



THE CHOWAN HERALD



Volume XXXVI—No. 20.

Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, May 15, 1969.

Single Copy 10 Cents

Public Parade

Place For New Rats

Secretary of State Thad Eure declares with considerable pride that he is the "oldest rat" in North Carolina's Democratic barn.

Gov. Bob Scott appears to be taking no chances with unknowns as he continues to bring former "rats" back into play in his administration.

First there was Ben Roney, who went all the way to Washington, then found himself on the outside looking in. Now he is at the governor's right arm.

This was followed by appointment of former State Highway Commissioner Lauch Faircloth as chairman of the group he left four years ago.

Before the ink got dry on a General Assembly measure to reorganize the ABC body, Charlie Cahoon found he hadn't made a mistake in staying close to the State House — he was named chairman.

Now this week the governor brought back probably the most able man yet, George Randall. Friend George moved from Raleigh to Oregon in his prison's work—as an administrator and not an inmate—and is now an assistant to Director Lee Bounds.

Gov. Scott has picked some proven politicians as well as administrators to assist him in his Program for Progress in North Carolina. But how do capable folks move from the unknown to known list if they haven't been given a chance?

The faces of some new "rats" around the dinner table on Blount Street would aid both the cause of the present as well as the future.

Look Next Week

Because of several factors, over which we had no control, it was impossible to get all the current news and pictures into The Chowan Herald this week. We ask those involved to understand.

So, watch next week for Spring-O-Rama and a real interesting paper. Merchants are joining together to make this a real event in Edenton. We'll work equally as hard to make the newspaper just as interesting.

The Mayor Speaks

Mayor George Alma Byrum put together a fine "inaugural" address for Tuesday night's Town Council meeting. It gives an insight into what those who meander along The Public Parade can expect during the next couple of years.

It is good, solid stuff and we want to share it with you. Speak, Mr. Mayor:

I am very proud and humble to have been elected the Mayor of the Town of Edenton over strong competition in last week's election. I am confident that my opponents and their many supporters will join with me in leading Edenton to continued growth and progress.

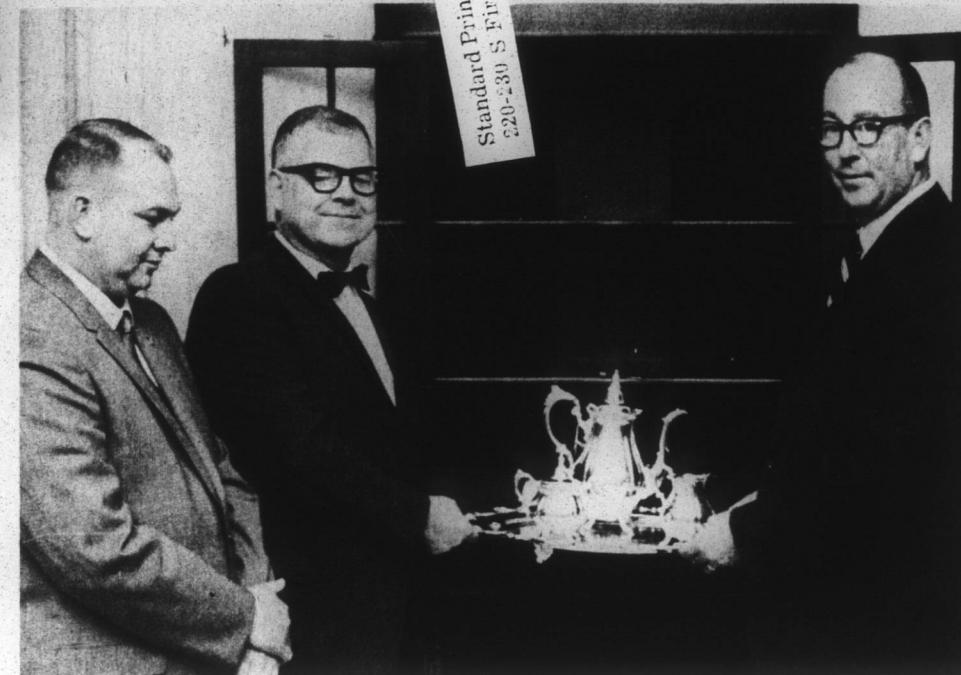
Tonight I assume the office of Mayor from a man who has served the Town of Edenton as a councilman for eight years, and as Mayor for 10 years. Edenton has been very fortunate to have had many outstanding men to serve as Mayor, but the record will show John Mitchener at the top in town progress and growth.

