

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

This newspaper is circulated in the territory where advertisers will realize good results.

Volume X.—Number 28.

Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, July 15, 1943

\$1.50 Per Year.

## County Tax Rate Remains 80 Cents

### Town Council Sets Tax Rate At \$1.00 For 1943-1944 At Meeting Tuesday Night

Town Councilmen juggled figures until a late hour Tuesday night, and unanimously agreed that the Town's affairs could be handled again this year by a \$1.00 tax rate as of last year. All members of Town Council were present at the meeting, except J. Edwin Bufflap, who is a patient in Duke Hospital. Many other matters were brought to the attention of the Councilmen and were acted upon before the Board went into executive session to study the budget. The budget, as adopted, is now on file in the office of R. E. Leary, town clerk, for public inspection and, as required by law, will be published in The Herald next week.

Petitions coming up before the Councilmen were presented by S. N. Griffith, who urged the paving project on Freemason, Oakum and Church Streets. This project was tabled until further investigations can be made.

Capt. Dick Hall appeared in the meeting and urged the necessity of fire escapes on all two-story business buildings in town where families or office help stay upstairs. He also urged the buying of fire nets to be used in emergencies.

Council unanimously adopted the motion made prohibiting the sale of wine from 11:30 Saturday night, until 7 Monday morning.

The North Edenton paving project is being studied and re-investigated, and will be acted upon shortly. W. D. Pruden, city attorney, is now negotiating with the State Highway Department concerning the matter.

### Regional Officers Attend ODC Meet At Court House

E. W. Spires, civilian defense chairman of Chowan County, held a meeting of all key men and women of the local Civilian Defense Organization, in the Court House Thursday afternoon, at 3:30 o'clock, at which time Mrs. Walter Craven, State Director of the Citizens Service Corps, was present. Miss Mary Elizabeth Judy and Harold Rogers, both representing the regional office in Atlanta, were also present.

Mrs. Craven highly commended Spires on his present set-up and his co-operative staff of workers, who made such splendid reports as to what they were doing for defense.

The representatives turned the meeting into a round-table discussion, asking and answering timely questions fired at them by the audience who had gathered for more enlightenment concerning their particular duties in the Defense program.

Rogers, in speaking of the community's needs, talked on wholesome recreational activities for the younger set. "At this particular time," said the speaker, "when we are doing so much for our service men and women, there is a tendency to become negligent of our duties toward our young people of this situation, and they need recreational provisions made for them to keep them out of mischief, morally and spiritually."

Edenton's housing shortage was discussed by J. G. Campen, and the representatives from Atlanta. Rogers agreed to take up the situation with the Atlanta office, and to use his influence in hurrying up this federal project which has already been practically assured through John R. Ruggles, who was in Edenton last week, making surveys and gathering facts and figures concerning such a project.

Miss Judy cited many cases which have come under her observation of such housing projects. She also stressed the fact that she, too, would use her influence in hurrying the Atlanta office.

Those attending the meeting were Leroy Haskett, Chief of Police; J. R. Tanner, W. W. Byrum, J. W. Overman, J. G. Campen, John J. Ross, Dick Hall, H. A. Campen, Will Harrell, E. W. Spires, J. A. Price, Mrs. J. A. Moore, Mrs. Elliott Belch, Miss Rebecca Colwell, Miss Gladsteyn Hester and Miss Lena Jones.

### Chief J. R. Tanner Proving Vagrancy Law Does Have Teeth

Edenton's Chief of Police, J. R. Tanner, and his officers are definitely on the trail of vagrants in and about town.

This week, five vagrants were apprehended and told to go to work immediately. All promised they would find jobs, but two soon forgot that the law had such strong teeth, and were found idle and drunk by officers this week.

One case has left town, and two out of the five have been arrested and dealt with. From now on, there is to be no loafing tolerated in these parts.

### Inglis Fletcher Gives Portrait Of Duke of Albemarle

Inglis Fletcher, author of "Ra-leigh's Eden" and "Men of the Albemarle," whose gifted pen has done so much to bring Edenton and the Albemarle to the attention of the reading public and has carried its name and fame to the far reaches of the continent and beyond, has added yet another item to the score of our indebtedness to her, this time a warmly personal act of generosity in the presentation by Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher to the town and county of a handsome portrait of the Duke of Albemarle to be hung in the Assembly Room of the Court House.

