



## Strengthening Education

Higher education along the Public Parade and throughout the Albemarle Area received a boost last week with the appointment of Dr. J. Parker Chesson, Jr., of Elizabeth City, as president of the College of The Albemarle.

Dr. Chesson was recommended by the COA board unanimously and approved by the State Board of Education. The college trustees and the state board made a wise choice.

The president is a native of the Albemarle, having been born in Hertford. He is a skilled leader and one with an untarnished character and reputation.

COA has a seven-county service area and the relationship between elected officials and the college hierarchy has often times left a great deal to be desired. Dr. Chesson is in a good position to do something about it.

His first step can be towards changing the board structure to allow at least one member from each county in the service area. This will give the most distant community a feeling of belonging; will give COA a spokesman back home with a certain amount of first-hand knowledge and authority.

With budget cuts, increased enrollment and the high cost of doing business, Dr. Chesson will have his hands full. We predict that he will prove to be man enough for the job.

## Relaxed Judge

Superior Court Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood of Louisburg finds the historic Chowan County Courthouse a "really interesting place."

Judge Hobgood, of recent Wake County fame, is meandering along the Public Parade as a jurist for the first time this week. He is presiding over a civil term of Superior Court.

The facilities here are a far cry from those up in Wake but Judge Hobgood isn't letting it bother him. The air conditioning units were silenced Tuesday afternoon so witnesses could be heard. Before long, the 64-year-old jurist merely removed his robe.

He runs a relaxed but dignified court. And after watching him in action for awhile it is easy to understand how he survived the ordeal in Raleigh without too many bruises.

## A Quiet Take Over

Big Brother is on the loose! There are many facets through which his countenance is becoming visible along the Public Parade and elsewhere in North Carolina.

Among them are changes that are taking place in the area of health service so quietly and so insidiously as to be overlooked by the people they affect most directly.

Congress passed the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act in 1974, which is just now beginning to take effect. Thomas M. Surratt, president of Chowan Hospital, this week told Chowan County commissioners the new system is a "mess".

Continued On Page 4



**DEPARTMENT TOUR**—Brownie Troop 793 marked this week's observance of National Fire Prevention Week with a tour of the Edenton Fire Department. Chief Luther Parks displayed various pieces of fire fighting equipment, explaining their use, and told the youngsters how they could aid in the prevention of fire through safe practices. The Brownies nearly saw some real action when a call came in on the emergency phone line, only to turn out as a wrong number.



**ROTARY SPEAKER**—Fred G. Morrison, executive director, N. C. Inmate Grievance Commission, is shown at right shortly after he discussed the commission's work at last week's Rotary Club meeting. With him is W. T. Culpepper, III, program chairman who introduced the speaker.

## Speaker Backs Prison System

North Carolina's prison system needs attention but not vast amounts of money spent on leisure-type prisons, the director of the N. C. Inmate Grievance Commission stated here last week.

Fred G. Morrison, speaker at the Rotary Club, said people must realize that a prison is a prison and is designed as punishment for those who violate the law.

He said the existing prisons are safe, sanitary and decent and he is bothered when he hears talk of spending vast amounts of money for new prisons.

The speaker said prisoners now eat three meals a day...and are probably cared for better than at home. "Their basic needs are being met and there are pressing needs other than spending so much on buildings," he said.

Central Prison in Raleigh, he continued, has been the target of much criticism. However, he gave an example of how people can be rehabilitated in the unit.

His statistics showed that 60 per cent of those in prisons today are 30 years old or younger. "We know they are going to return to society and we must try to make them good citizens when they return," he said. This can be done through counseling, etc.

## Forgery Arrests

Two arrests were made Friday afternoon by Edenton Police Department following a report of alleged forged checks at two local businesses.

Joseph Earl Rawls, 20-year-old Negro, Route 3, Edenton, and Evelyn Gilliam, 132 West Hicks Street, were both charged with uttering and forgery.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish said a \$300 check was involved at S&R while a \$255 check had been cashed at Cuthrell's.

