

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

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

A HOME NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CHOWAN COUNTY

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## Flames Rapidly Reduced Brown Lumber Company To Ruins Friday Afternoon

Fire Spreads So Fast There Was No Chance To Save

LOSS \$60,000

Plans Under Way to Rebuild Ruined Plant Soon as Possible

Edenton late Friday afternoon experienced one of its worst fires in recent years when the major portion of the M. G. Brown Lumber Company was totally destroyed, the loss being estimated at upwards of \$60,000, which was only partially covered by insurance.

The fire spread so rapidly that very little could be saved and at the rate it made headway, the opinion has been expressed that had the plant been in operation some of the workmen would have been trapped and lost their lives. The fire occurred shortly after 5 o'clock after the plant had been closed for the day, and is said to have first been seen by a boy in a boat off from the plant, who saw a small blaze outside the building, which is thought to have spread to the inside, from where so rapid progress was made that no amount of water could have saved the building at least.

Included in the loss was the planing mill, the glazing room, the sash warehouse, carpenter shop, lumber shed, cement and brick mortar warehouse and the old office. Three car loads of lumber which were on the railroad siding were also consumed by the flames, which were of such intense heat that the railroad track was melted. Heat was also responsible for burning three sections of hose as close as firemen could get to fight the fire.

All that remains of the plant which provided Edentons' largest payroll, is the saw mill and the main office. But for a favorable wind, it is thought the fire would have spread to the residential section and caused considerable more loss.

Due to the rapid progress of the fire, local firemen realized it was more than they could cope with and calls for help went out immediately to Elizabeth City and Windsor. Both towns promptly sent their fire trucks and relieved anxiety as to the spreading of the flames. These trucks, together with the two Edenton trucks, played upon the flames until near midnight Friday and several local firemen remained on duty all night to be ready to check any flare-up of the smoldering ruins.

The fire attracted a large number of spectators, some from neighboring towns from where the huge billows of smoke could be seen. Many remained late into the night to view the ghastly scene.

Just the Wednesday previous the fan house was destroyed by fire at the plant, but this damage was very small compared to the latest outbreak.

There were about 50 men employed at the buildings which were burned, but if the plant is not rebuilt many more than that will be affected.

Following the fire there was considerable speculation as to whether or not the plant would be rebuilt, but early this week it was definitely decided that as soon as possible new buildings will be erected and new equipment installed to resume operations.

## New Pharmacist At Sutton's Drug Store

J. E. Phillips, of Wilson, will arrive in Edenton Monday to be associated with Sutton's Drug Store. Mr. Phillips is an experienced registered pharmacist, a graduate of the North Carolina School of Pharmacy and has had chain store experience.

Mr. Phillips succeeds S. G. Clarke, who recently left Sutton's to go to Elizabeth City.

## Only 26 Jailed In Chowan During July

During the month of July Chowan County's jail again experienced a low population. According to Jailer Shelton Moore's report to the County Commissioners Monday there were 26 placed in jail during the month, most of whom were for one day, except George Pennington, who has been confined the entire month. The expense involved was \$56.65 which includes jail and turnkey fees.

## 1941 Revaluation Of Chowan's Property Arousing Interest

Commissioners to Adopt Policy at September Meeting

LOSING TAXES

Believed Much Property Not Now on County's Tax Books

With revaluation of Chowan County property to be made for 1941, County Commissioners are already considering the best method to have this very important work done. The Commissioners feel certain that a considerable amount of property is not now listed on the tax books and that there is much property listed at too low a figure and some carrying too high valuation compared with similar property.

Though the matter was discussed at Monday's meeting, after Tax Supervisor William Privott reminded the Board of the importance of an early start, it was decided to reach a definite decision at the September meeting. At present the Commissioners are undecided whether it would be better to employ Chowan County citizens to revalue the property or employ experienced men outside the county to do the work. At any rate, they feel that by the revaluation more tax revenue will be realized and that there will be more equality in the payment of taxes.

## Peanut Program Will Be Discussed At Meeting Aug. 15

Nearly 150 Representatives Will Meet In Washington

R. C. Holland, president of the Peanut Stabilization Cooperative here, received word on Monday inviting him to meet with nearly 150 representatives of the peanut industry in Washington, August 15, to discuss with Department of Agriculture officials the peanut situation and a possible diversion program for the 1940 crop.

Invitations to attend the conference were extended to members of four large cooperative marketing associations, independent growers, millers, shellers, peanut oil mill operators, and peanut product manufacturers.

