

House Speaker From Northeast

Rep. Godwin Prepares For Legislature

(Editor's Note: The writer of this article is editor of the Gates County Index, Rep. Godwin and Rep. W. T. Culpepper of Elizabeth City represent the First House District in the General Assembly.)

By SHELBY HOWELL

GATESVILLE — Cluttered calendars, Christmas shopping, clearing up office work and getting the house ready have caused many Gates Countians to say "Well never get through December," but the busiest man of the month award probably should go to Phil Godwin, the first Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives from Northeastern North Carolina in this century.

Although the General Assembly does not convene until January 13, Godwin

started preparing a month ago. He attended the National Conference of Legislative Leaders as a member of the executive committee in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the first week of the month, opened his Raleigh office December 8-9 and attended a legislative session sponsored by the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill December 10-11.

Godwin was nominated as House Speaker December 11 at the Democratic caucus in Raleigh and is expected to be elected by all members of the House January 13.

The Gatesville attorney became the first speaker from Northeastern North Carolina in this century in 1969 when Earl Vaughn resigned a day before end of session and Godwin was named interim speaker. But his term expired

prior to the 1971 session and the speaker had to be renominated and re-elected.

According to Secretary of State Thad Eure, another Gates Countian, a member of the House from Northampton County held the speaker's office in the 1800's.

Godwin's duties as speaker will include appointing all House committees, chairmen and membership, which he says he hopes to have done by the end of the first week of session. The speaker also presides over the House session, appoints pages and pagettes and serves as chairman of the Legislative Service Commission during even years, as co-chairman of the Legislative Research Commission and on the Legislative Building Governing Commission.

Godwin predicted recently that the

main issue he expects to come before the General Assembly's 1971 session will be, as usual, appropriations and finance and he foresees "many bills introduced to repeal taxes passed by the 1969 session, such as those imposed on tobacco, soft drinks and gasoline." However, he stated, "In order to keep the present budget funded, we must have tax revenue from some source. There might be some shifting of revenue sources, especially since the governor has stated he wouldn't object to a four per cent statewide tax. This might substitute for some of the other taxes, but in any event, the revenue must remain the same."

Another "vast issue" named by Godwin will be reapportionment of congressional and House districts. Under the state constitution, North Carolina must reapportion every 10 years. Godwin stated that two committees will be formed to make recommendations and he believes "the situation will be most difficult, but we are capable of solving the problem without leaving it to the federal courts."

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Heading For Raleigh — State House Speaker Phil Godwin of Gates appeared as a defense attorney in Chowan County District Court Tuesday for the last time until after the 1971 General Assembly. Rep. Godwin, recently re-elected speaker, will take the oath along with other legislators in Raleigh at 12 noon January 13.

Chowan County Tax Listing Set

Property must be listed for taxes in January. Approximately 9,000 property owners in Chowan County are expected to flock to one or more of the four townships to complete this annual chore.

Tax Supervisor Sherlon Layton said about 2,000 tax abstracts have been mailed to property owners who live outside the county. All others must personally appear to return for taxation for the year 1971 all real estate, personal property, etc., owned on January 2, 1971.

Also, all male persons between the ages of 21 and 50 years are to list for poll tax. Return of property and giving in of polls are required under penalty imposed by law.

Layton encouraged property owners to list early, between January 4 and February 4, to avoid a 10 per cent penalty for failure to list during this 30-day period.

Townships, listers, dates and places include:

First, Pattie S. Byrum, Myrtle W. Hare, Gray L. Goodwin and Sadie H.

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Public Parade

Off The Top

A good way to start the New Year is to make a clean sweep and start with a new sheet. We started on one of our desks and two items we picked off the top follow:

THE EDITOR'S DILEMMA

Getting out a newspaper has its problems.

If a paper prints jokes, some readers say it is silly.

Without humor, readers say the paper is too serious.

If you ask for stories from others, you are too lazy to write.

If you do not ask for stories, you are too fond of your own stuff.

If you print pictures, you waste good space.

If you do not print pictures, the newspaper is dull.

If you do not print contributions, you do not appreciate the value of news, and you spurn genius.

If you print all contributions, some say the pages fill with junk.

If you print something a reader does not like you can be charged with radicalism, facism, liberalism, conservatism or any other kind of ism except Americanism.

Now, very likely, someone will say that this viewpoint was swiped from some other newspaper. It was.

BOLD OR STUPID?

Historians tell us that individual freedom and responsibility are essential to good citizenship, but if one wants to get ahead in Chowan County socially and economically, one better be a Conformist!