During her stay in Edenton where she made her home for more than a year while doing research and working on her "best seller" novels, Mrs. Fletcher took a deep interest in the historic shrines of the Albemarle, and with a keen appreciation of the beauty and value of the Assembly Room she greatly stimulated local interest in repairing and furnishing this architectural treasure. With this in mind and as a nucleus towards increasing a sense of pride in preserving the room as one of the outstanding show places she commissioned Miss Anne Fletcher of Virginia, sister of Mr. Fletcher, and a portrait painter of note, to paint the portrait of the Duke of Albemarle which has just arrived and will be hung in the Assembly Room and presented at a later date. Upon learning of the proposed gift the County Commissioners appointed a committee to take charge of the restoration and work has been authorized at the present time to re-condition the ceiling and floor and an appropriation made therefor, so that the room will present an appearance somewhat in keeping with such a handsome gift.

Edenton is more than fortunate to be the recipient of a portrait by Miss Fletcher who is an artist of recognized ability. She has made numerous portraits for public buildings in Virginia, four for the Governor's Mansion, several judges of the Federal District Court, three judges of the Supreme Court of Virginia, as well as others for the State Capitol, the University of Virginia, and for "Virginia House," home of Hon. Alexander Weddell, former U. S. Ambassador to Argentina and more recently to Spain.

We are deeply indebted to Mr. Preston Davis of New York, owner of the portrait of the Duke of Albemarle by Sir Peter Lely which he has loaned to Colonial Williamsburg and which hangs in the Capitol there, for his courtesy and gracious permission to have the portrait copied, and also to Dr. Hunter D. Farish, Director, Department of Research, and to Mr. James L. Cogar, both associated with Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., for their fine cooperation and assistance in the matter.

It is eminently fitting that the portrait of the Duke whose name is preserved in the entire eastern area of North Carolina, should adorn the walls of the Assembly Room. First of the Lords Proprietors, born Monch and christened George he was created Duke of Albemarle by King Charles II in grateful recognition of

(Continued on Page Five)

### Contracts At Local Base Will Be Let During This Month

"Plans for letting contracts for the erection of barracks and other accommodations for 440 Lady Marines and 32 officers have been badly hampered and postponed, because of the shortage of engineers," stated Commander Chas. G. Prah, officer in charge of construction at the U. S. Marine Air Corps Base, "but we plan to be able to make awards of contracts now approved between the 20th and 24th of this month."

The cost of barracks and other necessary accommodations in order to take care of the incoming Lady Marines, who will be here to be trained for the various branches of service, calls for an expenditure of \$270,000, as has been previously stated, and these funds have been appropriated.

Contracts for the \$185,000 swimming pool which was last week appropriated and allotted for the local Air Base, will also be let as early as possible. This pool is a necessity to further the training of those at the Base in order to carry out the full physical and recreational program necessary to their development and skill.

In addition to the approved allotment for constructions to be made at the local Air Base, an allotment of \$1,135,000 was approved for the construction of a 6,000-foot runway, taxiway, airplane area, boresight firing range, two B1-B barracks buildings, a synthetic training building and an aviation storage building.

On the Air Base reservation there are already 30 completed buildings, which have been erected since the work began one year ago. Six of these buildings are of brick, and the others are of frame—temporary construction. This reservation covers an area of 3,500 acres of land, lying two miles east of Edenton, and this land has been regarded as of high historic interest since the days of the Revolution.

"The Base will be finished by early September, or by the middle of that month, anyway, has been stated by officials and officers in charge. Because of labor shortage, and absenteeisms, the progress of construction at the Air Base was slowed up considerably. Otherwise, we would have finished this job in March, as it was scheduled," stated Commander Prah.

As the Base nears completion, the personnel of employees has been cut down from 1,500 to 600.

The Air Base is to be used for practically all phases of Marine training, however, it was first planned as a special glider training base.

### Chowan's War Bond Quota Increased For Month July, \$44,794

J. G. Campen, chairman of the War Finance Committee for Chowan County, urges people of the town and county to buy more and more war bonds and stamps during July. The government must have funds to carry on an offensive war, and the sale of bonds and stamps is one way in which these funds can be raised.

Chowan's quota for July has been increased, and Mr. Campen urges every one in the county to increase the purchase of United States Bonds and stamps during the month, in order to maintain Chowan's reputation for being 100 per cent whenever called on.

The County fell a little short in the July quota of last year, but Mr. Campen says he feels confident that the people of the county will not fall short this year. The government needs the money to help finance this war, which we are all sure of winning, and apart from that, money invested in United States war bonds will bring peace, happiness and liberty to our country and to the world when the war is won.

