

School Board Merger Bill Introduced In Raleigh

Rep. Philip P. Godwin of the First House District, Wednesday introduced a bill in the General Assembly to allow Chowan County voters to express themselves on the question of merging the two existing school administrative units.

The lengthy piece of legislation was expected to be sent to the newly appointed House Education Committee by Speaker David M. Britt. Rep. R. D. McMillan of Dobson was appointed committee chairman Tuesday.

Rep. Godwin reported from Raleigh Tuesday that although much publicity had been given the proposed

merger of the school administrative units of Chowan County and Edenton, he has heard very little opposition to it.

Speaking of the bill, Rep. Godwin said he doesn't see why anyone would object to giving the citizens of Chowan County an opportunity to vote on the question. However, he pointed out that a hearing could be held by the committee to which the bill is assigned for study if it is requested.

Edenton City and Chowan County boards of education have unanimously voted the terms for merger they have felt so strongly

about the matter that the boards have shared a superintendent of schools for more than a year.

It is expected that a referendum will be called in May. The bill states that immediately upon certification of a favorable vote of the people the two school boards will become one, known as the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.

The five elected members of the Chowan County board and the six appointed members of the city board would serve until January 1, 1971. In the general election of 1970, the voters will elect a seven-member board to serve staggered terms. Between the time of merger

and the election vacancies which occur will not be filled unless the number of members falls below seven.

Membership on the newly constituted board would be set according to population. The First Township will have four members; the Second Township, one; the Third Township one; and the Fourth Township one.

Included with the merger question is a supplemental school tax not to exceed 15 cents per \$100 valuation. The city board has had such a tax on municipal books for many years but the tax has never been levied.

Text of the bill as introduced by Rep. Godwin was published in The Chowan Herald on January 12 under sponsorship of the two school boards.



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Phone Officials Told Service Here Inadequate

More than 30 businessmen, industrialists and home owners in Edenton told officials of Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co., Thursday they are dissatisfied with the telephone service being given this community.

W. B. Gardner, president of Edenton Chamber of Commerce, moderated a frank discussion of local problems between telephone subscribers and L. S. Blades, Jr., president, and L. S. Blades, III, vice president and general counsel.

"Edenton and Chowan County is making good progress and we must have the full cooperation of Norfolk & Carolina Telephone Company if we are to continue this growth," Gardner said.

He then listed numerous complaints registered with the Chamber with regards to telephone service. They included: lack of long distance operators to handle person-to-person calls; operators who are not adequately trained; too many subscribers on rural lines; phones for new arrivals hard to get, and installation costs too high.

Gardner said the chamber has experienced refusal by local citizens to join the organization because of inadequate telephone service.

L. S. Blades, Jr., spoke at length about how the company has spent or has budgeted nearly \$8 million since 1961 to bring to the Albemarle area the most advanced telephonic system in existence among independent companies today.

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Town License Plates A Must

Police Chief James H. Griffin warned residents of Edenton that 1966 town license plates expired at midnight Wednesday and new tags should be purchased and displayed immediately.

Chief Griffin said the tags are on sale at the Municipal Building for \$1. Every vehicle registered to a resident of Edenton is required to display such a license plate.

The police department will immediately begin checking vehicles for town license plates and issue citations to those motorists found in violation.

Chowan Hospital Will Get Funds

CHARLOTTE — The annual distribution of funds to assist nonprofit Carolina hospitals and child-caring institutions in financing services to needy patients and orphans is being made this week by The Duke Endowment. The appropriations total \$1,468,018, including \$907,963 to 141 hospitals and \$558,056 to 43 child-caring institutions.

Chowan Hospital in Edenton has an appropriation of \$2,304. Last year the Edenton hospital received \$2,000.

In North Carolina, 99 hospitals are receiving \$884,729 and 26 child-caring institutions \$366,860.

Contributions to the hospitals are based on \$1 a day for each day of free service in the fiscal year which ended September 30, 1966.



LOOKING FOR A REPEAT—Principal Cecil W. Fry of John A. Holmes High School, right, and basketball Coach Jim Kinion here display the 1966 2-A Albemarle Conference Tournament trophy which the Edenton Aces won. The conference tournament opens here Monday night and the Aces will be seeking their second straight crown. They won the regular season play Tuesday night at Bertie and end the season here Friday night against Pasquotank Central. The Aces have lost but three of 17 conference games this season.

