

Hazards In Schools Discussed

The Chowan County Grand Jury, expressing "deep concern" for students in Edenton-Chowan Schools in case of fire, last week huddled with county and school officials to discuss means to "eliminate (fire) hazards" in school buildings.

Elsewhere in a strongly worded re-

port presented Tuesday a Superior Court, the panel called attention to lack of action by officials to other bad conditions existing in county property. The last previously recommended repairs and improvements to the health of school offices were again reported.

The jury called in J. Clarence Leary, chairman, county commissioners; Eugene Jordan, chairman and Supt. Bill Britt of Edenton-Chowan Schools for "a general discussion of measures to eliminate hazards in case of fire with regards to the present conditions of the schools."

The report, as submitted to Judge Elbert S. Peele, Jr., stated the jury "was assured that an engineering study would be made at Chowan High School as soon as possible, to determine the best way to install outside fire escapes." Also, "fire alarm systems, independent of the electric bell system, will be installed in all schools. Periodic inspections, during the school year, by the local fire marshal, will be made and all recommendations for fire prevention will be followed."

Edenton Fire Chief Luther C. Parks, who is also county fire marshal, several months ago discussed with the board of education his findings on an inspection of the schools. Chief Parks' report has caused considerable discussion among board members, as well as personal inspection of the facilities, but Supt. Britt has said money is not available to comply with the recommendations of the fire marshal.

The report, signed by R. Graham White, foreman, showed the following:

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Since the last report of the Grand Jury no effort has been made to improve conditions other than minor repairs to the plumbing. Walls and ceilings are still in bad repair. There exists a leak over the X-ray machine that is immediately in need of repair. Also one more electrical outlet is badly needed to prevent a fire hazard. The facility is badly crowded and, for proper working conditions, needs adequate space.

Continued on Page 4

Dr. Thornhill Joins Hospital Staff

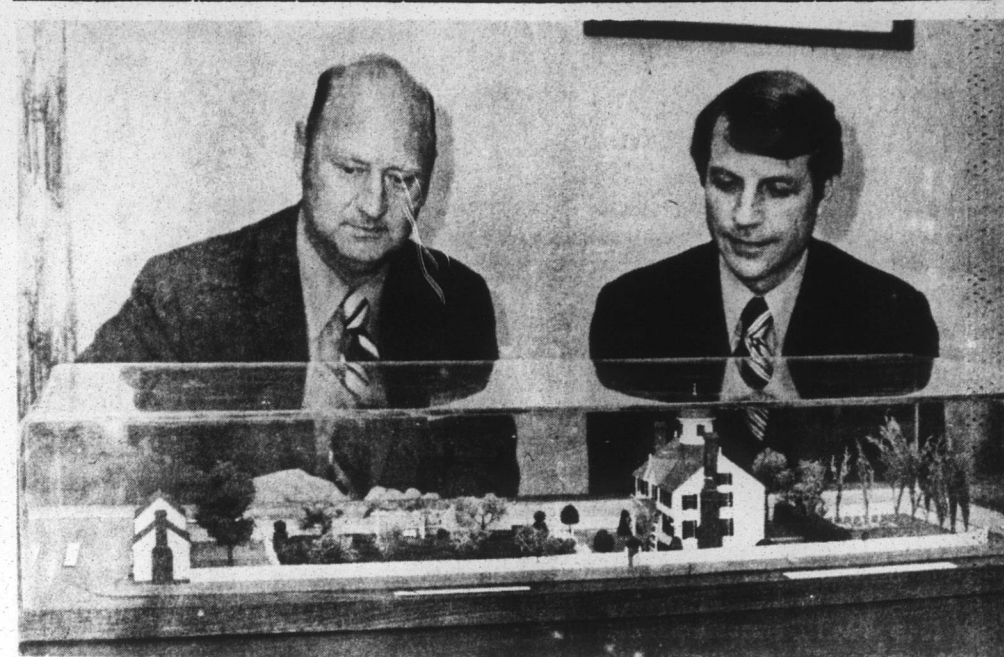
Dr. William R. Thornhill of Franklin, Va., has been admitted to the staff of Chowan Hospital. A certified radiologist, Dr. Thornhill has become associated with Dr. Joe Lee Frank of Ahsokie.

Thomas M. Surratt, hospital administrator, said with the addition of Dr. Thornhill to the staff, patients at the hospital will have a radiologist available four mornings each week. At the present time Dr. Frank is at the hospital two afternoons each week.

Dr. Frank has been serving the local hospital for many years but only in the past three years has there been a sufficient demand for his services to require his presence here more than one-half day each week. Surratt said since Dr. Frank has been coming to Chowan Hospital more often the average number of procedures done at the hospital have increased at a rapid pace.

"The addition of a second radiologist

Continued on Page 4



View Proposed Restoration Plan — T. B. H. Wood, left, president of the Cupola House Association and W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., president of Historic Edenton, Inc., are shown with a model of the Cupola House with the gardens restored. The General Assembly has been asked to appropriate \$20,600 for the restoration work at the South Broad Street site. A total of \$65,600 is sought by Historic Edenton for this project and others at Barker and Iredell House.

