

CHRIS-CRAFT CONFIRMS PLANS READY FOR BIG MANUFACTURING PLANT HERE

Chris-Craft Corporation is continuing development of plans for a manufacturing facility in the Edenton area.

Donald A. Wich, vice president, operations, confirmed by telephone Monday that plans for the Edenton operation of Chris-Craft have advanced to the stage where drawings for the plant are about ready to go to contractors.

He said the working drawings will be put out for bid purposes October 9 and

be in the hands of prospective bidders on October 13.

"Everything is progressing satisfactorily at this time," he said.

The general manager and plant manager for the firm's operation in the Edenton area have been selected. They have rented homes here and plans call for them to move to Edenton by November 1.

Chris-Craft has expressed appreciation

to Edenton Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Committee for the splendid cooperation given in working out details leading to construction here.

Chris-Craft, the world's largest manufacturer of motor boats, announced June 1 that option had been taken on 54.05 acres of property on Albemarle Sound near Edenton Municipal Airport. At the same time, the firm called for a labor availability survey to determine the

size of the plant in the Edenton area.

A whirlwind, 10-day survey was conducted. Officials of the company expressed satisfaction with the results.

Extensive clearing operations have been completed on the optioned tract and Chris-Craft is expected to purchase the property from Edenton-Chowan Airport Commission in the very near future.

A chamber of commerce spokesman

said without the complete cooperation of people in various agencies and organizations, Chris-Craft would not be so far along with plans for a plant in Edenton. He especially singled out the Chowan County Board of Commissioners for praise.

The firm plans to erect a modern manufacturing facility for construction of fiberglass yachts—sail as well as motor driven crafts.

The Public Parade

Come Again!

"Even though the general age of the jail itself prevents it ever being considered adequate, it was noticed that improvements have been made since the inspection in 1966."

Thus wrote the jail inspector to Sheriff Earl Goodwin and Chowan County commissioners.

He commended Glenn Perry for the job he is doing but asked commissioners to plan immediately to construct a new jail.

Edenton has some of the finest old homes anywhere. Yet they are adequate for some of the finest people alive.

The county jail is safe, clean and as comfortable as any place should be for people being detained. It is difficult to believe that the age of the jail would prevent it from being adequate.

Timed Just Right

Confirmation by Chris-Craft Corporation that they are moving ahead with plans to build a boat manufacturing facility in the Edenton area could not have been better timed.

The announcement comes when several who have contributed so much to making this plant a reality shed some of their official community responsibilities.

Today marks the end of the year for Edenton Chamber of Commerce. During the past months, W. B. Gardner, president, has worked tirelessly at projects which would benefit the entire community.

He has succeeded on many fronts, the biggest of which have been securing new quarters and the landing of Chris-Craft.

While as commander-in-chief Gardner deserves a lot of praise, he was fortunate to have the benefit of some of the area's keenest minds in working on all projects.

W. P. (Spec) Jones has steered the Industrial Committee over many of the problems faced with ironing out details for a new industry.

If no other committee in the chamber functioned, the successful efforts of the Industrial Committee would make the entire budget a worthwhile venture for the community. However, this is not the case. Edenton has a well rounded chamber program aimed at developing

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Motorist Flirts With Death

Motorist Has Narrow Escape At 'Y'

A Florida motorist had a narrow escape Monday night when his convertible, traveling at a high rate of speed, went out of control at the "Y" north of Edenton and wrecked.

State Trooper R. W. Rawls identified the driver of the 1964 Ford as Earl Leroy Eason, Jr., 28, of Cocoa Beach, Fla.

Eason was rushed to Chowan Hospital shortly after the 9:20 P. M., accident by Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad. He was later transferred to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City where his condition later Tuesday was termed satisfactory.

Trooper Rawls said he was having a cup of coffee at Joe's Drive-In when he heard a car scratch off. He left the drive-in with intentions of warning the driver. However, he was never able to overtake him.

Investigation showed the car went out of control for 450 feet before ending upside down. Eason was thrown from the vehicle and found wedged between two posts, the car and a garage.

Trooper Rawls said the car hit two stop signs, struck a big steel sign post and hit the corner of the Tracy Kirby workshop. Kirby and his son were inside. Kirby's car, truck and a cornpicker were also damaged.

Eason will be charged with reckless driving.