Edenton Aces Capture 2-A Crown

The Edenton Aces have

won their second straight

2-A Albemarle Conference

cage crown and are favored

to win the post season tour-

nment opening here Mon-

day night.

There was a considerable

amount of pride in the voice

of Coach Jim Kinion Wed-

nesday morning when he re-

ported: "Well, we wrapped

it up last night at Bertie."

Coach Kinion has been

building Edenton into a cage

empire like the football pro-

gram has been over the

years. At the beginning of

the season some doubted the

Aces' ability to cope with

conference competition due

to heavy losses as a result

of graduation.

However, Coach Kinion's

eagers have come along

throughout the season and

have a 14-3 conference mark

going into the final regular

season game here Friday

with Pasquotank Central.

The Aces were impressive

in their two most recent vic-

tories with subs being used

freely.

LETTER FROM EDDIE—

Eddie Nixon reads The Chowan Herald. While he prob-

ably has less time to devote

to this, he becomes more

concerned about what hap-

pens than most others along

The Public Parade.

Eddie writes from Iron

Triangle, Vietnam. Let's let

him tell his own story:

"My attention was drawn

to the article in your Janu-

ary 19th edition concerning

the closing of the Red Cross

Chapter in Chowan County,

if donations aren't sufficient

to cover its operations. From

personal experience I can

prove one of the objectives

of the Red Cross—that of

aiding servicemen in Vietnam

and other overseas stations.

"When my father died in

June of 1966, the Red Cross

reacted so quickly that I was

home within 24 hours from the

time of notice. There are, I'm sure, a number of

people in Edenton who have

sons and husbands over here

who should be more than

willing to donate to this fine

organization.

"Also, I'm sure that there

are a number of people in

Edenton and Chowan County

who have at one time

needed blood for various rea-

sons. The Red Cross put it

there, right? As the director

at Chowan Hospital said,

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Mayor Mitchener Seeks Fourth Term In Election

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., today announced his candidacy to succeed himself in the May Municipal election.

Mayor Mitchener, who is serving as president of the N. C. League of Municipalities,

ties, has held the town's top elective position for the past six years. He served on the Town Council for eight years prior to being chosen mayor upon the death of Mayor David Hoitton.

Two years ago he defeated

Roy Harrell in one of the town's most heated municipal elections in many years.

In a statement issued to The Herald, Mayor Mitchener said:

"With the help and assistance of your fine Town Councilmen, we have spent the past six years endeavoring on two fronts: the consolidating and upgrading of your town's facilities and services; and the creation of jobs through industrial development for all our citizens so that they might live happier, more productive lives."

"I think, and I hope, our townpeople will agree that we have been extremely successful in both these endeavors. In the past, we have constructed a new sewage disposal facility, Municipal Building, fire station, off-street parking facilities and paved all the

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Edenton Town Council and Board of Public Works will have a called joint meeting Monday night to discuss annexation. The meeting was requested at the council Tuesday night by Jesse L. Harrell, public works board chairman.

Earlier, Mayor Mitchener praised the work of the Good Neighbor Council in establishing better race relations in the area. He said their efforts had garnered high praise from D. S. Coltrane, chairman of the state organization.

The request was made by W. P. (Spec) Jones and George Alma Byrum, representing the Edenton-Chowan Good Neighbor Council.

Mayor Mitchener, who seldom injects his personal feelings into council deliberations, spoke strongly in support of the request. He said the Good Neighbor Council here is making considerable progress on many fronts and this is the first major request from them.

"I urge the council to authorize that this work be done in the best interest of the safety of these school children," Mayor Mitchener said.

He said the council should

continue to seek the support of Chowan County commissioners in this project but if funds were not forthcoming from the county then the town board should underestimate the entire cost to insure completion of the sidewalk as soon as possible.

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Dr. Johnnie H. Horton, Negro leader, Tuesday night was named to the Edenton City School Board.

Dr. Horton replaces James M. Bond, who has resigned.

Bond, a veteran member of the city board, within the past months has been appointed postmaster in Edenton. He also serves as Town Treasurer.

Dr. Edward G. Bond, chairman of the city school board, nominated Dr. Horton to fill Bond's unexpired term during the joint meeting with Town Council.

Dr. Bond said Dr. Horton's appointment had the unanimous approval of the city board.

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., was named chairman of the joint meeting which followed the regular monthly council meeting.

Dr. Horton, a dentist, is vice chairman of the Edenton-Ch