

Jesse L. Harrell



W. H. Hollowell, Jr.



A. B. Harless, Jr.



Roy L. Harrell



Dr. Allen Hornthal



## THE CHOWAN HERALD

without coverage.

increasing.

rests with the lawmakers.

the problem faced.

All of the choices appeared to be unsatisfactory to those in

attendance. And Surratt indicated that he would cease to be responsible

for the hospital administration should the decision be made to continue

Dr. Edward G. Bond, a board member of the N. C. Medical Society,

said the long-range answer lies entirely with the General Assembly. As a

temporary measure it was decided Monday night to attempt to establish

a mutual company to cover physicians since most doctors feel they

He added that North Carolina has a "very good" claims rate, ranking

Dr. Landis Voigt commented that doctors and hospitals should not be

Dr. Richard Hardin said support of the community is needed to get

C. A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County commissioners, assured

those present that the county is ready to do whatever is necessary to

solve the problem. "If there is no other solution then we need a special

legislative assistance. He agreed with Dr. Bond that the final answer

put in the position of having to provide their own insurance.

49th in the nation. However, the number of suits and higher awards are

cannot work without malpractice insurance.

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Newspaper Week

Sunday marks the beginning of Newspaper Week along the Public Parade and throughout the United States. And as in the past, this newspaper has been remembered by the Chowan Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

A resolution signed by L. C. Bunch, chairman, H. Fahey Byrum, vice chairman; and J. A. Webb, Jr., secretary-tresurer, expresses appreciation for our assistance in carrying out a program of conservation and environmental quality.

Well, fellers, it's our pleasure! Since the early days of newspapers in Colonial America, the people of this country have fought to protect their right to a free press. It is equally as important that we continue this fight. As we approach the 200th anniversary of the United States we would like to salute the brave men and women who fought in the past and those who continue to fight for this nation's independence and the right to a free press.

Both government and newspaper publishing have changed since the first newspaper in 1690 was suppressed by government decree.

Government must be constantly "measured" in the public press and although the "adversary relationship" may try the patience of officialdom at times, under the first amendment government cannot arbitrarily close down a newspaper.

Newspaper publish has changed too--more efficient in gathering news--giant, modern presses-perhaps more sophisticated. But their reason for being has not changed. And thus, it brings up the slogan we employ today, "Newspapers -- Spirit of Freedom."

Moreover, though, newspapers must be dedicated to the advancement of mankind.

Alexis de Tocqueville said it this way, "To suppose that they only serve to protect freedom would be to diminish their importance...they maintain civili-

#### Avoiding A Monster

The county-wide water system along the Public Parade is rapidly becoming a reality. Speedy progress is being made in putting down the pipes, as work continues on other phases of the construction

## Health Services In Jeopardy

By L. F. AMBURN, JR.

A consortium of "bureaucrats, politicians and insurance companies" Tuesday night was blamed for the "strange, strange times" faced by those who deliver health services in North Carolina.

Hospitals and doctors across the state lose professional liability insurance (malpractice) coverage as their policies with St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company expire. The firm is not renewing this coverage in North Carolina.

Chowan Hospital's malpractice coverage expires at midnight October 10. The majority of physicians here have coverage through December 31.

Members of the hospital board's executive committee and medical staff met with Chowan County commissioners Tuesday night to discuss the problem which has more ramifications than they would like to face.

Thomas M. Surratt, hospital president, said Board Chairman Thomas H. Shepard called the groups together after it became apparent that St. Paul was not going to be able to work out anything with the State Department of Insurance.

Saying a "crisis is nearly upon us", Surratt said the monster was three-headed--State Insurance Commissioner (bureaucracy), General Assembly (politicians), and insurance companies.

He explained efforts being made by the N. C. Hospital Association to form its own mutual insurance company. The local hospital premium would increase from \$2,704 now being paid St. Paul to \$17,800. But the association needs hospitals with approximately 60 per cent of the beds in the state participating and with Loyds of London insuring the larger claims.

Surratt used Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City as an example of what could happen. He said that as of midnight Tuesday the hospital was without the services of a pathologist and radiologist because their coverage had expired. The pathologist is on the hospital staff in Edenton but he said arrangements were being made to obtain coverage from a physician from another city.

He said everything possible must be done to preserve the health care in this community.

After October 10 the board has one of three choices, according to Surratt. The hospital can operate without liability insurance, can discontinue admissions, or admit nothing but emergencies as determined by physicians.

# At Chowan High

Chowan High School invites all citizens of Chowan County to attend its open house Tuesday at 7:30 P.M.

The purpose of the open house is to give people of the community an opportunity to see some of the learning activities that are going on at Chowan High School. It will also give parents and teachers a chance to get acquainted.