The Chowan quota for July is \$44,794. Remember—"They Give Their Lives—You Lend Your Money." Surely the people on the home front can do no less than buy bonds and stamps with every available dollar, when the boys in the armed forces are willing to give their all that we may enjoy America as it has always been.

### D. M. Warren Gives Rotarians Splendid Address

Speaking to the Rotarians, at their luncheon and business session last Thursday noon, D. M. Warren talked on a most timely and up to the minute subject. Namely, "Victory Reservations and Planning for Peace."

For a long time, corporations here and elsewhere have been setting aside increased funds, as a reserve to be used in rebuilding, remodeling, enlarging, and for replacements of certain types and kinds of machinery that will be well worn, and below standard, after such continuous use, and at the present rate of 24-hour production," stated Warren. He used as an example of 24-hour service the Edenton Cotton Mill, which has operated on such a scale for a very long time.

Warren also stated that individuals, too, are putting aside Victory Reserves, with a thought toward the future and peace. "These reserves," explained Warren, "are in stocks, bonds, savings accounts, and various other methods of future financial preparations. Such farsightedness is to be highly commended."

Warren pointed out the fact that Edenton will be in line for industries and new enterprises with the present transition of the times, and hinted that there might be something of a news break in the near future, concerning the enlargement and the opening up of more wheels of industry, in connection with the Edenton Peanut Mills.

Another speech of highly accelerated interest was made at Thursday's luncheon by young Roger Haskett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Haskett. Young Haskett spoke in behalf of his Scout Club, and in behalf of the multiplied dozens of others in town, who are highly interested in having a city swimming pool. Such a project has already been brought up before the Lions Club by Haskett. The Lions pledged Haskett their interest and cooperation, with the other civic clubs, and corporations about town, in helping to carry out such a project, which has been in popular demand here for a long time.

Chief of Police J. R. Tanner and Roger Haskett were both guests at the Rotary Club meeting last Thursday.

### Lions Club President Names Committees

Oscar Duncan, newly-elected president of the Lions Club, succeeding J. Clarence Leary, with the other newly installed officers of the club, namely: W. E. Malone, first vice-president; Kenneth Floars, second vice-president; John Mitchener, Jr., third vice-president; W. J. Taylor, secretary and treasurer; Earl Harrell, assistant secretary; Sidney Campen, tail twister; Leroy Haskett, Lion tamer; Earl Harrell, pianist, with A. E. Jenkins and J. A. Curran, as directors, have taken over their offices and duties, at the club, and Monday night's meeting and dinner was a session of outstanding business activities, and line-ups for the coming year.

The club is actively engaged in the consideration, and in lending their cooperation in getting a swimming pool for the city in the near future. This project was brought to their attention recently by young Roger Haskett, who also made a plea for such in behalf of the town's teenage, at the Rotary Club last week. Dr. Wallace Griffin and John Mitchener, Jr., are collaborating with other civic clubs in this matter of a recreational project for Edenton.

The Lions new president is a graduate of A. & M. Miss. State College, a former teacher in the Edenton High School, and has been employed at the Edenton Post Office for the past six years.

The following committees were appointed at Monday night's meeting. They will serve for the next twelve months.

Attendance—Hector Lupton, L. H. Haskett and John Mitchener. Safety—G. C. Hobbs, V. J. Odesky, V. C. Tripp.

Community Betterment—Leroy H. Haskett, Francis Hicks, C. E. Byrum. Constitution and By-Laws—W. S. Griffin, R. C. Holland, Nathan D. Dail.

(Continued on Page Five)

### Chowan County Will Again Enjoy One Of The Lowest Tax Rates In Recent Years

#### Draft Board Warns Teen-Age Boys To Register Promptly

The local Draft Board has issued a statement saying that the number of registrants of 18-year-old boys is much lower at the present time, and this may be due to boys failing to register as they should. Therefore, the Draft Board is making this urgent reminder, and asking all boys to contact their local Draft Board immediately on reaching their 18th birthday, unless said birthday falls on Sunday. In that case, contact the Draft Board on Monday.

#### "Spotters" Meeting Friday Night Filled With Information

A goodly crowd of volunteer spotters from about town gathered at the Court House Friday night, at the request of Chief D. C. Crawford, Jr., who is in charge of the local Observation Post, and who had arranged to have Staff Sgt. J. R. Brand and Staff Sgt. I. Levitsky, of the Norfolk Area for Air Defense, present to conduct an information class, telling in plain and understandable language how to be an airplane spotter, how to judge the distance of planes, and other important facts that one must be fully alert on, in order to make the right calls in to the Norfolk officers.

