

Chowan County commissioners Monday afforded us probably the greatest honor we have ever received as well as one of our greatest challenges. In naming this writer as the Chowan representative on the Coastal Resources Advisory Council they passed a torch hotter than anything we have ever encountered.

The Coastal Management Act of 1974 actually was conceived several years ago when ecologists had the foresight to see that the absence of land-use planning was doing tremendous damage to the last frontier of Tar Heel--Eastern North Carolina.

By the time they got around to presenting proposed legislation to the 1974 General Assembly they had drafted a bill which scared the elected officials into action. Those who had avoided responsibility for land-use planning on their own immediately began calling for more local control in the bill.

With the aid of Sens. J. J. (Monk) Harrington and Phil Godwin and Reps. Vernon James and Stanford White, the bill was modified--not watered down--to allow more local input. In so many words, the liberals had gotten the attention of the local elected officials.

The bill calls for the 15-member commission and a 47 member advisory council. Seven of the commissioners are from Northeastern North Carolina. They have already expressed a desire to rely heavily on the advisory council which will have representation from each of the 20 counties affected as well as the four regional organizations, etc.

What was first considered a nightmare has now been turned into an opportunity for people affected to become involved to the extent of seeing that it works to the advantage of the area.

There has been a blending of local, regional and state authority. And if that doesn't beat federal control there ain't mosquitoes in the Albemarle.

Finally Watergate

Up until this time we have systematically refused to be drawn into wallowing in Watergate along the Public Parade. We have been of the opinion that the metropolitan media--radio, TV and news--was doing an adequate job of keeping the public confused.

At the same time we have allowed Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, and Sens. Sam J. Ervin, Jr. and Jesse Helms, their editorial privilege to comment on the events in Washington in their individual columns.

However, President's Ford's bombshell of Sunday is just too much to let go unnoticed.

When President Ford went before the American people for his first major address after accepting the most lofty office in the nation, we stayed glued to the boob tube in awe of his every word. Be he Democrat or Republican his dialogue with his constituency showed real sounds of sincerity not witnessed since the days of President Harry Truman.

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Council Supports Bond Issue



J. C. KNOWLES

Chamber Event Set Thursday

The annual membership banquet of Edenton Chamber of Commerce will be held next Thursday night at Chowan Golf & Country Club. In addition to new officers being installed, the Senior Citizens Award will be presented. James C. (Pete) Dail, president, has named Jack Harris and Wallace Evans co-chairmen for the event which will have J. C. Knowles of Raleigh as guest speaker.

A social hour will begin at 6:30 P.M. This is being sponsored by Bank of North Carolina, N. A., Peoples Bank & Trust Company and Edenton Savings & Loan.

Knowles will keynote the banquet which begins at 7:30 o'clock. The speaker heads his own appraisal service, is a free lance writer and lecturer on antiques and is president and founder of Historical Raleigh, Inc.

He is a popular after dinner speaker, and serves on the Raleigh Board of Education.

Ticket for the banquet, priced at \$6 each, are on sale at the financial institutions, Mitchener's Pharmacy and Hollowell's Drug Store.

Closing Of SHP Facility Hit

Chowan County commissioners Monday morning passed a resolution in opposition to the closing of the Highway Patrol Station in Elizabeth City, delayed action of a stand regarding the closing of the railroad agency in Edenton, and moved toward a building inspection program.

At the regular meeting, the board also named L. F. Amburn, Jr., president and general manager of The Chowan Herald, Inc., as Chowan representative on the Coastal Resources Advisory Council. At the request of Sheriff Troy Toppin, commissioners joined in supporting a claim by area law enforcement officers that transferring the Elizabeth City office of the State Highway Patrol to Williamston would hamper effective law enforcement in Northeastern North Carolina.

"We have a minimum staff for law enforcement," said Chairman C. A. Phillips, "and we don't need to do anything that will hamper them."

The sheriff said two deputies

Edenton Council has endorsed the \$1.9-million road program and Mayor Roy L. Harrell offered whatever assistance he could give toward a favorable vote on the bond issue at the regular council meeting Monday night at the Municipal Building, Councilman Jesse Harrell said it is no question but what such a system is needed in the county and this is "the only way they are ever going to get it."

Harrell, echoing what Chowan County commissioners have stated previously, said the county officials must rely on their engineering firm for information which establishes the feasibility of the project which will be paid for by the users.

"I hardly see how we could vote against it," said the councilman who has been the council's liaison with the county planning board. Councilman Herbert Hollowell said it is the most progressive action of any county in this area and deserved council support.

It would be of great benefit to the town in the future, according to W. B. Gardner, town administrator. He said one of the most expensive projects required after annexing an area is establishing the water system. "If this is already done for us when we are forced to annex certain areas then it will be a definite advantage to the town," he added.

Commissioners Alton G. Elmore and N. J. George presented the request for a resolution of support along with Pete Thompson, county extension chairman. Also at the meeting was Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator.

Gardner reported that the Department of Administration, following a complaint from the council, has revised the town's population figure from 4,880 to 5,960. He said this will be a tremendous help when funds are passed out.