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The Old and New — Mrs. Goldie Niblett, agent for the License Division, N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles, holds the 1971 state and town license tags which go on sale Monday as Mrs. Patricia T. Young compares them with a 1915 tag at Edenton Office Supply. State license plates are sold at Edenton Office Supply and town tags are available across the plaza at the Municipal Building. Motorists have until February 15 to purchase the 1971 tags.

New Voter Registration Plan Slated

To accommodate the needs of the public in the means of registering to vote, a person can register as of January 4, anytime during the year.

Mrs. George Hoskins, chairman of the Chowan County Board of Elections, stated that anyone from the age of 18-20 can now register at the Chowan County Election Board Office on any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9 A. M., until 1 P. M.

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Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, December 31, 1970

Looking Back On 1970

By PATRICIA M. ARNOLD

A note of great prosperity can be seen in Edenton and Chowan County as the close of 1970 rapidly approaches.

As one looks around Edenton it is easily seen what accomplishments have been made. A modern and well facilitated hospital has been built and is in operation; a new shopping center has opened; several new businesses have been established in the downtown area and one on the Base Road.

Several men have had tribute paid to them for doing outstanding work in the area.

It would be wonderful to report that only good news has been headlining the

paper for a year but of course this is not so. The county has been struck with tragedy in the murder of two young boys as well as the fatalities on the highways and the drownings.

Another grim situation was the lack of employment for the residents of the county. The unemployment rate for 1970 doubled the amount of unemployed for 1969 but now at the end of the year seems to be leveling off. However, with unemployment, those eligible for unemployment insurance did receive it. The amount of \$165,000 was put into the economy through this employment insurance.

The year 1970 was an election year. This did not prove to bring any startling changes to the past form of government as most incumbents who ran won. The big win was that of Rep. Walter B. Jones.

On the local scene, incumbent Chairman J. Clarence Leary of Chowan County Board of Commissioners was re-elected. Also elected were incumbent Commissioner C. M. Evans and N. J. George.

Elected to serve on the board of education were Thomas Paul Griffin, Dr. Edward G. Bond, incumbent chairman, Mrs. Emily G. Amburn, incumbents, Dr. J. H. Horton and Eugene Jordan, Morris Small and Carlton Goodwin.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary was re-elected clerk of court and Sheriff Troy E. Toppin was also re-elected.

Starting off the news in January, 1970 was the murder of Marvin Edward and Bruce Len Robey, Route 3, Edenton by Joey Sawyer Scott, Jr., of Elizabeth City. Before the night was over Scott committed suicide so he was never to be brought to trial.

Also, Charlie Overman, retired county agent, was paid tribute to by approximately 250 persons at the armory at a dinner in honor of him.

Bob Weintraub won the Distinguished Service Award given by the Edenton Jaycees.

A federal grant of \$329,500 was approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in February for town water and sewer improvements.

Harold Lloyd Bunch won the Outstanding Young Farmer Award given by the Edenton Jaycees.

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Stamps Aid 700

Nearly 700 people in Chowan County received aid through the U. S. Department of Agriculture food stamp program in October — 216 more than during the same month of 1969.

These figures were released this week by Russell H. James, Southeast regional director of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. The report showed more than a quarter of a million needy North Carolina people received aid from one of the federal programs.

According to James, 271,560 people in the state were assisted by the food programs during the month—an increase of 64,874, or 31 per cent, over the same period last year.

New Board Takes Office Monday

A new era for public education in Chowan County will begin Monday night when seven elected members will take their oaths on Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. Four of the members will be serving for the first time; three are hold-overs from the combined city and county boards.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of Superior Court, will administer the oaths at 8 P. M., in the board room on the third floor of the county office building.

Dr. Edward G. Bond, Eugene Jordan, and Dr. J. H. Horton are the three members from the old board to be re-elected. Mrs. Emily G. Amburn, Thomas Paul Griffin, Morris Small and Carlton Goodwin are the new members.

Supt. Bill Britt said the board will re-organize following the swearing-in ceremonies. The only other item on the agenda is a general discussion of school matters.

The administrative units of the two school systems merged two years ago. The seven board members were nominated in the May Democratic Primary and elected without opposition in the November General Election.

ESEA Is Funded

More than one-third of the Edenton-Chowan Schools will benefit from a program authorized under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

The projected budget for Edenton-Chowan Schools is \$227,351 for fiscal 1970. The local program is titled "A Project to Improve the Reading of the Educationally Deprived and a Kindergarten Program" and serves 1,007 students.



Ready For Listing — Personnel in the office of Chowan County Tax Supervisor Sherlon Layton has everything to begin taking property listings Monday. Mrs. Pattie Byrum, left, and Mrs. Myrtle Hare are shown with some of the abstracts to be completed for about 9,000 property owners.