



Chowan County commissioners have taken another progressive step in streamlining county government along the Public Parade. Good judgment was shown in action last Friday to abolish the office of treasurer.

It has been evident for many years that there was a duplication of work where the county had both a treasurer and accountant. This is in no way to reflect on the people who held these positions, it is just a statement of fact.

Across the state some of the more wealthy counties have designated banks as treasurer. Now it appears that the General Assembly has recognized the fact that overlapping existed and on July 1, 1973, the offices will be combined.

There are other areas in county government where consolidation would not only result in savings of tax money but in efficiency of operation. Commissioners in this county are gradually moving in this direction and their efforts, while sometimes more deliberate than some would desire, are to be applauded.

Mitchener: Able and Available

There is this week a bright spot on the horizon of politics along the Public Parade and throughout Northeastern North Carolina. It lies in the fact that John A. Mitchener, Jr., of Edenton, is considering becoming a candidate for the General Assembly.

Mr. Mitchener, a key political figure for many years, has been more or less coasting since he declined to seek reelection as Mayor of Edenton three years ago. He has, however, never lost interest in total development of the Albemarle Area.

When the question of the possibility of him becoming a candidate was put to him, he didn't deny that he was entertaining thoughts along this line. He admitted his continued interest in the area and his desire to work in whatever capacity where he could be of the most service.



He also admitted he had been contacted by people from outside Chowan County who have expressed an interest in his possible candidacy. With the filing date less than three weeks away, he has little time to test the waters in the eight counties which make up the First House District.

Mr. Mitchener is a logical candidate. He has many valuable contacts in each of the counties in the district, having served with influential representatives of these counties on the Albemarle Planning Commission. This commission, in April, 1967, produced the most outstanding development plan ever published for such an area.

"A Region In Transition—The General Development Plan For the Albemarle Area" was developed under the guidance of Mr. Mitchener, chairman, and some of the best talent in Northeastern North Carolina. While it is far-reaching, it remains a realistic approach to area development.

This gives him rather impressive credentials as one of the finest minds we have in the area or regional concept for development.

He also enjoys pretty sterling credentials in municipal government. He bowed out in May, 1969, after five terms as mayor here and served eight years on the Town Council prior to becoming mayor. During his tenure as mayor he went up through the ranks of the prestigious N. C. League of Municipalities and served as president.

Better highways and good government.

Continued on Page 4



Speaker and Presidents—Frank White, outgoing president of the Albemarle Firemen's Association, left, chats with guest speaker for the evening, Phil Godwin, center, and newly elected president of the association, Dennis Swain. The firemen held a supper meeting at the Center Hill-Crossroads Department on Tuesday night.

Godwin Lauds Firemen

By Patricia M. Arnold

Approximately 90 firemen from 17 fire departments in the Albemarle Firemen's Association gathered at Center Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department on Tuesday night to enjoy a barbecue chicken supper and to hear Phil Godwin of Gates County speak. Also new officers of the organization were installed.

Troy E. Toppin, member of the host department, introduced the speaker.

Godwin remarked that he had to applaud the community for knowing the value of the fire department and congratulated the individual departments for the work they were doing so well. He stated he knows what a fire department means to a community because he was once a fireman himself.

Godwin commented that the purpose of firemen is to save property not law enforcement. He stated it gets under his skin when during a riot or other adversities in a town or city that people will turn on firemen because of the problems that face the citizens.

He told his audience that we as citizens need to renew our faith in democracy.

He said we should be grateful to Jefferson and others for the doctrine they made has stood the test of time. He remarked that when they were drawing up the constitution they were not confronted with things of today and the complex world.

He said he believed that everything written in the Preamble of the Constitution had been fulfilled.

Hospital Report

The cost of operating Chowan Hospital, Inc., during the past fiscal year was \$1,311,440, according to a report given at the annual meeting of the board of trustees on January 25.

In a financial report, Thomas M. Surratt, hospital administrator, said this cost figure was up from \$734,311 in 1970. The hospital's fiscal year ends September 31 and the comparison is for the first full year of operation in the new facilities.

Chowan Hospital, Inc., has a total of 115 beds in acute and extended care units. Before the new hospital was opened in mid-October, 1970, there were 55 available beds.

In further comparison, Surratt pointed out that 2,382 patients were admitted to the hospital last year while the figure for 1970 was 1,922. The hospital provided a total of 29,239 days of care in 1971, and 18,866 days of care the previous year. This is an average of 80.1 and 51.6 patients per day respectively.

The number of meals served at the hospital increased more than 100 per cent. There were 114,694 meals served.

Continued on Page 4

Treasurer's Post Will Be Abolished

The office of treasurer will be abolished in Chowan County on December 1, as the result of action taken Friday by county commissioners. The duties will be combined with those of the county accountant.

It was learned that veteran treasurer George Hoskins would not seek reelection. This is believed to have prompted the commissioners' action. Hoskins, a retired banker, has held the post for some 40 years.

Chairman C. A. Phillips told the board at the special meeting that the two offices (treasurer and accountant) would be merged by state law on July 1, 1973.

This action to abolish the office now was viewed as an "economy move" and one that "would be done by law next year anyway."

The chairman admitted there had

been some feeling that duties of the treasurer and accountant might be overlapping and that a desire to consolidate the two offices had been mentioned.

Commissioners voiced praise for the manner in which Hoskins had carried out his duties over the years.

At the meeting the commissioners passed a resolution supporting the application of Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission as the "LEAD" agency for the 10-county Albemarle Area.