Project Funds Are Sought

Rep. W. T. Culpepper, Jr., of Elizabeth City, has introduced a measure in the General Assembly to appropriate funds for Historic Edenton, Inc. The measure calls for \$65,600 over the next biennium for the Barker House Visitor Center-Museum, Cupola House and James Iredell House.

The measure points out that "state funds should be appropriated for the restoration, repair and preservation of the Barker House wherein is located a visitor's center and museum, the Cupola

House, a National Historic Landmark, and the James Iredell House, a state-owned historic site."

Also, it is noted that "for many years the state, together with the county and town governments, as well as many individuals, local and state-wide organizations have contributed heavily "towards historic sites in Edenton which now comprise Historic Edenton, Inc., along with St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Chowan County Courthouse.

An estimated \$20,600 needed for restoration of the formal garden and fences at the Cupola House was requested for this site.

The \$17,000 requested for Barker House includes a wooden shingle roof, mechanical systems for second and third floors and insulation under the house. A fire and burglary security system was also included.

At the Iredell House, it is estimated that \$28,000 is needed for three phased projects on the main house, restoration of fences and archaeological excavation of main house and outbuildings.

Problem Is Aired

Several landowners at Cape Colony appeared before the Chowan County commissioners recently and complained about sanitary conditions at Cape Colony.

At a meeting Monday the Cape Colony Association was represented by Alton Clark, president, Mr. Bowles, developer and W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., the association lawyer, to meet with representatives of the district health department.

Continued on Page 4



Dr. William Thornhill

Chowan Commissioners Mum On Town Money Request

A majority of Chowan County commissioners Tuesday night agreed the Town of Edenton is due some consideration on a request to recoup the anticipated loss in sales tax revenue. However, no agreement could be reached as to how or when compensation could be made.

Town Council had requested commissioners to sanction a measure in the General Assembly which would give the town 50 per cent of the ABC profits. Mayor George Alma Byrum said at the joint meeting the council would consider accepting a lesser amount. Commissioners last week approved

reinstatement of the local option sales tax and placed sharing on an ad valorem tax basis. This cut the town's share to approximately \$24,000 while about \$33,000 was budgeted for this fiscal year.

Mayor Byrum said the only way commissioners could guarantee council continued funds equal to what would have been received through the sales tax was by writing it into the ABC law. "Maybe the ABC funds are sacred, I don't know," the mayor stated. "I don't know how you can do it any other way."

Commissioners N. J. George, C. M. Evans and C. A. Phillips expressed the opinion that the town is due some relief. However, board members could not agree where the money would come

from nor how much is due.

Phillips argued the town's request along with other areas of mutual concern should be settled at the same time and when "the air has cleared" from recent actions by both boards.

George said he has said privately and publicly that the split is not now equitable. "We have other problems to be solved and I think they should all be handled at one time," he said.

Phillips praised the degree of past cooperation between the boards. He said, however, he would be "reluctant to disturb, willingly, ABC funds," at this time. He called for further discussion before any firm decisions are made. "I am hesitant to get into a real crash program about where we go from here," he added.

Evans again stated he would like to see the sales tax money split on a 76-24 basis as was the case originally. He said he has been told this cannot be done legally. He, though, agreed with Phillips not to disturb the ABC funds but attempt to find some way to make up the difference from sales tax money.

David T. Bateman said on a per capita basis the townspeople are getting out ahead on the method of distribution.

Chairman J. Clarence Leary said the county had always tried to handle town requests for funds in a fair manner and assured councilmen this policy would continue in the future.

Commissioners agreed to meet at 8 P. M., Tuesday to further discuss the issue.

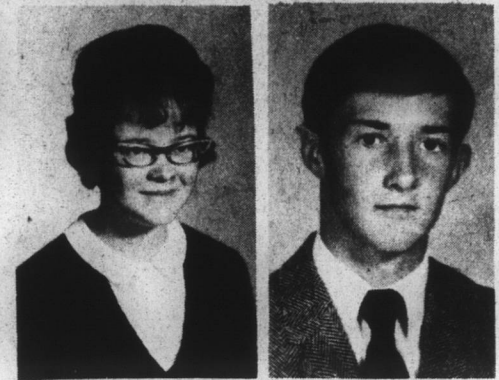
Local Bill Passes

Chowan County's first "local bill" to be ratified by the 1971 General Assembly allows an ABC officer to also serve as a deputy sheriff. The bill was introduced by Rep. W. T. Culpepper, Jr., of Elizabeth City at the request of Chowan County commissioners.

The bill was ratified April 2.

Sheriff Troy Toppin sought and received the support of commissioners on the measure which will give additional man power to the sheriff's department through sharing the two positions.

Joe Byrum serves as ABC officer in Chowan County.



Susan Jordan Gary Lowe

Governor's School Students Chosen

Two juniors in Edenton-Chowan Schools have been selected to attend the N. C. Governor's School for the Gifted in Winston-Salem for the summer of 1971. They are Susan Jordan of Chowan High School and Gary Lowe of John A. Holmes High School.