This meeting was well worth while and was informative from every standpoint. The details of intercepting planes, following calls that go in from Observation Posts, were fully and most ably explained by Staff Sgt. Brand, who also cautioned the volunteer spotters of the importance of taking good care of the Post headquarters, explaining that any defacing or destruction of such places would bring about government investigations and punishments.

Staff Sgt. Levitsky showed a 20-minute film of pictures taken from action, depicting army alertness in the training rooms of radio activities both from air service and ground service.

Chief Crawford complimented his volunteer spotters for their very fine co-operation in carrying out this necessary war-time project.

An appeal was made for more men about town to lend their aid at the local post. With more men on the job, the watches could be shortened, and everybody would thereby be benefited.

#### Architect Inspects Edenton USO Center

Albert C. Woodroof, of Greensboro, was in town during the week-end to check up on the local USO quarters, which are under construction, and of which Woodroof is the architect.

Woodroof found the work going a great deal slower than he had anticipated yet he was well pleased with the progress being made, under the present manpower shortage, which has caused the contractors no little headache.

The necessary materials and the furniture and equipment for this job have been available and on hand for some time. Director Abe Martin and his secretary and aide have been continuously on the job at the USO quarters, and are carrying on as well as possible under the stress and strain of the work in progress there.

Martin has set the official opening date of the club to take place on or before August 1. This is approximately two months later than he had hoped to open the club.

#### JAILER'S REPORT FOR JUNE

Jailer Shelton W. Moore reported to the County Commissioners, at their meeting on Monday, that 43 persons were jailed during June. This entailed an expenditure of \$138.60.

Taxpayers in Chowan County will again during the 1943-1944 fiscal year enjoy the same low county tax rate as of last year. County Commissioners, in a long session on Monday, devoted principally to matters of budgeting, were able to continue the county tax rate at 80 cents per \$100 property valuation, which compared to the tax rate of 1941-42 which was \$1.02, makes the present rate appear low, being reduced 22 points from that time of levying.

No special levy was made for the general County funds, since it was not necessary. There was a cash balance of approximately \$50,000, as profits from the County ABC store, but since the treasurer M. F. Bond, was out of town, and since there was no speaker present for him, the Commissioners tabled the report from such funds, until Bond could be present and have some voice in the motions made concerning its use in the county.

The school budget was set at \$27,384.27. The tax levy for schools was 11 cents, and for social security, .09 was levied as of last year.

Each appropriation and expenditure for the year was carefully weighed and scrutinized by the Commissioners, and wherever possible, reductions were made in keeping with the proper functions of the county government.

The school budget took up a good part of the day. By cutting expenditures to the bone, and by making out on less this year in the way of repairs and what-not, Superintendent of City Schools John A. Holmes was willing to deduct \$1,000 from the school budget. A deduction of \$300 was made from the school budget of Chowan High School. This money was taken from the library fund.

The Commissioners adjourned at 3:30 o'clock after a lengthy day devoted to budgetary and other important matters.

### Gregg Cherry To Speak To Legion Members July 27

Gregg Cherry, gubernatorial candidate for the 1944 Democratic primary, has accepted an invitation, which was extended to him by the Ed Bond Post of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary to speak in the Court House on Tuesday night, July 27, at 8:30 o'clock. Mr. Cherry will officiate at the installation of new officers in both the Legion Post and the Auxiliary.

Cherry is well-known throughout the State for his political and civic activities. He served as a major in World War I, and has been Past Department Commander of the American Legion. He is well remembered in Edenton, when on March 16, 1937, he presided over a joint session of the Legislature, which met here to do honor to the town, in commemoration of the historical fact that Edenton was the first State capital.

The public is most cordially urged to attend this meeting.

### 14 Negro Selectees Leave For Fort Bragg

The following colored inductees left from the National Guard Armory on Wednesday morning to take their final physical examinations prior to induction into the armed forces. If these examinations are passed, the selectees will be granted a 21-day furlough before being called into active service.

William A. Valentine, Roosevelt Palmer, Thomas C. Boyce, James Riddick, Jr., Wm. Robt. Teasley, James A. Armistead, Isiah Hicks, Jr., Roy E. Evans, Russell Cox, Jr., James Ricks, John W. Beasley, Jr., Matthew Perry, Willie P. Jones, transfer from South Carolina, and John W. Beasley, transfer from Virginia.

Also going to Fort Bragg on Wednesday were four reservists, who returned for active duty. David Blount, George E. Johnson, Geo. W. Blount and W. L. Tyner.