Wesley Cullipher, ARPDC executive director, described such designation as coordinating programs of a regional nature through one office. He said its duty is to be sure that every county and town in the region is included if they desire and that each are treated fairly.

Kirby Given DSA; Hunt Praises Area

A young man who has proven his worth to the area and another who wants the opportunity to be of service to North Carolina were in the limelight last Thursday at a banquet given by Edenton Jaycees.

Marion Wesley Kirby, athletic director at John A. Holmes High School, received the coveted Distinguished Service Award. Jim Hunt of Wilson, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, was principal speaker.

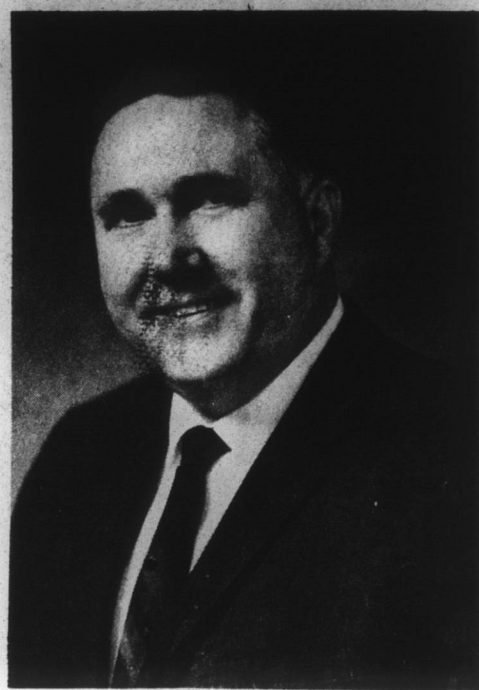
Kirby, 29, was presented the award by Mayor Pro Tem James C. Dail, a former DSA-recipient. The coach is the first school-connected recipient and the 18th to be voted the high honor.

He described his latest recognition as being like winning a championship. "From here on out you are a marked man," he stated. "From here on out you need all the folks to give a helping hand."

Coming to the land of Edenton Aces in 1965 as assistant football coach, he has moved up to head coach in football and track as well as athletic director and assistant principal. His teams have posted a football record of 51 wins, 13 losses and two ties. The Aces have won many championships under Kirby's guidance.

"But most importantly, team members

Continued on Page 4



Sen. J. J. (Monk) Harrington Seeks Re-Election

LEWISTON—A sixth term as one of two senators from the First Senatorial District in the General Assembly is being sought by J. J. (Monk) Harrington, according to an announcement made Wednesday.

Four additional counties have been added to the Senator's District making this the largest in area in the state. New counties added are Beaufort, Hyde, Tyrrell, and Dare. The 10 counties previously in the district were: Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Northampton, Washington, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, and Currituck.

In announcing his candidacy for another term, Sen. Harrington stated it has been a pleasure to serve the 10 counties in the district and he looks forward to serving the new counties which were added. He promised to continue a policy upon which he prides himself and that is trying to serve all the people of all the counties "to the best of my ability."

Continued on Page 4

Deadline Nearing

Friday is the last day to list your property for taxes without paying a 10 per cent penalty, according to Dallas Jethro, Jr., tax supervisor.

Residents are given 30 days in which to list their property with the county.

Jethro said listers experienced an extremely busy period early in the month but for the past several weeks listing has been steady but not rushed. He said for some reason property owners generally have been listing early.

"There have been no lengthy delays and we are thankful for it," Jethro said. However, he said it is evident that many people have not yet listed and he urged them to do so prior to Friday's deadline to avoid the 10 per cent penalty.



DSA Banquet Principals—Marion W. Kirby, right, recipient of the 1971 Distinguished Service Award presented by Edenton Jaycees, shares his plaque with his wife following a banquet last Thursday night. Others are, left to right, James Hunt of Wilson, keynote speaker; Mac Privott, Jaycee president, and James C. Dail, mayor pro tem, who presented the award.

Taylor Singing Popular Tune: Help One More Time

Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor didn't disappoint those who gathered in Chowan County Court House Monday afternoon to hear what he is promising Northeastern North Carolina in his bid for the gubernatorial nomination.

In typical Pat Taylor fashion he promised that if his friends down here helped him as much as they did four years ago and he is elected governor, he won't ask them to support him again for a statewide office. "Just look after me one more time," he asked.

And for those political activists who find it increasingly more difficult to drum up interest among voters as well as money to finance a campaign, this was nothing short of sweet music.

In a more serious vein, he called for a long-range planning body to provide a framework for better continuity in state programs. Taylor suggested that such a group might be composed of private citizens rather than an additional state agency.

"The General Assembly only meets every two years, and each time it is to some extent a new General Assembly. The governor only serves four years. But many of the things we need to accomplish in North Carolina cannot be completed in two years or even four years," he said.

He mentioned land use, environmental protection, public and higher education and highways as areas in which more long-range planning is needed.

Taylor said that the kind of group he envisions would have no authority to implement programs, but would work with existing agencies to develop long-range goals and step-by-step plans.

"Each General Assembly and each successive governor would have the opportunity to review these plans and possibly make changes. But at least there would be an on-going frame of reference."

"I believe this kind of long-range planning would give us a better sense of direction and a better sense of priorities, and eliminate a certain amount

of waste, both in time and money."

Taylor said there is no simple solution to the problems North Carolina faces. "Those who make rash, unreasonable promises either don't understand government or are intentionally fooling the people," he declared.

Continued on Page 4



Subject: Politics—Mayor Pro Tem James C. Dail, center, and W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., right, talk politics with Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor in front of Chowan County Court House. Taylor made his first official visit to Edenton on Monday afternoon as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor.