

# Ex-Commissioner Employed County Tax Position Now Temporary

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## Public Parade

### Jaycees Again

Edenton Jaycees, never content to do things by the numbers, have again taken the lead in a mammoth project. They are spearheading efforts along the Public Parade to rid Edenton Bay and Chowan River of old fish net stakes.

Robert Dail said Jaycees were joined Saturday by Edenton Police Department and Wildlife Commission personnel in a roping operation. The take? How's 34 stakes, two trees, a railroad tie and two stumps for openers? And they had but five boats.

Another clean-up detail will cast off from Edenton Marina at 8 A. M., Saturday and all willing hands are welcome.

Remember, the stake you rope may be the one you would have hit.

### Doctor Looks At Abortion

Dr. N. M. Camardese of Norwalk, Ohio, has spoken out recently on abortion and what he says merits our attention.

Out of the background of his experience, Dr. Camardese asks the following questions: "What naive body of legislators, doctors or philosophers can predict the ultimate outcome and the contribution to mankind of any person, regardless of how maimed or malformed he might be? Who is to be responsible for the killing of future Beethovens or Helen Kellers?"

"Do such people think for a moment that they, like Hitler, can create a master race? Has man become God, that he dares to think he has the right to take the life of an innocent, helpless human being?"

Concludes Dr. Camardese: "What sordid laws would grant these powers! The intellectuals who propose them have lost those qualities usually found in human hearts."

The right to life is the most basic right we have, the key to all our other rights.

### The Goose And The Straw

Medicaid, hailed as the goose to lay a golden egg for the aged, may become the straw which broke through county governments' budget armor. For the General Assembly is proving that it can taketh away at a more rapid pace than it giveth.

In short, recent welfare legislation could cost Chowan Hospital upwards to \$150,000 per year. And it doesn't take a sharp pencil to figure this to be more than 40 cents on the tax rate along the Public Parade, if the hospital experiences such a gigantic deficit.

Robert Hendrix, county director of Social Services, told commissioners Monday he had been notified that effective August 1, 1971, any person with an income of more than \$115 per month could not qualify for but 10 days of Medicaid.

One county commissioner said he couldn't see where it is a problem for the county. To which Hendrix asked: "Who is going to pay the bill? These patients are the county's responsibility according to law."

Commissioner C. A. Phillips, a hospital board member, pointed out the local unit has 34 patients in extended care units on Medicaid. "This poses a serious problem to the hospital in this county," he said frankly.

It must be noted that while Chowan Hospital may not experience any tremendous loss in revenue from Medicaid patients from this county, the hospital accepts patients from surrounding counties. The county is now in the hospital business, and regardless of where the responsibility rests, if Chowan Hospital doesn't operate in the black then it is going to reflect in the tax rate.

Thomas M. Surratt, hospital administrator, said the 10-day limit on patients in the acute unit for the past fiscal year would amount to a loss of \$28,032. If the same formula is applied to the extended care units, then feed in an additional \$109,200. That is a lot of input and unfortunately, the output is the same.

The \$115 figure was apparently arrived at because that is the maximum paid by welfare indigent. The kicker is most social security checks exceed this figure, and once a person qualifies,

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**Scholarship Recipient**—Scarlet Bunch Monday night was presented the Ryland Ruritan scholarship. She is shown here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Bunch of Ryland, and L. B. Taylor, club vice president, who was pinch hitting for Eugene Jordan at this dinner meeting. The club annually gives a grant to a senior at Chowan High School who excels in scholarship and citizenship. Scarlet graduated third in her class and had a high school average of 92.53.

## By-Pass Hearing Is Slated

State Highway Commission will hold a public hearing at 2 P. M. on August 17 on the proposed design of the U. S. 17 by-pass of Edenton. The hearing will be held in the Municipal Building.

This is the second public hearing on the proposed major highway construction in Chowan County. The hearing will consist of an explanation of the proposed design, the right-of-way requirements and procedures, and relocation advisory assistance.

Notice of the hearing was posted by D. V. Patrick of Ahsokie, division engineer, and will be conducted by R. W. McGowan of Raleigh, assistant chief engineer.

State Highway Commissioner Joe Nowell of Winfall has announced earlier that the Edenton by-pass has been ap-

proved by State Highway Commission, with funds earmarked for construction.

The most recent delay in calling the right-of-way hearing was a new federal requirement for an Environmental Impact Study which has successfully been completed. Such a study was necessary because federal as well as state funds will be required.

The proposed project begins at the Chowan River bridge; thence on new location bypassing Edenton on the north and tying into existing U. S. 17 near the Chowan-Perquimans county line.

The location is the same as presented at the corridor public hearing on February 23, 1970, in Edenton.

The proposed design consists of a two-lane highway on a right-of-way for a future four lane divided highway.

Plans call for the only interchange on the by-pass to be at Highway 32, north of Edenton. The right-of-way required will be variable and the access fully controlled.

## Budget Is Settled

After slashing \$16,000 from anticipated revenue, Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Monday night adopted a \$417,270.42 budget in funds from local sources for school operations for fiscal 1971-72.

Cutting the budget by line item by \$16,000 was deferred until the August meeting, however, pending allocation of teachers by the state.

Explained Supt. F. L. Britt, "we still do not know what the state allotment teachers will be for the new year, nor in what areas. While we have something we could pin point to cut, I'd like to wait until the allotment was known."