He has brought honor to our Town by serving as the President of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. He has given freely of his ability, time, talent and finances. We owe John Mitchener a great deal for his services rendered the Town of Edenton. We all wish him well in his continued efforts to serve his fellow man.

In assuming the office of Mayor, one must take inventory of our assets and liabilities, and the needed improvements and service our citizens will demand.

Good government is a habit in Edenton but we must give credit to those that are responsible. The Mayors, members of the Town Council, E&W Board members, and

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CHANGE IN COMMAND—Newly installed Mayor George Alma Byrum, right, is shown with retiring Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., and Councilman James C. (Pete) Dail, left, following Tuesday's ceremonies at the Municipal Building. Mayor Byrum and Mitchener held a silver service the retiring mayor presented to the town. In the background is a handsome corner cupboard also given by Mitchener.

Byrum Call For Unity In Edenton

George Alma Byrum assumed the duties of Mayor of the Town of Edenton Tuesday night, called for unity and said beautification and recreation would get much attention from his administration.

Mayor Byrum beat two challengers in the town election last week. He returns to municipal government after a four-year absence. He served on the council for 12 years.

The new mayor, three councilmen, two members of the board of public works and the town treasurer were administered their oath by Magistrate Tom Shepard, a former council member.

Two incumbent councilmen, Luther C. Parks and David G. White, began new four-year terms, while James C. (Pete)

Dail joined the group as councilman-at-large.

W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., and James P. Ricks, Jr., incumbent members of the utilities board took the oath again as did James M. Bond, town treasurer.

Retiring Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., made a tearful exit from town government. He had served for 18 years—the last 10 as Mayor. He presented the town a handsome corner cupboard and silver service. They were accepted for the town by Administrator W. B. Gardner.

In an informal, moving statement, the Mayor said he willed his successor a police department that has high efficiency; an exceptional fire department; as well as a street department about which the town receives many fine comments.

Turning to the administration, Mayor Mitchener said: "I don't think there is any that exists to top this department."

Mayor Mitchener has been known to treat councilmen to ice cream following lengthy sessions. On the lighter side, he said one councilman (Parks) has

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Baxley Is Selected By Gov.'s School

Steve Baxley, a John A. Holmes High School junior, will attend the Governor's School for the Gifted this summer. The school is located in Winston-Salem.

Baxley was notified last week of his selection to represent Edenton and Chowan County at the School for the Gifted. The summer session lasts for six weeks.

The selection of Baxley was based on his academic record, high standardized test scores, and exceptional ability in the area of natural science, according to Mrs. Lane Kinion, guidance director here.

Baxley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Baxley, Broad Street, Edenton.



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Construction Begins On New Chowan Hospital; Donations Continue

The first spade of earth was turned Monday afternoon, getting the nearly \$2-million Chowan Hospital construction underway. At the same time contributions from individuals, industry and civic groups continued to be received towards the extra funds drive.

Jesse L. Harrell, hospital board chairman, spoke briefly to several interested people who gathered at the site on Highway 32 at 3 P. M., Monday.

"A lot of hard work has been done by a lot of people to make this event possi-

ble," Harrell said. He said this was the day many had looked forward to and we're just as happy as we can be, he added.

He then presided over the shovel with moral assistance from Dr. Edward G. Bond, chief of staff; Thomas Surratt, administrator; and Atwood Skinner of Wilson, architect.

Harrell then passed out souvenir shovels to officials attending.

The 61-bed institution is expected to be completely in approximately 18

School Budget Compiled Without Increase In Tax

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has adopted a proposed budget for fiscal 1969-70 which will not require an increase in the local levy for schools.

This was revealed Monday night at a meeting of the board.

While the budget is some \$70,000 higher than the 1968-69 figure, the

county's part is up only \$40,000.

N. J. George, a member of the budget committee, told fellow board members: "The biggest thing here is no tax increase for schools." The largest portion of the increase comes in a \$25,000 increase from the federal government for the lunchrooms.

The budget contains salary increases in line with what is expected to be approved by the General Assembly.

