

WHY A NEW FACILITY?



CROWDED—Construction of the recently funded \$1.8-million Chowan Courthouse-Jail complex will alleviate the crowded conditions in the office of the Register of Deeds. Mrs. Anne K. Spruill, registrar, is shown in the left photo pulling a file in the cramped storage vault that also serves as office for the assistant registrar. In the right photo, Mrs. Spruill's working space is further lessened by the coping camera situated against the back wall.

Public Parade

Nubs And Stuff

A new feature appearing along the Public Parade is "Chalk Dust" by Mary Rhea Gardner. It is patterned after her weekly radio talk show.

Before she got through the first article for publication her chalk was worn down to a nub, to use her words, and primarily because she used so much chalk in lavishing us with praise for affording her the opportunity to become a columnist.

So, we now have another inexpensive female columnists working for us and Mary Rhea faces stiff competition with another one, who happens to have played a major role in our life. Some might debate the success the latter had, but we have confidence that Mary Rhea will make "Chalk Dust" interesting and informative, which is what all writers try to achieve.

SBA Announces Disaster Status

BULLETIN

Earlier story on Page 4.

GREENVILLE — The Small Business Administration announced at mid-afternoon Wednesday that it will open three emergency disaster branch offices for interviewing and assisting prospective loan applicants who realized physical damage or economic injury caused by severe cold weather during the month of January.

The office locations and hours of operations are as follows:

Edenton, beginning Friday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily at the Civil Preparedness Office in the County Office Building.

Manteo, beginning Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily in the commissioner's meeting room in the

Dare County Office Building. Greenville, 8:15 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. daily at the SBA office located in the Federal Building at 215 Evans Street.

No Saturday office hours are planned.

Forms and application information will be available at the following additional locations:

Elizabeth City, beginning Friday, 9 A.M. to 12-noon daily, in the Civil Preparedness Office, 1404 Park View Drive; Washington, beginning Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily at the Civil Preparedness Office in the Beaufort County courthouse; New Bern, beginning Friday, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily, at

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Consolidation

Move Made

In one of their shortest meetings yet, the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education took a giant step forward Monday night in reaffirming their committed position on a reorganizational plan for public schools in Chowan County. The cost was set at \$3.7-million.

In an approved motion "to effect consolidation in grades 9-12 by constructing a new high school, embracing a community concept, and to re-organize grades K-12 as soon as possible," the board members felt that they were honoring the wishes of the people, as perceived through numerous public meetings.

This action, taken during a special board meeting, was "a result of community opinion combined with the board members' long range goal of providing the best possible education for students in Chowan County," theorized Dr. John Dunn, superintendent.

For months, the public has been exposed to several possible plans of re-organization within existing school facilities. All plans centered around the idea of a new middle school and phasing out of Ernest A. Swain.

The school board devised their own plan, commonly referred to as "Option C," by which re-organization could temporarily be accomplished through additions and renovations to existing facilities. The general vocalization of public opinion at the majority of these meetings has been the request for a new consolidated high school to bring about consolidation and re-organization.

Recognizing the large expense of a new high school, a committee was appointed by Chairman Eugene Jordan to investigate possible sources of funding. This committee is to make its report at the regular March board meeting.

Based upon these findings, the tentative decision to construct a new high school will be taken back to the people through public meetings in each school for their reaction and feelings. No final proposal of re-organization will be decided upon by the board until all avenues are explored. The board has previously set a June date to announce its final intention.

Further action by the board included accepting the \$31,172.00 bid of METCO, builders in Windsor, to construct the proposed new maintenance building on the newly acquired property adjacent to D.F. Walker School.

The school day missed due to recent snow will be made up by students on March 14, previously set aside as a Parent Conference Day. Teachers will add this day to the end of the school year.

The board was reminded of the House and Senate joint Education Committee meeting on March 8 and 9 in Raleigh and finalized plans to attend the National School Board Convention in Houston, Tex. in March.

Electricity Rate Increase

Electric customers of the Town of Edenton can expect higher electric bills next month but not as high as they would be if the local government passed on a major increase in fossil fuel charge from VEPCO.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said he was notified

by VEPCO this week that the fossil fuel charge would be \$1.10 per 1,000 kilowatts per hour of current.

"It is our intention to spread this out over several months rather than shock the consumer at one time," Gardner said. He went on to explain that in recent months there was a fossil fuel credit.

Authority Is Named

A five-member Chowan County Medical Development Authority was named by county commissioners in a special session Monday morning. Named to the authority were Graham White, Tom Palmer, J.P. Timberlake, Tom Phillips and E.L. Hollowell.

White is senior vice president and trust officer at Peoples Bank & Trust Company. Palmer is vice president of George Chevrolet, Timberlake is a local Certified Public Accountant and a principal in the Holland & Timberlake firm. Phillips is assistant vice president of Edenton Cotton Mills, Hollowell is president of Chowan Veneer Company, Inc., and recently was named chairman of the board of Chowan College.

The authority will pick its own chairman.

County commissioners, at the suggestion of the board at Chowan Hospital and its Medical Staff, approved establishing the authority on February 7. The purpose will be to assist in securing additional medical manpower for the area.

Successful medical development groups are functioning in at

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Good Group

Chowan County commissioners are to be commended for the choices made for appointment to the new Medical Development Authority along the Public Parade.

In Graham White, Tom Palmer, J.P. Timberlake, Tom Phillips and E.L. Hollowell they have a combination of youth and depth which just about insures a successful future for the authority.

Operating independently, but closely, with Chowan Hospital and the fine group of physicians already in the community, the authority can attract additional medical manpower.

