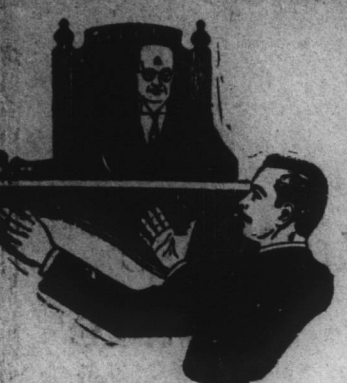


# This is the Law



By ROBERT E. LEE  
(For the N. C. Bar Association)

## Dead Bodies

A husband and his wife were buried in a rural graveyard many years ago. Recently Joe Doe acquired the property adjacent to this graveyard. He plowed over the land, leveling off the hill on which the graveyard was located, destroying the graves and exposing the remains of those buried. Later he gathered up the remains and reinterred them in another place so that the remains or the graves in which they were interred could not be identified. May the great-grandchildren of the deceased recover damages for the desecration of their ancestors?

Yes, The Supreme Court of North Carolina so held in 1952.

The right of action for the desecration of the grave of an ancestor vests in the next of kin as of the time the wrong was committed.

It is the policy of the law, except in cases of necessity or for laudable purposes, that the sanctity of the grave should be maintained, and that a body once suitably buried should remain undisturbed.

An autopsy was performed on a minor child without the consent of its parents. May the father, without the consent or joinder of his wife, bring an action against the hospital for the wrongful mutilation of the dead body of his child?

Yes. The tenderest feelings of the human heart center around the remains of the dead.

The right of the next of kin to the possession of a dead body for the purpose of preservation and burial means the right to the possession of the remains in the condition when life became extinct.

A railroad company in North Carolina has been held liable for neglecting and leaving exposed and subject to further the mutilation of the body of a person killed on its track without reference to the killing.

There is, of course, no liability for an autopsy where performed with the consent of the deceased; when a coroner or the majority of a coroner's jury deem it necessary, and cases where the surviving spouse or next of kin give consent. The right of the surviving spouse is paramount to the rights of the relatives in the giving of consent.

May the mother of a minor child recover damages for a wrongful autopsy or mutilation of the body if the father does not want to do so?

No. The right to sue in such a case is exclusively vested in the father of the child.

The duty of care and maintenance of minor children is imposed primarily upon the father. The law also requires the father to decently bury the child and to defray the necessary expenses thereof if he possesses the means.

## Accident Facts

Raleigh — Collision with another motor vehicle accounted for 31,422 of North Carolina's 47,705 highway mishaps last year. A special study by the State Department of Motor Vehicles shows that the accidents produced a death toll of 1,063 and 19,602 injured. Despite those fearsome figures, traffic deaths went down four per cent over the preceding year. Injuries were down two per cent.

## C. Of C. Activities Released By Smith

Continued from Page 1—Section 2

Secondly, the Chamber took immediate steps to insure that the huge facilities being constructed at Harvey Point would bring maximum economic benefits to Edenton. One of the first considerations was to improve the highway between here and Harvey Point. With transferred military personnel making housing available in Edenton, good roads to the new base are a must.

Harvey Point Roads  
Your Chamber is happy to report that in cooperation with town and county officials, with the Navy Department and the State Highway Commission, a new 24-ft. road will be constructed early next spring running from U. S. 17 at Nixons Fork to Burgess where it will connect with a four-lane limited access road direct to the base. Just last week the State Highway Commission approved construction funds for these roads.

The new road will reduce the miles Edenton considerably and will provide safe and fast travel for the 2,500 personnel to be stationed there. As Congressman Bonner remarked at the groundbreaking ceremonies, "We cannot help but profit from such a base as we are beginning to establish here today." With an annual military payroll of \$9,000,000 plus \$1,500,000 to be spent annually for base operations, Congressman Bonner is certainly right!