They are among 400 students from state secondary schools who will participate. Students are selected for the program on the basis of high intelligence rating and superior ability in an academic field or a high degree of talent in one of the arts.

Susan applied for admission under the social science field.

She has been an outstanding student throughout her high school career. In the ninth grade, she was awarded the home economics and English medals and the Freshman Cup for being the most outstanding student in the Freshman Class. She won the World History medal at the end of her sophomore year. Currently she is a member of the drama club, basketball team, Beta Club, and Future Teachers of America Club.

This fall, in the absence of a music teacher, Susan organized the school chorus and directed the group in a Christmas concert. She has been selected to serve as editor of the school newspaper during her senior year.

Susan plans to further her education

Continued on Page 4

Monday Holiday

Easter Monday will be observed as a general holiday in Edenton and Chowan County. Local and state offices will be closed and the Merchants Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce recommend it as a holiday.

The Chowan County Courthouse will be closed as will the Municipal Building. Town Administrator W. B. Gardner said there would be no trash collection Monday but the sanitary department will pick up all over town on Saturday, as usual and again Tuesday.

All financial institutions in the community will be closed. They include the three offices of Peoples Bank & Trust Company, Bank of North Carolina, N. A., Edenton Savings & Loan Association, and Bank of Hobbsville.

Students in the Edenton-Chowan School System began their Spring holiday on Wednesday afternoon and are scheduled to return on Tuesday, according to Supt. Bill Britt.

The students at Chowan Academy also left for their holiday on Wednesday afternoon but are not scheduled to return until the following Wednesday, according to an academy spokesman.



New Look — Chowan Cooperative Produce Exchange's auction building at Valhalla has taken on a new look, thanks to the donation of materials by interested businesses and labor from cooperative stockholders. The cooperative, recently funded by a federal loan-grant, will go to the two-aisle sale system this season which will make it more attractive for buyers. Roy Harrell, temporary manager on loan from N.C.R.F.D., said a membership drive is under way to seek additional stockholders.

Public Parade

Report On Housing

Well, we went around to First Presbyterian Church Sunday night to discuss low-rent public housing along the Public Parade with a group of interested citizens. We are sorry that about the only thing new we had to report was another in an almost unending list of delays which have hampered construction of 100 units of housing for our people.

Edenton Housing Authority has been in existence since October, 1967, has received advances for property purchases, planning, etc., amounting to more than \$200,000 and the time for advertising for bids is still a cloudy issue.

The local authority has had to untangle one hitch after the other since going into the public housing business. The last was temporary relocation of families who resided on sites where houses are to be built. This required a landmark decision by HUD in Washington, D. C.

A mobile home park has been developed on Ryders Lane and the families are now relocated in standard units. This was completed March 15.

The following day Merrill Evans, Jr., authority attorney, certified to HUD regional office in Atlanta, Ga., that the authority had possession of all sites. This was believed to be the last hurdle prior to advertising for bids. It took the letter eight days to reach the proper person.

President Nixon suspended the Davis-Bacon Requirement on Federal Projects. Before the ink got dry on that document he reinstated the requirement and the right hand hasn't yet discovered what the left hand is doing.

Edenton Housing Authority has an Annual Contributions Contract with the U. S. Government for nearly \$2-million. Therefore, the local low-rent public housing project will be built. We know where; it's the "when" that continues to cause so much uncertainty.

Chase Smokeless Dollars

Travelers spent a record \$802-million in North Carolina during 1970 according to the annual travel survey, published by the Travel and Promotion Division of the Department of Conservation and Development.

This represents an increase of \$50-million over the 1969 travel spending level.

Chowan County, in the hub of Historyland U.S.A., has yet but scratched the surface in getting a fair share of these smokeless dollars. In 1970 expenditures by the traveling public here amounted to \$1,290,000. While this represents a 50 per cent increase since 1958, it is little more than \$100,000 above the 1969 figure.

Many of those who meander along the Public Parade don't work up much enthusiasm for sharing heritage with those interested in the likes abounding here. We have often said this does not mean selling out to the tourists; it means relieving them of a buck or two for enjoying on a temporary basis, that which we take for granted.

A majority of the visitors to Edenton and Chowan County manage to find their way back time and time again.

Continued on Page 4

Fisherman Missing

Carroll Copeland, a 19-year-old commercial fisherman, is still missing, presumably in the Chowan River, where he was last seen on Monday around 4 P. M. near White's Landing, according to Sheriff Troy E. Toppin.

He is the son of Mrs. Sallie Marie Harrell Copeland and the late Mr. Copeland.

The boat Copeland was fishing from was found Monday evening around 8 o'clock on the Bertie shoreline of the Chowan River, with no damages, according to Sheriff Toppin.

A search is continuing for Copeland with the sheriff's department, U. S. Coast Guard, Chowan and Bertie Rescue Squads, N. C. Wildlife Commission and Cariton Nixon and Lester Lewis of the N. C. Commercial Fisherman Inspectors, all participating.