

# Aces Show Big Potential

BY FLYNN SURRETT  
Northeastern 3-A conference football action should see the Edenton Aces as frontrunners with a squad that looks about the same as last year. Only six starters were lost through graduation.

Head Coach Jimmy Addison coached the Aces to a 9-1 winning season, last year. It was his first season with the team.

The 1974 squad is heftier, averaging from 195 to 200 lbs. on

the line; and this will be an asset as the offensive backfield is considered a bit slower than the previous season.

Gerald Hall is the veteran quarterback, returning from two years as signal caller. David Norris returns as fullback. Willie Holley will be in the tailback spot. Jimmy Fleetwood will operate from the slotback position.

Coming from the Jayvees as back-up for Holley is Wesley Riddick. He is expected to make a

strong contribution in his debut in varsity competition. As is the case with the defensive squad, the offensive team notes three personnel changes from 1973.

Coach Addison expects good tidings from a strong defense. Three big front men, William Hassell at middle guard, Ralph Garrett at tackle, and Zach Valentine at defensive end, will lead the "headhunters".

In a preseason scrimmage

Continued on Page 4



The 1974 Edenton Aces Football Squad and coaching staff.

## Leave Patrol Alone

A report that the State Highway Patrol Office in Elizabeth City is soon to be closed and operations moved to Williamston should not be well received along the Public Parade and throughout Northeastern North Carolina.

Not only will it inconvenience the citizens who must do business with the patrol, Sheriff Troy Toppin says it will hurt law enforcement. And at a time when rising crime is a threat to society certainly isn't the time to throwing road blocks in the law enforcement.

The move could also prove costly for the citizens of the region. Emergencies, etc., can now be reported to Elizabeth City toll free. Having to call long distance to Williamston might keep some people from bothering with aiding law enforcement.

A few years ago Chowan County was moved from the Elizabeth City District to the Ahoskie District. This was short lived because it wasn't practical and the patrol hierarchy recognized it.

We support consolidation of offices, stations, etc., so long as it does not affect the quality of services to the people. The monetary savings by closing the Elizabeth City office just won't hold up when compared with the cost to the citizens and the threat to efficient law enforcement.

## An Important Month

September may be one of the most important months in recent history along the Public Parade. For on September 28 registered voters will have the opportunity to approve a \$1.9-million bond referendum to provide a county-wide water system.

Already more than \$1.3-million has been secured in grants from state and federal sources. Farmers Home Administration has approved a loan of \$1.5-million to be paid over a 40 year period at 5 per cent interest.

The beauty about the entire program is that the indebtedness will be repaid by the users. Already a sufficient number of users have expressed an interest to make the project feasible.

The Chowan County Planning Board, working with Rivers & Associates of Greenville, has secured sites for the wells and treatment plants. Options are being secured for the storage tank sites.

Engineers have studied maps showing the locations of interested users and are well along toward completion of the system layout. All of this means that when the referendum is approved bids can be secured quicker, therefore, hedging on inflation.

While the system will be built to serve rural residents and the vote is county-wide, including Edenton, the risk of it costing the taxpayers anything is practically all. In return for any gamble the system is designed to interconnect with Edenton's. Had Wilson County had such an arrangement the City of Wilson would not have been required to go all the way to Rocky Mount for water when their well dried up.

The need for a county-wide water system has been well established. If this was not so hardly would the project receive \$1.3-million in grants. The user interest has also been equally as well documented which makes the project financially feasible.

While all the questions have not been answered, the major ones

Continued on Page 4

Volume XL—No. 36.

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, September 5, 1974.

Single Copies 10 Cents.

# Gross Sales Exceed \$29-Million

The rate of increase in gross retail sales in Chowan County during the past fiscal year more than doubled the amount for the previous year as sales exceeded \$29-million.

## Railroad Concept Questioned

Norfolk Southern Railway plans to file an application with the N. C. Utilities Commission to establish a mobile agency concept in Northeastern North Carolina which close four agencies.

Under a notice of the plan made

## Trio Caught

Three Pasquotank County residents are being held in Chowan County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond after being apprehended early Friday morning on charges of breaking and entering and larceny.

Arrested at Byrum's Service Center were: Robert Allen Saunders, 25, Route 5, Elizabeth City; Mike Morgan, 17, Route 3, Elizabeth City; and Thomas Walker Speight, 21, Route 3, Elizabeth City.

Sheriff Troy Toppin said Saunders and Morgan were arrested after a short chase about 2 A.M., and Speight was arrested in the weeds behind the store at 4 A.M. after bloodhounds had been brought to the scene from Jackson.

Sheriff Toppin and other officers surprised the trio as they were loading beer and cheese onto a 1974 Ford pickup truck. The officer said he and SBI Agent Bill Godley saw one of the men cut the padlocks on two refrigerator storage units back of the store.