All classrooms will be open for visitation at this time. Most classrooms will have students involved in presentations, demonstrations, and other classroom activities to give parents a first hand look at some of the things going on during the school day.

Gilliam Underwood, principal, extends the invitation for "all

## Open House Set Economics Figure Into System

prospective users have signed up for the county-wide water system only 1,400 will be served initially, a spokesman said this week.

County commissioners have encouraged as many people as possible to sign-up in an effort to have the greatest number of residents served. However, the

#### Safety Course

The N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission will conduct a free hunter safety course in Edenton. The course is set for 8 A.M. on Saturday at National Guard Armory on North Broad Street.

The course is especially for the young hunter. For further information contact representative at 482-2521 or 482-

an High While more than 1,700 prospective users have been advised through repeated public statements that the initial lines will be run only where it is

economically feasible.

C. W. Overman, a county representative working on signups, said this week it is only feasible to run lines in areas where there are about 12 users per mile. "We can't reach everybody this go round," he said, "because those who have signed up are so scattered, but eventually we hope to reach everybody."

Overman compared the problem with the REA, saying they were unable to reach everyone at first.

The deadline to sign up for \$25 passed Wednesday. Now a threequarter inch tap will cost \$150, a one-inch tap \$200, and a two-inch and larger tap cost plus 20 per

Wesley Chesson, a hospital executive committee member, said pressure should be applied to have a special session called to get relief of

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## Mr. Chestnutt Buried Saturday

Funeral services were held Saturday morning for James Lucas Chestnutt, retired businessman and former postmaster in Edenton. He was 81. He resided at 210 West Eden Street

session of the legislature," he added.

The services were held at Edenton Baptist Church, where he was a member, with Rev. Robert E. Gray and Rev. Fred Drane officiating. Burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Chestnutt died Thursday in the Veterans Hospital in Durham following an extended illness.

A native of Sampson County, he was the son of the late Samuel J. and Betty Vann Chestnutt and the Continued On Page 4

#### Many Watch Peanut Harvest

Peanut harvesting is underway in Northeastern North Carolina and is being carefully watched not only by the farmers but researchers.

The condition of the 1975 crop varies widely from field to field and farmer to farmer. Pete Thompson, county extension chairman, was hesitant to predict the outcome.

Among those watching the harvest in this area is Dr. J. W. Snyman of the Republic of South Africa.

Dr. Snyman was with Dr. Astor Perry, peanut specialist with N. C. State University in Raleigh, when a research plot was harvested at the A. C. Griffin farm Tuesday afternoon.

U.S. Gypsum funded a grant for Continued on Page 4

## Mayor, Four Others File For Election

Mayor Roy L Harrell and two incumbent councilmen have filed for re-election. Dr. Allen L. Hornthal has filed as a candidate in Second Ward, the council seat now held by Leo Katkaveck.

Jesse L. Harrell, a veteran member of the former Board of Public Works and councilman-atlarge for the past two years, was the first candidate to file to run in the Municipal Election on November 4. He filed with the **Chowan County Board of Elections** last Thursday morning.

Dr. Hornthal, a local dentist who is seeking his first term on the council, filed Friday morning. Mayor Harrell filed Monday morning and Councilman W. H. Hollowell, Jr., also filed for reelection from the First Ward Monday.

A. B. Harless filed Monday afternoon for re-election to his second term as town treasurer.

The deadline to file as a candidate in the Municipal Election is noon Friday.

Dr. Hornthal, who established his practice in Edenton in 1968, was a candidate for the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education in 1970. Eight candidates ran for four First Township seats at Dr. Hornthal ran fifth, 21 votes behind

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Jack Evans

### **Evans Elected**

Jack Evans, Route 3, Tuesday morning was elected president of the Edenton Chamber of Commerce. He was elected at a special meeting of the new board of directors.

Elected to serve with him were: Dr. A. P. Downum, Jr., vice president; Mrs. Bertha B Bunch, secretary: and Morris Small, Jr., treasurer.

Evans is manager of Byrum Hardware Company and is one of the first rural resident to be elected to head the local chamber.

Evans succeeds Fire Chief Luther C. Parks who becomes an ex officio member of the board.

Prior to the election of officers, Chief Parks said it is anticipated that between 300 and 350 people will attend the annual chamber banquet to be held October 9 at 7:30 P. M. at Edenton Jaycee Building on Base Road.

He said tickets are still available and encouraged the board members to assist Wallace Evans and Pete Thompson, ticket co-chairmen, in getting the tickets sold. He emphasized that the banquet is not just for chamber Continued on Page 4





