

County, Town Tax Rate Slash Totals 40 Cents

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HERE LIE SEVEN—Shown above among a cluttered desk at The Chowan Herald is a census form, where it has been since before the counting began April 1. It is completed and has information about a family of seven. Preliminary population figures released show Chowan County lost 940 people in the period between 1960 and 1970. Here are seven who haven't been counted. How many more are there in Edenton and Chowan County? (See Public Parade).

Public Parade

Give and Take

The following note was addressed to us at "The Chowan Disappointment": "Congratulations to your newspaper for receiving the Willard Cole Award. "I hate to admit it but you do have the best weekly in the state. All the credit should go to Mr. Bufflap, I'm sure, because it was even better before you came along.

"Congratulations, anyway." It was on the letterhead of an Elizabeth City hardware firm which carries the slogan: "The Town's Tool Box" and signed by the biggest nut in the box, W. T. Culpepper, Jr.

There may be those who meander along the Public Parade unaware of the fact that Mr. Culpepper is one of two representatives from the House District in the N. C. General Assembly. He and Rep. Phil Godwin of Gates do a creditable job.

Nevertheless, Chowan had better representation, as did numerous other counties, before the district system. If we must put up with anyone from EC to represent this hub of the Albemarle, then Bill Culpepper is about the least trouble of anyone we know. Touche!

Feeling of Being Left Out

"Our progress as a nation depends today, as it has in the past, on meeting our national challenges with knowledge and reason. To do so, we must constantly take stock of ourselves. The census is an essential tool for this purpose."

So wrote Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans on the official 1970 census form. Then he concluded: "The census is deeply rooted in America's heritage. I hope you will take pride, as you complete your questionnaire, in exercising the opportunity it gives us once again to strengthen our nation's development."

We concur in Mr. Stans' statements. One can substitute the word "town" or "county" where he used "nation" and it would be just as true. Therefore, it is just as important that an accurate count be made.

4-H Activity Day

District 4-H Activity Day will be held in John A. Holmes High School on June 18. There will be 31 different demonstrations being presented during the morning as well as "Share the Fun" (talent), tractor operator, public speaking and dress revue.

This is a most important day for 4-H'ers. In the afternoon the awards program will be in the gymnasium at 1:30 o'clock. At this time all 4-H participants will be given an award and what a thrill when district winners are announced, states Mrs. Gladys B. White, Extension agent. The district winners will win a scholarship to N. C. State 4-H Congress in July to participate in the state contest. Also District project winners will be announced and awards presented and district officers for 1971 will be installed.

White Attending State Workshop

Paul White of Tyner will represent Chowan County at the 1970 Resource Conservation Workshop to be held at the N. C. State University in Raleigh the week of June 8-12, according to Lloyd C. Bunch, chairman of the local Board of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors who are sponsoring the youth at the event.



Paul is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. White, Jr., and will be a junior at Chowan High School next fall. He is active in the Future Farmers of America program and is on the baseball and basketball team at Chowan High.

The workshop, an annual affair sponsored by the N. C. Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, the N. C. Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, is designed to acquaint students with conservation and natural resources development as well as career opportunities in conservation fields.

According to Bunch, the boys will receive instructions in many phases of conservation and natural resource development.

Named To Post

Mrs. Irene Dunbar, owner of Western Gas Service and other Edenton businesses, has been named to the Small Business Administration Advisory Council. Mrs. Dunbar will represent the First District.

The announcement of her appointment was made by Ed Bass, chairman, Chowan County Republican Party.

47 Lots Available

Work is now underway on development of a new subdivision in Morgan Park with 47 residential building lots and a one-acre recreation area.

The development of the second phase of this area is being done by Coastal Carolina Land Company, Inc., owned by Haywood Jones and Merrill Evans, Jr.

Jones, president of the corporation, said work is now underway on the street layout and survey of lots. The work is being done by Waff Brothers, Inc., and M. E. Beltrami, respectively.

The subdivision, a recent portion of the Town of Edenton annexation, will have paved streets, curb and guttering as well as town water and sewer. The building lots will contain at least 20,000 square feet with building restrictions being written into the deeds.

Jones said his company would begin building houses for sale in the area around August 1. He said it is anticipated that work by the town will begin about the same time. Lots, however,

Commission Holds Firm To Promise

Chowan County commissioners deliberated late Thursday night when they approved a preliminary \$1.6-million budget and set the tax rate at \$1.55 per \$100 valuation. This is a 30-cent slash in the rate, the same amount it was advanced this year to pay for the new Chowan Hospital.

It was about midnight when the final discussions ended and the motion was made to approve the budget and set the tax rate for fiscal 1970-71. The special tax levy for rural fire protection will remain at five-cents.

The rate is based on a valuation of \$32.5-million, up \$1.5 million over this year. The levy will bring in \$507,000.

While no definite action was taken, the budget includes a 4 per cent cost of living increase.

Commissioners, while managing to hold the line on many items, used surpluses and anticipated revenue from the local option sales tax as principal means of cutting the levy, as they had promised when campaigning for approval of the sales tax here.

They restored a five-cent levy for capital reserve and put in a .037 levy for ambulance service. Medicaid, budgeted for \$50,000 in fiscal 1969-70, jumped to \$269,487 in the new budget.

The budget, as prepared by Mrs. Pansy Elliott, county accountant, reflects revenue other than from the tax levy of \$1,125,915.90 from other sources.

Commissioners put the entire anticipated sales tax revenue of \$106,400 into the debt service fund for school building and hospital bonds.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, at the request of commissioners, revamped its budget to reduce it by some \$35,000 and maintain a required levy of 86 cents—the biggest single item in the levy. The school budget is \$700,811 with \$421,311 anticipated from sources other than the levy.

