

Fire Hazards Get School Board's Eye

By PATRICIA M. ARNOLD

"No school in this system is satisfactory under any circumstances . . . if these buildings are to continue in operation as a school something has got to be done and immediately . . . if the buildings are not fire proof they should at least have a safe fire alarm system."

These were a few remarks made by Fire Chief Luther C. Parks to the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Monday

night at the regular monthly meeting.

Some three months ago, Chief was appointed by Chowan County commissioners as building, fire and electrical inspector for the schools.

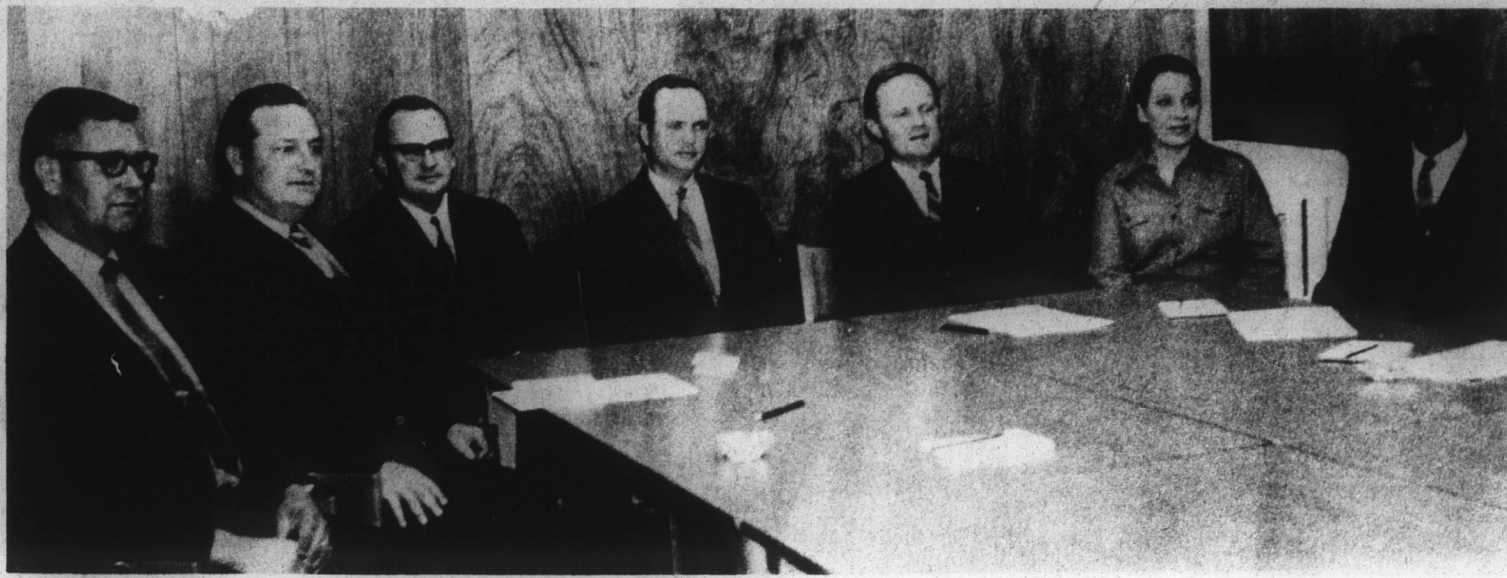
Chief Parks made an inspection of the schools in the county and gave report to the board of education.

He stated after going to White Oak School he knew he needed some help and asked Sam Long, building inspector for the Town of Edenton, to assist him.

Chief Parks reported that at John A. Holmes High School there are faulty electric fixtures, oily and greasy rags thrown around, blocked fire exits, unapproved fire alarm system, no exit lights at some points, lightweight extension cords being improperly used, light fixtures broken, no ashtrays in the teachers' lounge, trash on the stage, and a lawn mower in the shop with open gas cans.

At D. F. Walker he noted defective wiring, unapproved fire alarm system, misuse of extension cords, exposed wires, using a book storage room as a lounge where there is smoking, exit doors blocked and locked, and electric cords hanging from the ceiling to the floor.

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New Board Members—The reorganization of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education took place Monday night. The new board members are, from left, Morris Small, Thomas P. Griffin, Carlton Goodwin, Eugene Jordan, chairman, Dr. Edward G. Bond, vice chairman, Mrs. Emily G. Amburn and Dr. J. H. Horton.

Jordan Elected New Board Chairman

Re-organization of the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education was held Monday night at the regular monthly meeting. Eugene Jordan was elected chairman of the board and Dr. Edward G. Bond was elected vice chairman. Dr. Bond was chairman of the old board.

After the election, Supt. Bill Britt went over the public school laws of North Carolina, including local acts, with the new board members.

