



Peaches In Chowan:

The Fuzzy Truth

TYNCHTOWN—There's a lot of activity in a 12-acre field just off the main drag of this rural Chowan County metropolis.

Cars and trucks keep hot the well worn road connecting Tynchtown with Chowan sandhills. The only difference in this winding path back into the woods and a logging road leading straight to a liquor distillery is that this one is traveled only in the daytime.

What's happening? The undisputed peach king of Northeastern North Carolina is at work—or has others working. And just when he could claim the title he labored long hours to attain, he has retired.

Travel that path just a few hundred yards into the

midst of 1,200 "thrifty" peach trees. From somewhere will appear a familiar figure wearing a white shirt, black bow tie, and last year's straw hat.

He's John F. White, who in about four more weeks will have harvested his third peach crop and turned his attention to other interests.

John F. White is known for a lot of things. He is a capable attorney, was an able legislator, neighborly to friend and foe, and down right unreasonable when someone tells him he can't do something.

The latter is what got him in the peach business in the first place. Someone told him disease would prohibit the profitable growing of

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Mrs. White Rests



Chappell, Left, and White with Pickings

Chowan Farmers Enjoy Good Cash Crop Yield; Disease Hits Cantaloupes

Edenton Agrees To School Plan Only In 1965-66

At the request of Chowan County Board of Education, the Edenton city administrative unit has taken steps to accept rural Negro high school students for the 1965-66 term.

This action was taken July 15 when the city board adopted a resolution requesting the U. S. Office of Education to further amend Edenton's plan for compliance with the Civil Rights of 1964.

Earlier the city unit had advised the Chowan County board that Chowan students residing outside the city administrative unit's boundaries would not be accepted this coming fall. Under the new plan this would become effective for the school year

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Town To Wage War On Stumps

The Town of Edenton will soon wage a war on stumps. This was the word this week from Town Administrator W. B. Gardner following the demonstration of an automatic stump cutter.

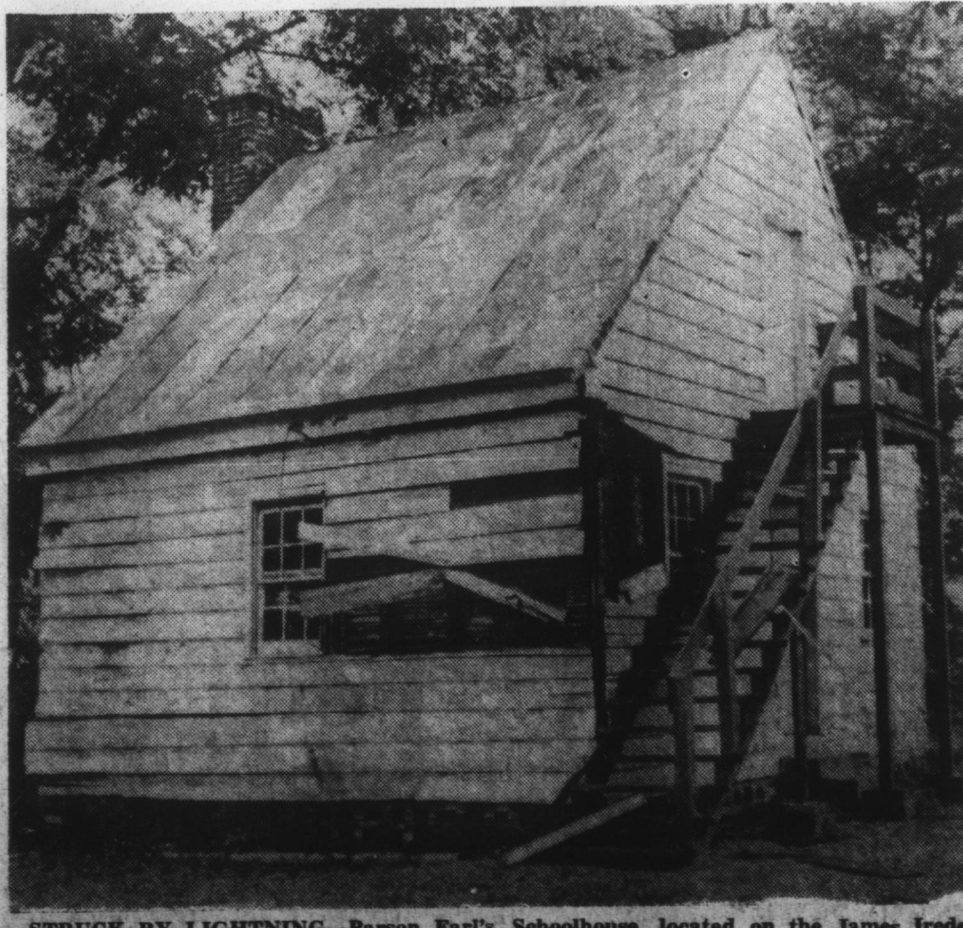
"That's a hungry machine," the administrator said as the whirling blade made shavings of an unsightly stump next to Bunch Auto Parts on North Broad Street.

