

Edenton Asks Credit For Road 'Improvements'



Town Objects To Service Station Driveway at Left

The Town of Edenton is asking State Highway Commission for credit of \$135,753.08 spent improving the intersection of U. S. 17 and Highway 32 because of a driveway permit issued Quality Oil Company.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, in a strongly worded letter to Chairman Lauch Faircloth Monday, said allowing the service station access to Highway 32 would make the intersection as dangerous as it was before the Triangle Station and Restaurant was removed.

Gardner said the town has many other worthy projects which could be completed if "we had the use of \$135,753.08, which we feel, as of now, has been completely wasted."

"I bring this information to your at-

ention simply because the Town of Edenton feels that it spent sorely needed road funds on very poor advice of commission employees, that the commission has, by its action, created the same problem only a few feet from the original site, and for these reasons we should be credited with these funds to use on some other projects," Gardner wrote.

Gardner pointed out that the Triangle project was undertaken in order to relieve a dangerous situation where a service station was discharging traffic into two heavily traveled highways. "We were advised by officials of the highway commission to complete this project as a first priority in order to relieve congestion and make the intersection safer for the traveling public and for pedestrians," he wrote. "With this advice in mind, we agreed to use our funds in what we thought was a worthwhile project."

"We now find that we have spent this large sum of money and put one man out of business to no avail. Over the written objections of the Town Council, the highway commission granted Quality Oil Company a driveway permit for ingress and egress into Highway 32, thus creating the very situation we attempted to correct."

"We were not informed of this until we saw that the curb and gutter had been torn up as well as a portion of town sidewalk recently built for use by a large number of school children living in northwest Edenton. If we had been in-

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Public Parade

Hot As Fire

As hot as it has been of late it is hardly the time to be talking about subjects such as fire. Nevertheless some sobering statistics came across our desk this week and we pass them on as food for thought.

October traditionally is the month in which we set aside one week as Fire Prevention Week. One week a year hardly seems enough when you consider the grim statistics.

The National Environmental Systems Contractors Association (wheel!) reports that every day of the year, fires claim an average of:

33 lives, 1,510 dwellings, 167 apartments, 23 schools, 10 churches, 21 hospital and nursing homes, 149 farm buildings, 126 industrial plants, and 208 stores, restaurants and offices.

We devote a total of one week a year in lip service to fire prevention. In 1968 there were 12,100 deaths attributed to fire; 551,160 dwellings (not apartments) valued at \$365 million lost to fire; 46,020 industrial properties destroyed by fire.

Yet over 70 per cent of all fires are caused by carelessness.

We should make fire prevention our business all year round.

Critics Proven Right

Politics and highways have been closely associated since the horse and buggy days. Their closeness is even more evident to those who meander along the Public Parade as result of a second decision involving the "triangle" intersection on North Broad Street.

From the time the intersection "improvement" project was announced critics have never missed an opportunity to yell waste. Even at the first estimate of \$90,000 they said it would be wasted. It would put one person out of business and while it would tidy up the busy intersection it would not solve the problem, they stated.

When all the bills were paid the "improvement" tab came to \$135,753.08. Quite a bit more than \$90,000, isn't it? But that isn't the point for discussion here.

The Town of Edenton didn't get much in the way of Urban Bond Funds from the \$300-million state-wide bond vote. So, district highway personnel pasted a top priority label on the intersection of U. S. 17 and Highway 32.

They contended their plan would make the intersection safer for both the traveling and walking public. From the first meeting pedestrian safety was on their lips. Those little school children in northwest Edenton were given first billing.

Even after the \$135,753.08 "improvement" was completed, the town went in and constructed a nice sidewalk so the

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THE CHOWAN HERALD



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Jones Gives Bill To Aid Landowners

Rep. Walter B. Jones announced today that he, along with other members of Congress, had introduced legislation to assist the owners of ocean front property in the matter of erosion and of the hazards.

This bill would have the effect of deleting the requirement that federal shore protection participation be allowed only on publicly owned property. It adds language to existing legislation which would allow private property owners affected to qualify for assistance.

This assistance, in the nature of abutments and jetties to break up the strength of the waves and to form natural sand and gravel barriers, would be given by the Army Corps of Engineers in accordance with already established procedures for civil projects.

The Congressman stated the present law provides that the Army Corps of Engineers can provide assistance for damaged privately owned property only when the President declares that a disaster exists. The Office of Emergency Preparedness does not have available funds or programs for shoreline erosion relief. The SBA, which can purportedly lend money at 3 percent interest rates, cannot lend to a private property owner

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Chris-Craft Training Unskilled Men

Chris-Craft Corporation has been paid \$1,956 in reimbursements funds for training unskilled and untrained young men.

The local boat manufacturing firm has been participating in the state-wide On The Job Training Program being pushed by anti-poverty groups on the local, state and national level. One of the men trained at Chris-Craft has assumed a position equal to foreman of a shift.

L. G. Deyton, personnel manager, speaks highly of the caliber of men chosen of OJT. He said the local firm has benefited by cooperating in the program.

