

Judgeship Will Change



DISCUSS ROADS—Chowan County commissioners and representatives of the State Department of Transportation's Division of Highways met last week to discuss the secondary road program here. Standing are: C. M. Evans, Earl Moore, and C. A. Phillips. Seated are: Alton G. Elmore, N. J. George, David G. Bateman, Kenneth Roberson and E. J. Butler.

Small Road Fund Allocated

Chowan County commissioners have approved the paving of Yellow Hammer Road. Chairman C. A. Phillips noted that it will have taken the entire secondary road allocation for three years to complete this project.

This county's allocation for this year is \$54,000.

Commissioners met last Wednesday afternoon with Kenneth Roberson of

Robersonville, secondary roads councilor, D. J. Butler, division engineer, Earl Moore, district engineer, to discuss the program.

While there wasn't a sufficient amount of money to generate much conversation about various projects and priorities, the commissioners were reassured that the Edenton bypass project was still on schedule. Roberson said he made the motion to approve the secondary road plan provided the Edenton bypass remained in top priority status.

"We have had a lot of conversation about the local of green tape on the map (which means go projects)," he said. "The Edenton bypass has a number one priority and it remains there."

Recently some projects "were taken down" with the funds being dumped into a central fund and redistributed statewide. Roberson said he would work to see that money allocated for each county remain in that county.

Commissioner N. J. George argued with the method of establishing priorities. He said this should remain with the county commissioners. Roberson responded that it is done at the state level according to priority sheets, a system established by the General Assembly.

"But we are getting away from the basic premise of government," George retorted.

Butler said according to the existing formula Chowan County will get about one mile per year.

Public Parade

The Big Switch

John D. Coston of Hertf retired December 31, 1973, manager of the Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. He bows out after more than 23 years with an organization which serves over 5,000 consumer-members in Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties.

It was announced last week that Edward E. Brown, Jr., a native of Martin County would succeed Mr. Coston. Mr. Brown, formerly with the state EMC trade-service association, is considered to have great potential as an administrator.

However, it is quite a challenge for a young man. Filling the shoes to John Coston will be difficult. He had total commitment, dedication and determination to provide the best possible service at the lowest cost. He was education in the school of hard knocks, but never complained about his plight, regardless of how burdensome it became.

We know of no one in the Albemarle more deserving of a few nights of uninterrupted sleep and vacation. It is hard to believe that John Coston made the big switch by turning in his hot stick and picking up a fishing pole. But it couldn't happen to a finer man.

Where Graduates Go

What happened to Edenton-Chowan School's 1973 high school graduates?

Approximately 40 per cent went on to some sort of post secondary education, below the 56 per cent state average, while another 48 per cent were gainfully employed, well above the state average of 32 per cent.

There were 209 graduates along the Public Parade last year and while the percentage of them continuing their education didn't measure up to the state average their stickability ranked second only to Tyrrell County in rural units. Of those enrolled in the Ninth Grade in 1969-70, 79.5 per cent of them graduated. In neighboring Tyrrell, 81.6 per cent of the same class received diplomas.

The enrichment program which has been inaugurated in recent years in public schools here appears to be paying handsome dividends. If you can keep the youngsters in school you stand a chance of teaching them something. And it may be that it isn't a disgrace to work with their hands instead of their heads.

Treatment Before Death

The bureau chief for the N. C. Association of Afternoon Dailies recently painted a dim picture of

Continued on Page 4



WALTER W. COHOON



WILTON WALKER, JR.

ELIZABETH CITY — Judge Walter W. Cohoon will end 41 years as an elected public official on February 1 when he steps down as Resident Superior Court Judge of the First Judicial District. He will become an emergency judge at that time.

Judge Cohoon announced Sunday that his announcement at this time would enable anyone who desires to file as a candidate for the four years remaining on his term to do so. The filing deadline for the May Primary is February 25.

Gov. Jim Holshouser would appoint an interim judge to serve until January 1, 1975.

District Court Judge Wilton Walker, Jr., of Currituck, announced Wednesday his intention to file notice as a candidate for nomination as judge of Superior Court for the First Judicial District in the Democratic Primary election to be held on May 7.

Judge Walker, who is 49, said he will file with the State Board of Elections in Raleigh today (Thursday), for the four-year unexpired term from which Judge Cohoon is resigning.

Judge Walker has served 20 years as a court official. He was a county prosecutor in Currituck County and later became a prosecutor in the District Court. He currently serves with Judge Fentress Horner of Elizabeth City in the First Judicial District Court.

The jurist is married to Margaret W. Walker. He made no formal statement about his candidacy other than a simple announcement of his intention to seek the Superior Court judgeship.

