



Public Parade

Conger Scores Hit

"With high school-level material he's done exceedingly well."

The director-choeographer about whom this critic wrote in the Charlotte Observer earlier in the month, Joseph H. Conger, III. Conger, an Edentonian, is director of the drama department at West Charlotte High School.

"The Roar of the Greasepaint, The Smell of the Crowd" was presented by Joe's students March 2-4. And among the Urchins was the director's youngest brother, Lyn.

"And the brightly colored patchwork costumes of the Urchins—a sort of contemporary parallel to the Greek chorus—are equalled in excellence only by the originality of choreography in many of their son-an-dance sequences," the critic wrote.

And to add still another special touch to the performance was a program cover in charcoal designed by Joe's roommate, Dennis Maulden.

The good press the production enjoyed in the state's largest newspaper certainly speaks well for the young drama director.

Toward More Vibrant Community

The overworking of a few community-spirited folks along the Public Parade has reached the ridiculous stage. The time is long past for new faces to appear; for new shoulders to be put to the wheel; for responsibility to be accepted by more than a handful of faithful and true.

Whatever the drive, campaign or promotion, the sameness of leadership does not speak well for the community. There is a wealth of talent being kept under the bushel. It must be uncovered in order to spread among many what is now expected of only a few.

There is a tremendous, even acute, need for an epidemic of community service. There is a need for more citizens, black and white, young and old, to become infected with a disease whose only immunization is a feeling of self-satisfaction experienced at the successful conclusion of a project.

The story of Chowan County Chapter, American Red Cross, which has had to experience a crisis situation before getting the attention of the citizenry, is a typical case.

Just about a year ago, Carlton Jackson, chairman, announced that unless the chapter obtained some funds to pay for the processing of blood collected here, the Tidewater Bloodmobile would be-pass Edenton. Chowan Hospital would be deprived of the use of the blood center. This prompted immediate action with many new people joining ranks with a successful fund-raising drive resulting.

Now, Mr. Jackson, who has been Mr. Red Cross here for six years, put out the word that he could no longer shoulder the responsibility, and his chief aide, Murray Ashley, not physically able to assist. However, he wanted to insure that a healthy organization functioned

Continued on Page 4

County To Suffer Funds Cut Is Voted

Three counties in Northeastern North Carolina will receive more state funds for the next fiscal year while seven others will receive less in a move to better equalize the local tax burden to support the public assistance programs and the local administration of all social service programs.

Dare, Pasquotank and Washington counties will receive substantially more in fiscal 1972-73. Reductions in state funds will be experienced by Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Perquimans, Hyde,

Variety Of Events Slated For 250th

A varied program of activities associated with the 250th anniversary of the 1722 Edenton charter moved one step closer to a final format Monday at a meeting of the steering committee held at Edenton Chamber of Commerce.

While the celebration is scheduled for June 11-18, the printing of the official program deadline is imminent, according to Alton Elmore, chairman of the committee. "We are anxious, of course, to effect dissemination of our program but there are still several important details to be determined," he said, "which depends on favorable answers to requests previously made and outlined by the committee."

There was agreement reached within the committee that there should be available at a nominal charge, a worthwhile souvenir. Majority votes were registered for a metal coin noting the 250th anniversary on one side and on the opposite, a replica of the Edenton town seal.

The Chowan Herald will publish a special edition in conjunction with the event.

Those attending the steering committee session Monday night, in addition to the chairman were Mayor George Alma Byrum, Chamber President E. N. (Pete) Manning; Mrs. Beth Jethro, Jaycettes; Miss Edna Snell, BPW; Jimmy Ricks, Jr., Rotary Club; Dr. R. N. Hines, Jr., Historic Edenton, Inc.; Mrs. Allen Hornthal, Woman's Club; Bob Moore, chamber manager and J. M. Robinson, publicity.

The group will hold another meeting early next month to determine the release date of the anniversary program, and to tie-down last minute entertainment goals.

