



## Public Parade

### Separation Good

Consolidation seems to be in vogue. There are occasions when separation is more important. This is the case in Chowan County where commissioners abolished the dual office of sheriff-tax collector.

This is not to degrade the late Sheriff Earl Goodwin or any other person who performed these duties. While there might have been a time when such a marriage of duties was in the best interest of the citizenry, this has long passed.

With one person having full-time to devote to law enforcement, those who are itchy to violate the law are now in more danger.

With one person having full-time to devote to tax collecting the county can expect collections to continue to be high.

There is even more assurance in this with people like Troy Toppin and Mrs. Elizabeth H. Goodwin filling these posts, respectively. They are both well versed in the responsibilities of the offices. The county is fortunate to have them continue to be part of the governmental structure.

### Picture Policy

The Chowan Herald has numerous requests for prints of pictures which appear in the newspaper from time to time. Because of the number of these requests, it is necessary to establish the following policy:

Individuals or organizations keeping a scrapbook, etc., are welcome to the original print which appears in the newspaper at no cost. If additional prints are requested they will be furnished at \$2 each. However, the original must be picked up or request for reprint made within one week after publication.

After a picture appears in the paper we have no further use for the glossy print and will be happy to share it with an interested individual or organization. Finding a particular print or the negative to make additional prints months after publication is more of a chore than our staff can now undertake.

### Mr. Speaker!

Sitting in the gallery of the House of Representatives in Raleigh last Wednesday watching members of that august body go through the procedure of selecting their new speaker caused a lump to come in our throat. Seeing a friend, a Northerner, escorted down the aisle to take the oath of this important office was a thrilling experience.

It brought back memories of years past and the first time we saw Phil Godwin escorted into a room. The scene was the Jack Tar Hotel in Durham. The occasion was a strategy session designed to get sufficient delegates for election of a mutual friend to the Young Democrats Club presidency.

If we had heard of Gates County prior to that we don't remember it. Phil Godwin was our first tangible contact with Northeastern North Carolina. The manner in which he operated; the manner in which those in that smoke-filled room in the middle of the night listened to his counsel; the manner in which he stressed fairness and integrity over victory were all impressive.

During the night the small counties were of great importance. The opponent, hailing from populous Mecklenburg, had sewed up the block votes. It was from "Little" Gates, "Little Alex"

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Mrs. Lena M. Leary

## Mrs. Leary Gets Post With Clerks

ASHEVILLE — Mrs. Lena M. Leary of Chowan County has been named president-elect of the Association of Clerks of Superior Court of North Carolina. New officers were elected at the clerks' 51st annual conference here July 1-4.

Mrs. Leary served last year as second vice president.

Alton Knight of Durham County is president; James Nance of Scotland County, vice president; Ralph Knott of Franklin County, treasurer; Marion Person of Cumberland County, assistant secretary; with Institute of Government in Chapel Hill serving as secretary.

Sixty-seven counties were represented at the conference.

Mrs. Leary has been clerk of Chowan County Superior Court since 1960 and has worked in the office since 1949.

## Godwin Assumes House Speakership

RALEIGH — First District Rep. Phil Godwin of Gates County last Wednesday succeeded Rep. Earl W. Vaughn as speaker of the State House of Representatives. The change in command came in the closing hours of the 1969 session of the General Assembly.

Rep. Vaughn of Rockingham County, was appointed to the N. C. Court of Appeals earlier in the day by Gov. Bob Scott.

House Democrats caucused shortly after Gov. Scott announced Vaughn's appointment. Godwin was nominated by acclamation to serve as interim speaker. He was later elected at the House session and is assured of being the speaker at the 1971 assembly session.

Rep. W. T. Culpepper of Elizabeth City, who serves with Godwin in the other First District seat, placed his fellow representative in nomination.

Although House members face another election before the 1971 session, Godwin's nomination was practically assured last January in the first week of the 1969 session when 75 out of 91 House majority members committed to vote for him.

Vaughn's resignation merely prompted Godwin's succession two years earlier than expected, the first House speaker from Northeastern North Carolina in over 100 years and the first ever from Gates County.

He was administered the oath of office by his brother, Superior Court Judge A. Pilston Godwin, Jr., of Ra-

# Dual County Post Abolished

The dual office of sheriff and tax collector were separated Monday by Chowan County commissioners. Mrs. Elizabeth H. Goodwin, wife of the late Sheriff Earl Goodwin, was employed to fill the newly created department post.

Sheriff Troy Toppin, who was appointed by commissioners recently to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Goodwin, had asked to be relieved of the tax

collecting duties. He said he wanted to be a full time law enforcement officer.

The commissioners set Mrs. Goodwin's salary at \$5,500. She will also serve as office deputy for Sheriff Toppin.

Sheriff Toppin's salary was set at \$7,500. The county will furnish him a car and expenses.

Commissioners said the new arrangement with the sheriff should allow him

more time to patrol throughout Chowan County. Sheriff Toppin agreed, saying: "The people want to see the sheriff's department moving about."

Chairman W. E. Bond said a recently completed audit of the tax collector showed \$136,375.76 in delinquent taxes back to 1959. These were charged to Mrs. Goodwin for collection.

The board's action completely did away with any county employee working for fees. In the future, all fees collected will go to the county.

The board members said Chowan County is fortunate to have a person of Mrs. Goodwin's experience to fill the tax collector's post. She had assisted Sheriff Goodwin during his 11 years in office and is completely familiar with the tax collecting method.

Commissioner C. A. Phillips said the jobs of sheriff and tax collector were not compatible. He also called for a study of the entire tax structure in the county. The commissioner said work should be done to "bring it all under an overall supervisor."

Chairman Bond said it might be the time to study the county manager form of government in the county. He said every effort should be made to get the county on a business-like basis.

At the same time, the board re-appointed Sherlon Layton tax supervisor for a two-year term.

## Drop Experienced In Unemployment

During the month of June the unemployment rate in Chowan County among insured workers, dropped below 1 per cent, according to Neil E. Thagard, manager of the Edenton Employment Security Office. This trend should continue through the summer as local plants are enjoying full employment and the local building trade is enjoying a steady rise in activity, he said.

"There is a definite need for workers in construction, particularly for carpenters and bricklayers," he added.

The month of June brought increased activity to the local ESC Office as over 250 new applications for employment were processed. Of these applications almost 200 were from students seeking summer jobs. One hundred twenty-four persons were placed in jobs and of these 63 were young people.

Seventy contacts were made with local employers to seek job openings for youth, older workers, veterans and the disadvantaged.

Thirty-eight persons were given aptitude tests and 33 were provided employment counseling.

## Board Firm On Increase

Chowan County commissioners Monday adopted a record \$1.3-million budget as previously approved—making no allowance for additional health district funds. The tax rate was set at \$1.85 per \$100 valuation.

William B. Nash, director, District Health Department, has said repeatedly that unless participating counties increased their contribution the department would be out of business. Chairman W. E. Bond and Commissioner C. A. Phillips said they did not consider this a decision to make.

After lengthy discussion of the matter, no action was taken to go above a 5 per cent increase already included in the 1969-70 budget.

Phillips said the bulk of the 30 per cent increase in the health district budget was in salaries. He pointed out that the state set up 10-15 per cent raises while the county employees were getting only 5 per cent.

When Currituck County was told what their share of the new budget would be they withdrew from the program. This leaves a four-county district of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Camden.

Phillips told fellow board members other counties agreed to go along with

the 5 per cent increase, some reluctantly. "Any more would be in conflict with what had been done for other county employees," he said.

It was pointed out that all remaining counties must work together. If another county drops out the district is sure to

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## Arts Council Job To Local Woman

Mrs. Thomas Cheers, Jr., of Edenton, has been named director of the Albemarle Arts Council, a new position supported by the N. C. Arts Council and counties in the area.



Mrs. Cheers

attempt to interest others in joining.

Mrs. Cheers was one of the founders of the Chowan Arts Council here in 1964. This was the first such council in the area and others have been patterned after it.

