

One of the most surprised people has to be the one who talks with Wesley Cullipher over the telephone or reads his statements in the press and then meets him in person. For one is generally shocked to see this Pasquotank dynamo confined to a wheelchair.

Wesley Cullipher is a living example of one who hasn't let a handicap affect his usefulness to his community. Too many of us have lead circulating in our veins. Wesley has let it settle into the seat of his wheelchair, thereby, allowing the wheels in his head to turn with alarming precision.

There were those who thought Roy Lowe, executive director of Economic Improvement Council, Inc., had blown his cool, let sympathy run rampant and even create a position for Cullipher. We supported him. The Lowe-Cullipher team in the EIC development projects have borne fruits for the 10-county Albemarle Area.

Cullipher assumed the presidency of the Albemarle Area Development Association at a time when the agency, dedicated to economic development on all levels, was gasping for breath. AADA was being strangled by a "poverty" label and sure death was just around the corner.

As president of AADA he charted a different course—one of action. He wanted every county and residents of the several counties to enjoy a piece of this action. In less than a year at the helm he distinguished himself as a true captain of a floundering ship.

It was from his work with AADA and EIC that Cullipher hatched the new Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission. As ARPDC's first chairman he worked tirelessly for federal funding so a professional staff could be assembled.

Now as executive director with the support of other action men such as Bill Gardner of Edenton, Cullipher will face further challenges. There is solace to be derived from the realization that ARPDC has at its disposal leaders who have excluded the word "defeat" from their vocabulary.

Wesley Cullipher is sure to wheel up to a problem or opportunity, not being of a mind to go over or around, but straight through. The ARPDC is in capable hands.

**An Old Media Game**

Newspaper reporters who are lazy do it. Newspaper reporters who find hard news scarce do it. Newspaper reporters who have turned columnists do it more often. They play a little game called "Interview Your Typewriter."

With the General Assembly in session and corks flying in all directions in Raleigh, it is quite difficult to comprehend why a syndicated columnist has to play games to meet his quota.

One wrote a lengthy piece last week which appeared in our favorite afternoon daily, under the head: "Will Eure Face Test?" The subhead was just as interesting: "Opposition For Veteran Seen."

It told about how Secretary of State Thad Eure, while "sort of an institution" may be challenged in the Democratic Primary by state party chairman-Senate reading clerk-tobacconist Gene Simmons.

Either one of two things happened. John Kilgo interviewed his typewriter or Gene Simmons has let the pressure of his positions affect his good judgment.

There are people within the Democratic Party hierarchy who, like Gene Simmons and John Kilgo, meander to the left of center and would like to see such men as Thad Eure go.

Thad Eure, readily admits to being the "oldest rat in the Democratic Party barn" and is one of the remaining symbols of the Jeffersonian Democrats, the memory of which so many cherish.

For 25 years the Gentleman from Gates has been Secretary of State. He has served 10 governors and will soon be 72-years-young. He does not claim title to the high office he holds. But whatever opposition is seen for the veteran had better come from the opposition party if the Democrats are going to keep on making good government in North Carolina a habit.

Continued on Page 4

**Toppin Heads Legion In Northeast**

Sheriff Troy E. Toppin was elected Commander of the First District of the American Legion at a meeting recently. He was also elected to be a delegate at the American Legion National Convention to be held in Texas in August.

Lloyd Stallings of Hertford was elected vice commander of the district.

Toppin is the sheriff of Chowan County and has been in the American Legion Post 40 since he returned from World War II in 1946 and has served

**Town Tax Rate Set: \$1.25**

BUDGET COMPARISON		
	1970-71	1971-72
Admin.	\$ 40,962.00	\$ 54,646.00
Police	107,859.48	107,751.56
Fire	46,187.00	47,112.00
Street	189,624.75	200,524.75
E&W	812,000.00	895,905.00
Misc.	73,926.00	76,890.00
	<b>\$1,270,559.23</b>	<b>\$1,382,829.31</b>

The new record Town of Edenton budget of \$1,382,829.31 and a tax rate of \$1.25 per \$100 valuation were approved Tuesday night during a special session of Town Council. While the budget is up more than \$112,000 council anticipates revenue other than taxes which holds the increased rate to 15 cents.