Bank Proposes Branch At Northside

Bank of North Carolina, N. A., 216 South Broad Street, has made application with the Comptroller of Currency in Washington, D. C., to establish a full-service branch in Northside Shopping Center. The proposed branch would be the 50th in the bank's statewide operation and would be located at the corner of North Broad Street and Paradise Road.

Jack Harris, vice president and in charge of the bank's Edenton operation, was unable to give a target date for opening of the branch, once it is approved.

Tyrrell and Gates counties. In Chowan the difference will be \$2,394.

The State Board of Social Services, at its meeting on March 8, adopted a new formula for distribution of the \$4.6-million appropriated by the 1971 General Assembly for this purpose for fiscal 1972-73.

The old formula was based on four factors: The average public assistance money payments per capita, the number of public assistance recipients per 100 population, the sales and use tax per capita, and the adjusted individual income per capita.

The new formula, which will apply basically to both public assistance and administration funds, is based on a ratio between the county's cost for the program and the appraised value of property at 100 per cent of valuation.

Clifton M. Craig, commissioner of Social Services, believes the new formula is much simpler than the old and that it will be a more equitable system. He stated that it brings a closer relationship between the counties' costs and their ability to pay and will better equalize the growing local tax burden in support of these programs.

Estimated total statewide expenditures for the current 1971-72 fiscal year for public assistance payments are \$131.8-million, and this is estimated to increase to \$146.1-million for 1972-73.

Total county estimated expenditures for administration of all social services programs for 1971-72 are \$25.4-million and it is estimated this will decrease to \$28 million for 1972-73.

Commissioner Craig stated that these increases in costs are being caused by a continuing increase in both the number of public assistance recipients and the average monthly payments which they are receiving. The caseload in the aid to the families with dependent children program has been increasing drastically since the latter part of 1969. Fiscal year 1967-68 had 106,727 persons receiving assistance in this category with an average monthly payment of \$25.45 per person. In January of this year, there were 167,049 with an average monthly payment of \$32.37 per person.

The State Board of Social Services, aware of the increasing financial burden on the counties with their limited tax revenue, has for the past four sessions of the General Assembly requested additional state funds for aid to county administration of social services programs. Each session has denied these increases.

Continued on Page 4



Airport Management To Change — On April 1, Ram Aviation, Inc., of Newport News, Va., will assume management of Edenton Municipal Airport. Dr. Richard Hardin, right, chairman, Edenton Airport Commission, discusses the local facility with Buck Evans of Elizabeth City, left, and Charles Fields of South Mills. Fields will manage the airport which is expected to have expanded services soon.

Ram Leases Local Airport

Fuller utilization of facilities at Edenton Municipal Airport is the aim of Ram Aviation, Inc., of Newport News, Va., who will on April 1 assume management of the old military base.

Ralph A. Miller, Ram founder, has announced that the firm's flight train-

ing, charter and other services now provided in Elizabeth City will be extended to Edenton. Buck Evans is manager of the Old Municipal Airport in Elizabeth City and will be in charge of services at Edenton Municipal Airport.

Charles Fields of South Mills, a certified airplane mechanic, will manage the Edenton facility. From 1965 to 1970, he was associated with a firm doing contract aviation management in Southeast Asia. He has experience at Norfolk Naval Air Station and with United Airlines.

Fields plans to move into a mobile home near the tower building.

Ram will establish a maintenance shop, doing 100-hour and annual inspections. Jet fuel will be available shortly after April 1.

"The lease with Ram gives us a chance to grow," said Dr. Richard Hardin, chairman of Edenton Airport Commission.

Dr. Hardin said he would like to thank all members of the commission for getting Ram to expand to Edenton, especially West W. Byrum, Jr., and W. P. (Spec) Jones. Other members of the commission are Curtis Forehand, T. B. H. Wood and Dr. James Slade.

Ram Aviation, Inc., was started in December, 1963, at Patrick Henry Air-
Continued on Page 4

Candidates Speak

Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor called for a strengthening of local government, three candidates for lieutenant governor discussed their philosophy of the office and district office-seekers made a play for votes. The occasion was a "Meet The Candidates" banquet planned by the Governmental Affairs Committee of Albemarle Area Development Association.

