

Chowan County commissioners are currently embroiled in a controversy which they had hoped to avoid. It is the selection of a site for a new courthouse and jail.

Commissioners long ago appointed a site committee headed by West W. Byrum. This committee's work was expanded when it was found that such project would require a feasibility study. The committee provided an excellent public service.

The architect chosen to conduct the study, at a cost of around \$20,000, presented a report in November, 1973, which was projected well into the future. The plan, with the courthouse and jail as a focal point, provides for development of a governmental complex.

This was called an "ultimate" plan. The \$1.6-million price tag placed on the initial phase of the project has been called "too rich" for Chowan County. But the recommendation to locate on the perimeter of Edenton has brought on the most conversation.

Commissioners have stated openly that they want to avoid condemnation. Therefore, they will be limited to unincumbered sites, which are rare in the downtown area.

A new courthouse and jail could be placed anywhere between Church Street and Edenton Bay, and a campus atmosphere would still be maintained. In the case of this county, the renovated office building is the focal point for future development and not the courthouse and jail. The office building is where the greatest numbers are employed and really where the bulk of the action is.

For years we have envisioned the development of a true governmental complex along Edenton Bay in conjunction with the Municipal Building. Integratiin of services is being brought about not out of desire but because of economics. County and municipal governments must move closer together, not further apart.

It would be pure folly now for the commissioners to start an entirely new development on the perimeter. There are other types of rural development which are more in demand.

Variety Of PJC's

Our least favored daily of general circulation in Northeastern North Carolina discovered PJC's about the same time last Fall. Head Starters were being confronted with their ABC's. And while they don't want anyone to tell them how to run their newspaper they attempt to tell judges how to run the courts.

Prayer for judgment continued (PJC) is a legitimate court entry. But an effort is being made by a particular newspaper to insinuate that judges are using it to play hanky-panky with defendants who want to retain their driving privileges.

Judge Linwood T. Peoples of Henderson recently ranked fifth in the newspaper's PJC poll. If that is any indication that he runs a loose shop at the courthouse, it was not in evidence along the Public Parade this week.

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Mrs. Britton Gets Promotion

The board of directors of Peoples Bank and Trust Company announced today the promotion of

Mrs. Marjorie W. Britton to the office of assistant vice president.

Mrs. Britton initially entered the banking profession as a part-time bookkeeper with the Bank of Edenton in 1954. Since 1966, she has been a full-time employee at PeoplesBank where she has worked in the bank's consumer Credit Department.

A 1954 graduate of John A. Holmes High School, Mrs. Britton has been active in the Baptist Church and the Edenton Jayettes, serving as treasurer and vice president of that organization. The Chowan County native is a past Sunday School vice president and has served as a judge for local elections.

Mrs. Britton is married to Linwood Earl Britton. The Brittons have three children; Julia 16, Paul, 13 and Mark 11. They reside at 925 North Broad Street in Edenton.



C. B. SMITH

Water System Now Faces Funding



HAYES PLANTATION SITS IN MAJESTIC BEAUTY ALONG EDENTON BAY

Ballot Criteria Listed

Absentee voting will be allowed in the May primary election and those who qualify can begin making application Friday. The deadline to apply is 6 P.M., May 1. The election is May 7.

Mrs. George C. Hoskins, chairman, Chowan County Board of Elections, states that any qualified voter whether in the Armed Forces or not may vote by absentee ballot if:

- 1—He expects to be absent from the county during the entire period that the polls are open on election day—6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.;
2—He is unable to be present at the voting place to vote in person on election day because of illness or other physical disability;
3—Any qualified voter who has been convicted of a misdemeanor and who is incarcerated.

A voter may write the election board for an application, may appear in person or may have a close relative request the application.

The chairman of the elections board or the executive sec-

retary are authorized to accept the ballots the voter himself seals in a container-envelope. However, ballots may be mailed to the board or returned in person if the individual does not wish to vote when he receives the ballots.

If the voter desires to take the ballots with him he must vote later in the presence of a notary public whose seal must appear on the container-envelope.

Melvin A. Byrum, 53, of Tyler,

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Staff Honored

GREENSBORO—The N. C. Agricultural Extension Service presented one of its two outstanding leader awards for 1974 to the Chowan County extension staff here Monday night.

The presentation was made by Extension Director George Hyatt, Jr., during a state conference of extension workers.

The Chowan staff was selected for their leadership in helping people and agencies of the county and region to work together on mutual goals.

The Chowan staff was the only extension unit to be recognized. Theother outstanding leader award was presented to an individual, Denver Robinson, western district extension chairman.

Members of the Chowan staff are Mrs. Gladys B. White and Mrs. Frances M. Ward, home economics agents; Judith A. Walker, assistant home economics agent; Mrs. Betty P. Dail and Mrs. Mabel B. Jordan, secretaries; Murray L. Goodwin, agricultural agent; Wayland M. Spivey, extension technician; and R. M. (Pete) Thompson, county extension chairman.