All board members were present and represented their townships as follows:

Dr. Bond and Thomas P. Griffin, six-year terms, First Township; Mrs. Emily Amburn, First Township, four-year term; Dr. J. H. Horton, First Township, two-year term; Carlton Goodwin, six-year term, Second Township; Jordan, four-year term, Third Township, and Morris Small, two-year term, Fourth Township. Other business taken by the board

members included appointing Cecil Fry as secretary of the board in the absence of the acting secretary.

Griffin asked Supt. Britt "What would you say is the main problem facing our school system now?" Britt answered by saying, "It is trying to teach a child at a level at which he can understand and comprehend." He continued by saying, "After all, isn't the child our first concern?"

Goodwin asked, "Is it true that a child is promoted from one grade to another if he does passing work or not?" Supt. Britt answered, "No, some we do retain. If it does good to hold the child back we do, but if it does no good, mostly we send him forward."

Britt stated, "You must consider many things. Two important factors are: are you serving the child best by retaining him and what is best for the school system."

He explained the latter by saying, "Sometimes you may help the child just a little but at the same time you are hindering the other students in the same class with the retained student."

Faculty Meeting Telecast Planned

Dr. Craig Phillips, superintendent of the State Department of Public Instruction, will join teachers in Edenton-Chowan Schools in a special state-wide "faculty meeting" at 3:30 P. M. Wednesday in a live telecast to be broadcast over the state-wide educational television network. Education television in this area is Channel 2.

Phillips will discuss the State Board of Education request for additional funds for the state's public schools for the next biennium.

Supt. Bill Britt said school patrons in the area are encouraged to view the telecast. He said some schools will have space available for parents to join the faculty in this session. However, he encouraged school patrons, where possible, to join in this special program.

"We are asking all of our 60,000 public school teachers and administrators to join us on January 13 for one big, state-wide 'faculty meeting' to discuss these imperative needs. This is the best method we can think of to talk with teachers, parents, and all citizens at one time."

OYF Banquet Set

Chowan County's Outstanding Young Farmer will be honored January 14 at a banquet sponsored by Edenton Jaycees. The event will be held at the VFW Hut on old Hertford Road beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

Bill Hamilton is chairman of the OYF activities of the Jaycees.

Farmers, under 35 years of age, are being nominated for the honor.



FIRST TO REGISTER — Miss Deborah Wilkins, left, and Miss Jane George, right, were the first 18-year-olds in Chowan County to register to vote. Assisting them and giving them the oath was Mrs. J. M. Thorud, executive secretary of the Chowan County Board of Elections.

Decision Is Made On Registration

Chowan County voter registration began on a new system Monday with two 18-year-olds registering.

They were Jane George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. George and Deborah Wilkins, daughter of Mrs. Louis George Wilkins and the late Mr. Wilkins.

It was announced earlier that those wanting to register should do so at the Chowan County Election Board Office.

As of Friday those registering should go to the Register of Deeds office and see Mrs. Kenneth (Margaret) Floors. Registering is Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 A. M., to 1 P. M.

Mrs. Joseph Thorud will remain as the executive secretary to the election board, and will continue to perform the office duties.

Youth Corps Earns New Contract

The Neighborhood Youth Corps (In-School) Project of Economic Improvement Council, Inc., has been funded through May 31, 1971, at an additional cost of \$80,860.

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Byrd, EIC board chairman, announced that Roy L. Lowe, executive director, has received official notice from the U. S. Department of Labor of the EIC contract to include the extension of the NYC project.

Lowe pointed out that the contract began September 3, 1967. With the additional funds now granted, a total of \$1,089,950 has been either received or obligated.

This represents 1,998 boys and girls who have or will work a total of 558,384 man hours. These students have helped to support self and family while they

learned, under supervision, to perform a service for schools and public agencies, Lowe noted.

"The Neighborhood Youth Corps is attacking the causes of poverty by counseling with these boys and girls, and through them to their homes, in good habits, the wise use of money, the meaning and importance of saving, good buying procedures and trying to install the value of money to the family as a whole," Lowe said.

The executive director said the new contract has the largest number of enrollees of any contract in the State of North Carolina with 149 enrollees for the in-school part of the contract.

EIC serves the 10-county Albemarle Area with headquarters in the Tower Building at Edenton Municipal Airport.

Public Parade

Names In The News

We see where Tom I. Davis, a member of the gliberal press and a special assistant to State School Superintendent Craig Phillips is letting his Selma newspaper be used to launch the balloon of one gubernatorial hopeful. Cousin Tom is an honor graduate of the Sanford-Bennett-Pryer-Bowles school.

Of the names in the news we find: We can't skip with Skipper (Bowles). We could wear Pat's (Taylor) hat. But we prefer to bob with Bob (Morgan).

