

Chowan Grand Jury Condemns Hotel Building

The Chowan County Grand Jury has declared Hotel Joseph Hewes both "inadequate and unsafe" for the housing of county offices.

In a report submitted to Superior Court Judge Walter Cahoon of Elizabeth City Tuesday afternoon the jury "strongly" recommended that steps be taken to correct defects in the structure.

The report, signed by John F. Habit, foreman, and Thomas F. Hopkins, secretary, the panel said inspection of the

hotel building "is in very poor condition especially the second floor."

"If these conditions, such as water leaks, hanging pipes, etc., continue to prevail the first floor offices will soon be in a state of disrepair," the report stated.

Judge Cahoon ordered that a copy of the report be forwarded to Chowan County commissioners.

Clerk of Court Lena M. Leary was lauded for the efficiency of her office

and staff. It was noted that the office was recently recognized by the State as one of the most up dated offices under the new District Court system.

While placing a stamp of disapproval on the hotel property, the grand jury commended the commissioners for improvements to historic Chowan County Court House.

The jail was found to be in very good condition. The sheriff's department was commended for its efforts in the cleanli-

ness and maintenance of the entire jail facility.

A school bus inspection, conducted by State Trooper R. H. Allen, was accepted by the jury.

Recommendations by past grand juries on certain school property were being complied with. Supt. Bill Britt also reported to the jury on bus safety, fire drills, etc.

Nine new grand jurors were selected when the September Term of Superior

Court opened Monday morning. Chosen to serve until July, 1968, were: Wilber E. Bunch, Thomas F. Hopkins, Horace Modlin, J. H. Hollowell, John Elton Smith, H. O. West, Johnnie E. Owens, Worth H. Hare and Earl Wadsworth.

The nine jurors who will continue to serve until January, 1968, are: Habit, Calvin M. Harrell, Gordon W. Boyce, Ralph Outlaw, George Alfred Wright, Welton L. Twine, Elton Carroll Griffin, William Edward Barrow and Herbert W. Baker.



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The Public Parade

Let's Be Realistic

The chairman of the Highway Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce has taken issue with advocates of a super highway through Northeastern North Carolina or those favoring four-laning of U. S. 17 from Elizabeth City to Virginia.

J. Gilliam Wood, former First District highway commissioner, says emphasis must be placed on existing highways and improvements to those where traffic counts can justify the need.

Wood pointed out it is well to think 25 years into the future. But that won't solve immediate needs, he believes.

"U. S. 17 gets us to market and back," he says, "and all efforts should be pitched in improvements to what we have."

The ex-commissioner agrees that it would be nice to have a four-lane highway from the Chowan River to Norfolk. But it must be realized in stages as traffic counts justify it.

Right now, Wood states, the traffic count justifies a four-lane section from Elizabeth City to Hertford. So, this must have first priority. The next stage would be from Hertford to Edenton to tie into a new Edenton by-pass. It is reasonable, he believes, for both projects to be worked jointly if everyone pulls together.

Gilliam Wood knows what it takes to get highways built and improved. His advice in this matter should be taken with more than a grain of salt. And the people in the Albemarle area served by U. S. 17 aren't too old to be realistic.

Stiff Language

Hotel Joseph Hewes was purchased by Chowan County a number of years ago. The price was right and it was considered the most practical way to unite the numerous county agencies.

A decision was made to use portions of the building as necessary, for offices and lease the remainder for use as a hotel. Three times since then the commissioners have voted to terminate the lease, for one reason or another. Each

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SPORTSMEN TAKE OVER—Albemarle Wildlife Club, a recently re-organized group interested in conservation and safety, claimed two firsts last week—a project and an outing. In the picture at left, George Lewis, right, club president, goes over with Turner Battle of Rocky Mount, a club proposal to have fishing stakes in



Edenton Bay removed. Battle is executive director of the N. C. Wildlife Federation. Joe Thorud, left in the other picture, prepares to assign hunters at Turkey Neck Farm on the opening of dove season. Telling him where to find the doves is Adrian Smith, Jr., farm owner who hosted the club's first hunt Saturday.

Club Attacks Abandoned Fish Stakes

Albemarle Wildlife Club is off to a booming start. Anyone who happened by Turkey Neck Farm Saturday afternoon can testify to this fact.

The club, recently re-organized, got its name Wednesday night at a meet-

Harvest Supper

The popular harvest supper at Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department will be held Saturday from 5 P. M., to 8 P. M.

Barbecue chicken will be served and reservations for tickets will be taken until 12 noon Saturday. Those desiring tickets should contact Charlie Asbell prior to this time.

In addition to serving their famous barbecued chicken, firemen will show off their recently painted department.

ing and then Saturday club members went out as guests of Adrian Smith, Jr., to open the dove season in a big way.

Approximately 100 hunters converged on Smith's spacious farm and reports were that there was plenty of game for all.

At Wednesday's meeting, members voted unanimously to seek assistance from N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission and other agencies in getting abandoned net stakes removed from Edenton Bay.

George Lewis, club president, said on an average of four boats each year get severely damaged from the abandoned stakes which constitute a real hazard in the bay.