He said Deputies Joe Byrum and Melvin Evans, State Trooper B.F. Chappell and Probation Officer Robert Hendrix were staked out at other locations and upon signal closed in to assist in the arrests.

Sheriff Toppin said the establishment, located some 15 miles north of Edenton on Highway 32, had been under close surveillance since 46 cases of beer were stolen the night of August 15.

## Morris At Post

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc., met on August 29 and accepted the resignation of Wilbur G. Pierce as executive director. Pierce had been executive director since 1972.

Fentress T. Morris, former assistant director, was appointed to fill the Executive director's position.

The notice of a \$87,000 grant effective July 1 was approved to enable the agency to continue the administration and services currently provided by its program for a three-month period.

The board also was presented an Emergency Foods Program Report.

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc. was awarded two grants totaling \$40,000 for a period of four months, June 1-September 30, for the purpose of increasing community, local, and state participation in on-going food programs and to increase food resources which will aid in the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition which exists among the poor in Region "R". Major activities were set up to accomplish this objective.

The State Department of Revenue reported sales in 1972-73 at \$26.1-million or \$1.4-million above the previous year. Sales last year were \$2.8-million over 1972-73.

This week, the agencies in Camden, Edenton, Hertford and Shawboro would be closed. Agency service would be provided from a station wagon or other motor vehicle. There would no longer be an agent of the railroad on duty in the stations. The building at the agency stations would not be open to the public.

Albert C. Everson, agency manager in Edenton, said he has a full day's work and he does not know exactly how the new concept will work.

Everson said he is available to assist consignees when problems arise as well as personally check out reports of damaged freight. "It helps to have someone available at the agency," he continued.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox called the proposal "a step in the wrong direction" and one which would effect the economy of the region.

"We're looking into it," stated W. P. (Spec) Jones, co-chairman of the Industrial Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Industrial Committee of the 10-county Albemarle Area Development Association.

## Band Program

Chris Strothers is striking up the band at John A. Holmes High School with band also being offered to students in certain grade levels throughout Edenton-Chowan Schools.

Strothers, the new band instructor in the system, has announced that a meeting of band students will be held Saturday to discuss the rental of band instruments. The time is 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. in the band room at Holmes High.

A representative of Burrage Music Company of Raleigh will be on hand. Parents are asked to accompany students interested in taking band to this meeting, and are also requested to bring any instrument, if one is owned.

The rental possibilities are to be discussed for those who desire to take band but do not own an instrument.

State-wide, gross retail sales were \$18.5-billion, up from \$16.4-billion the previous year.

Currituck County continued to show great strides in retail sales, reaching \$25.6-million, up from \$17.2-million in fiscal 1972-73.

Figures for other counties in the Albemarle Area show:

Camden, \$4,775,769; Gates, \$12,458,330; Hyde, \$8,890,399; Pasquotank, \$92,325,828; Perquimans, \$19,998,987; Tyrrell, \$7,130,719; and Washington,

\$36,828,711.

In Chowan County, the sale of automobiles and food account for nearly one-half the entire retail total. In both categories there was an increase of about \$600,000 during the year; autos reaching \$5.3-million and food, \$7.7-million.

Apparel showed a modest \$21,000 increase over 1972-73, and furniture \$34,000.

The following breakdown shows where the money went in Chowan County:

CHOWAN COUNTY	Gross Collections	Gross Retail Sales
1% Retail Sales	\$ 26,913.80	\$ 2,774,490
2% Auto, Planes & Boats	51,660.84	2,656,580
Apparel	14,440.82	497,128
Automotive	56,312.04	5,319,669
Food	217,440.41	7,723,885
Furniture	29,793.80	1,129,934
General Merchandise	111,218.67	4,577,424
Building Materials	16,007.26	1,268,519
Unclassified Group	54,994.76	3,081,239
Use Tax - 1% & 3%	17,019.11	
Licenses - Wholesale & Reg.	390.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 596,191.51</b>	<b>\$ 29,028,868</b>

## Pilot Day Care Program Set

The teacherage at Chowan High School will be renovated to provide facilities for a pilot child day care center to be developed by Albemarle Human Resources Development System.

Edenton-Chowan Schools will provide the facilities and following the demonstration phase it is anticipated that similar centers could be opened throughout the 10-county Albemarle Area.

The project was recommended the board by the Programs Evaluation Committee at the quarterly meeting Thursday night at Angler's Cove. Bill Miller of Hyde County, committee chairman, said the committee realized the need for such a program and hoped that it would be so successful that it could be expanded throughout the region.

Dr. Eddie West, superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools, said screening has already resulted in more students than had been anticipated. He assured the board that the pilot program would involve many existing agencies in the area and will be a learning experience rather than babysitting.

James E. Lewis, AHRDS executive director, reported that contracts have been signed with a consulting firm to do the Integration of Services Feasibility Study, and that a transportation proposal was nearing completion

and will be sent to proper authorities.