Industrial Site  
In our negotiations with industrial prospects your Chamber and the Edenton Development Corporation are often handicapped because we do not have a definite industrial site immediately available to prospects. If all things are equal and two or more communities trying to interest a prospect, the community which already owns a suitable site is in a preferred position. If a site has to be purchased after the prospect has considered a community, valuable time is lost and in many cases the price goes up.

For these reasons your Chamber has recommended that the Edenton Development Corporation acquire a suitable site immediately. We are pleased to report that the stockholders of the Corporation so approved and the purchase of a site is now in progress. We were told by an outside industrial engineer that the site selected is excellent for this purpose. This move will give the Corporation and the Chamber advantage in dealing with future prospects and in advertising Edenton's industrial assets.

Competition Keen  
Your staff and officers also keep abreast of industrial developments by working closely with the State Conservation & Business Development Corporation of N. C., the railroad and power companies, and by discussing this subject with other development managers at regional meetings. Large and small communities all over the country are looking for new plants to boost the economy. It is reported that some 40 million dollars was spent last year by state and local development agencies attracting new industry. In this state one can realize the competition when over 300 people attended a regional industrial conference in Greenville this spring, everyone there for the same purpose. Every day the Wall Street Journal carries expensive ads extolling the advantages of locating a plant in this or that city.

Some communities even go so far as to buy an industrial concern in one city and move it to their city.

Your People Leaving Area  
Many of our young people are leaving our delightful communities in the South to seek better jobs and greater opportunities in the industrial north. No area realizes this more than North Carolina and it is encouraging to see the industrial curve climbing upward throughout our state, thereby having some reverse effect on this exodus.

The directors and officers of your Chamber of Commerce are aware of this unhealthy condition right here in our own community. We shall not rest until the tide is turned, until there are sufficient industries here to offer jobs for our young people. Despite all the competition and obstacles, it can be done. We propose to continue work in this direction by every means at our disposal. Through united effort, Edenton can and will get her share of the state's industrial growth.

Recreation and Tourist  
It has been said that one of the quickest methods to attract industry is to attract tourists first. The reasoning behind this is that industrialists looking for plant sites often seek for their employees the same kind of community atmosphere and living conditions that appeal to tourists. The U. S. Department of Commerce states that a community which goes after tourist business is likely to find that it will also attract new industries. This has happened in Florida, California and elsewhere in the country.

The tourist dollar eventually goes to everyone in the community. Like industrial dollars, the tourist dollar is "new" to the community, an extra shot in the arm that improves the entire business economy. No wonder some communities go all out for tourists!

Edenton's Potential  
With Edenton's great potential, it is natural that your Chamber's second most active category is recreation and tourist development. It is our opinion that Edenton's history and historical buildings can be properly developed to become a major factor in our economic wellbeing. Tourists in large numbers will visit an area if there are things to see or do when they get there. There are sufficient places in this country with these requisites to make a 20 billion dollar annual tourist business. Certainly Edenton with its outstanding attractions and natural resources is entitled to some portion of this business.

First, we must make it convenient to get here. We are fortunate to have two residents who are devoted to this end, Ernest J. Ward, Jr., president of the Ocean Hiway Association, and Grayson Harding, chairman of its board. Both have long fought for better highway facilities to this area.

U. S. 17 Improvements  
Your Chamber of Commerce staff works closely with these gentlemen. With the construction of the Chesapeake Bay bridge-tunnel now assured we will increase our efforts to obtain further improvement of U. S. 17 in North Carolina. We have just prepared a resolution and master plan for the improvement of this important coastal route imploring the State Highway Commission to make certain improvements immediately and to plan for a four-lane highway from the Virginia State line to the South Carolina State line. The resolution and plan, approved by all communities on U. S. 17 in the State, will be submitted to the Highway Commission on November 21.

What do tourists do when they get to Edenton? At the present time there is little organized effort to keep the tourist in Edenton. Your Chamber works with the local DAR's on tours of a few historic buildings. We give

out pamphlets and information on specific buildings and try to guide the visitor around town. However, at the present time we do not have any outstanding attraction available to the public to pull a great number of tourists to Edenton. We propose to concentrate on this problem to make Edenton the goal of more tourists.