Powell Bill Aid Is Given Edenton

The Town of Edenton got an additional \$1,000 in Powell Bill money this year. The amount allocated here was \$20,194.70.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner said the 1966 state street aid amounted to \$19,075.17.

State street aid allocations totaling almost \$10-million goes to qualifying cities and towns in the state this year.

Highway commission chairman Joe Hunt said there are 424 North Carolina cities and towns who will receive proportional cash allotments amounting to \$9,959,054.78.

During the 17 year history of the Powell Bill program, a total of \$118,260,817.55 has been returned to the municipalities for use on local streets.

Ditch Work Interest Low

Town Council apparently made little headway Tuesday night toward getting property owners interested in participating in the closing of side ditches.

At a public hearing attended primarily by Negro citizens, the town's policy was again explained. Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., said if 51 per cent of the property owners in a given area, representing ownership of 51 per cent of the property petitioned the council the ditches would be closed with the cost of the pipe being charged to the property owner.

Also, Town Administrator W. B. Gardner said the council could make financial arrangements where the property owner's share could be repaid over a three-year period with no interest being charged.

Several speakers pointed out that they had been paying taxes for years and couldn't understand why they must now pay for pipe to close the ditches. Attempts were made to show that participation by the benefitting property owners was the only fair way to get the work done.

As the meeting turned from a hearing on closing open side ditches into a discussion of town drainage problems, one spokesman said: "You fix the ditches and send us the bill."

When questioned by Mayor Mitchener, the speaker, Norman Brinkley, said he meant send the bill in the form of taxes. He said he favored increasing the current \$1 tax levy in order to get the work done.

Turning to the Administrator, he said: "Mr. Gardner, you go ahead and fix up this town and tax the people for it."

Mayor Mitchener said nothing would please him more than to have all the

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Cancer Meeting

American Cancer Society volunteers from a 12-county area will be in Edenton October 12 attending a Public Education Workshop.

Mrs. Ruth Peterson of Greenville, area director, said the program will begin at 9:30 A. M., at Edenton Restaurant. Adjournment is set for 3:30 P. M.

At the morning session, Dr. Fleming Fuller of Kinston, a past president of the North Carolina Division, will be the speaker.

During the afternoon session, a panel discussion will be conducted on the topic: "How To Establish An Education Program". Moderator will be Dr. Julian Hoffman of Roanoke Rapids, N. C. Division public education chairman.

Chamber Banquet Scheduled Tonight

The annual membership of Edenton Chamber of Commerce tonight (Thursday) will climax a successful year and launch what is expected to be another banner campaign for development in the area.

W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., newly elected president, has announced that Bill Bunch has accepted chairmanship of the important membership committee.

Bunch in turn announced that the kick-off breakfast for workers will be held at 7:30 A. M., Friday at Edenton Restaurant. The Dutch event will be the beginning of the membership campaign.

Bunch is an employee of Peoples Bank & Trust Company and recently was elected a chamber director. He has been active in numerous other community activities, including Edenton Jaycees.

The annual meeting begins at 7:30

P. M., at Chowan Golf & Country Club. W. B. Gardner, who headed the chamber during a year when the amount collected for membership exceeded a record \$14,000, will preside at the banquet. He will briefly recap activities during the year prior to turning over the reins to Earnhardt.

