

crop disaster in albemarle worsens daily

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Rep. Walter Jones will attend a meeting in Elizabeth City at 7:30 P. M. on Monday to discuss with farmers in the First District the problems caused by the weather and the crop losses they have suffered.

Swindell Lowry, Pasquotank County extension chairman, through Rep. Jones as invited U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Cliff Hardin, Senator B. Everett Jordan, a N. C. State University Farm Management Team, officials from FHA and ASCS, and State Commissioner of Agriculture James Graham, and others. The purpose of the meeting is to see more help, other than emergency loans, can be offered to farmers to help them overcome this disaster.

All 20 counties in the district have been declared a disaster area and eligible for loans through the FHA (Farmers Home Administration). However, the interest rates this

month through the FHA is 5 per cent. This will assist farmers to continue operations by paying interest loans on this year's debt and money toward next year's operation.

All farmers and businessmen in the First District affected by the disaster should attend this meeting, according to Lowry.

Pete Thompson, Chowan County extension chairman, urges all farmers in Chowan County to attend the meeting and participate.

According to Thompson, the estimated loss figures have been presented to the group for Monday night so the area loss can be calculated.

A breakdown of the crop loss is: peanuts, \$1,316,250; soybeans, \$460,000; corn, \$192,000; livestock, \$25,000; vegetables, 90 per cent loss; and cotton, not estimated as yet.

Thompson stated on the local scene.

peanuts are still drowning in water with the weatherman reporting more rain. Also adding to the problem is the extremely high temperatures. The temperature reached in the 80's several times this week.

He stated many farmers are still trying to harvest their peanuts between the showers but he urges them to start harvesting mature soybeans as soon as possible.

Thompson remarked that while a loss damaged by the temperature and moisture. It is his hope that the farmers will keep the damaged beans separated from the undamaged ones so that the grade will be better and the damaged bean should be dried down to about 12 or 13 per cent moisture.

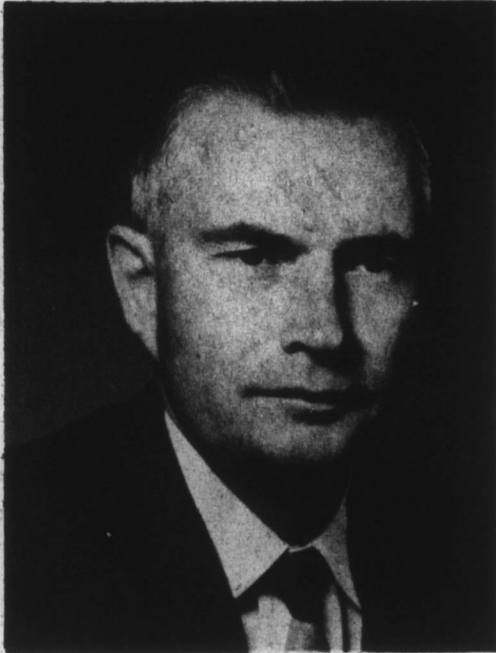
Thomson remarked that while a loss of about \$2 million on total crops is estimated at the present time, the weather is still causing more damage.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XXXVII—No. 42.

Single Copy 10 Cents

Edenton, Chowan County, North Carolina, Thursday, November 4, 1971



Dr. George Hyatt Jr.

Farm - City Week Speaker Is Chosen

Dr. George Hyatt, Jr., director of the Agricultural Extension Service of N. C. State University in Raleigh, will be keynote speaker at a Farm-City Week barbecue here November 22.

This announcement was made today by Wallace Evans, chairman, and Pete Thompson, co-chairman, of the big observance which is expected to bring some 600 people from throughout Edenton and Chowan County to National Guard Armory.

Evans said announcement of further activities during the observance will be made at a later date.

Dr. Hyatt has been at NCSU since 1952 and has served as director since 1963. He joined the university staff as head of dairy extension work and later served as professor and head of the Department of Animal Industry in the School of Agriculture. He has also served as associate director of the extension service.

FARM BUREAU TO MEET

The Chowan County Farm Bureau will hold its annual meeting at the Chowan Community Building, across from Chowan High School, on Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock.

All members and their wives are invited and urged to attend, according to C. W. Overman, president.

