

Public Parade

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Members of the Board of Public Works are out of step with reality about what is best for the town when they continue to harbor a self-righteous attitude of superiority. While we can't buy change for the sake of change, on this particular issue an adequate case has been made for the change.

The time is long overdue to stop fighting and start switching. Without such action there won't be any need for gasoline. We ain't seen a nag yet who could run on the stuff.

Red Faces; Black Eyes

It has often been said that candidates for public office can't help who supports them. By the same token, political parties can't help who contributes to the war chest.

An anonymous mail box contribution is one thing. A mail box donation from an announced favor-seeker is entirely different.

Chuck Barbour, former Democratic Party executive director, may have acted in good faith in the Castleberry matter. All Castleberry wanted was a travel permit which would allow him as a parolee to legally leave the state to work.

It may be "routine" for a party executive to call at least two ranking state officials concerning the travel permit, at the insistence of a Durham friend and attorney, Art Vann. Gov. Bob Scott seems to think along these lines.

Barbour's first refusal to accept Castleberry's money was a display of his integrity. However, when he removed the \$500 in cash from his mail box he showed bad judgment.

Anyone who takes up residence in Raleigh's Blount Street executive mansion leaves himself open to attack from many fronts.

A governor's administration rises or falls on those he appoints, those he chooses to surround himself with. Bob Scott has made a good governor. Some of his appointees, while masters of political strategy, have left much to be desired. In more cases than one some of the "old rats in the political barn" which Gov. Scott chose to let back in have brought embarrassment to the governor personally and discredit to his administration.

Chuck Barbour rapidly became a bright young star in the Democratic Party. He was rewarded for his efforts by being named the first party executive director. His first skirmish with just criticism was when he mixed party business with that of a public relations firm in which he held stock. But Gov. Scott chose to further reward Barbour recently by putting him in the prestigious position as head of the travel and promotion division of the State Department of Conservation and Development.

Gov. Scott has chose, through thick and thin, to stand by his friends. His friends, and most surely those who enjoy handsome positions in state government, owe as much to the governor.

Going In Right Direction

Two reports recently released by state agencies are good news to those who meander along the Public Parade. The first, a comparative statement of gross sales and use tax collections, shows business has been good in Chowan County. Collections between February, 1970, and January, 1971, when compared to the same period a year ago, reflect a 10.99 per cent increase. (This is the period during which the

1% local option sales tax was collected). The second item is on investments and tax collections by municipal governments in Tar Heelia. It shows the Town of Edenton is being operated in a sound business manner with income from investments alone equivalent to five cents on the tax rate. (This reflects a federal water and sewer grant as well as a \$600,000 bond referendum).

Gross sales and use tax collections, as reported by the State Department of Revenue, is considered one of the most accurate gauges as to the rise and fall of business activities. Latest figures show Chowan is 20th in the state in the percentage of increase in the past year.

In the Albemarle Area, the counties of Dare (19.76 per cent), Gates (14.48 per cent), Washington (12.64 per cent), and Hyde (12.39 per cent), were greater than Chowan. Pasquotank's increase was 7.66 per cent.

Neighboring Perquimans, with a decrease of 1.14 per cent in collections, was one of three counties in the state in the minus bracket, joining Craven and Davie.

The greatest increase was in Brunswick County with a tremendous 48.89 per cent jump.

Local Government Commission reported that as of January 1, the Town of Edenton had \$112,745 in demand deposits; \$610,000 in certificates of deposit; and \$10,000 in other investments for a total of \$732,745. Of the total amount of cash and investments on that date the town had 84.61 per cent invested as compared with 51.33 per cent a year ago.

The town earned \$5,578 on investments during the year. Uncollected 1970 taxes in January amounted to \$87,745 or 46.5 per cent of the levy.

By comparison, Elizabeth City earned the equivalent of a penny on their tax rate on investments and had 58.11 per cent of the levy uncollected; Columbia had the same realized on investments with 62.92 per cent of levy uncollected; Gatesville, the equivalent of nine cents on the tax rate realized from investments and 58.21 of the levy uncollected; and Hertford, about one-half of one per cent of the tax rate realized from investments and 47.37 in uncollected taxes.

A great percentage of the sales and use tax is generated in Edenton. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to claim that Edenton is a good business town. It didn't just happen this way. No individual nor group can take the credit for this success. And it will be well if all of us remember it, too.



READY FOR SALES — Hoke Motor Corp., salesmen are from left, Kenneth Worrell, Hoke Roberson, president of the corporation; Stan Stroud, and Clarence Britton.

Hoke Motor Corp. Opens In Edenton

Hoke Motor Corp. is scheduled to open in Edenton on April 1. The new company will be located in the old Colonial Motor Company building on East Queen Street.

The firm is owned and operated by Hoke and Joe Roberson of Windsor.

They will hold the dealership for Buick, Opel, Pontiac, Oldsmobile and GMC trucks. They will have a complete parts and service department.

Salesmen for the new dealers will be Hoke Roberson, president of the corporation; Stan Stroud, Kenneth

Worrell and Clarence Britton. Mrs. Pat Phelps will be the secretary and bookkeeper and Joe Roberson will be manager of the service department.

At present the Robersons are renovating the building and clearing property for an outside show room for cars.

Hertford Farmer Peanut Champion

The Progressive Farmer magazine's "Peanut Profit Guide" appearing in the publication's March issue features the world champion peanut grower, E. W. Evans, Jr., of Hertford.

In 1970 he harvested 6,317 pounds of peanuts from one acre to break his own 1969 world record yield of 6,057 pounds.

Last year's average per acre yields of peanuts across the South was 2,064 pounds.

Some of his friends claim that Evans, a rural mail carrier, travels 75 miles a day through some of the best peanut-growing land in the nation, and that he gets his ideas for record yields from studying what good farming neighbors are doing.

Others say, with tongue in cheek, that the mail route

gets Evans out of the way so his wife, Jane, can run things.

"Actually," he admits, "the only season when I'm home full-time is at peanut harvest. That's when I take my vacation from the mail route."

Southern farmers grow all

the peanuts produced in the nation—1,445,000 acres with an annual value of over \$320,000,000.

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Re-Certification

ATLANTA, Ga. — All North Carolina grocers currently authorized to accept food stamps will be required to apply for new authorization numbers, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service has announced.

Reauthorization is necessary, officials explained, to allow the federal agency to automate its redemption certificate processing operations.

Copies of the new application forms will be mailed on April 1 to all authorized food retailers in North Carolina. Wholesalers are not involved in the automation program. The grocers must return the application as soon as possible, it was pointed out.

Among the statements required are those relating to last year's total gross and food sales, which will be held in strictest confidence, officials said.

Upon receipt of the new authorization numbers, food retailers must use them on all subsequent certificates, the announcement declared.

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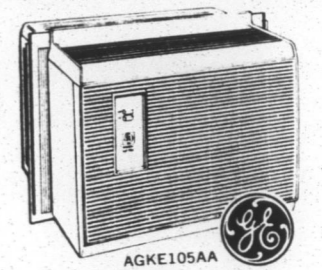
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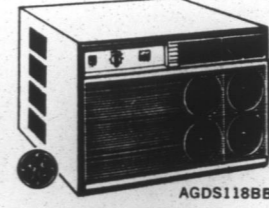
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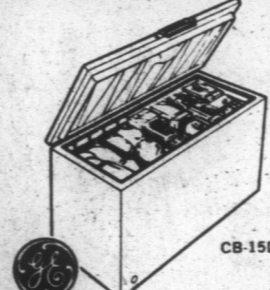
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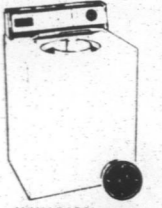
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