Included in the budget for fiscal 1971-72 is a 5 per cent retirement for

town employees. Council decided to institute a retirement plan and not give an across the board pay increase. The retirement totals \$16,000, which is equal to 10 cents on the tax rate.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner told council the budget was based on a valuation of \$15.9-million with tax collections estimated at 95 per cent. (With this valuation, \$1,590 is equal to one cent on the tax rate.)

It was also pointed out that fund balance appropriated dropped from \$35,000 to \$27,500 and the amount being transferred from E&W Revenue was down to \$75,000, from \$114,239.23 in the 1970-71 fiscal year.

The big decline in the amount available from E&W Revenue is in the amount required to pay sewer bonds. Debt service in the Sewer Department jumped from \$58,500 to \$95,280, or an amount equal to more than 30 cents on the tax rate.

The Board of Public Works budget totaled \$895,905, up from the existing budget of \$812,000. In addition to the debt service payment, the increase reflects a 5 per cent expansion of the service and a 10 per cent surcharge being levied to meet a VEPCO power rate increase which was made retroactive.

Also reflected in the E&W budget is the town's portion of improvements being done for Edenton Housing Authority.

Councilman Leo Katkaveck, chairman of the Law and Finance Committee, said the amount for sidewalks was cut from \$25,000 to \$10,000 because it is felt this is all that will be needed this year.

Mayor George Alma Byrum said he thought committee members were "shortsighted" on this item. He pointed out that the merchants were sold on participating in the program and \$15,000 was put in the 1970-71 budget for downtown sidewalks. He said if the town shared in federal grants then beautification had to be included and it would cost more than concrete sidewalks.

Councilman Roy L. Harrell questioned replacing existing sidewalks when there are areas in town without any sidewalks. When Councilman James C.

Continued on Page 4

**Byrum Honored**

Joseph Carroll Byrum, Jr., captain of the Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department was named "Fireman of the Year" by the department at the annual Ladies' Night Banquet, held last Tuesday at the fire station.

Guests of the firemen were the Chowan County commissioners and wives of the firemen.

Speaker for the occasion was Thomas Watts, district court solicitor. Entertainment was provided by the Williams Family.

A barbecue chicken dinner was served to those attending.

proximately \$29,396 were made but when the \$37,000 figure could not be reached the board decided to present the same budget of \$443,000 back to the commissioners and ask for the optional tax.

The original budget presented to the commissioners was \$476,763.64.

Other business before the board of education included a motion to let the school athletic facilities be used by the Town of Edenton for their summer recreation program.

A motion was approved to let a group of young men and the RA's of local churches use the Chowan High Ball Park to start a baseball team, and also to let a young group of men to use the Holmes athletic field to start a team, when not in use by the school or Town of Edenton.

A motion was passed to let the 25th of each month remain the teacher payday.



**Ground Broken For Housing Project** — The first spade of earth was turned at 11 A. M., Tuesday on Edenton Housing Authority's \$1.8-million low-rent public housing project. Construction contracts which total more than \$1.2-million were recently accepted. At the brief ceremony on North Oakum Street, one of four sites, are, left to right: Jack Habit, authority chairman; James Kirkpatrick of Greensboro, contractor; Mayor George Alma Byrum, L. F. Am-burn, Jr., executive director; and authority members: George W. Lewis, Rev. E. C. Alexander, and A. C. Hudson. J. Scott Harrell was not present. Construction is expected to begin later this month.

**School Board Requests Special Levy**

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will ask the Chowan County Commissioners to levy what portion of the 15-cent optional school tax is necessary to provide enough funds to maintain the present budget of approximately \$443,000.

Supt. F. L. Britt met with the commissioners last Monday and he was advised to cut the budget another \$37,000 and to put back in the fire escape at Chowan High School.

