

School Board Requests Referendum

Commissioners Show Doubt Of County's Financial Ability

Chowan County commissioners Monday were presented a petition from Edenton-Chowan Board of Education calling for a \$4-million school bond referendum on May 6. The petition, bearing the names of all seven school board members, was presented by Dr. Eddie West, superintendent, and Eugene Jordan, chairman.

Questioned by the commissioners, Dr. West said the school board was unanimous in its decision. Later in the meeting at least two commissioners indicated they had talked with one or more school board members who were not in favor of the referendum at this time.

In response to a question from Commissioner N. J. George, it was

revealed that the board had an option on a site off Highway 32 in the vicinity of Valhalla. It was explained that more definite information concerning the proposed building program would be provided the commissioners at a joint board meeting set for February 19.

Chairman C. A. Phillips said it is a lot of money for Chowan County and would require about \$400,000 per year in tax revenue to repay the bonds and interest over a 22 to 23 year period. "Such a debt is over-bearing for Chowan County," the chairman said.

He went on to point out that it would bring the county's debt ratio to valuation to more than 5 per cent, which is nearly double that of the heaviest indebted county in the state.

"The commissioners must consider the financial stability and financial future of the county," he added.

The commissioners said any discussion of the issue must be related to the county's tax base of \$100-million valuation.

Dr. West said the new consolidated school would have approximately 800 students, would allow for Swain and White Oak to be phased out and provide for better education for all the children.

George pointed out that while the tax levy per \$100 valuation is now 70 cents it would require an additional 40 cents just to pay off the \$4-million debt.

Jordan told the board he had figured what the program would cost him. "And is a sizeable figure," he said, "but I still believe it is a good investment. We must give our children the best possible education and make them better citizens."

The school board chairman asked that the commissioners let the people decide on the issue.

The commissioners commended the school board for doing their

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Membership Drive Begins

The Cupola House Association opened its 1975 membership drive this week with the goal of raising \$15,000 for completion of a formal garden. Although business and corporate contributions are sought, Mrs. Marcia Crandall, association president, expects most tax deductible contributions to come from local citizens wishing to support the association in its work toward construction of the garden.

A contact for grading and fence construction has recently been let to Edenton Construction Company and work on that phase of the garden project will begin in the near future.

Proceeds from the membership drive now in progress will be used for walkways and landscaping.

The Cupola House Association has over the years purchased much of the property shown in the original plat. This will allow for a garden of roughly the same dimensions and configuration as shown in the 1769 Sauthier map.

Since no documentary or archaeological evidence has been found to determine the types of plantings used in the original garden, landscaping will be done in accordance with customs of the 18th century. Donald Parker, Colonial Williamsburg landscape architect, has drawn the garden plans.

Contributions can be made to the Cupola Association, 121 West King St. Edenton N. C. 27932

Students Get Treatment

Four dentists in Edenton observed National Child Dental Health Week Wednesday by treating sixth graders in all county schools to a treat and a treatment.

Drs. Richard Hines, J. H. Horton, Allen Hornthal and Lonnie Sick gave fluoride treatments to some 254 students from Edenton-Chowan Schools and Chowan Academy.

But there was more. It gave the dentist an opportunity to give a brief lecture to the students on proper dental care.

When students arrived for this unique program they were treated to orange juice while the respective dentist lectured about dental care. And while this was going on they were advised that the fluoride came in five flavors of their choosing orange, grape, raspberry, lime and bubblegum. They could take their pick.

After the four or five minute treatment the students were given an apple as evidence of their good behavior.

For many it was their first trip to the dentist. Therefore, there was some general persuasion and

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Funds Allocated For Medical Program

PLYMOUTH—Region "R" Emergency Medical Services Council allocated some \$24,000 to rescue squads and hospitals to purchase equipment. These funds will be matched on the local level.

The decision was made by the council to have a 50-50 match in order to make the available fund go further in the 10-county region, according to Bill Griswold, coordinator.

Council members and

representatives of rescue squads crowded into the cafeteria at Washington County Hospital to discuss the 81-hour training course and discuss proposed legislation with Sen. Melvin Daniels, and Reps. Vernon James and Stanford White.