Judge Cohoon was first elected as a county prosecuting attorney, later as a district solicitor and more recently as a judge.

His statement included: "I am grateful to the people of Pasquotank County and of the First Judicial District for these honors and the confidence which they have accorded me through these many years. I trust I may further be able to serve them and my state intermittently as emergency judge."

"To the many court and county officials, employees, and law enforcement officers throughout the district with whom I have been associated and had the privilege to work with, I am grateful for the assistance and encouragement that they have so often and so generously given to me."

Board Seeks County Funds

Edenton-Chowan Schools will seek \$100,000 in revenue sharing money for the construction of a new lunchroom facility at D. F. Walker School, it was reported at the board of education meeting Monday night. Although not final yet, the system expects the expenditure to be approved by the State Board of Education in the near future.

The 5,440 square-foot lunchroom would cost an estimated \$176,000 and perhaps a bit more. Bids on construction will be opened on January 22.

Also, board members decided that mid-term and final exams will be re-emphasized in the schools. Previously they had been

designated to count one-tenth on the semester grade. With the report of the Examination Steering Committee, the board determined that they will count one-fifth of the semester average, instead.

No more than two exams will be administered per day and the time allowed for taking each exam will be left to the discretion of each school.

Continued on Page 4



SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

—Ronald Huffman, an Eastern North Carolina native and formerly of Statesville, has assumed duties as director of the Chowan County Department of Social Services. He was previously a psychiatric social worker at the Tri-County Mental Health complex in Statesville. Married and with three children, he succeeds Robert Hendrix.

Bloodmobile

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Edenton Friday and boosters hope to improve on the unusually low amount collected on the last visit. The quota is 100 points and help is solicited from all citizens.

The Bloodmobile will be at the Fellowship Hall of Edenton Baptist Church from 12 noon until 6 P.M.

On the last visit only 44 pints were collected and Joe Hollowell of Edenton Jaycees says this must be improved.

Mr. Bufflap, 56

Graveside services were held Sunday for Lance Latham Bufflap of Cayce, S. C., son of J. Edwin Bufflap of Edenton. Mr. Bufflap, 56, died suddenly Friday in Columbia, S. C.

The services were held at 2 P.M. at Beaver Hill Cemetery with Rev. E. L. Earnhardt officiating.

A native of Chester, Pa., the deceased was also the son of the late Mrs. Edna Keesey Bufflap. He was a linotype machinist.

In addition to his father, surviving is his wife, Mrs. Doris Simpson Bufflap; a daughter, Miss Elizabeth Ann Bufflap of Greensboro; and a sister, Miss Dorothy Bufflap of Elizabeth City.

He was a member of Asheboro Baptist Church.

Grampian Finishes New Boat

Grampian Marine Ltd., has introduced a new sailboat, G2-34, which was developed at the Edenton plant. T. S. Gannon, Grampian's technical and special projects manager, said it was constructed exclusively with local labor and is a credit to the skills and adaptability of the men concerned.

He noted that some of those playing vital roles in the project had never worked on a sailboat before.

The new boat meets the need for an aft cockpit version of the popular G-34, center cockpit craft, one of which has been a familiar sight at Edenton Marina and in Edenton Bay during the past year.

In order to produce a glassfiber mold, it was first necessary to build a wooden form using traditional boatbuilding methods. This was done by three men who up until this time had no previous experience in wordworking. Wayne Sawyer, Paul Sterns and Wayne Spruill, worked under the direct supervision of Gannon.

When the wooden form was completed, it was prepared and finished to a high luster, and the glassfiber mold was made by the plastics department, under the control of Henry Overton, production manager.

The interior of the boat was completed in record time by a team comprising Bill Baccus, Joe Spruill, Ernie Downing, Mel Williams and Paul Stearns, under the control of Bill Bass, works foreman.

"Grampian Marine is pleased at the effort and cooperation by the entire staff of the Edenton plant, and in the light of the present raw materials shortage due to the energy crisis, it is encouraging to find a group of employees willing to give of their best, both in enthusiasm and encouragement. It is a credit to the Town of Edenton, Chowan County and North Carolina that such employees still exist," it was noted.

Cafeteria Aid

The financially troubled cafeteria program in Edenton-Chowan Schools will be aided by a decision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to retroactively increase its payment rates to state educational agencies to help schools pay for lunches and breakfasts they have served during the past six months.

Dr. Eddie West, superintendent, said figures obtained from Mrs. Worth H. e, cafeteria supervisor, indicated the system would receive about \$3,000 to cover the period between July 1 and December 31, 1973. The increase was given as another step in implementing the new child nutrition law passed last month.