Council approved a resolution in opposition to closing the railroad agency and approved \$800 for the building of additional storage at the Boy Scout Cabin on North Broad Street.

Gardner also reported on the army situation and said the county has been asked to consider putting up \$19,050 for the land at Edenton Municipal Airport since the town was providing \$35,000 toward the construction costs.

This was turned over to the finance committee for study and recommendation.

The council approved \$1,853 for office equipment in the Edenton Police Department from Albemarle Law & Order Association. The town's share is \$92.55.

Armed Robbery

The Little Mint Restaurant on North Broad Street was the scene of an armed robbery the night of September 4. Two Negro males entered the establishment at 11:14 P.M. and stole \$175.14 after brandishing a double-barreled shotgun at a clerk.

Edenton Police Department was immediately notified and SBI Agent Bill Godley soon joined the investigation.

The robbers allegedly fled through the field back of the restaurant.

No arrests had been made at presstime.

The incident was the first armed robbery since September, 1973.

Aces Win Opener

With a victory over arch-rival Northeastern of Elizabeth City under their belts, the Edenton Aces open their home campaign Friday night at Hicks Field. At 8 P.M. the highly regarded Aces of Coach Jim Addison play host to Perquimans.

The Northeastern game was postponed Friday night because of rain but on Saturday night the Aces held on at the final buzzer to post a 21-19 victory when a two-point play by the Eagles failed to materialize.

It brought about the second consecutive victory for the Aces over the upper league Eagles.

John Morris, a fullback for the Aces, scored on a one-year plunge to give his team the go-ahead points. Northeastern scored in the final minutes but failed to convert.

David Morris was the leading rusher for the Aces as he went for 102 yards in 21 carries. The Aces out-rushed the Eagles 181 to 107.

Lt. Gov. Hunt To Visit Area

Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt of Wilson will tour facilities in Edenton Tuesday prior to an informal public reception at the Municipal Building. The general public is invited to the reception between 4 P.M. and 6 P.M.

The lieutenant governor's visit to Chowan County is at the invitation of Dr. Clement Lucus, a lifelong personal friend. Dr. Lucus



LT. GOV. JIM HUNT

Three Youths Are Sentenced

The wheels of justice turned swiftly for three Elizabeth City defendants charged with breaking and entering and larceny at Byrum's Service Center on Highway 32, 15 miles north of Edenton.

Mike Lee Morgan, Robert Allen Saunders and Thomas Walker Speight--all waived preliminary hearing in Chowan County District Court, which was held in the conference room of the County Office Building.

Saunders was convicted by Judge Wilton Walker on a charge of possession of marijuana.

The trio then walked across the street and entered guilty pleas in Chowan County Superior Court which was in session at the courthouse.

Judge L. Bradford Tillery of Wilmington sentenced Saunders to from five to seven years, to begin at the expiration of the District Court sentence.

Morgan and Speight were given three to five years, ordered to pay fines of \$500 each and court costs and placed on probation for five years.

Judge Tillery sentenced Bobby Gerald Stanley to from six to 10 years for assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Wilbert Ray Copeland, charged

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Constitution Week Slated

Citizens of Edenton have been urged to pay special attention to the federal constitution and the advantages of American citizenship during September 17-23, which is proclaimed by Mayor Roy L. Harrell as Constitution week.

In a document signed Monday afternoon, Mayor Harrell said September 17 marks the 187th anniversary of the Constitution of the U. S.

The local observance is being sponsored by the Edenton Tea Party Chapter, National Society of the American Revolution. It is one of their patriotic projects.

The chapter has placed patriotic posters in the local schools and merchants have been asked to display the American flag. Local news media is further cooperating.

Mrs. Lucy Meade Harless, chapter Constitution Week chairman, said it is urged that all citizens study the constitution in order to know it, but above all to respect it.

Cited For Fraud

Clara Estell Ford, Route 3, Edenton, was convicted in Chowan County District Court for fraud. The charges were brought by Ronald Huffman, director, Chowan County Department of Social Services.

Judge Wilton Walker of Currituck sentences the defendant to six months, suspended upon payment of court costs and \$50 per month until a total of \$594 has been repaid the Department of Social Services.

Huffman charges that the defendant made false statements in order for Dennis Gaskin to obtain public assistance.

This is believed to be the first such case brought to trial in this county.

Asst. Sol. Keith Teague of Elizabeth City prosecuted the docket with the following other action taken:

Zane Junior Bunch, failure to comply with support judgment, six months suspended sentence revoked.



COTTON FIELD DAY HELD--What is expected to be a bumper cotton crop in Chowan County was viewed by farmers from Chowan, Gates, Perquimans, Northampton and Halifax counties Tuesday. Murray Goodwin, extension farm agent, is shown at right as he greeted Ed Poil of Raleigh, state extension agent, at a luncheon at Center Hill Community Building. At left is Glenn Tompney, cotton specialist with N. C. State University. Others are Leonard Small, head of Chowan Cotton Insect Control Group, and Jack West, a broker with Merrill Lynch in Norfolk, Va.