The Social Services budget is \$555,095 with \$483,595 coming from sources other than local tax funds—the bulk being

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Luther C. Parks James C. Dail

Dail Voted Post; Parks Employed

James C. (Pete) Dail, 35-year-old councilman-at-large, Tuesday night was elected mayor pro tem of the Town of Edenton. Dail then presided over one of the shortest council sessions in recent years but one with an action-packed agenda.

The unusual circumstances surrounding the emergency election of a mayor pro tem came about due to the hospitalization of Mayor George Alma Byrum and the resignation of Luther C. Parks. Parks resigned at a special budget session Monday night, after having made application for the position of fire chief.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner opened the regular meeting Tuesday and explained the unusual situation. He presided during the election of Dail, which took only minutes because he was the only nominee.

The council accepted the resignation

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School Calendar For Term Is Set

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has set August 28 for the opening of the 1970-71 school term with the first day being set aside for pupil registration. Schools will operate only one-half day on this date.

Supt. Bill Britt explained the first day would not count toward the school year but buses would operate although it is considered a non-attendance day by the state. He said the early opening of school would allow more Christmas holidays as well as an earlier closing—June 2, 1971.

The board gave considerable discussion to the school calendar at Monday's meeting prior to adopting the schedule. It allows a Labor Day holiday on September 7. In the past few years schools have not opened until after this holiday. Because it falls so late this year, Supt. Britt said schools must open sooner so they can end the term at a reasonable time in 1971.

The board, with Dr. Edward G. Bond, chairman, presiding, accepted the resignation of five more staff members. They are: Mrs. Mary Ann Morris, Miss John-

nie M. Blackney, Mrs. Lois Venters, Miss Diana F. Brabble, and Miss Linda Kay Basnight.

Sears was awarded the contract for fencing at the new driver education driving range. The low bid was \$2,982.64.

Max Warren was awarded the contract to audit the superintendent's books and Edenton Jaycees were authorized to use school property for sponsorship of kiddie rides. The Chowan High ballpark was allowed to be used for summer recreation.

The board approved a revised budget of \$700,811, of which \$313,935.37 will come from sources other than local funds.

First '70 Census Figures Show Loss

Preliminary population figures for the 17 counties in the Greenville Census District have been released and show Chowan with a decrease of 940 as compared to the official 1960 census.

Jerry Scott, who supervised the taking of the 1970 Census of Population and

New Budget Given Okay By Council

Edenton Town Council gave speedy approval Tuesday night to a record \$1.2-million budget and a tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 valuation. This is a 10-cent reduction in the existing rate.

Councilman Leo Katkaveck, finance committee chairman, explained that the budget had been reviewed Monday night at a special session and he made the motion that it be adopted and the tax rate slashed.

The budget actually comes to \$1,270,559.23, up from \$1,087,314.71 for fiscal 1969-70—the town's first budget in excess of \$1-million which required a 20-cent tax boost, the first in more than two decades.

The revenue from property tax, based on \$15-million assessed valuation, will be \$160,000. Electric revenue accounts for more than half of what is anticipated from sources other than taxes.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner explained that the new budget includes \$15,000 for sidewalk construction, outright purchase of new equipment, two new police cars, two additional policemen, two laborers in the Street Department, as well as a 10 per cent pay increase for municipal employees. Also included is interest on bonds expected to be sold later this year.

"We are extremely pleased to provide all these extra services and at the same time lower the tax rate," he said.

The town anticipates \$30,000 from the local option sales tax voted last year. During that campaign the councilmen said the money would be used to hold down property taxes.

Gardner has also pointed out that the transfer of funds from profits of the Electric and Water Department amounts to \$114,239.23 in the new budget. Also included is \$35,000 in surplus town funds.

Department	1969-70	1970-71
Administrative	\$ 36,626.00	\$ 40,962.00
Fire	37,106.27	46,187.00
Police	86,393.18	105,459.48
Street	149,313.26	192,024.75
Elec. & Water	702,000.00	750,889.23
Miscellaneous	75,876.00	73,926.00
Capital Res. Acct.		61,110.77
	\$1,087,314.71	\$1,270,559.23

Clean-Up Time

A month-long campaign to clean-up, paint-up, and fix-up has been launched by the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Wallace Evans, chairman, said at a recent meeting of CAC neighborhood representatives agreed beautification is one of the pressing needs of the community. Seven of the eight neighborhoods were represented at the meeting.

Evans said town officials are joining with neighborhoods in this endeavor. He encouraged people to work on this program during the month of June.

Housing in this area, reports a 1970 preliminary population in Chowan County of 10,789. The 1960 official census was 11,729.

Of the 17 counties in Scott's district, only four showed population gains in the preliminary report. They were Dare, Pasquotank, Pitt and Washington. Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties, according to the report, showed approximately the same losses.

Bertie shows a decrease of nearly 5,000 people while Pitt showed an increase of more than 2,000. Robert Dail, who supervised 11 enumerators in Chowan County and two in Gates, was frank to admit he is puzzled at what transpired. Dail said he was relieved of his duties some two weeks early because of lack of funds for the district. He said his area was consolidated with several other counties and he is unaware of what happened after this.

"For one thing the maps were all fouled up," Dail said. He pointed out there would not be an accurate tally for the Town of Edenton since the new town limits were not taken into consideration.

The General Assembly in 1969 approved a local bill which extended the limits and more than doubled the acreage of the town. At the time W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said the town's population would increase by "at least 1,000" due to the annexation.

Work Underway on New Section of Morgan Park



Jones Studio Photo Work Underway on New Section of Morgan Park