Those who aspire to the lieutenant governorship at Edenton Jaycee Community Building were: Mrs. Margaret Harper of Southport, Roy Sowers of Sanford and Allen Barbee of Spring Hope.

Phil Godwin of Gatesville, committee chairman, conducted the program and on hand were Sens. Monk Harrington of Lewiston and Ashley Futrell of Washington — all three of whom are seeking the two seats allotted the First Senatorial District.

First House District candidates present were John A. Mitchener, Jr., of Edenton, Vernon James of Weeksville and Stanford White of Manns Harbor. Democrats; and Mrs. Iris Etheridge of Edenton, Republican.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., AADA president,
Continued on Page 4

Retail Sales Climb

Retail sales on which the 1 per cent local option sales tax is collected amounted to \$8.3-million during February in eight of the 10 Albemarle Area counties in which the tax is levied.

This is based on a report issued by G. A. Jones, Jr., commissioner of the Department of Revenue.

Net collections by counties were: Camden, \$1,749.39; Chowan, \$11,121.74; Currituck, \$4,171.71; Dare, \$9,035.10; Pasquotank, \$36,322.39; Perquimans, \$6,318.16; Tyrrell, \$2,697.19; and Washington, \$11,827.90.

Gates and Hyde counties do not collect the special sales tax.

Newspaper Cited

"Chowanian", the student newspaper published at Chowan High School, has been awarded its seventh All-American rating by the National Scholastic Press Association at the University of Minnesota for its first semester issue of the 1971-72 term.

Mrs. Marvis Hendrix is adviser for the "Chowanian", and it is edited by Susan Jordan, editor-in-chief, and Kitty Evans, associate editor.

The "Chowanian" received Marks of Distinction for superior achievement in four of the five categories with these comments:

Content and Coverage: "You cover diverse areas to show CHS to readers."
Writing and Editing: "Your writing shows training."

Editorial Leadership: "You select vital, relevant issues and speak out loud and clear."

Physical Appearance: "This is amazingly clean and clear — few mimeos match your handsome appearance."

Surratt Takes Post; New Life Given Red Cross Chapter

Reorganization of Chowan County Chapter, American Red Cross, has begun with Thomas M. Surratt, administrator of Chowan Hospital, being named chapter chairman.

At a luncheon meeting Friday at Edenton Restaurant, Carlton Jackson, who has served as chairman for six years, proposed establishment of a board of directors and a broad-based organization which will insure not only continuation of existing services but expansion into additional areas.

Representatives of civic clubs and public agencies in the area agreed and chose Surratt to structure such an organization.

Jackson said in the past too many people have taken volunteers for grant-

ed. "They feel it will go on without anyone doing anything . . . they leave it to two or three people and it is a burden on them when it is worked in this manner," he noted.

He pointed out that the blood program alone is the most important of any undertaking in the community. He praised Edenton Jaycees for their handling of the Bloodmobile phase of the Red Cross, but noted that the local Red Cross chapter must pay approximately \$135 per visit for canteen supplies and processing of the blood. Chowan Hospital Auxiliary provides volunteers for the canteen.

"I want the people to be aware of the importance of the program, and it not only includes the blood bank but a service to military families, as well

as the responsibility for first aid training and a swimming program," he stated. The local chapter spends approximately \$20 per month in tolls for calls and telegrams aiding military families.

Surratt said the blood bank facilities at Chowan Hospital are limited and the Tidewater Red Cross facility is very important. "We are not prepared to operate our own blood bank," he asserted. "Even if we could it would be much more costly to the patient."

Each civic club will be asked to appoint a member to the new board of directors and the organization will be so structured that a new chairman will be named each year.

Plans will begin soon for a fund-raising campaign, to begin, hopefully, in mid-April.



New Boost For Red Cross—Mrs. Dianne Dail, left, and Mrs. Sue Rountree, representing Edenton Jaycettes, Friday presented a check to the Chowan County Chapter, American Red Cross. Accepting the check is Carlton Jackson. At right is Thomas M. Surratt who was named chapter chairman, succeeding Jackson who has held the post for six years.