

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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Councilmen Wrestle Long Into Night With Figures But Fail To Set Tax Rate

Tentative Figures Will Require Increase To \$1.05

BONDS REDUCED

Special Meeting Called For 5 O'clock This Afternoon

Arithmetical progression is always a perplexing problem for Town Councilmen to wrestle with, and when the goal of such effort is the establishment of a tax rate for the citizens to face, the problem becomes a worse one. For two or three hours on Tuesday night the Council worried with this, going over the recently completed audit with a fine tooth comb, and jotting down offsets here and there to make a budget fit the tax needs of the community, and finally giving up, not in despair, but in agony, and deciding on this afternoon for a special meeting to thresh the matter to a conclusion.

A special meeting at 5 o'clock this afternoon was called for a three-fold purpose: First, it is hoped to set the tax rate and also to decide, after an investigation, whether the Town should buy the property on which stood the recently destroyed Brown Lumber Company plant. The other matters to be threshed out relate to a proposed WPA project to pave sidewalks, a few streets and to widen King Street.

And while nothing definite was reached Tuesday night, sufficient can be said to ease the situation by the statement, the tax rate will be "about" as it was last year, \$1 a hundred, or at least but a scant few points beyond that figure. As the figures now stand, the rate will have to be \$1.05, a raise of five cents over last year. This may, however, be shaved down a bit when the budget is again gone over this afternoon.

In the hang-outs of the non-councilmen, where the affairs of state are always so easily settled, even this will not be pleasing. There has been much talk that because the Town is about out of bond debt—it has cut its obligation on debt service down to a minimum of \$1,250 for the year, why, of course, this should mean a tax rate lower by about 11 points than heretofore.

But the Town was in the red, behind, last year around \$3,200 due to a new storm sewer which, of course, will have to be cleaned up. The Fire Department is asking about \$2,000 more than it did in the fiscal year just ending. This amount is needed for new hose and other equipment. It is also the purpose to employ Al Owens and Tom Goodman as regular firemen with each working the same number of hours and the salary set for each at \$100 a month.

The Street Department's budget was about \$2,000 less than last year, but two needed projects, a new storm sewer line to carry off excess water from Hicks Field, and a box culvert across Granville Street to replace three small pipes, brought the total to \$14,643, or only about \$200 below last year's estimate.

There is a slight increase in the Police Department, due to the need of new uniforms this year.

The Health appropriation has been increased from \$545 to \$605, and while under other expenses appropriations were made last year for chairs at the Armory, and the Athletic Park project which are not necessary this year, this year's estimate is \$6,176, or a little over \$1,000 below last year.

It was this talk and these needs and the \$3,200 shortage that made the hair of the Councilmen more tousled as they ran their fingers and pencils through it in an effort to bring result out of agony. But yesterday calmness settled upon these fevered brows and this afternoon something tax-rate-sure is to be reached.

It is true, proudly true and the Councilmen are glad of it, that the Town is getting so quickly out of debt, and everybody wishes it would be sooner than it will be, but where one debt is reduced or wiped out another develops and accrues in its place.

It is necessary and proposed for budget inclusion that a culvert will have to be sunk in Granville Street up toward the Suffolk Road, and that a storm sewer is necessitated back of the ball park and Armory to carry away the overflow which flows into upper Main Street after a heavy

Orders Are Orders

"I want you to tag every car which violates the one-hour parking ordinance today," Police Commissioner Leroy Haskett informed Chief of Police G. A. Helms early Saturday morning in an effort to relieve the Saturday parking situation. The Chief so instructed his subordinates and all checked carefully on cars all day. Mr. Haskett, during the morning, dropped in The Herald office to look over the Town audit and became so engrossed he remained a couple of hours. When he went back to his car the vehicle had a ticket in it for parking overtime. "Orders is orders," maintained Haskett as he trotted to the Police Station in answer to the warning ticket.

Three Cases Slated For Superior Court

Norman Outland In Jail After Over Year's Freedom

Three white male prisoners were in jail custody this week, one an alleged fugitive of a year and a half back, and after preliminary hearings next week are slated for trial before the September term of Superior Court to be presided over by Judge William C. Harris, who returns to Chowan after a five years' absence on other circuits.