W. B. Gardner, chairman, Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission, discussed the agreement which has been reached between the commission and the system relative to the program operations. He said the commission enjoys close ties with the system and wants to continue as in the past.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., chairman of the budget and finance committee, presided in the absence of Thomas M. Surratt, chairman.

## Student Population

There were 2,564 students enrolled in Edenton-Chowan Schools on opening day, August 28, according to figures released by Supt. Eddie West.

The breakdown by schools showed: Chowan, 478; Holmes, 628; Swain, 407; Walker, 824; and White Oak, 227.

## Creek Project Begins November

The Wilmington District Corps of Engineers proposes to perform dredging in Pembroke Creek starting November, according to Col. Homer Johnstone, district engineer.

The dredging will include a new channel eight-feet deep and 80 feet wide and 1,800 feet long beginning at the western end of the Edenton



WILBUR G. PIERCE

## Pierce Joins School System

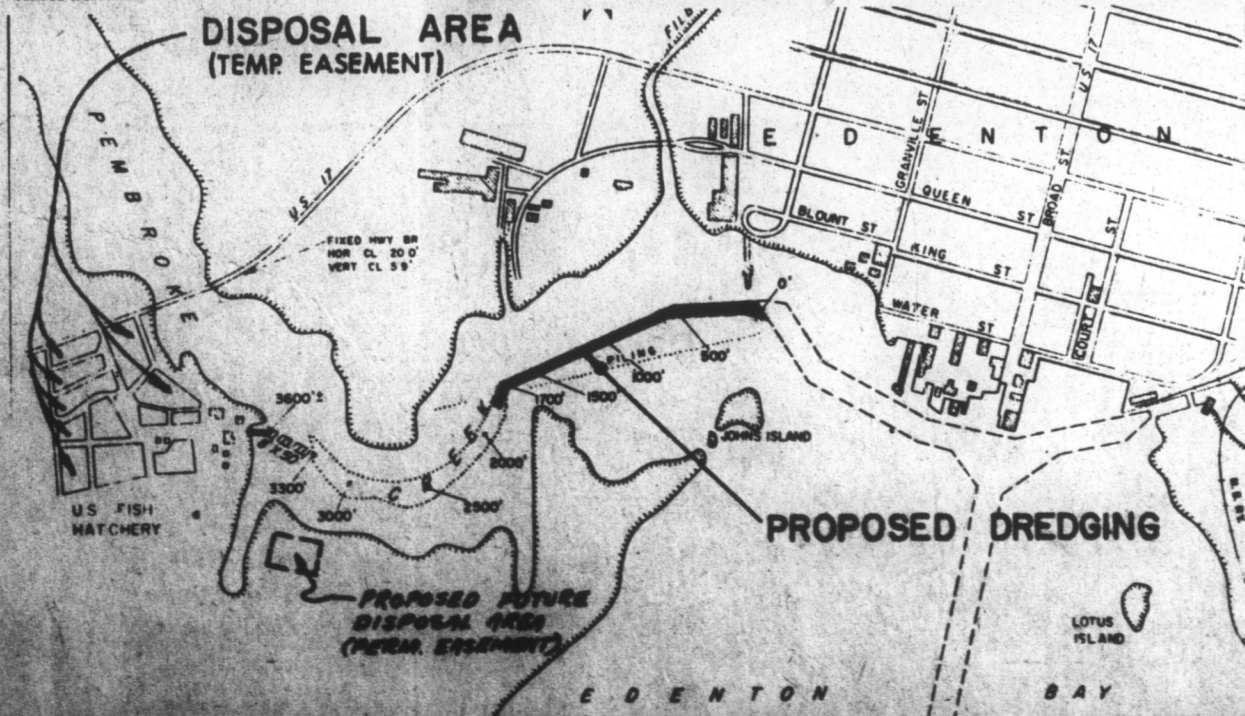
Wilbur Pierce joined the staff of Edenton-Chowan Schools this week as director of the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA) programs, which are being implemented in the schools throughout the county this year.

As director, Pierce will coordinate these programs, develop additional new federal programs and serve as liaison between school and community groups as they become involved, according to Dr. Eddie West, superintendent.

ESAA, a federally funded project, involves many programs, of which the pilot and basic programs are the largest. One of the major goals of ESAA is the improvement of student basic reading and communication skills in elementary and secondary schools.

One of the pilot programs will involve working with students having learning disabilities at Walker and Swain Schools. The basic program, which is geared to improve reading, will include mini-courses at Holmes, expansion of the reading accountability program from

Continued on Page 4



PEMBROKE CREEK PROJECT—The U. S. Corps of Engineers is planning for work to begin on the Pembroke Creek project between November 1 and December 1. This map shows the proposed dredging area as well as sites of disposal of the material removed from the channel.