Eight men have been trained at the plant. They have each developed job skills to the point where they have become permanently employable.

William M. Copeland, Jerry P. Harris, James White, Gary Gene Allen, Willy A.



SHRINE PLANS BIG EVENT—The third annual Edenton Shrine Club benefit fish fry on September 13 will have a festive flavor with a big parade through downtown Edenton. Kermit Layton, second from right, club president, and other local Shrine officials met with those planning parades in the area recently. There will be between 250 and 300 participating in the parade. Shown here are, left to right: Bill Stallings, parade committee member; Robert L. Pugh, Scottish Rite secretary; Bill Easterling, publicity chairman; Dusty Rhoades, director; A. A. Kafer, parade master of Sudan Temple; Willie Bunch, vice president; Nelson B. Banks, recorder, Sudan Temple; West Byrum, parade committee chairman; Layton, and George Twiddy, director.

Young Marine Placed On Probation

A 17-year-old Marine from Bertie County was convicted in Chowan County District Court Tuesday for assault, inflicting serious injury. His companion was acquitted.

Archie M. Bowen, Jr., alias, Jay Bowen, was sentenced to six months on the roads, suspended and placed on probation for two years. He was ordered to pay \$118.05 to Chowan Hospital; \$120 to Dr. Roland H. Vaughan; and \$50 to Jimmie Ward. He was also ordered to pay court costs.

Witnesses said Bowen assaulted Ward at Arrowhead Beach in late June.

Harrell, William E. Harris, James Edward Hill and Melvin R. Roundtree have completed the OJT program.

Economic Improvement Council workers under the supervision of Earl Jones, job developer, recruited the trainees and the local Employment Security Commission office, under the supervision of Neil Thagard, screened them.

The OJT program is funded jointly by the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Labor. A portion of the administrative costs is borne by OEO and funds for a portion of the training costs are provided by the Department of Labor.

The program is statewide in scope and sponsored locally by the Community Action Agencies. The Economic Improvement Council, Inc., provides technical assistance — Floyd Spellman — Manpower Director, job developers and clerical help in the implementation of the program. In the first year of operation, more than 95 per cent of the 500 available job slots were filled.

The main thrust of the program is to help provide meaningful employment to indigent heads of households and others who heretofore had little or no marketable skills. This type of training is over

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Family Night Set

Family night will be celebrated Tuesday by Edward G. Bond Post, No. 40, American Legion and Auxiliary. The event begins at 8 P. M., at the legion hut on U. S. 17.

A special feature of the program will be reports from high school students who recently attended Girls' State in Greensboro and Boys' State in Winston-Salem.

Watermelon will be served following the program.

Commander Troy Toppin, and Mrs. J. L. Chestnutt, auxiliary president, said they hope to make the family night activity a quarterly affair.

Branch Is Sought

First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina has applied to the U. S. Comptroller of the Currency in Washington for permission to establish a branch in Hertford, according to M. F. Allen, Jr., president of the Jacksonville-based bank.

"Hertford and the surrounding Perquimans County area have long been recognized as a prosperous agricultural area and a potentially prosperous industrial community," Allen noted in the announcement.

"We believe that, with additional economic resources such as we hope to help provide, the area can achieve a progressively healthier position as a commercial and farming center serving an ever-larger portion of the northeastern section of the state."

Allen also noted that First National now has an office in Edenton, some 12 miles away, and that "a substantial number of both deposit and loan accounts from the Hertford area already are being serviced by the First National office in Edenton."

Allen did not give an indication as to when the Comptroller of the Currency might act on the First National application. One observer, however, indicated a decision can be expected within the next 90 days.

Norman Stump, chairman of the Edenton Jaycee fishing rodeo committee, reminds boys and girls, 14 years of age, that the event will be held August 9-16.



CHIMNEYLESS TEMPLE—The Masonic Temple on East Water Street was heavily damaged last Wednesday night by lightning. The chimney was destroyed and the electrical system damaged. One auto accident was reported during the storm.

Call To Gridders

The call was issued this week to those who want to try out for a spot with the Edenton Aces this fall.

Marion Kirby, athletic director, said all boys who are interested in playing football at John A. Holmes High School will have their physical examination Monday at 8 P. M., at Chowan Medical Center.

Coach Kirby instructed all boys to meet him at the Holmes gym at 6:30 o'clock prior to going to the medical center. Anyone who is unable to have their physical Monday should contact his family physician, he said.



INDUSTRY COOPERATES IN PROGRAM—L. G. Deyton, personnel manager of Chris-Craft Corporation's Edenton division, is shown receiving a check for participating in a state-wide On the Job Training Program from D. H. Keck, manpower and work programs specialist with the State Planning Task Force. Others in the picture are Neil Thagard, Employment Security Commission local office manager; Earl Jones, job developer with Economic Improvement Council; Fentress Morrison, seated, job developer, and Floyd Spellman, EIC manpower director. Eight men have been trained at Chris-Craft under the program.