Fishing Contest and Bulletin  
One source for this development is our beautiful harbor and creeks. Your Chamber has created wide interest in our local water this summer by conducting a weekly fishing contest. We have proof that sportsmen came to Edenton from over the state and neighboring states to try their luck. The local game reporter reported that the sale of fishing licenses tripled during the summer. We have had an increase in boating activity.

In making this report I want to pay tribute to, and recognize the community spirit of, the five business firms which sponsored our contest. They gave weekly prizes in five classifications and gave grand prizes for the season's heaviest entries. A dinner was given to the sponsors, the five winners and guests. In discussing our project, a representative of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission called Edenton "the rockfish capital of the State!" We are grateful for this phrase. Another contest is planned for spring.

The Fishing News Bulletin which your Chamber inaugurated in May was also received with enthusiasm by many sportsmen and sportswriters. The first issue went to approximately 60 newspapers, sportsbooks dealers and individuals outside of Edenton. The falling list now totals over 300 who have requested this Chamber publication. It is issued during the fishing season. A prominent sportswriter, the Bulletin was extremely interesting and definitely worthwhile.

Clearing of Harbor  
Your Chamber also initiated another project which will have a beneficial effect on our recreational facilities. This is the clearing of our harbor of obstructions and hazards to boating. We are grateful that the Town Council and the County Commissioners took quick action to support our resolutions. This work will be done before spring and will afford increased boating activity and bring more "new" dollars to our community.

Access Area  
Your Chamber staff and committees have held meetings with representatives of the State Wildlife Resources Commission relative to the establishment of a fishing access area and launching ramp in Edenton. This proposal has received tentative approval pending the location of a site satisfactory to the Commission.

mission.  
We conducted several meetings relative to having some type of annual pageant or historical play in Edenton. While the big summer historical pageant is extremely costly to establish and promote, it is our opinion that some type of annual attraction is possible and practical based on our rich historical background. This area will again be invested by various committees of the Chamber.

Conventions And Regional Meetings  
We have discussed with the Woman's Club the possibilities of having another Pilgrimage. We hope something can be arranged. Another source of new money are conventions and large regional meetings. We have had several in Edenton during the past few months and more should be obtained. Local members of state and regional organizations should keep Edenton in mind when meetings are planned.

Advertising and Promotion  
Closely paralleling tourist and recreation activities are advertising and promotion. In this area we have left no stone unturned if it would serve to attract attention to Edenton. I believe we have been reasonably successful. Proper advertising, publicity and public relations can do much to attract industry, tourists and other business to our community. While the results of these activities are often difficult to measure, based on comments made to many of our members when they travel out of town, from increased requests for all types of information and by other means, we feel that our time has been well spent.

Articles on Edenton  
We have prepared general articles on Edenton and its history, or on some specific item or building, for the State Magazine, for WE THE PEOPLE, a publication of the N. C. Citizens Association, for Harcourt, Brace & Co., book publishers, for the E.S.C. Quarterly, periodical of the State Employment Security Commission, for the "Journal of Lifetime Living," for the new edition of the AAA Travel Book and for several free lance writers. We also prepared copy for the ad which appeared in the February issue of the State Magazine and new copy on Edenton for the 1959 Ocean Hiway map.

The Chamber purchased 1,000 extra copies of the February issue of the State Magazine which contained a wealth of information on Edenton and Chowan County. About 700 of these have been distributed all over the county and even abroad. Copies have been placed in the libraries of the Edenton and Chowan County high schools.

Rt. 32 Billboard  
In an effort to bring to Edenton any southbound traffic which may have missed U. S. 17 in-

tersection on U. S. 13 in Virginia, the Chamber designed and had erected a large billboard sign at Black Cat intersection south of Suffolk directing motorists to Rt. 32 and Edenton. This sign has been up since July 1 and we have been told it is effective.

The Chamber staff and committees also designed and erected two small "welcome to Edenton" signs near the town limits on U. S. 17 north and south. We are planning to shrub these signs to make them more attractive. We have received compliments about them from motorists passing through.

