

Board Looking At 80 Cent Tax Rate

The Graduates

For the past several years this newspaper, with the generous sponsorship of local industry and businesses, has printed the pictures of the graduating classes along the Public Parade. This year is no different. They are found elsewhere in this week's edition.

Each year's crop of graduates is important. It marks a significant achievement in the lives of young people who sometime, somewhere will carry forward the torch of leadership.

We have a special interest in this year's Senior Class at John A. Holmes High School. It centers around our eldest daughter, Maru, who is a member of the class.

Because of her we have become to know a great many of the class members personally. Within exception they are among the finest young people we have ever been fortunate enough to know. If they are an example of the character of the class, then the harvest will be bountiful.

We want to be among those who wish for everyone in the classes hereabouts the best of luck and every good fortune in the future. So long as they strive for solutions and not be satisfied with being a part of the problem we are headed in the right direction.

Rights And Wrongs

The 10-county Albemarle Area has been hailed from the courthouse to the state house as the area where regionalism has worked. Unselfish people devoted their time and talents to see that the Albemarle was an exception; an area where people pulled together for a common cause.

In recent months things have changed. Today the Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission is in deep, deep trouble. Financial problems and a bookkeeping snarl have caused the Executive Board to freeze funds. Some employees have not been paid for five weeks.

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Graduation Set

Oratory will prevail Friday night as the graduating classes at John A. Holmes and Chowan high schools complete commencement exercises.

The graduation exercise at Holmes' Hicks Field will begin promptly at 7 P.M., according to Principal Bruce McGraw.

A similar exercise at Chowan High School will begin at 8 P.M. McGraw said after the graduating class has entered the stadium all entrances but the one on East Freemason Street will be closed.

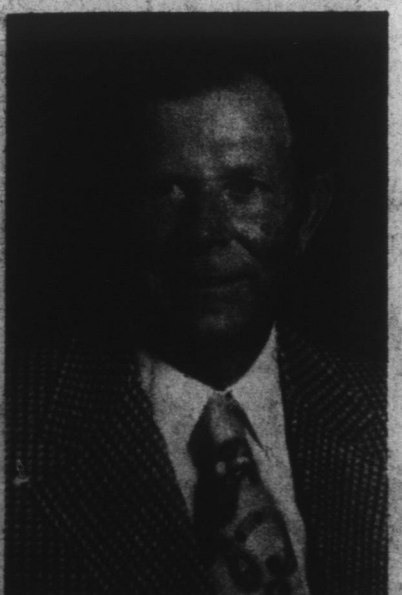
"It's Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday" is the theme at Holmes. Valedictorians who will give commencement speeches are Pam Amick, June Byrum and Marion Dail.

The Holmes Band and Concert Choir will present special music.

At Chowan, Winston Dail, social studies teacher, will deliver the commencement address. Other speakers will be Gary Byrum, valedictorian, and Marta Rogerson, salutatorian.

White Receiving FFA Honor

The Honorary State FFA Degree will be conferred upon Everett S. White, Chowan High School Vocational Agriculture teacher, during the 48th State FFA Convention, June 14-16, in Raleigh.



Everett S. White

Chowan County is moving towards an 80 cent tax rate for fiscal 1976-77, up 10 cents per \$100 valuation from the current year. In a special meeting Tuesday the commissioners, in an often times stormy exchange, put back into the budget some \$47,000 deleted by the two-member Finance Committee.

At the same time the board recommended spending nearly \$14,000 for an adequate tax map of the Cape Colony area. Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator, said this would be the first step toward obtaining correct maps of the entire county.

Put back into the budget, sometimes by 3-2 votes after heated discussion, was:

Edenton Chamber of Commerce, \$1,000 (\$1,500 already approved);

Day Care Center, \$7,000 (county's share of a budget);

Recreation, \$15,968 (one-tenth the town's budget to include program);

Historic Edenton, Inc., \$2,000 (the first part of a five-year program);

Charity cases at Chowan Hospital, \$10,000.

Chairman C. A. Phillips suggested that the budget be figured on the 80-cent rate. "We cannot count on much fund balance," he pointed out. The fund balance came in for considerable discussion during the two-hour meeting.

"Last year, under revaluation we tightened up the budget," the chairman explained. "This year we must pick up some of the slack."