Norman Outland, former up-county resident, was picked up by Sheriff J. A. Bunch in Norfolk, Va., on Monday after being sought since April 1939. Outland will be remembered as having been up in the Superior Court in the spring term of 1939 charged with attempted rape in the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Chappell. He was acquitted, and less than a month later was charged with breaking and entering the home of G. C. Hare. He managed to get away, however, and has been sought since. Sunday Sheriff Bunch got word he was in Norfolk, and now he's in jail here.

Harry Lee Spruill, white boy, and George Matthew Trueblood are also under arrest. Spruill is charged with having taken an outboard motor belonging to O. C. Davis. He's out on bail. Trueblood is accused of entering Jesse Barrington's smoke house and taking 10 pieces of meat. The Sheriff landed him in jail.

First Copies New Book Arrive Sunday To Go To Local Personal Friends

Initial advance copies of Mrs. Inglis Fletcher's new romantic novel, "Raleigh's Eden," which is centered about life in Edenton and New Bern in the pre-Revolutionary era and on which she has been at work for six years, are expected to reach Mrs. Fletcher next Sunday or Monday. The formal publishing date will be September 26. The copies Mrs. Fletcher expects ahead of that time she will autograph and present to friends she has made in Edenton while stopping at the Hotel Joseph Hewes since May 7 last.

Already Mrs. Fletcher is at work on an additional novel about Edenton life and has been busy lately going over old records in the Court House. She expects, also, to start a romantic tale based on the life of Alexander Hamilton and is a very active writer for a grandmother.

Privott Speaker At Today's Rotary Meet

Wood Privott, unemployment supervisor in this territory, will have charge of the program at today's Rotary luncheon. Mr. Privott will talk on vocational work and will offer statistics and other facts to show the future is still ripe for those who are serious in their efforts to find work.

Last week Byrum E. Weathers, of Shelby, who recently came to Edenton to work under Mr. Privott, told the Rotarians of the special branch of the service he handles, farm placements and the handling of migratory workers. His talk was interesting and was listened to avidly.

Aliens Required To Be Fingerprinted At Post Office

Work Must Be Completed Before December 26

KRAMER IN CHARGE

All Under 14 Years Old Must Be Presented By Guardians

While it is not thought there are many aliens in Chowan County, a war emergency measure known as the Alien Registration Act was passed last spring, and under its provisions postmasters are directed to round up, register and fingerprint these foreign-born residents who have not yet become naturalized. Such a job has fallen upon Postmaster C. E. Kramer, and he is very anxious to have the cooperation of every alien in Chowan County.

The registration and fingerprinting will start on August 27 and will run to the following December 26, which means that in between those dates Chowan aliens should visit the Edenton post office to register, fill out confidential blanks, and submit themselves to fingerprinting. Naturally, while there is such a four months period, Mr. Kramer is anxious that the work be done as quickly as possible.

Aliens under 14 years will be presented by their parents or guardians for registration, but will not be fingerprinted until they have reached 14 years, at which time they will be required to present themselves anew for another registration and for fingerprinting.

Postmaster Kramer is particular in saying that all information furnished by the alien registering will be viewed by the government as secret and in strict confidence and will in no sense be divulged to anyone but accredited federal officials.

All of the work in connection with the registration and fingerprinting will be done in this county at the Edenton post office under Mr. Kramer's personal supervision.

N. S. Authorized To Give Up Lines

Local Suffolk Branch In Existence For About Half Century

Word came from Washington on Tuesday that the Interstate Commerce Commission had given formal consent to the last spring abandonment by the Norfolk Southern railroad of its 47.4 miles of line between Edenton and Suffolk and 20.25 miles of similar line running in to Elizabeth City from what is known as Beckford Junction.

The federal body authorized the Norfolk Southern to sell its Suffolk terminals to the Virginia Railway, a subsidiary, for \$65,000. The Edenton-Suffolk branch line has been in existence for a half century or more, but since motor traffic came into vogue has been much in disuse. The railroad announced last spring it had quit service on the line and would not continue it.

Watermelon Crop Is Nearing End

Number Estimated at From 450,000 to Almost Million

Chowan County's watermelon season is just about over and the crop is said to be one of the largest in a number of years, with the melons exceptionally sweet and delicious.

Of course, it is hard to estimate the crop numerically, but around 30 boats have left the Edenton harbor, besides the large number which were hauled by trucks and a number of cars loaded at Valhalla. This does not take into account those melons which were marketed by the growers themselves.