The national average payment to help defray food costs of each lunch served to participating school children was increased from eight to 10 cents. Within their average, states were authorized to vary the rate of reimbursement to individual schools up to a maximum 16 cents a lunch.

Resolution Meets Opposition

By FLYNN SURRATT

A difficulty in definitions caused a flurry of debate at the Town Council meeting Tuesday night, over the issue of a change to ward voting. Mayor Roy Harrell requested action on a resolution of intent which would then call for a public hearing on the question of the desirability of such a ballot change.

Opposition to the motion arose as several councilmen were in doubt as to what they were actually voting on.

According to Mayor Harrell, the move would only result in a public hearing on the matter. No change in the voting system would result from the motion. It would only enable a hearing to be held for the sake of listening to the opinions of private citizens.

Final judgement on the change could come either at the hearing itself or later at the next regular council meeting.

Other feelings, however, held that approving a resolution of intent would be improper as no resolution was presented. Councilmen Jesse Harrell, Errol Flynn, and James Dail stated that the general feeling of the public was satisfaction at the present system. Mayor Harrell countered the general feeling he had received was that the opposite.

Some argued that the current method of election was best because councilmen represent all

of the town not just a particular ward. Needs are administered not on the basis of wards but on a townwide basis, it was argued.

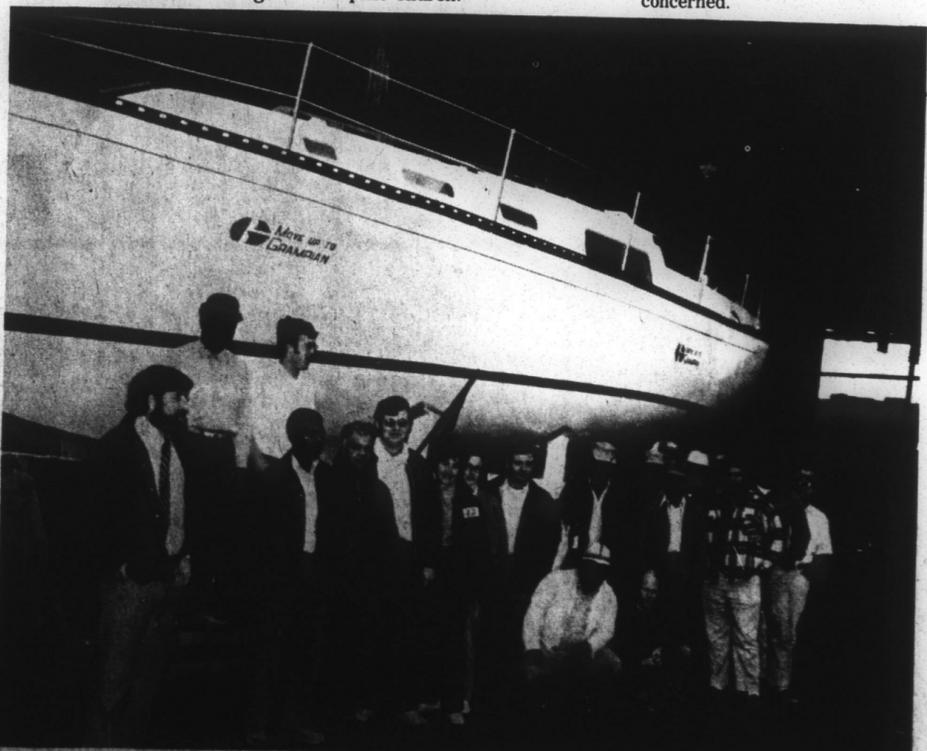
The main rebuttal stated that it is not fair for people outside of a ward to affect the outcome of the election of a representative of another ward. Each ward deserves a councilman attune to its own needs.

After debate became somewhat heated, the council moved to study the matter further and look into the resolution of intent before taking action.

Administrator W. B. Gardner reported that the cost of two new softball fields would total \$17,596 and three tennis courts would be \$13,835. Total cost of both projects would amount to \$32,431. He voiced the hope that revenue sharing money will help with the cost of the projects and that participation by the county with Edenton will further spread out the expenditure.

Edenton Police Department will no longer give parking tickets after 5 P.M. The council elected to cut the time back one half hour because of daylight savings time and the fact that many shoppers stop to run in and out of stores at the time of day only to find a red envelope on the windshield.

Mayor Harrell appointed Joseph Tillet and Councilman Flynn to the Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission.



NEW GRAMPIAN MODEL—T. S. Gannon, left, technical and special projects manager at Grampian Marine Ltd., stands with workmen who participated in the first sailboat constructed at the Edenton plant exclusively with local labor. In the plaid shirt at extreme right is Henry Overton, production manager. (Manning Photo).