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VISITS INJURED POLICEMAN—Atty. Gen. Rufus Edmisten visited Cpl. William Spruill, Jr., in Chowan Hospital on Saturday morning. The policeman received bullet wounds in both legs last week in a shoot-out with a suspect in a bank robbery. The attorney general expressed his appreciation to the policeman for the professional manner in which he worked during the incident.

Police Identify Dead Suspect

A Negro man who took his own life when law enforcement officers cornered him following last week's armed robbery of a bank here has been positively identified as Edward Hamilton, 32, of Riviera Beach, Fla., by the FBI.

Stanley D. Holden surrendered at 4:16 P.M. Wednesday after an extensive manhunt. He was the second suspect in the robbery of the branch of Peoples Bank & Trust Company at Mitchener Village the day before. A resident

of New York he was visiting his grandfather here.

Hamilton was involved in a gun battle which left Cpl. William Spruill, Jr., injured and more than \$1,000 damage to the patrol cruiser he was driving. The suspect later fired at Capt. C. H. Williams as he arrived on the scene on West Freemason Street.

Hamilton fled behind a house into an area covered with high weeds. He had a wound in his leg. When officers threw tear gas into the area where he was believed to be hiding three shots were heard. The suspect was found dead a short time later.

An autopsy was performed at N. C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill. A medical examiner said death was attributed to suicide with the suspect having two wounds in his chest and one in his temple. According to the autopsy all three wounds were made with a 9mm weapon. Hamilton had such a weapon in his hand when found, as well as a .38 caliber pistol.

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King Arrested

Ray King, 16, of the Cape Colony community, has been arrested and charged with growing marijuana. He has been released on bond.

Sheriff Troy Toppin, Deputy Joe Byrum and SBI Agent Bill Godley conducted the investigation which led to the arrest about 6:30 P.M. Tuesday. King was picked up at the scene along a canal bank where approximately 75 marijuana plants were growing.

BULLETIN
The Chowan Herald was notified at 3:30 P.M. Wednesday that a called meeting of Chowan County commissioners would be held at 8 P.M. in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the County Office Building.

While there was no mention of the agenda the budget is expected to be the primary topic of discussion.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore noted that the tax map work and beginning of a detailed soil survey in the county were the only two new items being placed in the budget.

Commissioner N. J. George said the Finance Committee had recommended removing some items and cutting others in order to maintain a 70-cent tax rate. When the chamber of commerce and recreation programs were approved, he repeatedly made suggestions that all other requests be granted.

Chairman Phillips said the chamber work is "more of a county function than a town function" in answer to the committee's recommendation that the county figure be reduced to the amount contributed by the town. "The main thrust is industrial development," he said, "and the county's interest in good, orderly industrial development and community activity is being met by the chamber's work."

He pointed out that many counties levy a tax for industrial and community development,

adding that in his opinion dollar-for-dollar some of the best money the county spends is in the contribution to the chamber.

Commissioner George charged that the chamber does work that is 90 per cent beneficial to the downtown merchants "and they are represented by the Town Council."

Commissioner Elmore questioned the percentage and said while some may think "the town budgets too little the county doesn't budget too much for the chamber."

Commissioner David T. Bateman said while he was not tied in on a 70-cent rate he felt that any increase should go to more adequately fund the best programs and go where it is needed most.

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Town Rate Policy Changed

Edenton Town Council voted unanimously Tuesday night in favor of a "slight increase" in electric rates and in the future to match VEPCO rate-for-rate for retail service.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said the rate policy was actually approved by the council several years ago but because to frequent adjustments by VEPCO it had not been followed. He said the increase would amount to approximately 3.6 per cent in the summer rate

and less than 1 per cent in the winter rate.

The administrator, presenting the recommendation of the Utility Committee, said it would increase the town's electric revenue by approximately \$30,000 over the next year.

Gardner said it would be some 60 days before the increase would appear on local bills.

At the same time the council adopted a new service schedule and changed policy to move the 10 per cent penalty from the 10th of

the month to the 20th.

Bill Matthews, building inspector, said a hearing has been held regarding six dilapidated houses and six other notices have been sent out. He said he had seen an indication of the upgrading of some property due to the recent action.

The council approved a Department of Transportation recommendation that a left-turn lane be established at the intersection of North Broad and North Oakum streets.

Bryant Utilities was apparently low in installation of sewers on Oakdale Drive with a bid of \$19,400 and council called for a public hearing on the project for June 24.

