



**NEW YEAR BABY**—Anna Erin Smithwick, daughter of Debbie and Scott Smithwick of Edenton, was the first baby born in Chowan County in 1976. Mrs. Smithwick is a former RN supervisor at Chowan Hospital. Anna was born at 7:12 A.M. on New Year's Day, and weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces. The Smithwicks were treated to a steak dinner by Chowan Hospital, given a \$25 savings bond by Hollowell & Blount Rexall Drugs, a \$25 gift certificate from Mitchener's Pharmacy, Edenton Floral Co., and Pate's Florist presented gifts of flowers.

## Support Given Recreation

Chowan County commissioners Monday reaffirmed their support of a county-wide recreation program and the construction of a new National Guard Armory. The county is cooperating with the Town of Edenton on both fronts. The commissioners were unanimous in their decision to contribute \$6,350, which is one-third of the fair market value of a seven-acre tract at Edenton Municipal Airport as the site of the new armory. The town will pay the balance to the Edenton Airport Authority.

Earlier, the county had agreed to pay one-third of the 12½ per cent of the construction costs of the proposed facility so that the existing armory on North Broad Street could be turned into a recreation center.

W. H. Hollowell, Jr., chairman of the town's Finance Committee, also requested that the county agree to the formation of a Recreation Commission to do "long range planning" for the department.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore, long an advocate of town-county cooperation and formation of a healthy recreation program, said

## VEPCO Pays Up

Virginia Electric and Power Company has presented checks totaling \$1,198,092 in payment of 1975 real estate and personal property taxes to the county, city and town tax collectors in the 22 counties where VEPCO serves in North Carolina.

The largest check of \$307,361 went to Northampton County. Chowan County was paid \$10,074.

The largest town check of \$22,013 went to Williamston. Edenton was sent a check for \$2,038.

VEPCO's 1975 North Carolina state and local taxes are estimated to total \$5,747,000, including \$1,208,000 for property taxes and \$4,529,000 for taxes on gross receipts.

## M.G. Brown Sold

Foreman's, Inc., of Elizabeth City, has purchased the physical properties of M. G. Brown Company, Inc., in Edenton.

The announcement was made by Clay B. Foreman, Jr., who stated that the Edenton business will be known as M. G. Brown, Division of Foreman's Inc.

The Brown firm has supplied material to the building trade for many years and is located on West Queen Street at Dickinson. The firm has an attractive showroom-office and a complete millwork shop.

Foreman said there will be a transition period of rearranging the present stock as well as merchandising new inventory items.

Foreman's has three other outlets. They are Foreman's Kitty Hawk, Foreman's Millwork, and Allstate Building Supply in Elizabeth City.

## A Live Candidate

As we head into 1976 there is a lot of speculation about who is going to run for this or that. Also making news are those who aren't running, as well as those who are running but aren't quite ready to come forth with a formal announcement.

It is uncommon, then, to have a drug store political special catch onto and become engrossed in the rumor mill. This is what Walter B. Jones discovered while meandering along the Public Parade one morning.

He has a conversation about him not seeking re-election. He is a real live candidate who is positive about wanting another two-year term in the U. S. Congress.

Rep. Jones is the pride of Eastern North Carolina and the darling of the Tar Heel delegation in Washington. He is efficient and effective. For that reason he can probably stay in office as long as he desires.

And when the time comes to bow out you can rest assured he will be the first to recognize it, as well as the first to admit it. In the meanwhile, though, Rep. Walter Jones is very much alive as a candidate for re-election.

## Higher Proof

A Norfolk, Va., resident was meandering along the Public Parade recently when he ran afoul of the law.

Appearing in Chowan County District Court this week he attempted to justify his erratic driving by saying he had been taking non-prescription drugs for a cold. By chance, he had consumed one and one-half beers ("those pony size") yet his breathalyzer reading was .20.

After awhile Judge John Chaffin told the defendant who had entered a guilty plea to second offense of drunk driving: "Don't talk that (what 10 ounces of beer did for him) too much or people will be going to Norfolk to buy their beer."

## Old Word, New Meaning

This is something more than the beginning of the republic's third century. More significantly perhaps, it is the year of the great national political sweepstakes.

A President and Vice President will be elected. All of the 435 members of the House of Representatives, at least one-third of the 100 members of the U. S. Senate, about half of the 50 governors and a great majority of the state legislators will have to stand or fall before the electorate.

It will be an unusual campaign year. Cheap energy, cheap food and fiber, big booms with the promise of better and better times will be in the past. The nation will slowly be making its way out of the recession, but it will require a 7 per cent annual growth rate just to get us back to where we were in 1973.

With inflation still accounting for roughly half the economic growth, new labor contracts for 4.5 million organized workers will have to be negotiated. They touch almost every area of endeavor—the teamsters, rubber makers, building trades, electrical workers, auto and apparel unions.

Continued On Page 4

# Compromises Made In Agency Dispute

A compromise on board size and method of appointment has ended a much publicized dispute over development of a Health Systems Agency in 29 Eastern North Carolina counties.

Dr. Clement Lucas, Jr., of Edenton, chairman of a new convener group appointed by Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr., after he dismissed an earlier group, said Wednesday he feels the compromise is in the best interest of health care in the area.

"It would have been tragic to have two convener groups and two applications from the 29-county area," the chairman said.

He announced that a meeting will be held in Greenville on January 29 at which time the convener group hopes to establish a board of directors for the HSA.

At a meeting in Williamston Tuesday night, the feuding Steering Committee accepted the compromise and made available to Dr. Lucas' group all information gathered since it was formed in March, 1975.

A spokesman said the committee will remain "inactive" and will not make an application

for HEW funding for the Health Systems Agency. "We will remain inactive while the convener group works within the mandate from the governor," he said.

