



AIRPORT OFFICIALS — Rhea Adams of Edenton, left, and Herman R. Meads of Weeksville, are pictured at Edenton Municipal Airport as they discuss operation of the facility. Adams and Meads head Albemarle Aviation, Inc., which has just leased the airport from Edenton-Chowan Airport Commission. A fixed base operation is expected to be opened by July 1.

Aviation Firm Leases Airport

Albemarle Aviation, Inc., has signed an agreement with Edenton-Chowan Airport Commission for a fixed base operation of Edenton Municipal Airport.

Dr. Richard Hardin, airport commission chairman, said the lease was signed last week and it is hoped that the new facilities will be in operation by July 1.

Work is currently being done on a portion of the old tower building to provide offices and a pilot's lounge.

Rhea Adams of Edenton and Herman R. Meads of Weeksville have formed Albemarle Aviation, Inc., and will operate the airport.

Hunter Morris of Elizabeth City has been employed as airport attendant and will soon move on the premises.

While the airport will normally be open from 8 A. M. to 5:30 P. M., it is pointed out that Morris will be available on a 24-hour schedule if he is needed.

The airport will have gas and oil and will soon be able to do aircraft maintenance. They will have instruction and charter service by qualified personnel.

Two and four-place planes will be available for charter service. Sight-seeing will also be offered as well as hangar service.

Crop dusting, spraying and seeding

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The Public Parade

A Real Bargain

The value of municipally owned electric systems is graphically illustrated again in the 1967-68 budget for the Town of Edenton.

The town will take more than \$105,000 from utilities profits in order to maintain essential services on a \$1 tax rate. This is some \$3,000 more than will be realized from property tax.

Edenton's story is not unique. There are 73 so-called Electric Towns in North Carolina and at budget making time they dip into the utilities profits to keep taxes down.

However, the average citizen in these towns—including those who meander along The Public Parade—takes all this for granted. We are more prone to criticize "high rates" than be grateful for what we have.

In the past, Edenton has been able to enjoy an abundance of services and progress on a reasonable tax rate because the profits from the sale of utilities was always there to take up the slack. This community is rapidly outgrowing existing facilities and as new demands are made it will necessitate long range planning and long range financing.

The people should be conditioned to meet the challenges of tomorrow. They have certainly benefitted from the profits of the past.

More In Balance

Two things have happened here in the past few days which will tend to make this a better rounded community.

Edenton-Chowan Airport Commission has been successful in getting a fixed base operator for Edenton Municipal Airport. Albemarle Aviation, Inc., will offer complete airport services and with increased interest in aviation as well as more and more people flying into this area, reactivation of the airport will mean much to the entire community.

Just down the road, Chowan Golf & Country Club has added a handsome,

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Unemployment Low In Area

Unemployment in the Chowan area is at a record low and wages paid workers covered by unemployment insurance reached \$1,774,000 in the fourth quarter of 1966.

R. E. Cheek, manager of the Edenton Office, Employment Security Commission, said in May unemployment reached 2.6 per cent. This was in Chowan, Gates, Tyrrell and Perquimans counties—the area served by the local office.

Cheek also reported that last month his office processed 139 new applications and 105 persons were placed in non-

agricultural jobs. There are 471 applications in the active file at Cheek's office and 337 of these are from women.

Wages paid in the fourth quarter were up more than \$200,000 from the third quarter, according to figures released by Cheek. Average employment in the 87 reporting units was 1,800 and the average weekly wage was \$75.81. This was up from 1,680 employees in 89 units who paid \$1,569,000 with the average being \$71.84 in the third quarter.

Manufacturing payrolls for the fourth quarter exceeded \$1-million in the fourth

quarter with 938 employees reported getting an average check of \$82.50 per week.

Cheek said wages paid in the final quarter of 1966 were up 7.1 per cent from the previous quarter.

Manufacturing payrolls in Chowan County have more than doubled in the past six years. Total wages paid by manufacturing firms for 1966 reached \$3,664,000. In 1960 the wages paid were \$1,728,636 with the average weekly wage being \$50.82. The increase in wages was nearly \$600,000 more than in 1965.

Town Budget Approved Hospital Surgeon Is Being Sought

A budget of \$868,230.06 for fiscal 1967-68 has been adopted for the Town of Edenton and the tax rate will stay at \$1 per \$100 valuation. The new budget is \$48,441 less than the current one.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner explained that such items as the new Fire Station and a computer for the Municipal Building were in the 1966-67 budget and have now been paid for.

The town anticipates revenues during the fiscal year of \$923,525.03 which will provide a budget surplus of \$55,294.97.

General fund expenses are estimated at \$327,325.03 while the Electric and Water Department expenses are set at \$540,905.03.

With an assessed valuation of \$10.5-million, the town will derive \$102,000 from ad valorem taxes. Profits from the E&W Department will put \$105,405.13 into the treasury.

The town will also receive \$20,000 from Chowan County as the first installment on a loan to finance extension of water and sewer to an industrial site outside the town limits.

Gardner said the budget reflects a 5 to 10 per cent salary increase for town employees. Also, employees will have increased hospitalization benefits. No action was taken on a retirement plan for municipal employees.

This year, too, the town will finish paying for a street sweeper, fire truck, parking meters, police communications and a planning grant. The town plans to purchase a new panel truck for the Fire Department.

There will also be newly designed town license tags.

The new budget includes \$15,000 for off-street parking and \$5,000 for sidewalk paving.