Guest speaker for the occasion is S. L. Lowry, Pasquotank County extension chairman.

Need For College District Is Cited

(Editor's Note: The following article was prepared by J. E. Fisher, administrative assistant at the College of the Albemarle and addresses itself to the question: "Why a Community College District?")

Stated simply, College of The Albemarle which serves the Albemarle region has outgrown the capability of Pasquotank County to carry the entire burden of the college's local operating budget. Ten years ago when the college had an enrollment of 182 students, (and when all cost indexes were one-third less than today's costs) Pasquotank could carry the load. However, with the present day enrollment of 946 students and with the cost of everything up, the picture has changed drastically.

Another strong and logical argument for all counties in the COA community college service area to pitch in and help Pasquotank is that in reality Pasquotank is no longer the so-called "home" county of the college. Forty-two per cent of the total enrollment at COA is from Pasquotank. Thirty-nine per cent of the total is from the remaining six counties of the seven county service area.

An interesting feature of these statistics is that the percentage totals of each county very closely parallel to the local budget percentage figure which

Public Parade

Color It Black

Farmers in Eastern North Carolina are presently experiencing the greatest crop disaster of this century. The latest estimate is that those who till the soil along the Public Parade will lose more than \$2-million.

Without trying to make a pun, this ain't peanuts.

And from what we have seen, Pete Thompson, Chowan extension chairman, is most conservative in his loss estimates.

Total farm income in this county was approximately \$10-million in 1970. If this amount, some \$7-million came from agriculture. This would mean, then, there will be a minimum of 40 per cent loss on the farm with maybe 40 per cent being experienced by those who deal primarily in crops.

The irony of it all is that the disaster appeared at a time when through planning and other good farming practices to increase production, etc., area farmers were on the threshold of a banner year. Produce growers had enjoyed an unusually good year. Peanuts, cotton and soybeans looked exceptionally good. Even corn, despite the blight, looked encouraging.

Then—the bubble burst. Farmers can find comfort, however, in the fact that area, district and state leaders are going to bat for them. Efforts are being made to make lower-interest loans available through Farmers Home Administration as well as to improve market conditions.

Rep. Walter Jones, Gov. Bob Scott, Commissioner Jim Graham and Thompson are doing all within their power to lessen the burden on the farmers who have been crippled by the elements.

While one must without question color the picture black, there still can be many rays of hope.

Report From Raleigh

Rep. Jay Huskins, D-Iredell, recently reported in his Down In Iredell column in the Statesville Record & Landmark on last week's adjourned session of the 1971 General Assembly. What follows is a detailed account which will be of interest to those who meander along the Public Parade.

We should report, we suppose, what the special session of the General Assembly did last week.

In a nutshell, we reorganized higher

Continued on Page 4

Chowan Hospital will continue to operate its extended care facility. This was assured Friday when the General Assembly increased the maximum payments to nursing homes under Medicaid from \$14 to \$18.50 per day.

The state will not participate in the increased payments, leaving to the in-

dividual county the responsibility for paying the non-federal share. The federal share is about 75 per cent.

The executive committee of the Chowan Hospital had announced plans to close the extended care facility, consisting of 55 beds, if there was no change in the classification placed on

Hospital Unit Aided

Medicaid Limits Increased

The Department of Social Services had put the unit in the "nursing home" class for the purpose of Medicaid payments.

Thomas M. Surratt, hospital administrator, said it cost \$17 per day to keep a patient in the ECF and 80 per cent of those confined to this facility were eligible for Medicaid. The loss to the hospital was estimated at about \$37,000 per year.

While the classification was not changed, the increase to \$18.50 per day will enable the hospital to continue to operate the unit.

However, Surratt and hospital officials have vowed to continue efforts to have the unit classified properly. They argue the ECF provides a greater level of service than a nursing home.

Chowan Hospital is licensed by the Medical Care Commission as a general hospital operating acute, extended and long-term care facilities.

Chowan is one of 14 hospital across the state operating such units under the same umbrella of comprehensive medical care. Two of the units had closed prior to Friday's action.

Chowan County commissioners met in special session at 4 P. M., on Wednesday of last week after learning of the hospital's decision. They adopted a strongly worded resolution which placed them squarely behind the hospital.