Public hearings on the committee's draft application have been cancelled.

The compromise calls for a 47-member board. Twenty-nine are to be appointed by county commissioners, one from East Carolina University, one from Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Chapel Hill, and 16 by Lead Regional Organizations. Region "R" will have two members, Region "P" seven, Region "L" four and Region "Q" three.

Dr. Lucas said the regional appointment will be made by the LRO chairman and not staff. He said this is an important point.

The chairman said local officials are being encouraged to get input from all interested parties before making their appointments.

While he said he worked hard "behind the scenes" for a compromise, Dr. Lucas expressed the opinion that had one not been reached the new convener group

would have been recognized by HEW. He said this is based on the fact that his group has the governor's support.

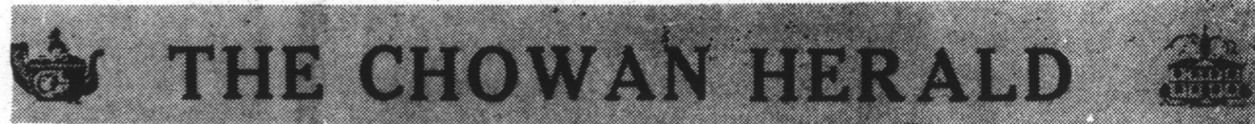
But, he added he never lost sight of the necessity for a compromise. It was necessary for the sake of health care in the area, he noted.

"We are fortunate that we could get it all together," he continued. "It would have been tragic to have two separate groups convening in the 29-county area."

Dr. Lucas also pointed out that the urgency for making application to HEW is not as great now as it first appeared. President Ford vetoed the funding for HSAs so there is no money available at this time for the program.

The Steering Committee recommended a 66-member board while the state insisted on 30 to 45 directors. The new conveners agreed to name a 30-member board.

The compromise, worked out with chairman of the LROs involved, was endorsed by Dr. Louis Smith of Murfreesboro, chairman of the Steering Committee.



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## Audit Shows School Funds Overdrawn

By Flynn Surratt

The Edenton-Chowan Schools are faced with the problem of finding \$17,000 to cover an overdrawn budget, and Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, reported that the Chowan County commissioners have called for the board of education to find its own solution to cover the deficit.

An audit report presented by J. P. Timberlake, revealed that while \$556,000 in revenue had been collected, expenditures totaled \$571,000. He stated that the overdraft occurred in line items related to plant operation, office expenses, and attorney fees.

Dr. Dunn, who met with the commissioners at their regular meeting on Monday morning, revealed that they had suggested tightening up the budget and using the padding to cover these expenses.

But the board of education was unanimously in agreement that this "padding" does not exist, and that the schools are underbudgeted.

The board, however, is hopeful that a \$22,000 sum appropriated last year but not received until this fiscal year will be available to cover the \$17,000 deficit.

The county has authorized the board of education to employ a five man maintenance crew. The commissioners also told Dr. Dunn and Eugene Jordan, board chairman, that they approve a \$25,000 expenditure for maintenance equipment and supplies.

A request for the construction or purchase of a maintenance building was denied, but the commissioners asked for estimates on the cost of such a building and requested that the board of education appoint a

Continued On Page 4

## Edenton On T.V.

A historical documentary featuring the Edenton Tea Party will be telecast Monday night over Channel 2. "Troubled Times", a half-hour film will show at 9:30 P.M.

Richard W. Hatch, producer of public affairs programming for the University of North Carolina Educational Television, said the feature will be repeated January 18 at 7:30 P.M.

The Edenton Tea Party segment was shot in cooperation with Historic Edenton, Inc., and the current decision was to incorporate it into the documentary.



**TAXES BEING LISTED**—Chowan County residents are responding well to the call for early listing of taxes, said Mrs. Pattie Byrum of the Chowan County Tax Office. Deadline for listing taxes without additional penalty is February 2. Above, Mrs. Byrum lists taxes for R. T. Harrell of Edenton.

## Tax Exemption

Persons age 65 or over have a yearly income of less than \$7,500 are eligible for a \$5,000 tax exemption on real estate. The Chowan County Tax Office emphasizes that this exemption applies only to real estate and not to personal property.

Chowan County residents who own house trailers will be given a sticker when listing their taxes. It certifies that the trailer has been placed on the tax books.

## Assets Better \$10-Million

The 70th annual financial statement of Edenton Savings & Loan Association shows that the local institution has assets in excess of \$10.25-million. The statement reflects the status of the association as of December 31, 1975.

The assets increased more than \$1-million during the past year and the association now has more than \$9-million in mortgage loans on approved real estate. The firm has savings and investments near the loan figure.

James C. Dail, executive vice president and secretary, said the association experienced a better than average growth during the year. He said the request for home loans remained steady and the growth experienced by the association indicated a good business climate in the community.

J. Clarence Leary is president of the association. Jim P. Partin was elected vice president, succeeding the late Albert G. Byrum and Wallace B. Evans replaced Mr. Byrum on the board of directors.

R. E. Leary is board chairman and Lois B. White is treasurer. Howard A. Collins is assistant secretary.

Other directors are: T. C. Byrum, Jr., J. D. Peele, G. B. Potter, and Merrill Evans, Jr.



**MOVING TOWARD COMPLETION**—Construction of McMillan-Blodel's facility at the Edenton Municipal Airport continues to move toward completion as logs are stockpiled in anticipation of the opening of the saw mill in approximately six weeks. Richard Dixon, production superintendent, said that the company will begin hiring at that time for machine operators and laborers in various departments. In addition, the firm will seek women to fill various jobs in the mill. When the mill opens, they will begin cutting the raw material into saw mill logs and smaller pieces for posts and rails. McMillan-Blodel manufactures material for fences along with wood by-products that can be used for purposes such as making pressed board.