We keep a supply of our "Historic Edenton" pamphlets on the Chesapeake Bay ferries. Incidentally, if anyone here does not see the folder when you next use the ferry, please advise the Chamber office.

Your officers and various committee chairmen have participated in radio panel discussions concerning industrial development, recreational facilities and the development of the tri-county area. The Chamber jointly sponsored with WCDJ as a public service a broadcast of the groundbreaking ceremonies at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Harvey Point, and a radio interview with Congressman Herbert C. Bonner.

Public Relations  
Your Chamber staff has also been active in the general field of public relations. This includes cooperation with and support of projects of other local organizations. We have sent welcome letters to all new public school teachers, offering assistance with housing. Letters were sent to all contractors and inspectors at Harvey Point offering assistance in any way. Letters went, too, to all new firms and stores beginning business in Edenton, as well as personal calls in many instances.

Other letters extended congratulations on some anniversary reached, or supported individuals in some undertaking, or congratulated them on an honor bestowed.

We have cooperated with the local library with publicity. We helped obtain for Edenton the annual meeting of Soil Conservation District Supervisors at which Governor Hodges will speak. We have spoken before the DAR's, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and many other groups.

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a \$25 Savings Bond award for the winner of the Edenton Colonials beauty contest. Pamphlets on Edenton and samples of local products have been distributed at several regional and national conventions.

Publicity Photos  
A photograph pointing up Chowan County tobacco was published in many newspapers. We are endeavoring to build an adequate file of photographs for publicity purposes concerning our agricultural crops as this medium is particularly valuable in telling the story of our area. We have furnished photos of the teapot, of the

cannon on the green, of the Court House, of Broad Street and our harbor to writers and publications.

I feel confident in stating that Edenton is wider and better known in October than it was in January.

Retail and General Business  
Edenton's retail, professional and general business welfare is of top concern to your Chamber of Commerce. If we have placed this subject at this position in our report it is because the good health of the retail, professional and service businesses of our community is partially dependent on the success of some of the preceding activities. If there is no "new" money coming into the community from industrial activity or from tourists or from government activities and agriculture there will be little retail or other business and the community will be sick. You cannot have a healthy economy by circulating local money. It is therefore imperative that a chamber of commerce shall put its principal efforts in those areas which will introduce new money into the community. New money makes the wheels go round. That is our number one job, despite many other pleasant activities which engage a chamber of commerce.

Sales Promotions  
Our concern with this basic principle has not, however, detracted our efforts from retail problems and activities. We have devoted considerable time to sales promotions which, in our opinion, promote new money. Properly planned and operated the community wide sales promotion brings in buyers from other communities with new money—money that has not been in town before.

The Merchants Committee now has a sales promotion under way which we hope will help point up Edenton as a shopping center. We must educate buyers in surrounding communities so that they turn to Edenton for their needs. This can be done by good sales promotion advertising, offering quality merchandise at fair prices. We need this now more than ever. We hope that the present promotion will be successful and will be the forerunner of many community-wide promotions. It will end on November 29 with a public auction of over \$1800 in prizes and a parade of new cars.

Store Hours  
If we are to attract and cultivate the shopping public from surrounding communities, they must know in advance when stores are open for business. This means uniform store hours. The Merchants Committee has conducted many meetings and has Continued on Page 2—Section 2

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**NOTICE!**

**TOWN of EDENTON TAXPAYERS**

The Tax Books for the year 1958 are now in my hands for the collection of taxes. We urge you to pay your taxes now and avoid the penalty which will begin on February 1.

A PENALTY OF 1% WILL BE ADDED ON 1958 TAXES NOT PAID BEFORE FEBRUARY 2. ANOTHER 1% WILL BE ADDED MARCH 2 AND AN ADDITIONAL 1/2 OF 1% WILL BE ADDED FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MONTH TAXES ARE UNPAID.

**TOWN of EDENTON**  
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The hidden excitement that people feel when receiving a long distance call, is always apparent with small fry. They seem to bubble over when the call comes through.

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