

Worth Exploring

In these days when dollar stretchers are in much demand, a suggestion by the 10 Albemarle Area counties establish central purchasing procedures is welcomed.

County and municipal officials are right in the thick of the budget making process and are finding it difficult to hold the line on the tax rate. But R. L. Spivey of Perquimans County, who is president of Albemarle Law & Order Association and a former county commissioner, predicts that at least \$1-million per year could be saved through a regional purchasing agent.

Mr. Spivey is one of the sharpest people around with the pencil and his reasoning is sound. He says the purchasing plan is "just as feasible as working through regional organizations for other things."

Suppliers might call "foul" and enabling legislation might be needed, but standardization and centralization makes good sense. Those who don't live in glass houses might want to throw a few rocks in that direction. They might be extremely surprised at what they find under the rocks they pick up.

Forward And Backward

Chowan County took a giant step forward Monday afternoon and the Town of Edenton retreated an equal distance Tuesday night.

The county received bids on a county-wide water system and the total figures are said to be in the "ballpark" although there exists an overrun of some \$700,000. This is extremely good when considering this is a Cadillac plan which can be scaled down without doing violence to the system, should additional funding not be forthcoming.

The Town's Council's decision not to rezone a tract on Highway 32 is the second negative development vote within as many months. Earlier they denied a petition to rezone a portion of land near the by-pass to allow for a shopping center.

The Highway 32 access is the only one for a seven-mile stretch of the by-pass, therefore, local government officials and a handful of their constituents are not being realistic when they hold out for residential development along the road. Frontage along such an access if just too valuable to farm or carve up into residential building lots.

It is rumored that the property owners will take the town to court in an effort to determine the best use of the property. This may prove to be an expensive lesson, especially since the town's planning board has voted unanimously both times on approval of the petitions.

While we agree that the elected council should not merely rubber stamp recommendations of the appointed planning board, they

Continued on Page 4



MILL GUTTED BY FIRE—A saw mill owned and operated by Rudolph Jordan, located about 18 miles north of Edenton on Highway 32 was destroyed by fire Thursday night. Although its original remains largely undetermined, it is believed to have started with an electrical malfunction. Some 14 pieces of equipment were called from Edenton, Center Hill, Perquimans County, Winfall, Gates, Gatesville,

Bids Heard For County Water System



VIEW CARRIAGE—Mr. and Mrs. J. Gilliam Wood, Jr., and Mrs. Wood, Sr., admire the restored Johnston carriage at the dedication in their honor recently at the Museum of History in Raleigh. The carriage is from Hayes Plantation, home of Gov. Samuel Johnston.

Rezoning Request Is Denied

For the second time in little more than two months, Edenton Town Council has denied a request to rezone a portion of the Ward property on Highway 32 to allow commercial development. By a vote of 6-2 the councilmen Tuesday night turned back a petition to rezone 10 acres on the east side of the highway from R-20 to Highway Commercial.

Earlier, the council voted 5-4 to deny rezoning of a similar amount of property on the other side of Highway 32 to allow construction of a shopping center. All of the property is next to the U. S. 17 by-pass which is now under construction.

EIC Conference

William (Sonny) Walker, regional director, Region IV of the Community Services Administration, formerly OEO, will deliver the keynote address at the Economic Improvement Council, Inc., annual board and staff training conference, on May 16 at the Ramada Inn in Nags Head.

Walker was appointed to his present position in February, 1972. He directs CAA Activities in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina. His responsibilities include administering funding of over 250 CAA's and delegate agencies dealing with anti-poverty programs and is responsible for the overall direction of 100 federal employees in the Atlanta Office.

Both petitions had been supported by the Town Zoning Board.

Like at the earlier public hearing, opposition to the petition came from adjacent property owners and a principal of another proposed commercial development.

When questioned about the possible use of the property if it is rezoned, W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., one of the developers, said firms would not commit until the tract is properly zoned.

Warren Twiddy, a principal in the other development, charged that the petition was a "gate to get a foot in the door" to force rezoning of the property across the street. He said he had two firms ready to sign leases but they would not do so until the council showed whether or not they were going to live up to their earlier decision.

Questioned about progress on his proposed shopping center on North Broad Street, Twiddy said the timetable still calls for site work to begin in June.

Mrs. Grace Griffin, who resides in the area where the Ward property is located, said commercial development would create pollution around homes, the hospital and a church. (Mrs. E. L. Ward has donated property to Edenton United Methodist Church for a new building.)

In answer to a question from the audience, Earnhardt said the property owners feel the site is significantly removed from present development to allow

Continued on Page 4

Johnston Carriage Is Dedicated

The newly-restored Johnston carriage was dedicated May 4, at the N. C. Museum of History in Raleigh. The 175-year old vehicle is on loan to the museum from Hayes Plantation, home of Gov. Samuel Johnston (1787-1789).

On hand for the 3 P.M. dedication was Mrs. J. Gilliam Wood, Sr., owner of the carriage. Her son and daughter and their families, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Jr., of Hayes Plantation and Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Ragland of Raleigh, were also present.

During the reception in their honor, members of the Wood family recounted some of the details of the carriage's history.