Rep. James has introduced a bill to push back by two years the date of mandatory certification and to provide a "grandfather clause" for certified ambulance

attendants who have been active in a squad for five of the past six years.

The council agreed to study the bill and make recommendations to Rep. James at a later date.

Rep. James was critical of the 1973 bill which made the course mandatory. "The fewer laws we have restricting people the better," he said.

Most of those who spoke of the training program agreed that it was a good course, but almost to the man were critical of it "being rammed down our throats".

Capt. Marion Bunch of Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad said it was "a wonderful course and I enjoyed it. If it didn't pass I'll keep trying until I do or I'll worry someone to death."

Griswold said there are now 130 people in the region with state EMT certification and 50 awaiting results of their test.

Murray Ashley, council chairman, said the group is looking ahead to see great things happening in the region.

James Lewis, executive director of Albemarle Human Resources Development System, said EMS has brought him great satisfaction. "The great satisfaction is seeing the council function and operate and achieve their goal. I am proud of what has been accomplished and you have done it yourself."

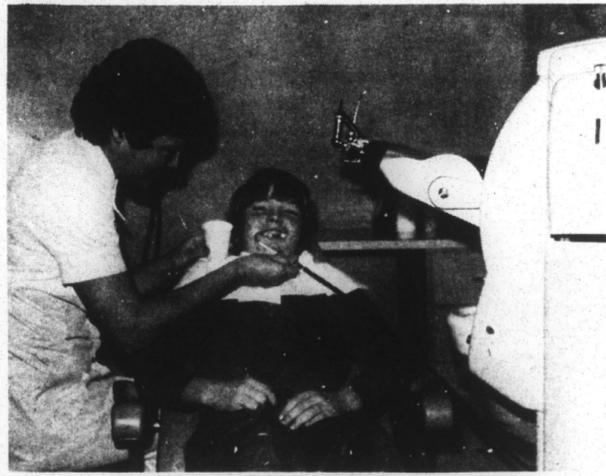
Harold McKinney, assistant AHRDS director, said the function of the executive agent is to assist in any way possible. He encouraged the various rescue units to lean on the systems when assistance is needed.

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FIGHTING TOOTH DECAY—Some 254 sixth graders from schools throughout Chowan County participated in a fluoride treatment project Wednesday sponsored by four Edenton dentists. At left an unidentified student is given a cup of orange juice by Mrs. Marie Revel. Later, Dr. Richard Hines explained the treatment process. Below, Mrs. Joyce Bunch and David Wayne Byrum appear to be enjoying the entire process.



Physicians Oppose Rezoning

Five of the seven physicians at Chowan Medical Center have directed a letter to the Planning & Zoning Board of the Town of Edenton in opposition to rezoning property on Highway 32 at the new US 17 by-pass. A request is before the town council to rezone the property to commercial in order that a shopping center might be developed.

Following a public hearing on the request at the council meeting on January 14, the matter was tabled for 30 days to allow councilmen to gain additional

Story To Be Told

Edenton Historical Commission and Historic Edenton, Inc. are preparing to take their story out-of-town, through the assistance of the Regional Development Institute at East Carolina University.

Two members of the RDI staff met Friday with the executive committee of the historical commission and the Planning & Restoration Committee to receive reports on various activities in the area.

Oscar Edwards said RDI would assist in seeking possible sources of funding for operating funds of Historic Edenton. This will be done after data is obtained and put into a form for presentation to foundations and other possible funding sources.

Edwards explained that the RDI's primary interest is in improving the economy of Eastern North Carolina and this can be done in this area through promotion of tourism.

Mark Simpson, the other staff member assigned to the project by Thomas Willis, director, provided some statistics on travel revenues and some possible methods of getting more people to travel to Edenton and the region.

Mrs. J. Emmett Winslow of Hertford, chairman of the Planning & Restoration Committee, said efforts would be made to review the past 25 years and chart a course for future efforts.

W. B. Gardner, the first chairman of Historic Edenton, explained how it was established

information.

Copies of the doctor's letter to Charlie W. Swanner, Planning & Zoning Board chairman, were sent to Mayor Roy L. Harrell and the eight councilmen.