The number of melons grown has been estimated all the way from 450,000 to upwards of a million, and prices have ranged in the neighborhood of 10 cents each.

Bands And Scouts Leave For Week's Camp August 25

Youngsters Will Again Spend Vacation at Camp Leach

COST \$6.75

Daily Band Instruction Will Be Feature of Outing

Edenton's High School Band and the Boy Scouts will hold their annual camp at Camp Leach, near Washington, for one week beginning Sunday, August 25. Aside from the two Edenton organizations, the Columbia band will also attend.

Each and every band member will receive three and one-half hours instruction on instruments daily and Director C. L. McCullers urges all members to avail themselves of this splendid opportunity to get in first class shape for the beginning of school.

The cost of encampment this year will be \$6.75 per person and only enlisted members of both bands will be eligible to attend and those who join the band on or before August 17th. The Boy Scouts are almost 100 per cent band members and their work will doubtless be of much interest.

All campers will be under the constant care and supervision of four band instructors, two swimming instructors and life guards, two kitchen and house matrons, and Mrs. McCullers will have charge of the girls' quarters and will also take care of the feeding situation. Two competent cooks will be on hand to handle the cooking. Several parents of band members will also be in camp.

A tentative schedule of each day's activities will be as follows:

- 6:45 First call.
- 6:55 Reveille.
- 7:00 Line up for roll call.
- 7:05 Police grounds and clean up barracks.
- 7:30 Morning swim.
- 7:45 Assemble for breakfast.

(Continued On Page Five)

Masonic Lodge Hall Now Thing Of Beauty

New Furniture Adds To Appearance of Old Room

After an earnest effort at renovation and beautification, running over a period of several months, the historic little second floor Court House room occupied by Unanimity Lodge No. 7, A. F. & A. M., has at last been finished, and is already a source of attraction to the members and others who visit from day to day. Except for the window draperies to enshroud the smart venetian blinds the work of making over the place can be said to be done, and is a credit to Master C. W. Sawyer, who caused it to be done at a cost of around \$700.

The Washington Chair, ever a source of wonderment, has been removed from its glass case to a corner place in the wall, formerly a large cupboard, and covered by a plate glass door so it can be seen by every one. The ancient fireplace has been taken over by an iron safe for lodge records and the black marble wall about it is being touched up by Paul Olsson, who has done much to make the side walls and ceiling of the lodge room attractive.

The stations for the Master and Wardens have all been built anew, too, and the floor is covered with a soft blue carpet. Along the east wall are a series of chrome plate steel frame deeply upholstered chairs for the members, while the secretary and treasurer have been furnished with walnut desks and swivel chairs. On the whole the new quarters will compare favorably with any lodge in North Carolina and Unanimity is quite proud of that fact.

Number Of Openings In NYA Centers

Miss Adelaide Tuttle, district supervisor for the National Youth Administration with office headquarters in Edenton, announced yesterday that she will receive applications for work in the various resident centers in this section. Miss Tuttle's memoranda states there are plenty of opportunities and those anxious to fill them should get in touch with her as quickly as possible.

Membership In Chamber of Commerce Increased To 80 As Committees File Reports

"Poppergander"

Quite in line with their reputation as being thrifty farmers, Mr. and Mrs. Hilary T. Hobbs have hung up a record for raising geese which others can shoot at. On their farm in the Paradise section Mr. and Mrs. Mrs. Hobbs this year had two female geese and a male goose. The two laying geese laid a total of 111 eggs and from this number of eggs 91 baby geese were hatched. Only one has died, leaving 90 geese from the year's hatch.

The trick in hatching so many of the eggs lay in the fact that when a small batch of eggs were on hand they were placed under a hen instead of depending on the goose to do the hatching.

Final Date For Applications Is Saturday, August 31

Next Saturday a week, August 31, will be the last day the county home demonstration agent or county agent can receive applications for any of the 120 mattresses to be made in the federal cotton mattress project. Announcement was made this week by Miss Rebecca Colwell, home demonstration agent, that Chowan County had received the cotton for this first group of mattresses and expects the ticking to complete the work immediately.

The present plan is to have the mattresses made by those who are to receive them in the Forehand peanut storage house near the Colored High School, and work will begin as early as possible after the ticking arrives. Each woman mattress worker is requested to bring two or three helpers and if possible a man or boy should be on hand, also, to help with lifting and beating the cotton. Notification will go to each prospective family mattress owner exactly what date to come and do the job.

