



## People, Government In Edenton Called Unique

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.

Rain fell here Tuesday but it did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm of more than 60 participants and the impressive list of scholarly speakers at the first Edenton Symposium. Those on the interpretive walking tour in the afternoon found that like in most other areas, dark clouds result in precipitation.

Dr. H. G. Jones of Raleigh, administrator of the State Office of Archives and History, said Edenton, with its people and government cooperating, has proven historic preservation to be a profitable enterprise.

Dr. Jones, setting the tone for this unusual study of history, architecture, archaeology and furnishings, said an understanding of social and economic history can best be gained by concentrated studies such as the Edenton symposium. He called Edenton "one of North Carolina's best-preserved towns with a great heritage, both historical and architectural."

He said Edenton had what appears to be the first organization in the state whose purpose was historic preservation in its present connotation. He said the Cupola House Association, formed in 1918, was prophetic in employing an "adaptive-use" approach to preservation.

"This concept of adaptive use, has become the cornerstone of preservation philosophy in the country in the decade," he continued.

Turning to the Barker House Visitor Center-Museum, Dr. Jones said the house, in conjunction with the Green and the number of other "well-preserved—though one of the most state."

Dr. Jones praised the formation of Historic Edenton, Inc., to unify the development, operation, and maintenance of the Cupola, Iredell and Barker houses.

He noted that since the preservation movement began in Edenton, approximately \$300,000 has been contributed from non-state sources. Over the years the General Assembly has put up an additional \$160,000. "The state has exhibited a great interest in the preservation, restoration, and development of Edenton as one of North Carolina's most significant towns," he said.

Then he continued: "The commitment of time and money by the people of Edenton and Chowan County to the preservation and maintenance of these historic buildings is truly impressive. Few communities

of this size and few counties with so small a population can boast of equal accomplishments. But the preservation of five major buildings is only a small part of the picture.

"What makes Edenton a unique place, the day-to-day involvement of its people in their environment. It is the fact that people live in this historic town. Many of them are willing to forego the conveniences of modern houses for the pleasure of living in historic houses in their beautiful surroundings. It is a concentration of old buildings from many eras, not just the colonial period, that are lived in and loved by the Edentonians; that gives this town its special aura.

"In addition to individual householders, Edenton has been blessed with an enlightened city and county government. It has not suffered the ills which have visually disfigured so many towns.

"The fact that the streets have never been widened, that utility poles have often been run beneath the spreading tree limbs and that no high rise commercial building has interrupted the overall scale of the town is almost as important as the retention of so many fine buildings.

"The elected representatives of the citizens of

Edenton and Chowan County are largely responsible for this and for great financial support to the preservation effort. We owe them a great debt.

"All of the really great historic districts in our country have been achieved by the combined efforts of private citizens, local governments, and organized preservation groups. Edenton exemplifies the highest quality in all these."

Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., vice chairman of Edenton Historical Commission, chief sponsor of the two-day symposium, said local residents are but "caretakers of the heritage that belongs to you, as well as to us."

Like Dr. Jones, Mrs. Earnhardt said the community fortunate to have local government officials that have not permitted anyone to come in and blot out the old, although progress has been enjoyed in the area.

Mayor George Alma Byrum and C. A. Phillips, chairman of Chowan County commissioners, in welcoming remarks, pointed out the awareness of elected officials of their responsibility to protect and preserve the community for generations to come.

The symposium opened Monday night with a reception at the courthouse and special 18th century choral music



**PRESENTS PLAQUE**—The Edenton Historical Commission Monday unveiled a plaque in honor of Dr. Robert Lee Humber, charter chairman of the group. Left to right are: Lloyd Griffin, Mrs. Helen Stevenson, Mrs. Humber and Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr.



**SYMPOSIUM TONE-SETTER**—Dr. H. G. Jones of Raleigh, administrator with the State Office of Archives and History, set the tone for the first Edenton Symposium which opened at the Municipal Building Tuesday morning. He is shown here with Mrs. Edward G. Bond.

## FCAI Will Protect Employees At Tunis

Farmers Chemical Association, Inc., has agreed to take whatever steps necessary to prohibit further pollution of the Chowan River from its Tunis plant, even

closing the fertilizer complex within 30 days. At the same time, an official of the company said he does not expect any layoffs among the firm's 350 employees.

## Mayor Byrum Salutes Vets

Area veterans were honored Monday by a parade and brief memorial ceremony at the Confederate monument as part of the Veterans' Day observance.

FCAI and the State Division of Air and Water Resources reached agreement on steps to be taken by the firm prior to a scheduled hearing on a state requested injunction in Wake County Superior Court Tuesday.

G. Allen Burson, FCAI board chairman who last week said "environment comes first" with this firm, told a reporter Tuesday afternoon: "There is no reason for any employee to be afraid of losing his job"

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## Dedication Set

Dedication ceremonies for the 100-unit low-rent public housing project developed by Edenton Housing Authority will be held at 2 P.M., November 5, according to Chairman Jack Habit. Focal point of the ceremony will be at the community facility on Blades Street.

Habit said George W. Lewis is chairman of dedication activities, assisted by Rev. E. C. Alexander. Both are commissioners of the local authority.

Lewis said the committee is being assisted in planning the ceremony by Chowan County Agricultural Extension Service.

