

Public Affairs

Sing Along With COA

Friend Willie Ainsley of neighboring Perquimans isn't just whistling Dixie when he praises College of the Albemarle. Efforts are now being made to have others pick up the tune.

His claim that COA is one of the greatest things to happen to Northeastern North Carolina isn't an exaggeration; neither is his claim that the college contributes greatly toward keeping young people at home.

The establishing of any institution of higher learning in an area can justly be hailed as "great" and the benefits aren't going to be limited to those who matriculate there or who own businesses in the hometown. Surrounding communities enjoy the benefits of the college without being bothered with the undesirable aspects.

It is because of the benefits to those outside the college community that local governments should provide financial support for COA. At the same time some form of voice in the operation of the institution should be granted those putting up the cash.

The College of the Albemarle, located in Elizabeth City, is a comprehensive community college serving seven of the 10 counties in Northeastern North Carolina. The actual service aspect of the college is debated because there is not sufficient widespread knowledge about what COA is doing. Steps are now being taken to remedy this problem and we hope the medicine doesn't come too late to save the patient.

Pasquotank County is now bearing a heavy financial burden where COA is concerned. They need help and help will come when other counties are made aware of their true responsibility to a community college.

Two years ago at a seminar concerned more with the future of COA rather than the past, it was learned that as few as three counties in the service area had representation on the trustees. In the other four counties there was no one individual to which the institution could turn and cry: "Help!"

Because no steps were taken to broaden the base of representation on the policy making board, the campaign to raise \$500,000 for a building and development fund lags in all but one county — Pasquotank.

Now, however, a concentrated effort is being made to establish a community college district with all seven counties participating — yes, even financially. Along with this is a proposal to change the method of selecting the trustees to allow at least one representative from each participating county.

Because of past criticisms of COA activities this newspaper has been labeled anti-COA. We plead guilty to being "anti" on many fronts and unwilling to wave the flag for phony causes. Anti-public education, from kindergarten through the highest of higher education, we are not. We do, however, want it to be public and with representation at the policy making levels at least commensurate to community input.

The College of the Albemarle cannot expect returns from its service area equal to the contribution made by the institution. There just isn't that kind of support available. On the other hand, the college deserves more than it has been getting from the area served — in money and public support.

The practice of loving someone only when you need them doesn't enjoy long life in most places, especially east of the Chowan River. The people who meander along the Public Parade just ain't that naive.

If the establishment of a community college district for College of the Albemarle, which brings restructuring of the board of trustees and a search for more widespread support for the ambitious building and development fund is a coincidence, then a happy coincidence it is. The good in both outweighs the bad. This won't only improve an image but also make the cash register ring.

The Voice of Industry

Gully Gullander is a brave man. As president of the National Association of Manufacturers he had gained the reputation of being industry's No. 1 spokesman in America.

He put that reputation on the line in Raleigh Tuesday at the annual meeting of Capital Associated Industries, Inc. He changed the format of most public speakers by conducting a live news press conference at swank North Ridge Country Club.

Armed with an almost uncanny ability to turn a question around to put his position in the best light, along with a positive outlook in industry's behalf, the jovial New Yorker educated and entertained his audience.

Frank Krieger invited six Eastern North Carolina newsmen to tar Mr. Gullander and four others to observe the feathering. We were among the last

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Board Votes New Budget; Britt Hired

A record budget of \$473,314.64 local money was approved by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education at their regular monthly meeting Tuesday night.

Supt. Bill Britt's contract was also renewed for a period of two years. He has been superintendent of Chowan County schools for four years.

Last year's local fund budget was \$386,875.65 and Supt. Britt stated that the board members had taken much consideration and time in planning the forthcoming year's budget. The budget will be submitted to the county commissioners today.

Other business carried out by the board members including awarding the contract to audit accounts for the school year 1970-71 to Max G. Warren, CPA of Raleigh.

A letter was received by the board from Mrs. J. L. Winslow requesting permission for their children to attend Perquimans County schools for the 1971-72 school year. The motion was passed.

Supt. Britt gave a report on the adult education program being put on by the College of the Albemarle in the Edenton-Chowan schools.

Resignations were accepted with regret by the board members from Mrs. Maie P. Asbell, fourth grade teacher at Swain School, and Mrs. Kathryn Holton, math teacher at Holmes School.

A one-year leave of absence for the coming school year was granted Mrs. Laurie Owens, first grade teacher at Walker School.

The board approved a motion to hire only teachers with an "A" or higher certificate and to allow the teachers presently employed a year to raise their "B" certificate to an "A" rating. Supt. Britt noted there were only four or five teachers in the county with a "B" rating.