An important thing to know is that many of those who have applied for mattresses have not made their initial deposit of \$1 to cover cost of thread, needles, rent, etc., and this should be forthcoming at once.

All farm people whose gross income is less than \$400 are eligible for a mattress and should bring in their application and dollar at once.

More Improvements Are Made At Hotel

Renovation and beautification of the Hotel Joseph Hewes which has been under rather steady improvement since the new management took possession a year and a half ago, took on a new turn this week with the re-upholstering of the furniture in the hotel lobby. All of the pieces have been done over in varied colored Dupont fabricoid coverings and present a fancy futuristic appearance.

Manager G. H. Harding is making similar changes to much of the furniture in the various bed rooms and offers an invitation to everyone to drop in and see the improved appearance of the place.

Creswell Auxiliaries Entertained At Rectory

Mrs. B. W. Gaiter and Mrs. O. C. Edwards entertained at a joint meeting of the Columbia and Creswell auxiliaries Thursday evening at the Creswell rectory.

Following the business session presided over by the local president, Mrs. W. D. Peele, Mrs. Gaiter gave a talk on "The Circular System."

At the conclusion of the meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses. Those present were: Mesdames W. S. Carawan, T. W. Armstrong, Henry Davenport and Joseph Tucker, Misses Essie Mason and Anne Tucker, all of Columbia; Mrs. Mate Spruill, of Travis; Mesdames B. W. Gaiter, O. C. Edwards, Ida Hassell, Ida Swain, W. D. Peele, J. A. Brickhouse, Harry Phelps, and Miss Caroline Swain, of Creswell.

Expected That at Least 100 Will Sign Up For Year

MUCH INTEREST

Final Report Friday After Which Meeting Will Be Called

Committee chairmen who have been combing the business men of the town the past two weeks in a drive for Chamber of Commerce memberships, met in the Municipal Building Monday night and turned in the most encouraging report since the organization has been in existence. More than 80 new members were reported as having signed up, with, maybe, half as many more lively prospects waiting to board the final band wagon.

Last year the Chamber, allowed to lag, dwindled to 68 members, but this year there seems a certainty of putting the total up to 100 or more.

In the absence of John A. Holmes, the general chairman, it was decided to continue the canvass further this week and meet with Mr. Holmes tomorrow, Friday, afternoon at 5 o'clock, at which time a definite report will be made and a date set for the members to gather and choose officers to serve for the coming year.

J. G. Campen, president of the Merchants Association and an enthusiastic Chamber of Commerce member, presided and urged all the committeemen to carry on their good work for another week. He was profuse in his gratification over the initial results and remarked "the future is assured."

Last week there had seemed a disinclination on the part of many of those seen to sign up immediately. Everyone, however, realized the importance of keeping the organization going, but expressed a desire to wait awhile before acting.

But this week the canvassers met less resistance. On the contrary they found a sharp interest in the Chamber and an eagerness to affiliate quickly. Where but around 25 members joined in the initial week stages the total was swelled from this figure to 80 in the second week's drive, and this with several committeemen absent and unreporting.

Everyone present seemed much encouraged by the individual reports and the way things were going, and the general feeling was, that while the membership fees, as revised, under the new regimentation would not assure a great amount of yearly income there would be an ample sufficiency to meet all obligations under a new and careful management.

Final Service Of Year At St. David's Sunday

Rev. B. W. Gaiter of Creswell announces that morning services will be held at St. David's Church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. This will probably be the final service at this church for the year. The public is cordially invited.

Sunday evening services will be held at the Galilee Mission at Lake Phelps.

Tire Burns Off Large Scrap Iron Truck

Firemen were called to North Granville Street Tuesday morning where a tire burned on a large truck loaded with scrap iron. The tire had gone flat which caused it to ignite.

The truck and iron was the property of Vernon Beard of Norfolk, Va., who was on his way home from New Bern, where he secured the junk.

Car And Bus Collide Tuesday Morning

J. M. Harrell's automobile was badly damaged and a quantity of milk and eggs scattered over the street Tuesday morning when his car and a Norfolk Southern bus collided at the corner of Eden and Granville Streets. Mr. Harrell was entering Granville Street from Eden Street when the accident occurred. Fortunately no one was hurt.

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.