The board will consider in January, 1968, at budget review time, purchase of an additional packer truck for the street department. This would allow the department to discontinue collecting garbage in open trucks. It would also bring about containerized pick-up for commercial establishments.

In addition to the E&W Department, department budgets are:

Administrative—\$30,510.00.
Police—\$71,997.03.
Street—\$118,255.00.
Fire—\$41,047.00.
Other—\$65,516.00.

Area Planning Future Uncertain

Albemarle Area Planning Commission's future will be discussed tonight (Thursday) at a meeting scheduled for Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge.

Edenton's Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., chairman, will preside.

For Mayor Mitchener it will probably be his last meeting as Chowan County Board of Commissioners recently voted not to continue to participate in the 10-County planning group.

W. E. Bond, Chowan board chairman, said Tuesday he had information that only three counties have agreed to go along with the new studies proposed by the commission. It would cost Chowan \$1,545 over the next two years to support the new program.

The AAPC is unique in that it involves such a vast area and has been chosen as an example for a three-state planning study group now being organized.

Fish Fry Friday

A membership meeting of Chowan Wildlife Club will be held at 7:30 P. M., Friday at Rocky Hock Community Building. There will be a fish fry.

The purpose of this meeting is to reactivate the club which has not been active for several years.

Everyone interested in the wildlife program is encouraged to attend Friday's meeting.

Mitchener To Head Study Group

An Edentonian has been selected to serve as leader of a group going to Switzerland this summer under sponsorship of The Experiment in International Living.

John A. Mitchener, III, who recently received an advance degree at Yale University Divinity School, will be a leader in the program which involves 200 persons from ages 16 to 30 who are going abroad to gain firsthand knowledge of another country's customs and culture

at the person-to-person level.

He is the son of Mayor and Mrs. John A. Mitchener, Jr., of Edenton.

Mitchener was selected on the basis of leadership ability, familiarity with the country and an active interest in fostering international understanding, the EIL office said.

During the first month of the two-month program, Mitchener will live as a member of a host family. He will then spend a month traveling about the country with host family members as his guests, or in special work or field study projects.

After returning from Europe, Mitchener will begin graduate work in political science at Syracuse University.

A graduate of John A. Holmes High School, he received his degree in pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He spent 1965-66 at Michigan State University as an intern in the campus ministry and developed an interest in college teaching. While at Yale he spent the summer of 1965 traveling in North Africa and the Middle East. There he studied economic development, the Palestine conflict and Muslim-Christian dialogue.

Mitchener leaves for the Experiment in International Living program July 3 from Connecticut and arrives in Brussels the next day. He will return to the U. S. from Le Havre on August 30, returning to New York on September 8.



John A. Mitchener, III

Car Rams House

James Edward Jackson, Jr., 24, Route 2, Edenton, escaped injury Saturday night when the car he was driving ran into a house on Old Hertford Road.

State Trooper R. H. Allen, investigating officer, estimated damage to the house at \$1,000.

Trooper Allen said Jackson was driving a 1959 Ford when the car came out of a rural unpaved road, crossed Old Hertford Road, and struck the front of the house. The motorist was charged with reckless driving.

Troops Find National Guard Summer Training Very Realistic

(Editor's Note: Local National Guardsmen returned home Sunday night after completion of their annual summer training at Ft. Bragg.)

FT. BRAGG—Specialist Fourth Class Ralph Nixon of Edenton landed knee-deep in a creek, but that didn't bother him. His "friendly" forces had the aggressors on the run.

Nixon, his shirt soaked with sweat, took a tighter grip on the 30 caliber machinegun and waded through the water, yelling to his buddy, Pfc. L. A. Spruill of Creswell, "bring the ammo. We got 'em going."

The aggressors had held a strategic hill, but retreated when they saw the

friendly forces, with superior firepower, approach. Nixon, Spruill and other members of Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 119th Infantry of Elizabeth City made a complete route of the "enemy."

The aggressors moved back about a mile and prepared to defend their position on the edge of a woods, but the friendly forces' six tanks followed by squads of men sent them scurrying into the woods.

After chasing the aggressors to near their base camp, Charlie Company set up a holding action.

The action had the appearance of a real war, except the weapons were firing blanks and the men really weren't

mad at each other.

Nixon, checking his machinegun and ammo supply during the pause, talked about the mock war, called "Operation Chigger," in which his battalion and five others participated.

Nixon said he was getting good training and really liked playing war. One of the things he didn't like was waiting for a counterattack or another offensive move.

"We want to go," he said. Spruill agreed. Both kept a close eye open for aggressor activity.

Another man keeping a sharp watch on the war games was Grig. Gen. Dan K. Edwards of Durham, assistant com-

mander of the N. C. National Guard's 30th Infantry Division and director of "Exercise Chigger."

Reviewing the 246-hour maneuver, covering a two-week period, Edwards said:

"This division is at a fairly high state of combat readiness."

The 30th Division trained at the battalion level while, Edwards said, "a lot of Guard divisions are at the platoon and company levels."

Battalion level training, he said, "is a good attitude to be in. If we can hang on to the battalion training level, and should this division ever be mobilized, all we would have to do is brigade

training. Then we'd be ready for combat."

The umpires, many of whom walked as much as 75 miles during the two-week exercise, graded the units and imposed particular situations into the problem to beef up training. They also served to calm the men when they become a little too enthusiastic.

Despite a few rough spots, Gen. Edwards complimented the battalions for "very excellent work." He termed it a "tough exercise, physically speaking."

The six battalions spent 30 consecutive hours each participating in "Chigger," which was designed to give the companies practice for their Army Training Tests.