The director was recommended by the seven-county arts councils and endorsed by Dr. Bruce Petteway, president of the College of the Albemarle.

She served for three years as chairman of the Chowan council, initiating a number of programs. She assisted other counties in the organizing of councils.

Mrs. Cheers, whose duties began July 1, said she will first help each county in the area to prepare a plan for the coming year. She hopes to initiate later a program in which all counties can participate.

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Other relatives attending the ceremony and given privileged seats on the House floor were: Mrs. Godwin and son; Mrs. Pilston Godwin; Walter Hayes Godwin of Gatesville; Mr. and Mrs. F. Marne Godwin of Gatesville; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Freeman, Jr., and Mrs. J. R. Freeman, Sr., and Mrs. Frank Seiling of Gates; and Mr. and Mrs. Julian Freeman of Ahoskie.

A Chowan County delegation to the ceremony was led by Democratic Chairman Thomas H. Shepard. Mayor George Alma Byrum, former Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., W. B. Gardner, W. P. (Spec) Jones and L. F. Amburn, Jr., also attended.

## Baer Mill Fire Pushes Edenton's Per Capita Loss High

Edenton's per capita fire loss rose sharply during fiscal 1968-69, reaching the highest peak in nine years. The loss was \$18.60, based on a population of 5,000.

Fire Chief W. J. Yates said damage to property and contents during the year amounted to \$84,320, with the bulk of it coming from a costly fire at Richard P. Baer Company. In Chowan County, the per capita loss was \$13.03.

In the previous fiscal year the per capita loss was \$3.49 in Edenton and \$6.48 in Chowan County, according to the report released this week.

The next worse year, fire-wise, was in 1960 when a blaze destroyed Spedic. That year the per capita loss was \$22.89. Since that time it has been as low as 43 cents — in 1964.

Edenton Fire Department answered 70 calls in town during the last fiscal year, traveling 187 miles. Sixty-five calls were answered outside of Edenton with 571 miles traveled.

There were more "silent" alarms answered in Edenton than "coded" calls—39-31. In the county, however, the situation was reversed with 41 "coded" calls and 24 "silent" alarms.

The report showed a total of 22 flooded stoves, 11 in each the town and county. There were four rescue alarms answered in Edenton and one in the rural areas. Twenty-eight grass fires were reported in the county with six such fires in town. Thirteen auto and truck fires were reported—eight in Edenton, and five outside.

In June, the department answered 11 alarms in Edenton and the county, traveling 71 miles. There was no damage reported.

Chief Yates said in addition to the alarms answered, members of the department checked and inspected all 140 hydrants in Edenton, maintained all apparatus and equipment and kept up the housekeeping chores.

## Teen-Ager Tried

A 16-year-old Washington County Negro was placed on probation in Chowan County District Court Tuesday after being convicted of larceny.

Jerry Lee Webb, Route 1, Roper, was charged in two counts of larceny and one of concealment of merchandise from local downtown businesses.

Judge W. S. Privott sentenced Webb to six months on the roads in one case. However, sentence was suspended and the defendant placed on probation for two years upon payment of \$50 fine and costs in all three cases. Prayer for judgment was continued in two of the cases.

The judge ordered that the merchandise be returned to the owner.

Richard Clarence Pittman entered a plea of guilty to speeding in excess of

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GODWIN ASSUMES SPEAKERSHIP — Rep. Phil Godwin of Gates, one of two representatives in the First House District of North Carolina, last Wednesday became speaker of that body, succeeding Rep. Earl W. Vaughn, who was appointed to the N. C. Court of Appeals. In the picture at left, Rep. Vaughn, left, and Rep. Godwin pose for the traditional gravel photo. Above, the new speaker poses with five representatives from Chowan County who attended the afternoon ceremonies. Front row, left to right, are: John A. Mitchener, Jr., W. P. (Spec) Jones and Rep. Godwin. Second row, Thomas H. Shepard, Mayor George Alma Byrum and W. B. Gardner. (Photo at left via UPI, courtesy Statesville Record and Landmark.)