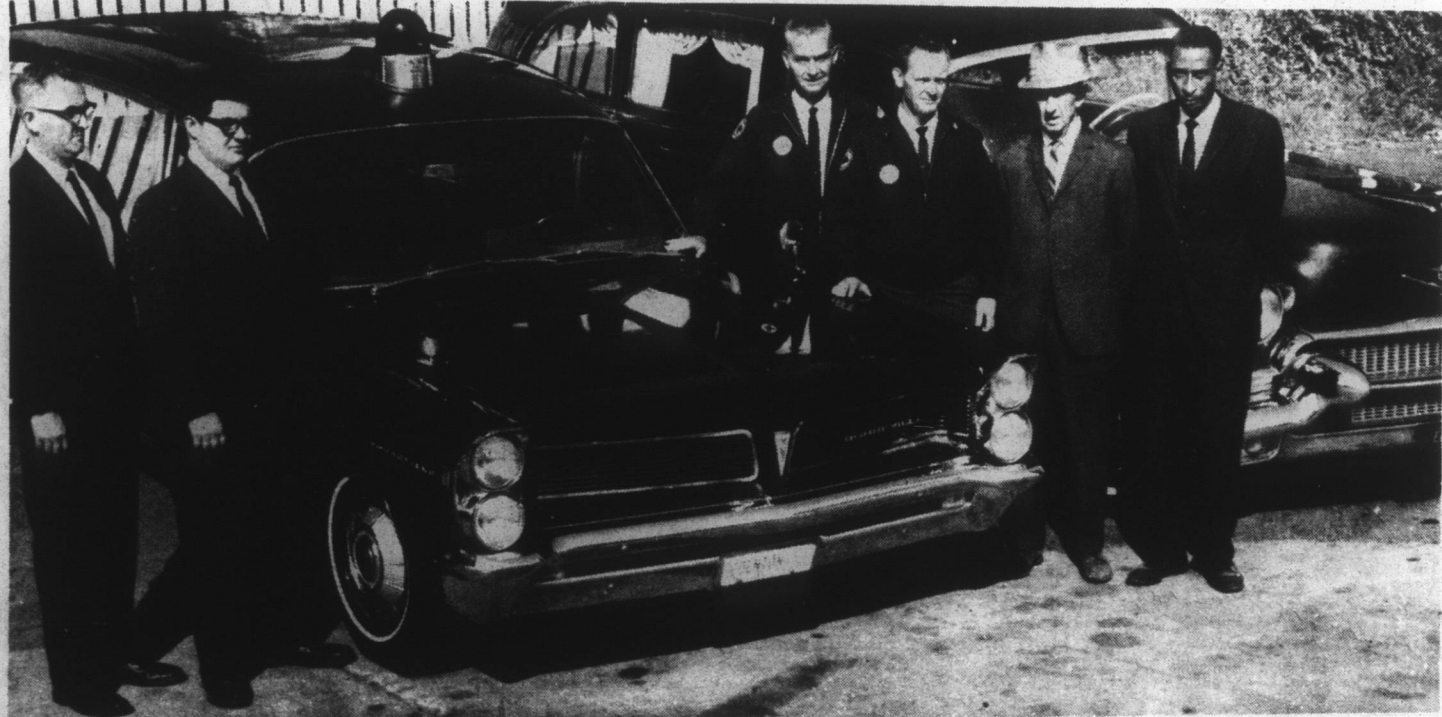
Earnhardt will set the goals for the coming year as well as name committee chairmen.

Speaker for the event will be Ed P. Blair, Craven County educator who is a popular humorist.

Blair, a native of Greensboro, has been a teacher, coach and principal for 30 years. He currently serves as principal at West Havelock Elementary School.

He has addressed school groups, Masonic groups and civic clubs in North and South Carolina.

Alton Elmore, a past chamber president, is banquet chairman.



AMBULANCES DONATED—Two ambulances were donated to Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad this week by funeral homes in Edenton who have gone out of the ambulance business. At left are Marion Swindell and Brad Willford, owners of Willford Funeral Home and the Pontiac vehicle they gave to the squad. At far

right is Oscar Blair of Blair Funeral Home. He gave the older vehicle. Others in the photo are: Murray Ashley, center left, and J. P. Ricks, Jr., head of the rescue squad, and W. E. Bond, chairman, Chowan County commissioners. Commissioners voted Monday to contribute to the rescue squad on a six-month trial basis.

Commissioners Move Toward Hospital Bond Referendum

Chowan County commissioners Monday started the legal ball rolling toward allowing voters to express themselves on selling \$1-million in bonds to erect a new hospital. A hearing on the question will be held October 16.

Commissioners responded favorably to a request from Jesse L. Harrell, hospital board chairman, who said a new hospital is urgently needed in order to give the citizens adequate medical facilities.

Harrell outlined progress which had

been made toward a possible site, schematic drawings, etc., in order that the public might be fully informed as to the plans.

"We want to make available to the public any and all information they desire as the successful vote on this issue as of utmost importance to our county's future," Harrell has said.

He explained to the commissioners that sufficient interest has been shown in building a new hospital that it justifies

another referendum. He added that Edenton Jaycees have agreed to promote the referendum throughout Chowan County.

The problem of providing adequate ambulance service in Chowan County was temporarily resolved when commissioners voted to contribute \$280 per month to Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad. The rescue squad will provide the service.

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