Investigation by Patrolmen W. W. Jones and Ronnie Stallings revealed that a book of personal checks had been stolen from a car in Edenton earlier in the week.

Hearing on the charges has been set for Tuesday in Chowan County District Court.

The director said the commission receives few complaints about over-crowding. Most of the complaints, according to him, are about not getting equal treatment.

He concluded his remarks by saying that dollars are not the answer. "We must develop a means to change their attitude and their way of life."

W. T. Culpepper, III, introduced the speaker. Dick Dixon, club president, presided at the meeting held at the Parish House of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

## To Obtain Grants

Chowan County commissioners moved a step closer to making reality a multi-purpose project to include a new courthouse and jail Monday with the employment of a consulting firm to seek grants.

The commissioners unanimously approved a contract with Albemarle Associates of Edenton to work on securing state and federal funds for the project. The contract fee is \$3,500, payable over the next year.

James E. Lewis, director of Albemarle Associates and a grantsman with 25 years experience, told the board he feels confident that he can secure up to \$1.5-million for the project.

Questioned by the board members, Lewis said he will work closely with several agencies on behalf of the county.

## Judgment Still Pending

A Chowan County Superior Court jury was hearing final arguments and the charge of Judge Hamilton Hobgood at press time in the condemnation case between the State Department of Transportation and Mrs. Rosa F. Ward.

The case grew out of land acquisition in 1973 for the U. S. 17 by-pass of Edenton, which is now well under construction.

The property in question is on the south side of Highway 32, just beyond Chowan Hospital. The parcel contained 88.7 acres and the state took about 18.5 acres.

Mrs. Ward is requesting damages in excess of what the state offered. The state contends that the by-pass improved the balance of the property and this should be taken into account when considering damages.

Witnesses for Mrs. Ward all testified that the highest and best use of the property was residential development. Their opinion of damages ranged from a high of \$139,600 to a low of \$112,325.

A state appraiser testified that he put the damages at \$37,400, after considering an option taken on a portion of the property by Bernard Burroughs and W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr. The appraiser said in his opinion the best use of the property is commercial.

The subject property has been in the news for nearly a year as unsuccessful attempts have been to have it rezoned for a shopping center.

# Regulations Adopted

Chowan County commissioners Monday adopted a series of regulations dealing with the county-wide water system but indicated there was no immediate plan to appoint a commission to oversee construction and operation of the system.

Chairman C. A. Phillips noted at the outset of discussion that some misunderstandings have developed "because it (policy or regulation) wasn't written down just right." He said questions which arise need to have an answer that everyone is in agreement on.

At the same time, he said the commissioners have the responsibility to develop the water system and he doesn't think this can be put off on a group of citizens who would comprise a commission or authority.

Commissioner N. J. George disagreed. While George said he is not sure at what juncture such an authority should be established, he

thinks the major decisions need to be made by those people who will pay for the system -- the users.

He said he wanted a group formed to get the county out of the water business.

Phillips argued that "generally things can be accomplished without fragmenting the authority too much." He said: "I don't know that we are hurting yet. The people working with it are doing a good job and the need (for an authority) is not indicated at this time."

Commissioner David Bateman agreed with Phillips. He said the county would do well to go along on the present plan for awhile. Commissioner J. D. Peele added: "We need to get the system in and then turn it over to someone to operate."

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore said in the meantime, the county needed to adopt basic regulations and amend them as the need is shown.

The regulations were adopted. In other business, the commissioners:

Held a public hearing and adopted amendments to the subdivision regulations;

Denied a request, 3-2, that the county pay for an exercise machine already installed at John A. Holmes High School;

Took under advisement a request from Edenton-Chowan Board of Education for an additional \$7,000 in maintenance of plant funds;

Discussed progress on the county-wide water system with representatives of Rivers & Associates, engineers, and called for a meeting with Edenton Town Council to discuss inter-connection of the system;

Endorsed the Alliance For Progress computer program;

Authorized Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator, to secure stickers for mobile homes;

Accepted the low bid of Edenton Tractor for a backhoe; and

Authorized Jethro to purchase a trailer.

