

Tighter Budget For Town Means Lower Tax Rate

Town Council gave tentative approval to the town budget for fiscal year 1974-75 totalling \$2,540,439 based on a tax rate of 64

cents from a valuation of 40,000,000. Collection ratio is expected to be 95 per cent.

Transfer of funds from Electric

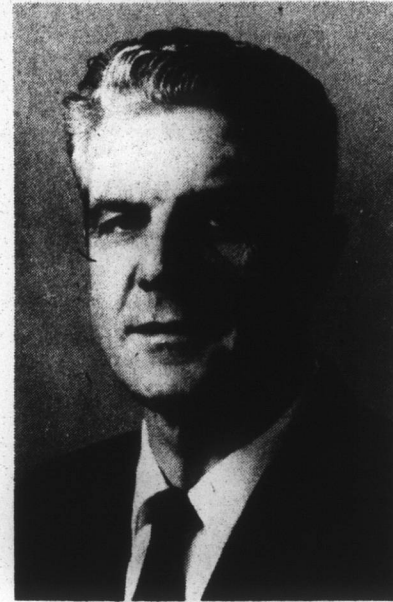
to General Fund was raised from \$92,500 to \$125,000 and another transfer from those funds to subsidize operation of water sewer funds will amount to \$53,403.

There is no increase in kilowatt hour electricity usage expected, and where fossil fuels will cost \$315,000, expected receipts will total only \$281,000, resulting in \$31,500 less to the town. Concerning electricity, though, the town will face a VEPCO rate increase of 20 per cent in January.

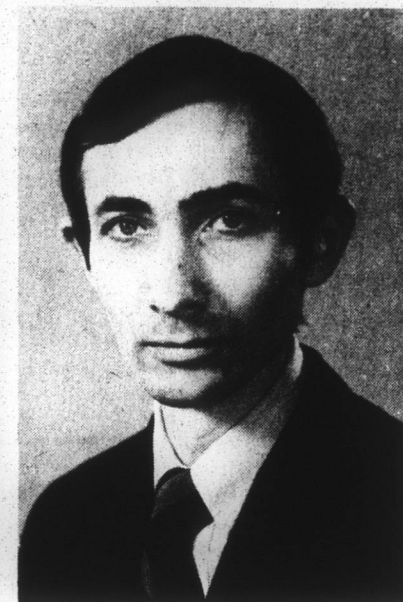
The lowered tax rate is the result of a tighter budget with many items deleted such as T.V. sewer inspection, capital expense requests, which will be put in revenue sharing, midget league football, and the elimination of one position in the recreation department.

Funds in the budget shape up like this: General Fund, \$684,639; Electric, \$1,327,425; Water, \$271,153; Revenue Sharing, \$257,222.

There will be no increase in personnel.



O. C. ABBOTT



GRAFTON BEAMAN

Polls Open Again Tuesday

There are several other contests to be decided in other counties in the district but the only questions for Chowan County voters will be the Abbott-Beaman contest.

The polls will open at 6:30 A.M. and close at 7:30 P.M. Everyone eligible to vote in the first primary is eligible to vote Tuesday. The second primary is considered a continuation of the first primary. Absentee applications can be taken now with ballots being returned to the Chowan County Board of Elections by 6 P.M. Monday.

Voters in the First Judicial District will go to the polls Tuesday to nominate a District Court Judge in a second Democratic primary between O. C. Abbott and Grafton Beaman, both residents of Camden County who practice law in Elizabeth City.

Abbott led the ticket in a three-man race for one of two seats on the bench in the May 7 election. Beaman, who carried Chowan County, placed second and immediately called for a run-off. Buxton Small was third.

Commencement Exercises Set

The closing of the 1973-74 academic year at John A. Holmes High will see diplomas awarded to 141 graduating seniors. The commencement exercise, which will be held on Hicks Field, is scheduled for June 3 at 7:00 P.M.

Speakers for the occasion will be Sandra Hylton, valedictorian; Mary Helen Dail, salutatorian; and Elizabeth Harrell, third ranking student. The speakers will address the audience on the theme "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow". Other seniors to appear on the platform are Jean Byrum, Nancy Travis, Wendy Crandall, and Brenda Boyce.