Official, If Not Complete

The Town of Edenton has gained, not lost, population. This comes as news only to the census folks and as no great surprise to anyone who meanders along the Public Parade.

While town officials have received no official notification, our least favored morning newspaper of general circulation in this area reports the Edenton population as 4,766. Their information comes from the U. S. Bureau of Census in Washington, D. C.

Preliminary figures showed Edenton lost 98 people in the decade of the 60's although in May, 1969, the town almost doubled its land area—including heavily populated outskirts with sub-divisions. Census people blamed it on inaccurate maps; others blamed it on a sloppy job by census officials.

While it is apparently official, no matter how incomplete, the 4,766 figure is something the town must live with for another 10 years. Two things can be done to assure a more complete counting of heads. They are:

- 1—Send all future boundary maps to Jefferson, Ind., computers via registered mail, return receipt requested; and
- 2—Get the census out of politics.

The town can accomplish the first; the latter is up for grabs.

What's Number One?

The federal government recently released funds to school administrative units to "soften the blow" caused by integration. Edenton-Chowan Schools received nearly \$50,000.

Nowhere in the plan drawn by the local unit was mention of neglect to physical plants while officials ran hither and yon in efforts to please a federal judge. Now their slip is showing.

That is not a nice report Fire Chief Luther C. Parks made Monday night to the new, elected Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. While we don't think Chief Parks went on a witch hunt, nor was out to scare anyone, he did build a fire under the new board.

It is obvious from court decisions and court orders there has been little consideration given the school children involv-

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County Seeks Jail Funds

With plans for an addition and improvements to the historic Chowan County Jail approved, county commissioners are now seeking matching funds to defray some of the cost. Application for such funds was authorized Monday during the regular meeting of the county board.

Commissioner N. I. George, who has

been given the task of working on plans to bring the facility up to acceptable state standards, said he is encouraged by the prospects of obtaining matching funds through the State Department of Local Affairs. He said he has talked with state officials and feels funds will be available for the local project.

It is believed that 50-50 matching funds can be secured for the addition and improvements with 60-40 matching funds for equipment.

The addition will provide space for the office of Sheriff Troy Toppin as well as other space required by the state.

More than \$20,000 is expected to be spent on the project which will allow Chowan County to continue to maintain the local jail. State Department of Social Services' approval of the plan has been received and specifications are being written.

Chairman J. Clarence Leary commended George on his work with the jail and the board approved a motion to make application for matching funds.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Goodwin reported tax collections through December, 1970, down about 5 per cent over the same period in 1969. She said the main factor in the decrease in percentage collections was pre-payments. Some big taxpayers have not pre-paid this year and it is believed that high interest rates offset county discounts.

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Rate Boost Asked

In the latter part of December a letter from VEPCO was received by Jesse L. Harrell, chairman of the Edenton Board of Public Works, stating that VEPCO has been faced with persistent inflation since 1965 and action is being taken to relieve some of the inflation.

VEPCO is raising the cost of electricity to the Town of Edenton by about 20.77 per cent. This will be a price increase of approximately \$62,186.32 a year.

To meet the new price of electricity the Board of Public Works will have to take steps to increase the cost of electricity to the town customers.

According to Supt. Richard N. Hines, if the board sees fit, the price of electricity to the public will be increased on the same scale so the town will not lose money on the resale of the electricity.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Public Works Tuesday the members made a motion to bill, up to three years, the four persons who were not billed for the use of area lights. In two cases the persons billed will not have to pay the full amount. The other two persons have not had the lights three years.

The board also elected to let the convalescent home and the old hospital electrical and water bill to be combined but to let the new Chowan Hospital be billed separately.



WINNERS AWARDED — The winners of the VFW Voice of Democracy contest, a broadcast script writing scholarship program for high school students, were awarded their prizes Tuesday at John A. Holmes High School. Winners were, from left, Percy Robbins, third place, \$10 and bronze medal; Elizabeth Harris, second place, \$15 and a silver medal; and Gail Johnson, first place, \$25 and a gold medal. Miss Johnson is now eligible to participate in the area judging. Giving the awards were, back, left, Leon Mitzke, commander of the VFW Post, and H. E. Bass, local chairman of the contest.



Long-timers Honored—The 50-year members of the Chowan County Extension Homemakers' Club were honored Tuesday night at Chowan High School. Mrs. E. N. Elliott was given recognition as the founder of the extension home demonstration club work as well as being the first county agent. Mrs. Eugene Jordan, left, club president, is shown with Mrs. O. M. Blanchard, Mrs. Beatrice Ward, Mrs. E. N. Elliott, Mrs. Jessie Porter and Mrs. W. H. Saunders. Other 50-year members not pictured are Mrs. C. J. Hollowell, Mrs. Nelia Smith and Mrs. Mabelle Winslow.