Lewis was quick to point out that this will in no way affect commercial fishing in the area. "I am of the opinion that stakes in use are in no way hazardous," he said.

Turner Battle of Rocky Mount, executive director of the N. C. Wildlife Federation, said there is a possibility that

some state assistance can be obtained in this project.

He discussed legislation in the 1967 General Assembly which makes available a rebate from gasoline tax paid on fuel used in boats to aid the boating public. Battle said the State Highway Commission has been using the full amount of this tax because it was not claimed.

"This money rightfully belongs to the

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Editors Tap Three

Three prominent Edentonians have been chosen for inclusion in the 1967 edition of Outstanding Civic Leaders of America.

They are: Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., Town Administrator W. B. Gardner, and Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr.

Outstanding Civic Leaders of America is an annual biographical compilation of approximately 6,000 civic leaders from all parts of the nation. The men and women included were nominated earlier this year by local city officials, chamber of commerce, and civic groups.

"They have distinguished themselves in civic work to the point of being outstanding," said Doug Blankenship, past U. S. Jaycee president and chairman of the board of advisory editors of this national publication.



JURY COMMISSION TAKES OFFICE—Mrs. Lena M. Leary, standing, Chowan County clerk of court, Friday morning administered the oath of office to the three-member Chowan County Jury Commission. Shown signing their official papers are, left to right: Earl Smith, Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., and Rudolph Dale. The commission goes to work immediately preparing the machinery necessary to comply with a Jury Reform law which is effective in January, 1968.

John J. Ross, 57

John J. Ross, 300 West Church Street, died suddenly in his downtown store at 1:55 P. M., Thursday. He was 57.

He was owner of Ross Jewelers. John James Ross was born October 23, 1909, in Martin County, a son of James A. and Harriett Nelson Ross. He had been a resident of Edenton for 28 years.

He was married to the former Kathleen Ellis, who survives.

Also surviving are two sons: James Ellis Ross of Hampton, Va.; and William A. Ross of the home; one daughter, Miss Elizabeth Ross of Greenville; and two grandchildren.

He was a member of Edenton Methodist Church where funeral services were held Saturday afternoon. Rev. E. C. Shoaf officiated and burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Darf Corp. Adds Harrow Line For Better Balance

Little more than a month ago Hobbs Implement Company ordered a disc harrow from a Georgia manufacturer.

Last week it was delivered. Not from Marietta, Ga., but from Chowan County. When Guy C. Hobbs placed the order with McClesky Manufacturing Company for a Fordmac harrow he had no idea it would be made just down the road from his place of business.

In little more than 30 days, Darf Corporation here had purchased the disc harrow line from McClesky, moved tools,

machinery, dies, etc., to their rural Chowan plant and delivered the first Fordmac from here to fill the Hobbs order.

T. B. H. Wood, vice president and sales manager for Darf, local farm machinery manufacturers, said the harrow is used in this area. Most other implements made by Darf are not for use by local farmers.

Until purchase of Fordmac, Darf did not have a harrow line. Darf is already designing bigger harrows to cover six and eight rows. The firm is now

manufacturing harrows from five to 13½ feet wide in nine different models.

The addition of a harrow line gives Darf 22 different products.

Too, Wood pointed out that this gives Darf a better balanced selling season.

Darf has already expanded the sales territory of the recently purchased line. Prior to Darf's acquisition of Fordmac, the harrow was sold mainly in the south. Distribution is now being arranged throughout the United States and Canada.



ANOTHER FIRST FOR DARF—Darf Corporation, a big Chowan County farm machinery manufacturer, has purchased a Georgia firm and added disc harrows to the firm's line of products. The first machine was delivered last week to Hobbs Implement Company. Guy Hobbs, left, and Wesley Chason, right, get pointers on the harrow from Darf's T. B. H. Wood.

Open Ditch Hearing Set By Council

A public hearing will be held October 3 to discuss closing open ditches inside the Town of Edenton.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner told Councilmen Tuesday night funds are available to see this work completed if the property owners are interested.

It was pointed out that the current policy is for the property owner to purchase the pipe and the town install it. This policy will be reviewed at the public hearing along with all other aspects of the question.

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., has advocated the closing of open ditches for some time. The inavailability of money to accomplish this goal has hampered progress on this front.

"If property owners want these ditches closed, then we can now do it," Gardner said.

There was a hint that the existing policy might be relaxed somewhat in order to get work underway on the project.

Mayor Mitchener said at the meeting

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Hall Is Released By Judge Cahoon

James Clarence Hall, a familiar name in Chowan County Court House, has won his battle for release from prison.

Hall was released from custody today (Thursday) by order of Judge Walter Cahoon of Elizabeth City.

Hall is no stranger to Judge Cahoon who was formerly solicitor in the Superior Court. The judge had seen the defendant convicted three times of auto larceny.

However, Federal Judge Algernon L. Butler ordered Hall returned to Chowan County Superior Court for re-sentencing and given credit for time served while the case has been in and out of court.

Judge Cahoon found that as of today, Hall had three years of credit for time served, gained time and emergency time. Therefore, he ordered him released.

The defendant was first convicted in April, 1962, and given five to seven years. He was later granted a new trial on a Post Conviction Petition. Convicted again, the judge gave him three to

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