Sandra Hylton, the valedictorian, is the daughter of Mrs. Frances Hylton of Edenton and Mr. Joel Hylton, Sr. of West River, Maryland. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Varsity Cheerleaders, Annual Staff, Cape Colony Girls' Club, Class Day Committee, and she serves as secretary of the senior class.

As a junior, Miss Hylton served as class officer and was an Honor Marshall for the class of 1973. She plans to attend Berea College in Kentucky or College of the Albemarle. Mary Helen Dail, salutatorian, Continued on Page 4

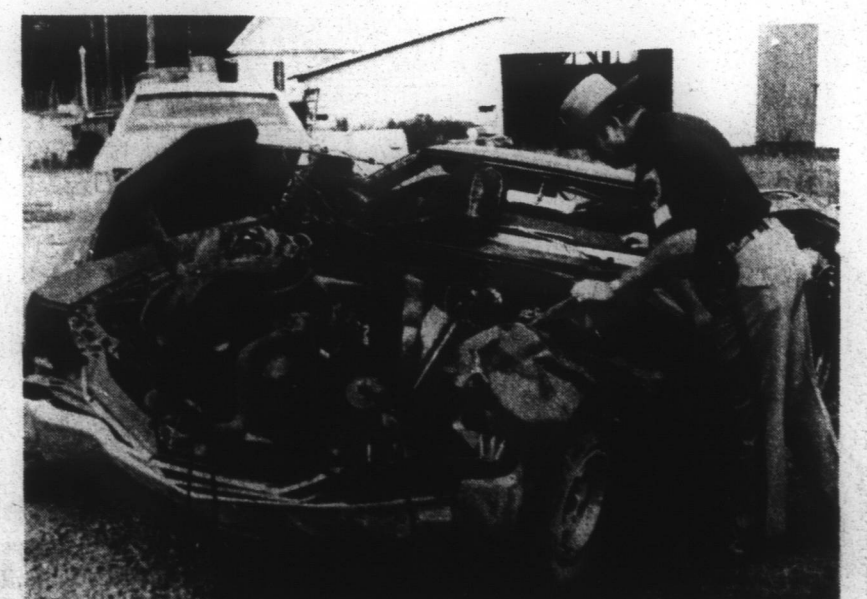
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VEHICLE DEMOLISHED—Deputy Sheriff Joseph Byrum inspects one of four vehicles involved in a wreck early Sunday morning on Highway 32 near Ballards Bridge Baptist Church. This car overturned when the driver attempted to miss a deer and was struck by an oncoming car after the motorist had crawled to safety.

Where Confidence Helps

While neighboring counties, and in fact those throughout Tar Heelia, fuss, fume, create new wounds and open old ones about budgets for public education, we along the Public Parade rest comfortably with a board of education which presents a realistic budget and county commissioners, who recognize this fact.

Instead of operating under the assumption that there is bound to be a certain percentage of "fat" in the school budget, the Chowan County commissioners respect their elected colleagues and operate under the fair assumption that they too operate in the public's interest.

A tentative county budget now open for public inspection includes every cent the board of education requested. However, the commissioners did not feel at this time compelled to establish a capital reserve fund for new school construction, which was requested.

Elsewhere in today's paper is a story about student enrolment this year as compared to last year. In Edenton-Chowan Schools the percentage of loss was less than the state average. But more significant is the fact that the number of professionals on the payroll decreased while in the state it increased although there were fewer students.

The average student-teacher ratio in state policy is 31-1. On this basis to chop off 15 professionals when you lose 121 students means you are economizing at the rate of nearly four times the state norm. This in itself proves that our school officials have the taxpayers at heart when adopting programs.

Also, it is interesting to note that of the professionals on the local staff 96.4 per cent receive local supplements and only 65.2 per cent throughout the state received such financial aid. This, then proves that those who do a good job are rewarded; or after all, it is just good business to work in the local unit.

Edenton-Chowan Schools do, in fact, get the lion's share of the local tax levy. There is some comfort, then, in knowing that they don't take the taxpayers for granted. The officials may be looking in the same direction but it is obvious they have one eye on the child and the other on the pocketbook.