These grower organizations have cooperated with the Surplus Marketing Administration in conducting diversion programs for the 1937, 1938 and 1939 peanut crops. Under the diversion programs, the grower organizations bought surplus peanuts from growers at prices designated by the Secretary of Agriculture and sold them to bidding crushing mills for the manufacture of peanut oil and meal.

Last year approximately 34,000 tons of 1939 crop peanuts were crushed for oil under the program at a total cost to the government of about \$700,000. Officials of the marketing division estimate that, as a result of the program, there was an increase in the income of peanut growers amounting to about \$8,000,000 for the 1939 crop. They also estimate that the diversion program in 1938 increased peanut growers' income between \$15,000,000 and \$18,000,000, and that in 1937 growers received about \$12,000,000 more for their peanuts.

## New Piling To Be Driven At Docks

Both the County and city docks are in need of repairs, both needing a number of new piles driven. This work will be done within the next few days by the Chesapeake-Camp Corporation of Franklin, Va., which organization is now erecting a pulp wood loading dock on the waterfront. About 15 new piles 40 feet long will be driven, which will add greater protection to the docks as well as to boats landing in the harbor.

ROTARY MEETS TODAY

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club will be held today at 1 o'clock. The program will be in charge of W. M. Perkins, superintendent of public welfare. All members are urged to attend.

## Chamber Of Commerce Membership Drive Will Be Concluded This Week; 25 Already Signed Up For Year 1940-41

Hoey Autographs Fletcher Novel

Book "Raleigh's Eden" Features Edenton History

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Fletcher, the latter an authoress who writes under the name of Inglis Fletcher, visited in Raleigh on Sunday and prevailed upon Governor Hoey to autograph the first 500 copies of Mrs. Fletcher's latest novel to come out in September which is to center about Edenton and New Bern and be called "Raleigh's Eden." The Fletchers have been guests at the Hotel Joseph Hewes since last May. Mrs. Fletcher spending the time checking on her facts and reading page proofs of her forthcoming opus.

Those who have been privileged to read the advance sheets speak of the novel to be as very cleverly told and charming with data about Edenton in the days immediately before the Revolution.

The Fletchers live in Balboa, California, and Mrs. Fletcher had a grandfather resident of Tyrell county, which she feels makes her a "native" of the Albemarle. Mr. Fletcher is a retired Standard Oil executive, and Mrs. Fletcher, who publishes through Bobbs-Merrill, has written three other popular novels. She has been at work for six years on "Raleigh's Eden."

## Court House Wiring May Be Replaced

Inspection Shows That Present Wiring Is Fire Hazard

That further improvement will be made to the old Chowan Court House will no doubt follow a report to the County Commissioners Monday that the electric wiring in the building is in very bad shape. Fire Chief R. K. Hall and C. M. Hicks reported to the Board that they had made an inspection and in their opinions the wiring constituted a serious fire hazard.

The Commissioners seriously considered the matter and before they adjourned had bids from Harry Smith and Floors Electric Company to do the work. However, they will take no action until the next meeting at which time both bidders were asked to display the sort of wire and tubing to be used in enclosing the wires.

Reroofing of the building is rapidly being completed, in the course of which repairs were made to timbers in the roof. Some of the timber was rotten and had to be replaced and braced due to the heavier roof. It is interesting to note, too, that sheathing on the Court House is only one inch in thickness, while that used in St. Paul's Church is two inches thick.

## Legionnaires Stage Membership Drive

Robert L. Pratt Put In Charge Of Canvassing Committee

At Tuesday night's meeting of Ed Bond post, plans were laid for a membership drive with R. L. Pratt in charge of a committee. Officers of the Post are anxious to secure a record membership this year and due to present national and international conditions, they are hopeful that every ex-service man in the county will join.

That interest in the regular meetings will increase is certain due to the announced purpose of Commander John A. Holmes to have a special program arranged for each meeting at which timely topics will be discussed.

C. E. Kramer made a splendid report of his trip to Asheville, where he attended a meeting of district representatives and state officers.

Grades Released For Local Stores

Triangle and J. E. Lassiter Head Two Groups

Grades for cafes and meat markets in Edenton for the month of August have just been completed by the Bertie-Chowan Health Department. Among the cafes the Triangle Service Station leads with 96 per cent, while J. E. Lassiter heads the meat markets with a score of 92.5 per cent. The grades follow:

Cafes	
Triangle Service Station	96.0%
Burton's Service Lunch	93.0%
Blue Bird Grill	92.0%
Chappell's Recreation	91.0%
Joseph Hewes Coffee Shop	91%
Blue Bird Cafe (C)	84.5%
Mrs. Dempsey's Barbecue	84.5%
Habit's Cafe	84.0%
Norwood Cafe (C)	80.0%
Meat Markets	
J. E. Lassiter	92.5%
Dixie Market	91.5%
G. M. Byrum	90.0%
C. E. Byrum	90.0%
Friendly Market	90.0%

## 1500 Cans Garden Vegetables Canned At Chowan High

Two Acre Plot Produces Food For Lunch Room at School

Around 1,500 cans of garden produce have been canned in the new agricultural building at Chowan High School. This work was done by four women under the supervision of Mrs. Ella Murray, district WPA supervisor, and was sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association of Chowan High School.