Other members of the authority are A. C. Hudson and J. Scott Harrell.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., executive director, said progress continues on renting the units and all units will be occupied by the date of dedication.

## Progress Noted

The Chowan Cooperative Produce Exchange showed an increase of 12 per cent in sales this year over 1971, reported Robert J. Boyce, manager of the exchange. Sales this year totaled \$77,071.

According to Boyce, sales have tripled over the past three years and he is looking to next year as one of better success than 1972.

Of the 17 items of produce sold on the exchange watermelons and cantaloupes were the highest sellers. In 1972 of the 239,216 packages sold, 70 per cent were cantaloupes and 26 per cent were watermelons with an approximate 10 per cent increase in the number of buyers.

## Public Parade

### Three In One

The ladies who sit at the door to precinct polling places along the Public Parade are as much a fixture as the voting booths. This year, however, they want their cause to take on added emphasis.

Representatives of the Chowan Hospital Auxiliary regularly sell pencils to those voting. This year, Mrs. Thomas H. Shepard, membership chairman, hopes the pencil attendants can turn in an abundance of memberships following the November 7 election.

Mrs. Shepard said citizens will have the opportunity to cast their ballots for the candidates of their choice, buy a good pencil and join one of the area's most worthwhile organizations. This is a triple-header rarely available hereabouts.

Memberships are again \$1 and the membership committee hopes the election day push will be sufficient so the usual house-to-house canvas can be avoided.

### Citations For FCAI Brass

We would like to nominate G. Allen Burson of Atlanta, Ga., for the Environment's Good Citizen Award and Donald Valverde of Harrison, Tenn., as Sap of the Year. Mr. Burson and Mrs. Valverde are board chairman and president, respectively, of Farmers Chemical Association, Inc.

Mr. Burson last week found it necessary to become spokesman for the giant fertilizer cooperative after the State of North Carolina moved to shut down FCAI's plant at Tunis to halt further pollution of the Chowan River.

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## Commission Honors Dr. Humber

Edenton Historical Commission has a new chairman and a plaque in memory of the charter chairman will be placed near the Barker House Visitor Center-Museum as the

result of action taken Monday during the semi-annual commission meeting.

Also, commission members voted to investigate the feasibility of a symphonic

pageant for Edenton during the American Revolution bicentennial in 1976.

Mrs. Helen Kramer Stevenson of Raleigh, a former resident of Edenton, was unanimously elected chairman, replacing Dr. Robert Lee Humber of Greenville, who died in 1970. Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., vice chairman, has acted as chairman until a successor could be named.

Mrs. Stevenson resided in Edenton for 18 years before moving to Raleigh.

The new chairman, here for the commission meeting and

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## Three Injured In Accident

A two-car collision on U. S. 17, five miles north of Edenton, Sunday night resulted in four injuries, one critical. The accident occurred at 6:50 o'clock, according to the report made by Highway Patrolman F. A. Worthington, investigating officer.

Edgar Harvey, 27, of Westbury, N. Y., driving a 1972

Plymouth, was headed north from Edenton with three passengers: Louis Harvey, Willie Singletary, and Jimmy Holden, all of New York when the vehicle went out of control at a reportedly high rate of speed.

The vehicle ran off the right hand side of the road, skidded back across the center line into the left-hand ditch, rebounded out of the ditch into the path of Kenneth Worrell of Edenton, who was travelling south back to town. After ramming into the 1973 Pontiac operated by Worrell, the Harvey vehicle turned over, landing in a field off of the left side of the road.

Worrell's car skidded around 180 degrees leaving the rear-end of the car facing south. The front left and right rear of the Plymouth was damaged with an estimate of \$2,000, and the damage to the right front of the Pontiac was placed at \$1,500.

Three ambulances were dispatched from the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad to carry the injured to Chowan Hospital.

Worrell, Edgar Harvey, and Willie Singletary were treated and released, but Jimmy Holden and Louis Harvey remain in the local hospital having sustained head injuries. Holden is listed as fairly comfortable; Harvey is listed as in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit.

Officer Worthington charged Edgar Harvey with driving drunk. He was released on bail.

## Ballots Ready

The period is now open for applying for civilian absentee ballots for the November 7 general election, reports Mrs. George C. Hoskins, chairman, Chowan County Board of Election. The period ends at 6 P.M. on November 1.

Mrs. Hoskins said all civilian absentee ballots must be returned to the chairman by noon November 4.

It was also noted that local ballots were printed before Rep. W. T. Culpepper, Jr., of Elizabeth City, resigned. The board did not see fit to spend the county's money to have the ballots reprinted, therefore, Rep. Culpepper's name will appear, she said. Since Stanford White of Manns Harbor is the current nominee, a vote for Rep. Culpepper will automatically be a vote for White.

Registration in Chowan County, as of October 9, totaled 4,788 in six townships. Of this number, 4,406 were Democrats and 343 Republicans. There were 2,354 registered voters in the Town of Edenton.



**MEMORIAL WREATH HONORS FALLEN VETERANS**—Gilbert Garrett, left, and J. L. Chestnutt salute fallen veterans after placing a wreath by the Confederate monument at the brief Veterans Day ceremony Monday. Included in the observance was the John A. Holmes band and a color guard. Mayor George A. Byrum delivered an address cited the valor showed by veterans of past wars and conflicts.