Their job will not be easy. But they are men who aren't accustomed to lolling in a bed of roses. They are men who have a deep sense of commitment to the community.

About all we can give them is our blessings. But that comes in abundance and we challenge everyone meandering along the Public Parade to dedicate themselves to doing the same.

One For Each

Secretary of State Thad Eure reported to the General Assembly

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MAKE PLANS FOR PROJECT — Dale Jones of Raleigh, standing right, state EDA representative, was among those meeting Monday morning with Chowan County commissioners to set in motion plans for the courthouse-jail project. With him is C.A. Phillips. Seated, from left, are: J.D. Peele, Alton G. Elmore, Lester Copeland and N.J. George.

More Hurdles To Clear

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.

Tension, pressure and pain was experienced by Chowan County commissioners in obtaining a \$1.8-million federal grant for a new courthouse-jail complex, but they

discovered Monday there are still many hurdles to clear.

The commissioners met in special session with J. Everette, Jr., of Lynchburg, Va., architect on the project, along with representatives of Economic Development Administration, the funding agency; the Historic Preservation Section, Division of Archives & History, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources; the Jail and Detention Services, N.C. Department of Human Resources; and property owners.

C. A. Phillips, chairman, said Chowan County has a "long history of red letter periods, but I think we are now going into one of the greatest."

The county is now in the process of exercising options on 11 parcels within the block bound by Broad, Church, Court and Queen streets.

Dale Jones, state EDA representative, said the major obligation the county has with regards to the funds is to have people at work and a payroll met within 90 days. Once this EDA

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Rate Increase

The full Board of Directors of Chowan Hospital, Inc., approved February 14, an increase in room and general service charges for "A" Unit, effective March 1. The new rates will be: private rooms, \$59 and \$60; semi-private rooms, \$54; Intensive Care rooms, \$104.

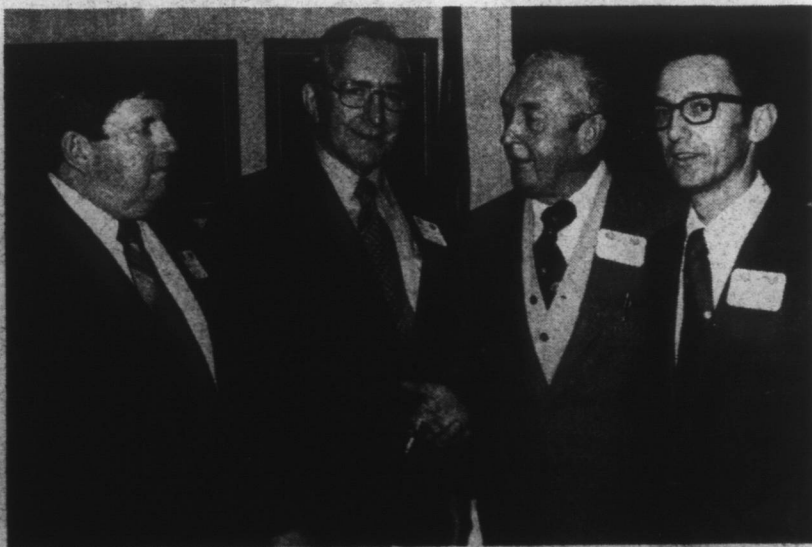
Increased cost of operations is the primary factor involved in the decision to raise rates, according to a spokesman.

It was pointed out that the local hospital rates still compared favorably with other nearby community hospitals. The board emphasizes that all efforts are being made to give the best care for the least amount.

Management of the hospital continues to work with methods of cost containment in all areas of the hospital, it was stated.



CHOWAN WELL REPRESENTED — Chowan County was well represented at an agri-business meeting in Elizabeth City last Thursday at which Robert Darr of Columbia, S. C., second from right, was the principal speaker. Among those from Chowan attending were, from left: Bud Perry, Dan Ward, Leonard Small and Milton Tynch.



DISCUSSING FINANCE — Walter Harlow, second from right, vice president, Bank of North Carolina, N. A. at Hobbsville, makes a point to Robert Darr of Columbia, S. C., during an agri-business meeting held in Elizabeth City last Thursday night. At left is Frank White, a Chowan County farmer; with Gary Taylor, of Elizabeth City, vice president of the Federal Land Bank Association of Ahsokie, at right.



GREETING THE BOSS — Representatives of the Federal Land Bank Association of Ahsokie and Albemarle Production Credit Association are pictured with Robert Darr of Columbia, S.C., left, president of the Federal Land Bank and Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia. With him are Roy Miller, president of Albemarle PCA; Gene McCreary, president of FLBA of Ahsokie; and T. B. H. Wood of Edenton, a FBLA director.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Subscription rates on The Chowan Herald will be increased April 1. The price for a single copy will remain at 15 cents.

This is the first mail subscription price increase in a good while and is necessary due to the continuing increase in postage, newsprint and production.

The rate for Chowan County residents and those throughout North Carolina will be \$8.32 for one year.

Outside the state the rate for a year will be 9.00. The student rate (for nine months) will be \$6.24.

All of the above prices include N. C. sales tax and must be paid in advance. However, telephone subscriptions will be taken and billed immediately. Anyone who renews a subscription prior to April 1 will be allowed to do so at the existing rate.

Also, the U. S. Postal Service considers any subscription six months in arrears as not a paid subscription and cannot legally be mailed in accordance with the Second Class Postage Permit. These subscriptions will be discontinued without a second or final notice being sent.

The Chowan Herald, Inc.
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