Policeman Saves Victim Of Hanging

The quick response and fast thinking of the Edenton Police Department and Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad is credited with saving the life of a nine-year-old boy on his birthday, as he somehow was hung on a limb on a tree in his yard.

Sidney Lee Ward, Jr., North Oakum Street, and several friends were playing in his yard when he was hung.

His aunts, Geraldine and Bernice Ward, cut the boy down from the tree

Privott Is Elected

Mac Privott has been elected president of Edenton Jaycees. Privott and other new officers were elected at a regular meeting of the club Thursday night. Installation will be April 22 at a special banquet at American Legion Building.

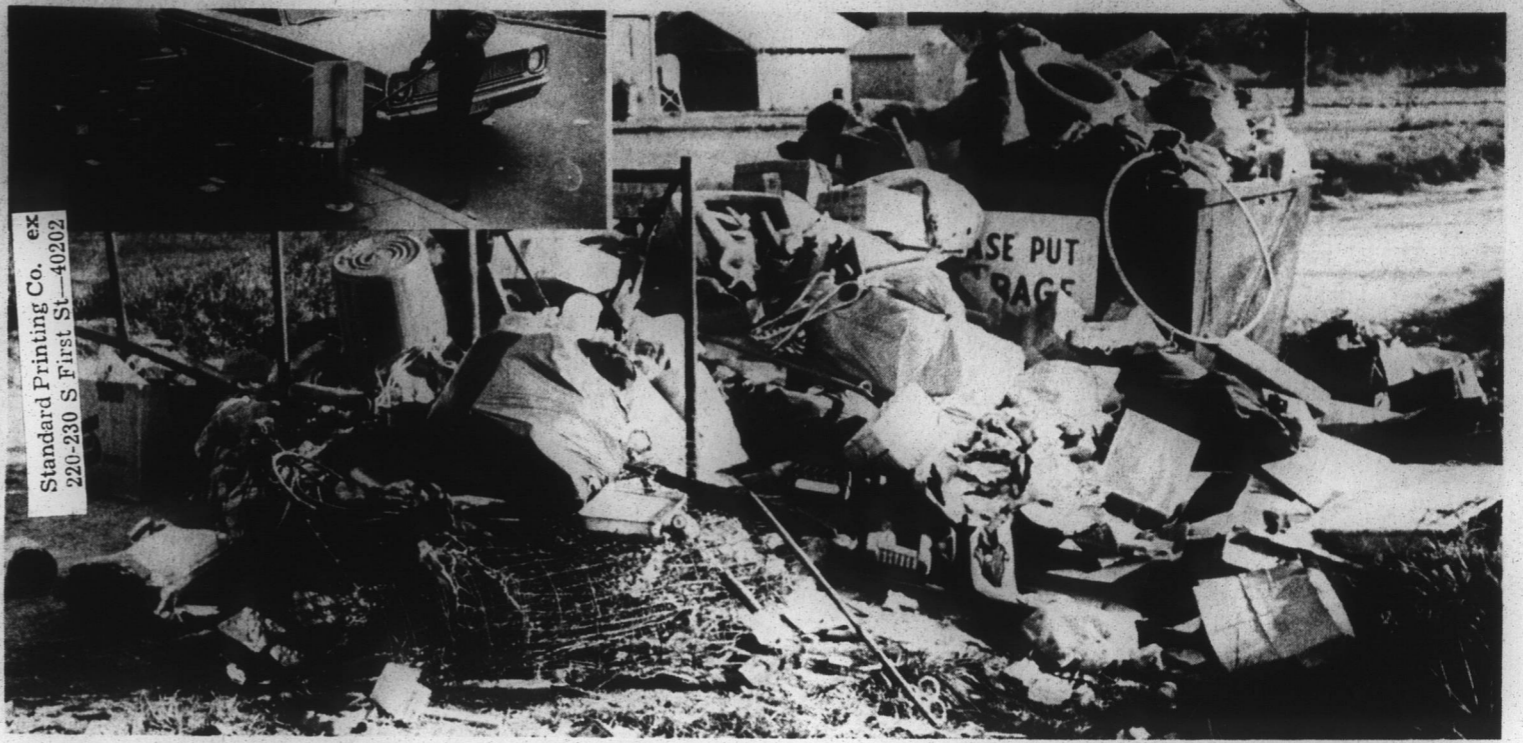
Privott will succeed Robert P. Dail, who becomes chairman of the board of directors.

Henry Overton was elected first vice president; Bill Hamilton, second vice president; Howard Collins, treasurer; and E. C. Toppin, secretary.

John Guard is corresponding secretary; Wallace Evans, state director; with Carlton Layton, Ray Midgett and Milton Stillely elected to the board for two-year terms; and Joe Hollowell and Wayne Sawyer to serve one-year terms on the board.