Dr. Hyatt pointed out that Chowan is located in the center of the 10-county area making up the Albemarle Area Development Association, known as State Planning Region R. He mentioned the assistance that the extension staff has given AADA and noted that "the Chowan staff has long realized the value of combining

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Mrs. Boyce's Play Plays Here

By FLYNN SURRETT
The wit and wisdom of humorist Mark Twain is currently starting a 20 school tour which included Swain Elementary School. The Carolina's Readers Theater presented "Mark the Humor in Twain" Wednesday morning to high school juniors and seniors, and they had the added pleasure of performing before the author of their production. Mrs. Sandra Boyce, drama instructor and director at Holmes High School. "Mark the Humor in Twain" was part of Mrs. Boyce's master

Hayes Enters Special Group

Hayes Plantation in Chowan County has been named a national historic landmark by the U. S. Department of Interior, it was announced today by Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District. Rep. Jones said he had been notified of the property's eligibility to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places by Sec. Rogers C. B. Morton.

It was one of 17 properties so designated and which extends to it the safeguards provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Other North Carolina property so designated was the State Capitol in Raleigh, the Market House in Fayetteville, and Playmakers Theater in Chapel Hill.

Hayes, the home of the J. Gilliam Wood family, was described thusly:

"Handsome manison built about 1801 displays unusually early touches of the Greek Revival in a blend with mature Federal design. Few mansions equal the grace of this large, white, frame house with hipped roof, tall windows and dark green blinds. Tall-columned porch, approached through avenue of trees, is tied to pedimented wings by curved colonnades."

Built by Samuel Johnson, Hayes is of major national significance, combining architecture of grace and sophistication seldom rivaled in the country.

Court Session

A criminal term of Chowan County Superior Court will convene here Monday morning with Judge Joshua S. James of Maple Hill presiding. Solicitor Herbert Small of Elizabeth City will prosecute the docket.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, court clerk, has released the calendar which lists 52 defendants. There are 26 drunk driving cases set for trial.

The calendar, as arranged by Solicitor Small, includes minor traffic violations and charges as serious as arson.

Good, clean water should begin flowing along the highways and byways of Chowan County within two years if the county is successful in obtaining \$2.6-million in grants and loans to construct a countywide system. Commissioners Monday afternoon signed a letter of intent to wupport the project which would not require county funds.

The commissioners moved ahead with a recently complete/ plan which Rivers and Associates, Inc., of Greenville, did for Chowan County Planning Board. It would be the only countywide system east of Anson County.

In order to finance the plan, the county must obtain a \$1.6-million loan from Farmers Home Administration, a \$300,000 grant from the same source and \$650,000 in grants from other state and federal sources. The loan would be repaid by the users over a 40-year period.

George W. Lewis, planning board chairman, and Melvin Howell, FHA supervisor, noted that the chances are exceptionally good that the funds can be obtained. The fact that this is a regional system rather than of smaller scope will automatically it priority status, it was stated.

The water rate included in the plan begins with a \$7 minimum for 2,000 gallons and goes up to 50 cents per thousand for over 20,000 gallons permonth. With 1,200 users it is anticipated that \$110,000 in

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New Procedure

An appointment schedule is being established for the next visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile in order to eliminate the lines and waiting time. Gary Anderson, Jaycee volunteer chairman, requests that those who plan to give blood to call 482-4461 for an appointment.

The bloodmobile will be at Edenton Baptist Church on March 22 from 12 noon until 6 P.M. The quota is 100 pints.

Anderson said appointments for the visit are being set at two minute intervals. "We hope this new procedure will speed things along," the chairman stated.

DST Break Ends Monday In Schools

Students in Edenton-Chowan Schools will trek to their classes earlier beginning Monday as an end comes to a two-month late schedule caused by the switch to



THOMAS BATEMAN

Bateman Gets Phone Post

The Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company has announced that Thomas A. Bateman, 40, was recently appointed Local Manager for the company's exchanges servicee from Edenton. The appointment was part of an overall restructuring within the company which realigned departments and is designed to make the company more responsive to the growing needs of its more than 35,000 stations, more than 6,000 of which are within Bateman's territory.

Bateman's duties will be to represnet the company to the public and to the employees, and to act as liason with the corporate offices. He will administer the company's policies and programs.

Bateman began his company career in 1953 and was, until his recent promotion, supervisor of local plant in Edenton, where he has lived since 1969. A native of Weeksville, he attended high school there, and since coming with the company has completed several courses in automatic dial exchange maintenance and repair. He served as a corporal in the U. S. Army Combat Engineers in Germany 1953-1955.

He is a member of the First Christian Church in Elizabeth City, and of the Edenton Chamber of Commerce. He is past president of the Elizabeth City Cosmopolitan Club, past president of the Elizabeth City Teener League Baseball Association, and past member of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is married to the former Jeanette Fisher of Elizabeth City and has a son, Lee, and a daughter, Trina Dianne.

Daylight Savings Time.

Dr. Eddie West, superintendent, said schools will open at 8:30 A.M. beginning next week. They will close at 3 P.M.



UNIQUELY HONORED—Mrs. Sandra Boyce, drama instructor-director at Holmes High School attended the Carolina Readers Theater production of "Mark the Humor in Twain" at Swain Elementary School, Wednesday morning. What makes that fact especially newsworthy is that Mrs. Boyce wrote the production as part of her master thesis when she attended the University of North Carolina.

She added that one of the women
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