Vote on the new budget slash and adoption of the final budget was not unanimous. Dr. Ed Bond, vice chairman, opposed the final figures and expressed the view it was "cutting short services we need." He said he thought the county commissioners were "underestimating our needs—I can't estimate

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## Guides Will Stay

Rep. Walter B. Jones has announced that waterfowl hunting on Mattamuskeet Lake Refuge in Hyde County, would continue to be administered by the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, and that the guide system which had been utilized over the years would continue to prevail during the 1971-72 hunting season.

Much concern has been expressed in recent weeks by sportsmen throughout North Carolina and the Eastern Seaboard over a possible take-over by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U. S. Department of Interior which would eliminate the guide system, he noted.

Confirmation of the hunting policy for the 1971-72 season was received by Rep. Jones on July 8 in a communication from C. Edward Carlson, regional director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Atlanta, Ga.

Dallas Jethro, Jr., Route 2, Edenton, Monday was named to a "temporary position of tax supervisor for Chowan County. Jethro, an ex-county commissioner, was appointed to fill the post vacated recently by Sherlon C. Layton.

Jethro's salary for the part-time position will be the same as Layton drew — \$2,284 annually.

Commissioner N. J. George insisted that it be made clear that it was a temporary position until such time as commissioners could complete a study of county government which could lead to "consolidation of offices or a manager." The other commissioners agreed.

Commissioner C. A. Phillips said in talking with Jethro about the position, he (Jethro) expressed the willingness to work with the county until such time as a definite plan could be achieved. "He fully understands our position, having been on this board, and I am confident he will do an excellent job for the county," Phillips stated.

Commissioners, continuing their tough policy with Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, directed Chairman J. Clarence Leary to write a letter to Chairman Eugene Jordan of the school board asking for a line item budget by schools as well as a monthly report on the financial condition of the schools, including accounts paid.

The board approved the revenue budget of the schools, subject to money coming in from various anticipated sources.

At the same time Commissioner George said Mrs. Pansy Elliott, county accountant, should work closely with Supt. Bill Britt to see that the schools have sufficient monies to keep their bills paid on time.

(Last fall it was determined that the schools were behind in payment of their bills because they were given money as taxes were paid. Commissioners have instructed the county accountant to get a monthly estimate from the superintendent of how much will be needed and the money will be advanced accordingly.)

Commissioner Phillips reported that it is estimated to cost between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to air condition historic Chowan County Courthouse. He was instructed to continue working toward

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Dallas Jethro, Jr.

## Town Law Passed

The Town of Edenton's streets and sidewalks measure has passed the General Assembly and is now law. In effect, the town no longer is required to obtain a petition to construct a street or sidewalks and the property owners are liable for the cost.

The local bill, introduced in the House of Representatives by W. T. Culpepper, Jr., of Elizabeth City at the request of Town Council, was ratified July 7.

This is the third local measure to be approved in the General Assembly specifically for Edenton and Chowan County. One law enables the county commissioners and ABC Board to jointly employ a law enforcement officer. The other calls for a referendum on a charter change which would abolish the Board of Public Works in Edenton.



Yeopim Baptist Church's Anniversary Is Sunday

## Yeopim's 200th Anniversary Sunday

Yeopim Baptist Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary Sunday. Lunch on the grounds will follow the regular 11 o'clock worship service.

Yeopim Church, now with a membership of 131, was established in 1771 and was one of the six churches that originated from the parent church, Shiloh, located in Camden County. Yeopim was also one of the first 10 churches of the old Kehukee Associa-

tion, which in later years divided and all Baptist churches east of the Chowan River became the Chowan Baptist Association, of which Yeopim is the second oldest member.

The association met with the church in the years 1808 and 1844.

It is believed that the original log church was built at the head waters of the Yeopim River (and was known as Yoppim Chapel) somewhere in the vicinity of the present Bethel Baptist Church.

In 1806 the church divided and a log church of about 20 by 25 feet was built 75 to 100 yards from the present structure. The old log church was destroyed by fire, but a new church was built on the same site soon afterwards.

The members of Yeopim Church worshipped in this building for a few years until the present church was constructed in or around the year 1843, with a membership of approximately 75. The old existing church was converted into a school house.

In 1954 the church suffered slight damage from a chimney fire and in the same year the old wood burning stove was removed and gas heat was installed. In 1959 five new Sunday School rooms were added.

Invitations have been sent to former pastors and prior members to join in the commemoration. Dick Brewer, current lay pastor, said the church is planning for an attendance of about 150.

**... All In a Row**—The photographer beat the lawnmower to this scene in the Fred Keeter yard, South Granville Street. The toadstools appear to be all lined up for inspection. To Mrs. Judy Earnhardt goes first prize for her tip about this usually artistic yard scene. It reminded her of the Land of Oz. Oh, well!

## 2 Major Projects Will Get Study

Two major projects in the Town of Edenton have surfaced and been handed to the Finance Committee for "in depth" study before council action. One is downtown beautification, the other is development of a plan for the waterfront.

Mayor George Alma Byrum said realization of both projects could be greatly speeded by federal funds. He said it is now possible to spread the town's share over a period of two and maybe three budget years, thus lessening the burden on the tax rate.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner said sidewalk construction from Queen to Water streets could cost the town as little as \$23,434, according to present estimates. This would be brick-on-sand sidewalks, curb and guttering, underground wiring and other beautification. The total cost is estimated at \$69,500, with a 50 per cent federal grant and participation by property owners cutting greatly into the cost.

At the same time, Gardner said it is estimated that it would cost the town some \$18,700 just to replace the existing sidewalks with concrete.

It was pointed out that there is no federal program for sidewalk construction alone. But with a beautification plan, it is possible to get 50-50 matching funds.

The waterfront development discussion started when representatives of Waff Brothers, Inc., appeared to object to condemnation proceedings

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