry and that clemency would prove futile.

Von Wischon, a hardened criminal since he was 17, during which period he had served 17 sentences in 10 different states of the union and had escaped three times from as many jails, all according to an FBI report from the bureau chief, J. Edgar Hoover, of Washington, lost his nerve completely as his letter was read back to him for all to hear, and wept dramatically and bitterly at the reading and at the jurist's accompanying remarks, as he was told he must start again, for the eighteenth time, on a 5 to 7 year indeterminate sentence "at hard labor and to wear a felon's stripes," and afterward to promise to leave North Carolina and never return.

Von Wischon's letter was as follows:

Central Prison, Raleigh, N. C. "Honored Sir: The reason for this letter is due to past and present circumstances involving my life. I say my life because I fully realize I am at trail's end. Perhaps this is of little interest to you, sir, as so many of us come to the end of our wayward trails, but there are not many who know quite what to do when they get there. True, where there is life there is hope; but when life is a burden; and the load grows too heavy to bear, and your heart trembles with only sorrow and regret, you know there's not a 'chance' to rise from the depths of despair. It is then, your honor, only then, does one know he has come face to face with himself, and knows it as the end of the trail.

"It leaves one in a very sad state of mind when he wakes up to a full realization that he has wandered too far in the forest and become lost from his self, and that those who might loan a helping hand, providing the loan has not caught up with the present and he will make a change before it is too late, to feel sorrow and regret of experience. Thus have I spoken from experience. But now it is too late. I fear there is no chance in which I can possibly hope (Continued on Page Two)