CONFERS WITH NAM PRESIDENT — James Darnell, right executive vice president, Chowan Veneer Company, Inc., is shown with W. P. Gullander of New Ycrk, president, National Association of Manufacturers. Gullander spoke in Raleigh Tuesday at the annual meeting of Capital Associated Industries, Inc. E. L. Hollowell of Edenton, president of the veneer company, is on the CAI board. (See Public Parade).



NOT A PRETTY SIGHT—Mr. Clean would have taken ill hereabouts Monday and Wednesday had he viewed the sights shown here. The main picture is the entrance to Edenton's sanitary land fill on Highway 32. Chowan County furnishes a big container at the gate for county residents to use when the land fill is not in operation. The long Easter holiday filled the container to overflowing and has prompted Town Council to request the commissioners to purchase another one. The insert is a portion of an unsightly scene on East King Street Wednesday morning when a trash can on the curb blew over and trash was blown throughout the block.



Volume XXXVII—No. 13. Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, April 15, 1971 Single Copy 10 Cents

Bill To Ask Death Of Board 10% Power Surcharge May 1

Edenton Town Council Tuesday night agreed to seek enabling legislation for a referendum in May, 1972, regarding abolishing the Board of Public Works. The citizens, by a 38-vote margin, agreed to maintain the two-elective board system here.

At the same time, Town Admini-

strator W. B. Gardner announced that electric customers on May 1 will begin paying a 10 per cent surcharge on their electric bills. This is brought about by a negotiated settlement in the VEPCO rate increase request.

Gardner said the Board of Public Works had approved the temporary surcharge while a comprehensive rate study is being made. Permanent rate adjustments will be made following the study.

Mayor George Alma Byrum called for action on a bill to be presented to the General Assembly on the plan to abolish the E&W board. He said it had generally been agreed such a vote should be held and it should be held at a time when no town elective offices are on the ballot. "This will tend to keep personalities out of the issue," he noted.

Commenting on a recent joint meeting of the two municipal boards, Councilman Leo Katkaveck said: "We didn't get anything we didn't expect. The argument they had didn't change my mind."

Councilman David White said it should be brought back to a vote of the people.

The vote to seek legislation on the question was unanimous.

Mayor Byrum said he would confer with Jesse L. Harrell, E&W board chairman, about certain language to go into the bill.

Gardner said a complaint had been received from Morris Small relative to the trash on Highway 32 at the entrance to the sanitary land fill. The administrator passed out several photographs of the area around a county-owned trash container which he said justified the Small complaint.

The administrator said the town opened the land fill to use by county residents to cooperate with county officials. The county purchased an eight-yard container but that has been deemed to be insufficient.

Council action called for the county to purchase at least one additional container.

Council was shown drawings of proposed downtown beautification which includes brick sidewalks.

A delegation from Morgan Park appeared to request faster action on pavement of streets in the subdivision.

Gardner said engineering is expected to be completed in the near future with the council giving him authority to advertise for bids as soon thereafter as possible.

Gardner said the General Assembly had passed legislation which will increase Edenton's take on Powell Bill funds by \$25,000 for the period beginning October, 1972. Powell Bill funds received this year were \$25,000.

The administrator was authorized to advertise delinquent taxes in May and Mayor Byrum asked the finance committee to study making funds available

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VANDALISM—Vandals in the past week have pulled up more than six of the new street signs recently installed in the Town of Edenton. J. C. Parks, superintendent of the street department, holds one of four signs taken out of the ground in one night. Police are looking for a white teenager for questioning in the vandalism.

Plymouth Man Dies In Local Wreck

The second fatality for Chowan County was reported early Saturday morning when Vannie Taylor, 17 years old, of Plymouth, was killed in an automobile accident that injured three other Plymouth teenagers.

The accident occurred on U. S. 17, two miles north of Edenton, according to Trooper C. T. Thomas, investigating officer.

Trooper Thomas stated the accident happened around 2:15 A. M., when a 1960 Chevrolet, driven by Robert Lee Blackwell, 18, of Madison Street, Plymouth, went out of control in a curve, ran off the road and hit a utility pole.

Taylor and another passenger, Sammy Williams, were taken to Chowan Hospital, then transferred to Norfolk General Hospital, Norfolk, Va., where Taylor died early Saturday afternoon. Williams is still in Norfolk General in serious condition.

Blackwell and Tony Moore, another passenger, were admitted to Chowan Hospital for treatment and Blackwell was released on Monday. Moore remains in the hospital in a satisfactory condition, stated a hospital spokesman.

Trooper Thomas charged Blackwell with driving on the wrong side of the road and manslaughter.