Vegetables were raised on a two-acre plot by the women and the canned products will be used in the Chowan High School lunch room. To do this work two pressure cookers, a hot water canner and an automatic sealer were used.

Aside from the vegetables raised for canning, 58 bushels of Irish potatoes were also secured from the two-acre plot.

Mrs. Murray, accompanied by Mrs. J. Paul Holoman, visited the canning project Tuesday afternoon and expressed herself as being well pleased with the efforts of the workers.

## R. P. Badham's Term On ABC Board Expires

At next month's meeting of the County Commissioners, which will be held Tuesday, September 3, a member of the Chowan County ABC Board will be chosen. This will be done in a joint meeting of the County Commissioners, the County Board of Education and the Board of Health.

The term of R. P. Badham, chairman, who was appointed for a three-year term when the Board was named in 1937, expires and he will either be reappointed or a successor named.

## Reunion Of Wiggins Family On Sunday

A reunion of the Wiggins family will be held Sunday at the home of the late E. C. Welch in upper Chowan County. The reunion will be an all-day affair, the feature being a picnic lunch which will be served on the lawn between 12 and 1 o'clock.

This will be the first reunion held of the family and a large number of people are expected to attend.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT  
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Leary a daughter, Linda Lee, on Thursday, August 1st.

MASONS MEET TONIGHT  
The regular communication of Unanimity Lodge A. F. & A. M., will be held tonight at 8 o'clock. All members are urged to attend.

Canvassers Will Meet For Final Report Monday Night

DUES \$6.00

Change Method of Appointing Officers For Organization

Though only a few of the canvassing committees to secure membership in the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce have functioned, about 25 members have already been secured, it was learned at a meeting held Monday night in the Municipal Building presided over by John A. Holmes.

At a recent meeting Mr. Holmes was appointed chairman to supervise a membership drive and committees were subsequently appointed to solicit every place of business as well as a number of individuals to secure members in the Chamber of Commerce for the year 1940-41. Due to several of these committeemen, who are arranged in pairs, being out-of-town and on vacations, a complete canvass has not been made, but those who have functioned have met with encouraging results.

At Monday night's meeting it was agreed to complete the canvass this week and report at another meeting called by Mr. Holmes for next Monday night at 8 o'clock in order to see how many memberships have been secured.

Shortly thereafter a meeting will be held of all members, at which time officers and directors will be elected. It was reported Monday night that canvassers met with some criticism relative to the method of electing officers for the organization, which heretofore has been done by the board of directors. This situation will be remedied, if the members so desire, by electing officers by a membership vote or any other method agreeable to the majority.

It was also reported Monday night that there is some misunderstanding relative to the amount of annual dues. It is the purpose to refrain from placing a certain amount on any individual business, as was done heretofore, according to the amount of business done. Instead all memberships for the new year will be \$6.00, with the expectation that most business houses, especially the larger ones, will take several memberships. This amount need not necessarily be paid at one time, though it would be more appreciated, but can be paid on a monthly basis. It is thought that by this plan it will be less of a burden to individuals and smaller business men who feel it their duty to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Every effort will be made both as to policy of the organization and collection of dues to develop a live and cooperative group by which the town will benefit. The need of a live Chamber of Commerce was never more realized than at the present time and if present plans carry there will be no need in future years to conduct an annual membership drive, but send statements for annual dues and the organization continue to function without interruption.

During the remainder of this week canvassers will visit various business men, and it is hoped those solicited will think seriously about the need of an organization to press the claims of the community and sign up for the ensuing year.

## County-wide Picnic At Edenhouse Today

Today (Thursday) the county-wide picnic for home demonstration club members and their families will be held at Eden House Beach. The feature of the event will be the picnic dinner which will be served shortly after 12 o'clock. Special guests of the club women will be county officials and their families.

Clubs that have at least half of their members present will be given 10 points on their score card.

## Three Edentonians At Highway Meeting

Mayor J. H. McMullan and L. S. Byrum will leave this (Thursday) morning for Wilmington, where they will attend the annual meeting of the Ocean Highway Association.

G. H. Harding, a director of the Association, will also attend the meeting, and left earlier than the Mayor and Mr. Byrum.