West W. Byrum Agency was low in insurance coverage for the town while Rose Construction and C & L Concrete were low for paving and sidewalk construction.

Alton Clark, Jaycee president, appeared to offer the services of the organization and Robert Harrell discussed the proposed Peanut Festival being planned by the Band Parents.

Fuel bids were received from J. H. Conger & Son, Inc., and Leary Oil Company. They were turned over to the Finance Committee for study and recommendation.

Dr. A. F. Downum was re-appointed to the Airport Commission by Mayor Roy L. Harrell. The mayor re-appointed Mrs. Evelyn Collins and Oscar White to the Board of Adjustments.

It was decided to reduce the speed in Queen Anne's and on Albania Street to 25-mile-per-hour.

Councilman Harry Spruill, Jr., pointed out the "outstanding job" done by the Edenton Police Department and other agencies during last week's bank robbery.

Gardner commended the officers for "through professional handling" of the problem.

The administrator reported on several on-going projects.

Two File For County Board

Last minute filing resulted in a race for Third Township representatives on Chowan County Board of Commissioners and three-way race of the Second Township seat on Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. Three men are also seeking two school board seats from First Township.

Lester T. Copeland of Tyner, and H. Ivey Ward, Jr., Route 1, Tyner, both filed for the seat on the county board being vacated by David T. Bateman. Bateman announced earlier that he would not be a candidate for re-election.

Bateman, who has served on the board for eight years, is vice-chairman.

James K. Copeland, Jr., Route 1, Edenton, filed with the Chowan County Board of Elections as a candidate for the school board from Second Township. Carlton W. Goodwin of Tyner, the incumbent, and Wilbur Ray Bunch, Route 1, Edenton, are also candidates for the post.

W. J. Underkofler, 300 South Oakum Street, filed for a First Township seat on the school board. Dr. Edward G. Bond, 7 Queen Anne Drive, and Thomas P. Griffin, Route 2, Edenton, incumbents, are seeking re-election.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore, 107 South Granville Street, and Coroner Marvin S. Barham, 110 West Albemarle Street, are running unopposed.

There are four candidates for

Banquet Slated

The Edward G. Bond Post 40, American Legion, and the Auxiliary will hold a joint installation of officers and awards banquet Saturday night at 7:15 o'clock at the American Legion Post home.

A steak dinner will be served at 7:30 P.M. All who plan to eat should call 482-2249 by 9 A.M. Saturday morning.

Department Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Ralph Adcock of Hickory Post 48 will install the new officers for 1976-77. State Auxiliary President Willie Adcock will install the incoming officers for the Auxiliary.

The installation ceremony will be at 8:15 P.M. and for all who wish can enjoy a dance afterwards.

Chowan County Register of Deeds. They are: Murray D. Ashley, 19 Westover Heights; Jean A. Bunch, Route 2, Edenton; Laura S. Evans, of Tyner; and Anne K. Spruill, 1025 North Broad Street.

The election to the board of education is non-partisan. All other candidates seeking posts are Democrats. Therefore, there will be no Republican primary.

Mayor Roy L. Harrell, 200 South Oakum Street, has filed as a candidate for the N. C. House of Representatives subject to the Democratic Primary on August

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James Copeland

ARPDC Funds Are Frozen

Many of the funds of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission remained frozen Wednesday morning, with personnel going into their fifth week without pay.

The funds were frozen May 26 when the Executive Board learned from the ARPDC attorney they would be individually liable for any money paid out after learning of bookkeeping problems and a possible deficit.

Manpower funds were released this week after a plea had been made directly to Bruce Lentz, State Secretary of Administration. However, some 40 ARPDC staff members remain without pay.

John Bell, vice-chairman of the ARPDC board, said personnel is being asked to be patient while the bookkeeping snarl can be untangled. The offices in Edenton and Elizabeth City remained open Wednesday.

At a special meeting of the board Thursday night in Edenton, Speight Burrus, CPA of Elizabeth City, was asked to complete his audit within 15 days.

Burrus has not been able to complete the audit for 1974-75, but from trial balances he has run he indicates that by June 30 the commission could have a deficit of as much as \$144,000.

Some \$87,000 in federal taxes have not been paid. This is due the Manpower program, according to a representative from the state office. It is believed that this money went into other programs.

"We want to know how much money sent down (to the commission) went into other programs before releasing any more money," a spokesman said. Walter Harlow of Hobbsville urged that a way be found to pay employees. "We owe these people

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