The board of education met on Thursday night and cuts adding up to ap-

**EIC Gets Funds**

Economic Improvement Council, Inc., the anti-poverty agency for the 10-county Albemarle Area, has recently received funding in the amount of \$785,813 for three programs administered from headquarters at Edenton Municipal Airport.

Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, has notified Mrs. Elizabeth L. Byrd, EIC board chairman, of approval of a federal grant of \$442,593 which enables the agency to continue administration and management for 12 months, effective June 1. To this is added a local share of \$101,001 for a total budget of \$543,594.

Roy L. Lowe, executive director, said official notification has also been received from Roy E. Batchelor, regional director of the Southeast Region of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

EIC provides technical assistance to some 65 existing community organizations, assists in the development of career programs for the poor in industry, provides planning services and information, provides programs designed to combat hunger and its consequent medical debilities, places youth in vocational training and tutorial programs, and coordinates with local, state, and federal

Continued on Page 4

**Food Stamp Violator Is Sentenced**

Arthur Privott was convicted of fraudulent misrepresentation by Judge Wilton Walker last Tuesday in Chowan County District Court.

He was fined \$57 and costs and had to pay \$55 back to the Department of Social Services for the food stamps he received.

Robert Hendrix, director of social services stated; that Privott in filing for the food stamps reported he had no income for December when in fact he had worked for Dickerson, Inc., and had netted more than \$155 for that month, which made him ineligible for stamps for January.

Privott had received food stamps off and on since 1968.

Hendrix remarked that this was the first case of its kind to be prosecuted in court.

Other cases disposed of by the court included Boyd Dudley, improper muffler, called and failed.

Edward Lee Champ, speeding 55 mph in a 45 mph zone, 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$15 fine and costs.

Ray James B. Ober, speeding 60 mph in a 45 mph zone, 30 days, suspended upon payment of a \$10 fine and costs.

Jimmy Louis Bateman, malicious damage to personal property, nol pros with leave.

Melvin Joseph Boyce, Melvin Harlet McCleese, and Albert Yelverton, failure to list taxes, nol pros.

Lagodley Richard, assault on a female, not guilty.



W. B. Gardner

Wesley Cullipher

**Cullipher Chosen For Area Position**

Wesley B. Cullipher of Elizabeth City, economic development specialist with Economic Improvement Council, Inc., has been named the first executive director of the newly funded Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission.

Cullipher has been chairman of ARPDC since it was formed several months ago. He was chosen to direct the organization over more than 100 other applicants for the post.

At a meeting of the executive committee of the 10-county organization, W. B. Gardner of Edenton was named to succeed Cullipher in the chairmanship. Gardner is town administrator in Edenton and also active in economic development.

Also, ARPDC is presently advertising for applications for three other permanent positions. A planner, a coordinator and a secretary will be employed to work with Cullipher out of a new office building in Edenton. Jack Habit is building the office on East Queen Street to lease to ARPDC.

Cullipher, a member of the Pasquotank County Board or Commissioners, is immediate past president of Albemarle Area Development Association.

John Frailey of Hunting, W. Va., an official with the planning division of the federal government's Economic Development Association, announced the selection of Cullipher for the post at last Thursday's executive committee meeting of AADA.

Cullipher called it the "greatest challenge I've ever faced" and said the new agency could be the "greatest instrument ever for the good of the region."

"By acting together," Cullipher de-

Continued on Page 4



**Support Historic Edenton** — Edenton Woman's Club has contributed \$3,000 of the profits from the biennial Pilgrimage of Historic Edenton and Countryside to Historic Edenton, Inc. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., chairman of the historic agency, receives the check from Mrs. George Alma Byrum, left, and Mrs. Allen Hornthal. Mrs. Byrum and Mrs. A. F. Downum, Jr., (not pictured) were co-chairmen of the 1971 pilgrimage. Mrs. Hornthal is club president, recently succeeding Mrs. David O. Wright (also not pictured).