## Close Victory

By JOEL HYLTON

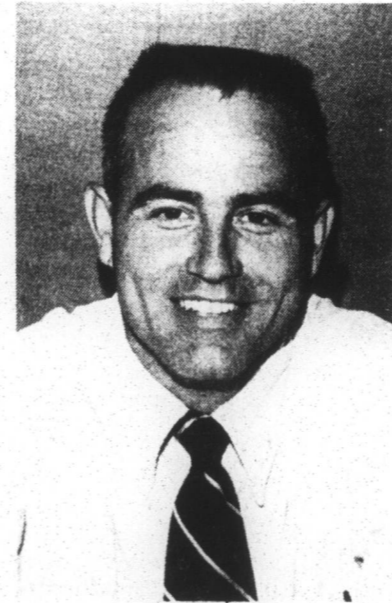
Those Aces' fans who attended the 6-0 victory over the Tarboro Vikings last Friday night witnessed a hard fought defensive battle. The only score of the game, set up by Lonnie White who intercepted a Tarboro pass, came late in the fourth quarter.

In a seven-play drive, the Tarboro defense was drawn from their forty yard line down to their one by an aroused Edenton offense with Willie Holley doing much of the running.

Ray Tew ended the series on a driving one-yard touchdown with two minutes and four seconds left in the game.

Coach Jimmy Addison later remarked that the Aces had "beaten a very good team" and

Continued on Page 4



Gil Burroughs

## Seeks Town Council Seat

A new challenger has announced his candidacy for a seat on the Edenton Town Council in the Municipal Election scheduled for November 4. Gil Burroughs, Queen Anne Drive, filed Thursday against W. Herbert Hollowell.

The Chowan County Board of Election reported that the First Ward seat is the only one contested.

The deadline at 12 noon Friday passed with Mayor Roy L. Harrell, Councilman-at-large Jesse L. Harrell, and Dr. Allen Hornthal, Second Ward, all running unopposed.

Burroughs, who is a chemistry and physics instructor at John A. Holmes High School, revealed several points which prompted him to seek a position on the Town Council.

Said Burroughs, "I see a definite need for thorough long-range planning for the town especially with respect to land-use. I think that that is probably the most important function of the council. Land-use will have the longest lasting effect on the quality of life in our community."

He also stated the desire to establish a public register system for municipal government positions in which citizens interested in a position may sign onto a waiting list for consideration as those positions become available. He cited it as a good way to find responsible people who are interested in working for the community.

A recreation program centering on Edenton's water resources, he named as an important concept and with the plans for a waterside park, he foresees an extensive water sports program as a natural outcome of the project.

Burroughs wants to see a more open exchange of opinions in the meetings of the council. He called unhealthy the practice of voting on items of business without thorough debate, and cited this as one reason why there is so little apparent interest in the municipal

Continued on Page 4

## Chesson To Speak

Dr. J. Parker Chesson, Jr., newly appointed president of the College of The Albemarle in Elizabeth City, will speak at the monthly meeting of Albemarle Area Development Association tonight (Thursday).

The AADA meeting will be held at the Nebraska Community Building in Hyde County beginning at 7 o'clock, according to Phil Quidley, president.

The Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission will meet at 5 o'clock at the same location. T. R. Spruill is chairman.



**EXHIBITED AT CONVENTION**—Mrs. Herbert Tscheiller, Country Club Drive, recently had a hanging flower pot holder featured in an arts and crafts exhibit at the National Convention of Extension Homemakers held in Florida. Originally entered as macrame sculpture in the Albemarle Craftsmen Fair in Elizabeth City. Mrs. Tscheiller explained that the holder was constructed from cord purchased at a local hardware store, and she picked up the technique from books. Mrs. Tscheiller also enjoys working with other media as a leisure time activity.