

County's Tax Rate Is Slashed

Chowan County commissioners, holding to earlier expressions of their intention to significantly reduce taxes, Monday night gave tentative approval to a budget which carries a 70-cent tax rate for fiscal 1974-75. The current tax rate is \$1.65 per \$100 valuation. Therefore, the new rate would reflect a 25-cent reduction, or about 15 per cent overall.

Mrs. Pansy A. Elliott, finance director, presented the proposed budget to the board at a special meeting in the County Office Building. The record budget calls for expenditures of \$1,566,183.49. The proposed levy on 95 per cent of the assessed valuation would bring in \$661,647.13. The county's valuation exceeds \$99-million.

Funds from revenue sharing is set at \$190,000 and sales tax, \$135,000 with \$331,234 being budgeted from surplus.

The first district levy would remain at three cents per \$100 valuation. This is based on a rural valuation of \$60,422,810.

Edenton-Chowan Schools would receive \$538,000 for current expenses and \$50,000 in capital outlay. Another \$29,849.53 would go toward debt service. This is the entire amount requested by the board of education.

However, commissioners failed to go along at this time with a request to establish a capital reserve fund for construction of new facilities.

The local share of the Department of Social Services went from \$80,135.28 to \$97,899.40, primarily due to a 30 per cent increase in the amount budgeted for Medicaid.

The commissioners took no definite stand on salary adjustments although there was some general discussion about increases.

The budget includes \$30,000 for a new fire truck to be based at Edenton Fire Department; \$6,000 for renovations at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library; and \$14,093 for Economic Improvement Council, Inc.

A public hearing on the proposed budget will be held at 11 A.M., June 3 in Chowan County Courthouse.

Grant Given Water System

Farmers Home Administration has approved a loan and a grant under the Rural Development Program to Chowan County to build a regional water system. The \$2.6-million project would serve 1,250 county residents.

Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District announced the loan of \$1,550,000 and a grant of \$400,000.

The Chowan Herald learned from a highly reliable source that the county will definitely receive a \$250,000 grant from another federal agency. This would leave an additional \$400,000 to be obtained.

The county has already made application for funds from the N. C. Clean Water Bond Act of 1971, for assistance in financing the construction of wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection systems and water supply systems.

The FHA funds will be used for Phas I of a regional water system to include two water treatment facilities and wells, three elevated storage tanks and 700,000 feet of pipe.

The loan will be repaid in 40 years at an interest rate of 5 per cent.

It is anticipated that the county will call for a referendum on the loan which would be repaid by income from the system. The date of such a referendum has not been established.

Chowan County would be the first to develop a regional water system in North Carolina east of Anson County.



Scholarship Given

Mary Helen Dail, 20 Westover Heights, has been named winner of a \$500 educational scholarship from the N. C. 4-H Development Fund.

Miss Dail, a senior at John A. Holmes High School, is one of 12 4-H members from across North Carolina selected to share in \$6,000 of scholarship money being distributed this year by the fund.

Wayne A. Corpening, senior vice president of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company in Winston-Salem and president of the fund, says the scholarships are awarded to outstanding 4-H members for college study during the 1974-75 academic year.

The 4-H Development Fund, with headquarters at N. C. State University at Raleigh, was organized in 1958 by friends and

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Jones Calls For Unity

Rep. Walter B. Jones of Farmville made a pitch for greater party loyalty as he kicked off the annual Democratic Women's Workshop for the First Congressional District at Edenton Restaurant last Saturday.

Rep. Jones said the fact North Carolinians elected a Republican governor and to the U. S. Senate two years ago was because "too many Democrats went off and sulked." He warned against becoming "inbittered and indifferent" in the general elections.

"If we are to survive as a party we must close ranks after the May primary," he added. And because this wasn't done two years ago is why "we now have a Houser full of strange people" in leadership positions in government.

The congressman was critical of the recruitment of key personnel for state positions from other states. "Those of us who live in North Carolina, either by birth or choice, know more about our state," he said.

"It is the responsibility of the people to restore the Democrats back to power," he concluded. Rufus L. Edmisten said during the afternoon session that if there had been more women in positions of responsibility in Washington there would have been no Watergate. Edmisten is deputy chief counsel of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential

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Increased Hog Production Makes N.C. Leader

By WOODY UPCHURCH
N. C. State University

One reason North Carolina has emerged as a major pork producer in recent years and, at times, led the nation in rate of expansion, has been the rapid buildup of hog numbers in the northeastern coastal area around the Albemarle Sound.

Farmer income from hogs in the 10-county area jumped by nearly \$11-million last year alone. Since the Agricultural Committee of the Albemarle Area Development Association and the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service have been placing special emphasis on pork opportunities, beginning about 1965, income from hogs has grown from \$8-million to over \$29-million.