Also, it contains items for an athletic director for the system, a woman's physical education supervisor, and working assistant principals for all but one school.

"We're fortunate to be in a growth county," George pointed out. He said last year the levy was based on a valuation of \$29-million while this year it will be based on \$31-million. "We're a growing county and it should continue," he added.

During the harmonious meeting, over which Chairman Dr. Edward G. Bond presided, the board approved summer programs. Headstart will be held in conjunction with N. C. State University with 25 teachers and two counselors. It will operate for four weeks and allow teachers to work with minority groups

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Spring-O-Rama, four big shopping days in Edenton, will begin Wednesday with approximately 30 merchants participating.

The big sales promotion, with cash prizes, entertainment, downtown displays and a gigantic sale, is being sponsored by the Merchants Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce. It will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 21-24.

One participant—First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina—will play a unique role in the Spring-O-Rama. They will tie the Edenton-Chowan County industrial family into the downtown event.

For the first time, citizens will be able to view products made by 10 local industrial firms in a single showroom. The lobby of First National will house these

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Banquet Monday

Today (Thursday) is the deadline to acquire tickets to Monday's Varsity Club Banquet at which time athletes at John A. Holmes High School will be honored.

The banquet begins at 7 P. M., at the Jaycee Community Building on Base Road.

C. Z. Shackelford, president, will preside and John Lotz, assistant cage coach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be the keynoter.



BELK SCHOLARS—Three students from the Edenton area were among 36 in 18 states to receive Belk Foundation scholarships. Alton G. Elmore, left, Belk Tyler manager here, is shown with Martha Jane Evans of Perquimans; Matthew Garrett of Chowan; and Rosemary Holmes of Holmes School in Edenton. It was the first time in history three grants have come through a single store and for the students to represent three different schools in the store's area. Nearly 1,000 competed for the \$500 grants.

ers, and youth and disadvantaged.

The local office, in addition to job placement, offers aptitude testing and employment counseling.

School youth desiring employment for the summer months should visit the employment office as soon as possible. Employers who can possibly employ some of the students during the summer are encouraged to call the ESC office to discuss their needs.

Any employers who desire to train persons through the local Manpower Development Training Act and on-the-job training should contact the office for details of the program.

Chowan's Unemployment Rate Low

There continues to be a definite need for workers in Edenton area industry, according to Neil E. Thagard, manager of Edenton Employment Security office.

The unemployment rate among insured workers in the area dropped to a low of slightly over 1 per cent for the month of April, Thagard said. There is a shortage of workers in construction, farm equipment operators and plant laborers.

During April, the local employment office placed 153 persons in jobs but only had 89 new applications for employment. Contact was made with 78 employers to seek jobs for older workers.

Construction Begins On New Chowan Hospital; Donations Continue

months. The existing 35-bed hospital will be converted to a long-term care unit and when the complex is completed Chowan Hospital will have nearly 125 beds in three units.

"We'll have some goodies and invite you all back for a big opening," Harrell said of the completion of the facility.

Monday night, Edenton Lions Club set the pace for other civic organizations when they presented the hospital a check covering furnishing one room. They are the first such group to respond to the

funds campaign. Others are expected to follow.

Surratt said he is most appreciative of the interest the club has shown in the drive. "They are taking up the tenor of community spirit and the hospital board greatly appreciates this," he said.

At the same time it was reported that United Piece Dye Works joined other industries in supporting the drive. Joe Gaino, plant manager, presented a \$1,000 check to the fund.



CHOWAN HOSPITAL ACTIVITY BRISK—While Chowan Hospital officials were getting construction underway with groundbreaking ceremonies Monday afternoon, money was continuing to accumulate in the "second effort" building fund. In the picture at left, Joe Gaino, plant manager of United Piece Dye Works, left, is shown with W. B. Gardner, after announcement of the industry's contribution to the fund. Gardner was on the hospital committee. Jesse L. Harrell, hospital board chairman, is shown in the center picture as he

emptied the first shovel of dirt at the site. Shown with Harrell are, left to right, Atwood Skinner, Edward G. Bond, and Thomas Surratt. Edenton Lions Club Monday night became the first civic club to contribute a contribution to the fund drive. Harrell accepts the check to furnish one room from W. J. Taylor, looking on is Leo Katkaveck, club president.