Drs. Richard Hardin and W. Landis Voigt did not sign the letter. Those who did sign the letter were: Drs. Edward G. Bond, David O. Wright, Bernie B. Baker, Robert E. Lane and C. Clement Lucas.

Following is the next of the letter:

"We the undersigned members of the Chowan Medical Center are requesting your strong consideration in keeping this area zoned as is. We feel that rezoning to commercial the area between the Extended Care Facility-Medical Center-Hospital Complex and the bypass would, in the long run, not be advantageous for our community. This is of particular concern, at this time, since there is consideration about building new medical facilities for the physicians in this area and possibly re-locating the 'Health Department' in this location as well.

"Our additional concern is that a 'commercial' approach to Edenton from the bypass would greatly detract from Edenton's reputation as a historical and tourist attraction area. We believe that the present commercial facilities - such as super markets, etc. are more than ample for Edenton at this time.

"Although realizing that most all communities have problems with zoning of streets by bypasses, certainly allowing a 'Fort Bragg' approach to Edenton would be sad.

"Thank you for your consideration."

Bloodmobile Visit

A quota of 125 pints has been set for the Red Cross Bloodmobile visit scheduled here February 10.

The bloodmobile will be at Edenton Baptist Church. The new hours are 12-noon until 5:30 P.M.

Gary Anderson, Jaycee volunteer chairman, said it is important that the bloodmobile receive a good response since recent quotas have not been met.

Tune For Profits

The 1973 N. C. Travel Survey shows that travelers and tourists spent an estimated total of \$955.5-million in this state. State residents spent \$344.5-million, while the remaining portion of travel expenditures, \$611-million or 64 per cent of the total, were spent by out-of-state visitors.

Travel expenditures in Chowan County in 1973 has been placed at \$1.7-million.

The report caused Gov. Jim Holshouser to remark that travel is essential to the economy of Tar Heelia. "It is an important industry to the state not only because of the significant amount of revenue generated each year but also because it is an attractive industry," he noted.

We like to call revenue generated by tourism as "smokeless dollars". It is obvious that we are not getting our share of them along the Public Parade.

Realization of this fact has caused Historic Edenton, Inc., and the Edenton Historical Commission to seek new directions. Some of them are reported elsewhere in today's edition.

Edenton and Chowan County have more to offer tourists than any area south of Williamsburg, Va., and east of the Outer Banks. We have a living history unequalled on the East Coast. But if the motoring public doesn't get the message then we aren't going to get them to stop off for a day or two when they are on the road.

We live in a mecca of cultural and historical resources, yet we have continued to be so engrossed in our own thing that we have neglected to emphasize the positive.

Some of the things which now appear to be happening are good signs for the future. It is not too late since people are becoming increasingly more interested in their heritage. And if we do a better job of tooting our own horn then the cash registers will play a more profitable tune.

Before The Fact

We want to commend the four dentists along the Public Parade for their unusual program Wednesday which provided fluoride treatments for the sixth graders in Chowan County.

At the same time we want to defend our decision which resulted in photos being used in reporting the story all being taken at the office of but one of the participants.

Wednesday mornings are not the best organized around this newspaper office as we go about getting the paper together. We have a standing rule of not taking assignments, unless they are of an unusual nature, on Wednesdays because as a general rule we couldn't get them in the paper until the next week.

However, rules are made to be broken. With Dr. Hines' office practically next door we did just that. We are sure Drs. Horton, Hornthal and Sick understand but for those who might read something into the coverage which isn't there we wanted to get there before the fact.

Profit Incentive

Today's farmer is a highly sophisticated money manager and businessman whose best incentive for greater food production is profit.

In today's modern agriculture there is no other way to get production than through incentives for profit. And to have profit the farmer must be permitted to sell whatever he produces wherever he can sell it. Yet, we have well-intentioned people almost on a daily basis publicly advocating that American agriculture produce only for Americans.

If farmers in America were limited to producing only for the needs of this country we would have to get rid of half our farmers because there wouldn't be enough markets for the abundance they now produce for the U.S. and the world.

American consumers use only two-thirds of the tobacco, half of the

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