Large numbers of farmers have put in hog operations, either as a source of supplemental income on crops farms or as the sole farming enterprise. For some, like Carlton Perry, it has meant a complete switch and a much improved financial situation.

Perry, who farmed between 400 and 500 acres of crops with his father on mostly rented land, gave it all up four years ago and started producing feeder pigs. He says he has doubled his income.

Another Chowan County family, the George Jones', got into the hog

farrowing and feeding business when the first expansion push began in the 1960's. Currently, they're running 300 sows and investing in the future, as illustrated by the recent construction of a \$15,000-plus hog

confinement unit.

"It has been a case of an opportunity just waiting to be seized upon to help an area meet a serious need," commented Jack Parker, N. C. State University

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TALK ABOUT HOG PRODUCTION—Carlton Perry, left, with help from the N. C. Extension Service and Livestock Specialist Jack Parker, is one of many Albemarle area farmers who have turned to hogs as their No. 1 source of income.



PRINCIPALS AT WORKSHOP—Among program principals at last Saturday's workshop for Democratic Women of the First Congressional District were: Mrs. N. J. George, Rep. Walter B. Jones of Farmville, Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., and Mayor Roy L. Harrell.



MORE DEMOCRATS—Rep. Jay Huskins of Iredell County, left, is shown with Miss Susan Shearin, an Edenton native who is on the state party staff in Raleigh, and Ben Utley, state executive director.



AND MORE—Mrs. Edward G. Bond, acting chairman of the Chowan Democratic Executive Committee, and Maru Amburn, a possible Teen-Dem, listen to Rufus Edmisten of Sen. Sam Ervin's Watergate staff.



THEN MORE—Rep. Stanford White, left, and Sen.-Elect Melvin Daniels enjoy posing with Mrs. Verona Cratch of Beaufort County, district director.



EVEN MORE—Sen. J. J. (Monk) Harrington and Mrs. Chester Stevens, president of Chowan County Democratic Women, flash a victory smile.

Small Gool

We have been asked by members of the Center Hill Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department to help them express their regret for some mix-up in plates at the Anniversary Supper last Saturday.

It seems that some who produced tickets for large plates of Fire House barbecued chicken actually got small plates. This was not intended and the folks at the fire department are sorry that it happened.

They have already worked out a solution for next year. There will be only large plates.

A Real Storie

Ray Storie is among the newcomers along the Public Parade. But he is catching on fast.

For those who don't know him, he is the husband of Pat, the father of Mark and Susan, and the former owner of a nice 18 horsepower Evinrude motor. He is also rector of historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

It has been learned on good authority that Pat and Jackie Mason of Morehead City, the former Storie port-of-call, were visiting in Edenton last weekend and the amiable rector wanted to show the Carteret County lawyer some shoreline.

Ray was especially pleased with his 14-foot skiff and shiny motor. Primarily because he had just made the last payment on the power package.

The were breezing along up the Chowan River at unknown speeds when all of a sudden they were deafened by the lack of the whine of the motor. The reason? They didn't have one.

The motor had come off the boat and found a resting place somewhere in the depths of the river. They rowed to shore where "two nice ladies" allowed them to use the telephone to get more dependable transportation home.

Ray wasn't too upset about the ordeal. However, Pat lodged a complaint about having to row a motorless boat with a plastic Clorox bottle.

An Oversight

Last week we recognized six budding young poets along the Public Parade for having their works published in a publication called, "I don't need you, Rod McKuen, good-bye!" It has been called to our attention that the work of a seventh youngster was overlooked.

The 136-page anthology of poems written by public school students contains, in addition to those printed in this column last week, one by Chris Stallings, who wrote last year from Grade Six at Swain Elementary School:

A wreck sounds like somebody squeezing the life out of a bird. Tires sound like a screech owl.

A wreck sounds like the craaaaaaash blam of an explosion.

When one of your friends gets hurt you go away with stomach sorrow.

Sorry about that Chris!

The Bold Years

Chowan County has become a leader in the Albemarle Area in its search for a better life for all the citizens who reside along the Public Parade. Every attempt is being made to preserve our heritage while taking bold new steps to bring about a better balance in the economy.

The county is now on the brink of one of the boldest endeavors it has ever undertaken. We refer to a regional water system which will make available pure water to a majority of the people in all sections of the county.

The Chowan system would be the only countywide project east of Anson County. At a cost of some \$2.6-million, it would have 1,250 users.

Elsewhere in today's paper is the announcement of nearly \$2-million in a loan and grant from the Farmers Home Administration. Also, another \$250,000 is awaiting public announcement.

There are still hopes of getting \$400,000 from the Clean Water Bond fund. This would put Chowan

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