This results in confidence game that works.

Growing Old?

We, we shored up our courage and went down to the Outer Banks over the weekend with one wife, a daughter, two friends and and 12 other Teenagers from Edenton United Methodist Church.

We knew there would be surprises on the co-ed junket. A known fact was that Bob and Laura Hutchinson would be Continued on Page 4



Standard Printing Co., ex 220-230 S. First St.—40302

ABOUT TO BE FENCED IN—John W. White stands in front of his home on Paradise Road which is about to be cut off from access by a fence being erected by the Department of Transportation. White's hand rests on a fence line stake about 30 feet from his home.

White Fenced In By Bypass

"Don't Fence Me In" is a favorite tune from the early 50's which pretty well describes the feelings of a senior citizen on Paradise Road who is about to be wrapped up by the Department of Transportation.

John W. White, 75-year-old Negro, sold his house and a portion of his property to the state for the

US 17 by-pass which is now under construction. He was paid \$7,250 for the property, given an additional \$105 to assist in moving the house and \$300 to clean up the yard.

He claims that during all the negotiations he was assured by W. D. Ferguson, right-of-way agent for DOT, that a right-of-way to Paradise Road would be obtained.

White accepted the offer and the assurance of a means to get into and out of his new location. He spent \$1,800 to get the house moved.

Recently workmen began to survey the line on which to erect a fence and when they drove the stake within 30 feet of White's newly located house he became concerned.

"How am I going to get out?" he asked. They got out the plans and there was no notation on them that White had a way out.

People who own property across the back won't give him a right-of-way and those between him and Paradise Road to the south won't either. So, as he puts it quite candidly, "Here I am right on top of the road and can't get to it."

"All I want is a way out," he continues. "I can't stay in here."

Aviation Club

Efforts are now underway to reactivate the Edenton Aviation Flying Club, according to Carlton Jackson, president.

Jackson reports that the club now has 10 members and recently held a member-guest event at Edenton Municipal Airport.

The club owns a Cessna 150 and Nelson Crandall is available for flight instruction.

Anyone interested in flying or being a member of Edenton Aviation Flying Club should contact Jackson at Jackson Radio & TV on East Eden Street.

Found Dead In Jail Cell

A 19-year-old Negro inmate in Chowan County Jail was found hanging by his belt Tuesday afternoon. His death was ruled a suicide.

William Lee Bond, 19, 105 West Gale Circle, had been in custody since May 17 when he was picked up for probation violation. It was discovered that he had been absent without leave from Ft. Jackson, S. C., since January 28.

SBI Agent Lenny Wise of Elizabeth City, who is heading an investigation along with Bill Godley, said Bond left a note that he was going to kill himself because he was dispondent over being rejected by the mother of his son.

Bob Roberson, state probation officer, told investigators he had taken the victim by the residence of the woman Monday and they refused to let him see his child. Roberson said Bond was taken to Perquimans County Monday in order to have an attorney appointed for him. He was to have been returned Wednesday for a hearing in Superior Court.

Bond was put on probation after his conviction on three counts in Chowan County Superior Court last September. The charges grew out of demonstrations in Edenton during the summer. He later Continued on Page 4



ALBEMARLE SERVICES—Albemarle Speech & Hearing Centers now has a mobile unit for speech work in the 18-county area. David McGraw, center, speech pathologist and center director, is shown here in front of the \$13,500 unit with Harold McKinney, left, and James Lewis. Lewis is executive director of Albemarle Human Resources Development System and McKinney is his assistant. The unit, purchased in cooperation with Regional Medical Program, is capable of testing the hearing of a child and at about one-fifth the cost of any other service in Eastern North Carolina. The unit will be used at Albemarle City and at Chowan Hospital in Edenton.

Bloodmobile Visit

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Edenton Monday and the quota has been increased to 125 pints, according to Gary Anderson, Jaycee volunteer chairman.

The bloodmobile will be in the fellowship hall of Edenton Baptist Church from 12 noon until 6 P.M. It is important that the quota be met because of the amount of blood being used by Chowan County residents, Anderson said.

People who desire to make an appointment to donate blood can do so by calling Anderson at 482-4461.