In addition to calling for proper classification of the ECF and full reimbursement costs, the commissioners said they were "deeply concerned over the possible loss of this facility and pledged that every effort would be expended to preserve it in its current operation."

Sens. George Wood and J. J. (Monk) Harrington arranged a meeting in Raleigh attended by Commissioner C. A. Phillips, Thomas Shepard, hospital president, Surratt, and L. F. Amburn, Jr.

At that time a representative of the state department repeatedly claimed no

Continued on Page 4



Judging Communities — Judging the County Community Development on Tuesday were from left, Tom Brown, Alma Hobbs, and Marice Coleman. They visited 13 communities and saw exhibits in sewing, canning goods, quilting, and others.

Hertford Road Community Winner

By Patricia M. Arnold

Area judging of the County Community Development was conducted on Tuesday and Oak Grove Community was selected the winner of the large communities and Hertford Road Community was the winner of the small communities. Thirteen communities were judged.

The judging was sponsored by the AADA (Albemarle Area Development

Association.

Working with each community in an educational manner was the EIC (Economic Improvement Council) and the Chowan County extension office.

The communities had made improvements in gardening, clothing, canning goods, toilet and electric facilities, and building improvements.

Many women at the judging exhibited the canned goods, sewing, quilt work, lamps and wall plaques they had made.

The members of the communities stated they had raised the money to make the home improvements by bake sales, talent shows, and selling dinners.

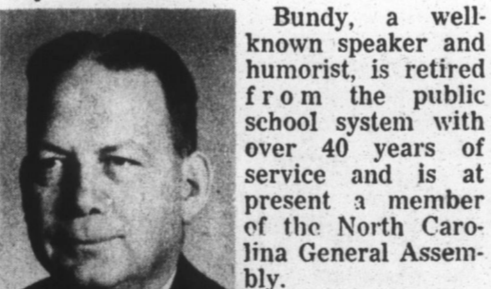
Judges for the day were Alma Hobbs and Marice Coleman with the Bertie County Extension Office, and Tom Brown, an Industrial Development Coordinator in Perquimans County.

Communities being judged were Hudson Grove, Center Hill-Cisco, White Oak, Oak Grove, Warren Grove-Green Hall, Hancock, Ryans Grove, Virginia Road, Mexico Road, Canaan Temple, St. John, Hertford Road, and West Albemarle Street Extended.

The communities complimented Earl Jones and his staff, EIC, and the other people who had worked in the community and helped them to accomplish their goals.

Bundy Will Speak

Sam D. Bundy of Farmville will be the principal speaker at the 16th Annual Northeastern Area District Supervisors' meeting to be held at the National Guard Armory in Windsor on Tuesday at 6:30 P. M.



Bundy, a well-known speaker and humorist, is retired from the public school system with over 40 years of service and is at present a member of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Business Meeting

A meeting of Edenton Historical Commission will be held at 12 noon November 13 at Edenton Restaurant. A dutch luncheon will be served.

Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., vice chairman, said this is an extremely important meeting of the commission since business includes recommended changes of the by-laws and the election of new officers.

Mrs. Earnhardt presided at the called meeting held April 23 when a nominating committee was named. Named to the committee were: Mrs. Elizabeth Mason, chairman, J. Gilliam Wood, Mrs. Edward G. Bond, Mrs. Fred B. Drane and A. L. Honeycutt.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary serves as commission secretary.

Campaign Begun

Chowan College at Murfreesboro is out to raise \$1-million in a campaign labeled "Mission Possible" to construct and equip a new science-engineering facility.

The campaign team came to Edenton last week and set into motion a local organization to be directed by Merrill Evans, Jr., and Rev. Robert Gray. The co-chairmen were named by Dr. Bruce Whitaker, college president.

E. L. Hollowell, local industrial executive and a Chowan College board member, hosted the luncheon for about a dozen community leaders who were solicited to aid in the campaign here. Dr. Whitaker and Bobby Cross director of development, told the Chowan College story.

Dr. Whitaker said when speaking

Continued on Page 4



Promote College Fund Drive—E. L. Hollowell, center, is shown with Dr. Bruce Whitaker, right, president of Chowan College, and Bobby Cross, director of development, as the college introduced "Mission Possible" in Chowan County. The college is seeking \$1-million for a science-engineering facility at Murfreesboro.