As the machine chewed up the stump in a relative short time, J. C. Parks, superintendent of the street department, commented that it would have taken workmen three days to remove the stump.

The purchase of such a piece of equipment was authorized by the town council and provisions for the purchase was made in the new budget.

Councilman David White, street commissioner, and Mayor Pro Tem J. Edwin Buffal were among the city officials who witnessed the demonstration.

The stump cutter can be pulled by a car or truck. It is backed up to the stub and requires only one man to operate it. "This is a real labor saver as well as the cleanest way to get rid of the stumps," Gardner said.



STRUCK BY LIGHTNING—Parson Earl's Schoolhouse, located on the James Iredell House property on East Church Street, was struck by lightning during a storm last Thursday evening. Mrs. Wood Privott, president of the James Iredell Association, said estimates of the damage run as high as \$1,000.

Overman Sees 'Bumper' Crop In County Corn

Chowan County farmers are in the midst of harvesting summer crops and while disease has cut the yield in cantaloupes and watermelons the overall outlook is said to be "very good."

Farm Agent C. W. Overman said cantaloupe yields will be 50 to 60 per cent less than last year, as a result of a lot of disease problems. He said some entire fields died.

But farmers who were able to grow quality cantaloupes are now enjoying a good market.

Overman said harvesting of watermelons is just beginning with the size being a little smaller this year. "We had some disease problems early in the season but in general we have a pretty good crop on," the county agent said.

Farmers who are picking lima beans and sweet corn are also enjoying a good market. Quality of both these vegetables are reported as good.

The entire farm outlook in Chowan County is very good, Overman said. While the county has had a lot of rain there have been few downpours. Therefore, such staple crops as corn, peanuts, cotton and soy beans are in good shape. Overman predicts a bumper corn crop this fall.

The rainy weather has caused grass to grow but Overman points out that most fields are clean.

Returning to his discussion of the cantaloupe problem, the county agent said experts from North Carolina State University have spent considerable time in the county assisting in efforts being made to head off disease and the almost yearly decrease in the acreage.

"There is going to have to be some changes made if we are to stay in the cantaloupe business," Overman said, "and we can and definitely should stick in there."

Chowan County farmers have been producing cantaloupes commercially for more than 40 years, but during the past four or five years disease has moved in. In 1959 there were approximately 500 acres of cantaloupes and 2,000 acres of watermelons which produced a gross income of over \$500,000. This year the cantaloupe acreage is but half the 1959 figure while watermelons are planted on 1,400 to 1,500 acres.

Only One Case Tried In Court

It is either feast or famine in Chowan County Recorders Court.

Just two weeks ago Judge W. S. Privott held forth until after 6 P. M., as Solicitor Thomas Cheers Jr., called the lengthy docket.

Then Tuesday the court was faced with only one case.

In that case James C. Barrow was found guilty of non support and prayer for judgment was continued upon payment of \$20 per week to his wife. He was also taxed court costs for which the county is liable.

Records also show six motorists, all charged with moving traffic violations, signed waivers. They include Ray Jones Jordan, Jack Donald Bateman, Dunlow Spencer Rogers, George E. Privott, Joseph L. Twine and Joseph M. Privott.

The Public Parade

FORUM NEEDED—A lot of questions are left unanswered in a piece of information on merger of the two local school units being circulated by Edenton city schools.

If we interpret the release from Supt. Hiram Mayo's office correctly, the city's appointed board is against any change. This is the first official indication as to how this board feels about having a single administrative unit in Chowan County.

The Chowan County Board of Education, seeing the need for providing equal education for all the children, both rural and urban, are unanimous in their efforts to seek one unit.

Included in the information mailed by Supt. Mayo following the city board's meeting July 15 is a letter from Dr. Charles F. Carroll, state superintendent of public instruction. This letter is printed elsewhere in The Chowan Herald.

A portion of Dr. Carroll's letter is included in a sheet headed: "Information Concerning The Edenton City Schools, July, 1965." This deals with costs involved in operating a consolidated unit.

It is pointed out that there are 100 county administrative units and 70 city administrative units in North Carolina. Twenty-two of the city units have a smaller school enrollment than Edenton City Schools.