Continued On Page 4

Fiasco Results In Damages

Four vehicles were damaged, including two police cruisers, Monday afternoon following a high speed chase of a juvenile motorist down Broad Street.

State Trooper M. J. McArthur estimated damages at nearly \$7,500 to vehicles involved in a mishap at Bridgeturn Exxon about 2:20 P.M.

He was given a hearing Tuesday in Chowan County District Court and turned over to Virginia authorities, according to police.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish said the department received a call earlier Monday that a suspicious vehicle had been seen in the Hertford area, headed toward Edenton.

Patrolman D. E. Jethro saw the car near Seabrook Blanching

Dr. Dunn Chosen For School Post

Dr. John B. Dunn, Route 1, Lillington, has been chosen as superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools. Dr. Dunn, 38, is now assistant superintendent of Harnett County Schools.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, meeting in executive session Tuesday night, chose Dr. Dunn to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Eddie West, who recently resigned. Two years remain on the term.

Dr. West resigned to become superintendent of High Point City Schools.

Dr. Dunn will assume his position here on July 1 and receive a salary in accordance with the state schedule, plus a \$4,000 local supplement.

He was one of five candidates for the post interviewed within the past two weeks by the board of education. It was learned that the selection had been narrowed to three candidates with Dr. Dunn being the final choice of the majority of the board members.

Dr. Dunn has been assistant superintendent in Harnett County since 1971 and has been primarily concerned with special programs and occupational education.

A native of Martin County, he is a graduate of Williamston High School. He earned his BS degree in business education from East Carolina University and his master's from the same university. His doctorate in educational administration was earned in 1973 from N. C. State University.

He was a business education teacher in Berlin, Md., for one

Continued on Page 4

Bids of the Chowan County Water System amounted to \$3.9-million when tabulated Monday afternoon and although there is an overrun of approximately \$700,000 officials are enthusiastic about prospects of going ahead with the project.

Bryant Utility Construction Company of High Point is the apparent low bidder for the distribution system with Universal Tank of Indianapolis, Inc., being low bidder on how to proceed.

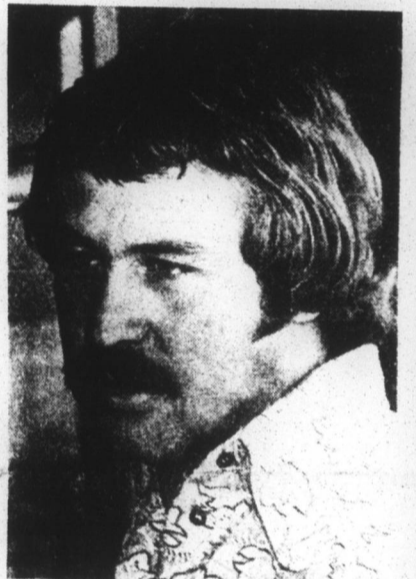
Actual construction could "very well begin" in 60 days and the project be completed in 12 months, one official estimated.

Officials are hopeful of obtaining additional grant funds from various sources. If sufficient funds are not received then the project could be scaled down to fit within the money available.

When interest in the project skyrocketed, engineers were instructed to "beef up" the lines—putting in some 10-inch lines, for example—and enlarging the size of the tanks. Therefore, everyone appeared "very pleased" that the overrun was about \$700,000.

Chairman C. A. Phillips of the county commissioners has

Continued on Page 4



Jim "Catfish" Hunter

Hunter To Speak

Jimmy (Catfish) Hunter of Perquimans, the biggest name in professional baseball today, will be guest speaker at the Sports Awards Banquet to be held May 22 at Edenton Jaycee Community Building.

The banquet, sponsored by the Boosters Club of John A. Holmes High School, will begin at 8 o'clock. Tickets can be obtained from any member of the coaching staff at Holmes or from Booster Club members.

Athletes to be honored are those who participate in JV and varsity baseball, girls and boys tennis and track.

Hunter, the CY Young Award winner last year with the Oakland's A's, is now a multi-million dollar pitcher for the New York Yankees. His appearance at the banquet here next week will be one of his first in the area since he signed the big contract with the Yankees after his much publicized break with the A's and negotiations with the New York club.

Designs Due

The committee for organizing the design of a Chowan County Flag reminds the 7 - 12 grade students in the county that the design is due Friday.

The students should turn their designs into the following committee representatives: Mrs. Carolyn Spruill at Walker; Miss Edna Hathaway at Holmes; W. Dale at Chowan High; and Mrs. Missie Harrell at Chowan Academy.

The committee will meet to look over the designs and choose several to be submitted to the county commissioners, who will choose a first, second, and third place winner. The first place winner will receive \$50 and the honor of having his flag become the official flag of Chowan County.

The design contest is in honor of the upcoming bicentennial celebration.



and Sunbury. Firemen battled the blaze in the all-electric facility from 8 P.M. to 11 P.M., when it was brought under control. There were no injuries, but \$200,000 worth of property was reportedly destroyed. The property was uninsured. Firemen returned Sunday to extinguish a small fire in the smoldering ruins, said Sheriff Troy Toppin. (Photos by Asbell).