The size of the Edenton City Schools should not be a question for debate in this discussion. Every school official argues that the bigger the school the better the opportunities for the students.

But the questions which come to mind as a result of a look at the list of 22 city units smaller than Edenton are many. Like:

What is the county population? How big is the city school district?

How much does the city involved levy in taxes for schools, over and above what the county levies?

What are the other schools in the area?

We are familiar with at least three of these small

city units. One is Elkin, in Surry County. There were 48,205 people counted in Surry County in 1960. Mt. Airy has a nice city school system and the county has within the past few years consolidated rural high schools in order to have a student body big enough to allow for a decent curriculum. Chatham Manufacturing Company, the world's largest blanket manufacturer, is located in Elkin and pays a tremendous amount of taxes. Included in this is a healthy special tax for schools.

In neighboring Wilkes County where the population was 45,269 in 1960—including the moonshiners who could be found by the census takers—North Wilkesboro has a city unit smaller than Edenton. The county schools are consolidated and residents of North Wilkesboro pay a special school tax.

Iredell County is more densely populated, 62,526. Statesville has a city unit, so does Mooresville, which is smaller than Edenton. The county schools have just been consolidated into two senior high schools. Both Statesville and Mooresville have a handsome school tax in their respective budgets—and the residents of these two cities also pay a county tax for schools which is one-half the county budget.

In each case—Elkin, North Wilkesboro and Mooresville—if the city administrative unit cut a wide swath through the county, as does Edenton, the school population would be much in excess of what Supt. Mayo has dominion over.

But we are far afield. Chowan County is different from the other 99 in North Carolina. Our problems are particular and can not be dissolved by comparison with others.

Dr. Carroll made a statement in his letter to the effect that while savings can be realized in some areas by consolidation of administrative units the overall costs are greater because a better school system is desired.

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Work On Mill Moving Ahead

The construction phase of a big expansion and modernization program at Albemarle Peanut Company has been completed.

A company spokesman said this phase of the overall plan was completed ahead of schedule. Edenton Construction Company had the contract for this work.

Regular company employees are now engaged in making mill repairs and installing new machinery as it arrives. The new machinery is reported to be arrived about on schedule, therefore, the company expects to have the entire project completed by the time peanut harvest begins.

Little more than two months ago—May 13—Continental Baking Company, the parent firm, announced plans to construct a new bulk warehouse at Albemarle Peanut Company as well as make mill and equipment changes designed to boost the capacity of the mill by over one-fourth.

At that time it was said the changes would make Continental's Edenton operation one of the largest and most modern peanut mills in North Carolina.

A. B. Harless, manager, said the anticipated volume would "approximate \$3 million per year for farmers stock peanuts, payrolls and miscellaneous supplies with expenditures largely in Chowan and nearby counties." This would make Albemarle Peanut Company one of the largest contributors to the economy of Chowan County.

Harless said the mill will have a daily capacity of 200,000 pounds of peanuts in eight hours. In season, Albemarle Peanut Company will employ about 100 people.

VACATION NOTICE

Edenton Cotton Mills will be closed for vacation from July 24 to August 1. Although the plant will be closed during this time, the office will remain open.

Tourism In State Tops \$1 Billion During 1964

Tourism in the state during 1964 reached the billion dollar mark for the first time, according to the seventh annual survey of North Carolina's travel industry.

The report, just released, was compiled by Dr. Lewis Copeland of the University of Tennessee. It reveals that total receipts from firms engaged in serving and transporting travelers were \$1.1 billion, up nine per cent from the \$968 million in 1963.

The report, sponsored by the Travel Council of North Carolina and the state's Travel Information Division, indicated that the state has 1.8 per cent of the nation's \$60 billion travel business. The industry has been growing at an average of 7.7 per cent annually since 1948, well above the 5.5 national average.

The survey also shows that travel, the state's third

Bertram Byrum Takes New Post

Bertram Byrum, veteran Chowan County deputy sheriff and jailer, has resigned to accept a position with Edenton Fire Department. His resignation is effective September 1.

Sheriff Earl Goodwin said Deputy Byrum has not only been a good jailer and officer, but also a close personal friend. "He has performed a great service and I will miss him greatly," the sheriff said. "His resignation was accepted with deep regret."

Deputy Byrum assumed his duties on December 1, 1957, and was retained as jailer when Sheriff Goodwin was elected the following year.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said Byrum will replace Ralph Williams, who resigned July 15. He said he feels the town is fortunate to be able to secure Byrum as a full-time fireman. Byrum has been a volunteer fireman for several years.