

'Fever' Spreads

Governors in the past have been about the only people on the state level not immunized to "legislative fever." There are recent indications, however, that Commissioner of Agriculture James A. Graham has succumbed to the "disease."

First, he was forced to reveal his position on the Coastal Area Management Act. Since Commissioner Graham has a tendency to have friends on both sides of an issue, it is somewhat painful for him to have to side up to either, publicly. In this case, it was so painful that he wrote his own piece of legislation.

He ran into a problem. He could not find a sponsor in the General Assembly. The tardiness of it, however, causes one to wonder if there was really rain in the cloud, or did the storm have more thunder than water?

While he vows to favor land-use planning, he is shy on its implementation and enforcement, wanting to extract all the teeth from CAMA.

The commissioner's proposal is filled with mish mash and double talk, indicative of what comes from a legal mind, not a man of the soil. It brings back the story of a legislator who moved to amend a bill to render it useless. "I don't want to kill this fish," he explained. "I just want to remove his guts."

Farm land is adequately protected by CAMA, so long as it continues to be used for that purpose. In order to have an orderly, meaningful and complete plan for a given area, farm land must be considered. There would be nothing less than chaos, otherwise.

Another indication that Mr. Graham may be suffering from "legislative fever" is his June 10 statement, in which he "reaffirmed his opposition to any increase in cigarette taxes." He said that any increase in North Carolina's cigarette taxes would signal other states to increase theirs. Well?

His fear that such increases would drastically curtail the use of smokes can be questioned. The Surgeon General's "scare" statement printed on the packs hasn't run any tobacco companies out of business. If people don't care about their health they certainly won't let a penny or two more tax keep them from feeding their habit.

These must certainly be dog days for the genial commissioner. We hope he recovers before he is asked whether the proposed School of Veterinary Medicine should be in Raleigh or Greensboro. He has friends on both sides!

Touching Base

Well, we went over to Mecklenburg last weekend to be valet and pay the bills as the mother-nurse in our family attended a reunion for the School of Nursing at Charlotte Memorial Hospital. It was really an experience.

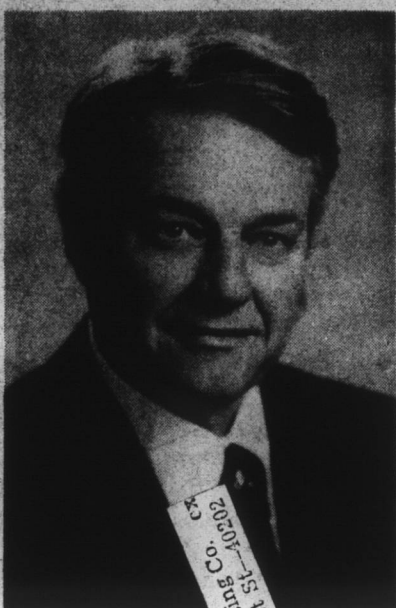
After listening to tales shared by those who had not seen each other in 26 years we were convinced that all the liars don't meander along the Public Parade.

While she played the reunion role Saturday we went up to Elkin to have lunch with Mother. At 92 she enjoys good health. Although she scratched Edenton off her visiting list this last time around she vows that after three months at Shatley Springs we will get first refusal.

It was those 80 miles on I-77 that we made up our mind about the twin-trailer hassle which is apparently dead in this year's General Assembly. One-trailer trucks form enough of a truck-train on the highways. But if they didn't pass you on the right and swing back in front of you with reckless abandon it really would be boring to drive on the interstate.

Sunday morning we planned to get back to Raleigh in time for lunch with our favorite publisher-legislator whose weekend was already messed up by being a member of the "super sub-

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George M.

Wood Elected NCSU Trustee

CHAPEL HILL — George M. Wood of Camden has been elected to a new term on the Board of Trustees of N.C. State University. He formerly served as chairman of that board.

Wood was elected by the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. From 1973 until 1976 he was a member of the Board of Governors. He resigned in order to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination governor.

He was elected to the NCSU post for a four-year term.

Wood has served in both the State House and Senate and is active in civic endeavors on the local, area and state levels. He heads the agribusiness firm of F.P. Wood & Sons, Inc., in Camden and has petroleum interests throughout Northeastern North Carolina.

Local Democratic Convention Set

The Chowan County Democratic Convention will be held at 12-noon Saturday in the courthouse, with all registered party members urged to attend.

George Alma Byrum, chairman of the county executive committee, said the purpose of the convention is to elect officers, appoint committees, and name delegates to various functions.

"I hope there will be a good representation of Democrats at this convention," Byrum stated. Earlier at precinct meetings,

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Dr. J. H. Horton

Dr. Horton Man Of Year

Dr. J. H. Horton of Edenton was named Man of the Year Saturday by the Old North State Dental Society in Raleigh.

This is the second honor for Dr. Horton in little more than a month. On May 8 he was presented an honorary degree from St. Augustine's College, citing his "dedication to public service and attainment of democratic principles."

Active in Community affairs, Dr. Horton has been a member of Edenton-Chowan Board of Education since March, 1967, and vice chairman of the board since January, 1973.

Dr. Horton is active in the Alliance For Progress, Inc., a six-county educational consortium, served as president of St. Augustine's National Alumni Association for five years and was appointed by President Nixon as a member of the Cabinet Committee on Education for North Carolina.

Town Tax Rate Up Five Cents

The Town of Edenton will operate on a \$3,733,514 budget during the next fiscal year which requires a tax rate of 69 cents per \$100 valuation—up five cents from the current year.

The budget was approved by Town Council Tuesday night after they added a penny to the rate in order to pay members of boards for attending meetings and purchase liability insurance for public officials. The public is becoming more legal minded, Councilman Jesse Harrell stated, and public officials deserve protection.

Members who serve on boards appointed by the town will receive \$10 for each meeting attended. The budget includes \$4,000 for this item.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said the budget includes a 10 per cent pay increase for town employees. Otherwise, it is a "hold the line" budget with a tax increase only to cover inflation.

"There are no new employees and no new programs included in next year's budget," Gardner stated.

Also, the anticipated electric rate increase from Vepco is not included. "We'll have to take care of that at the time," he added.

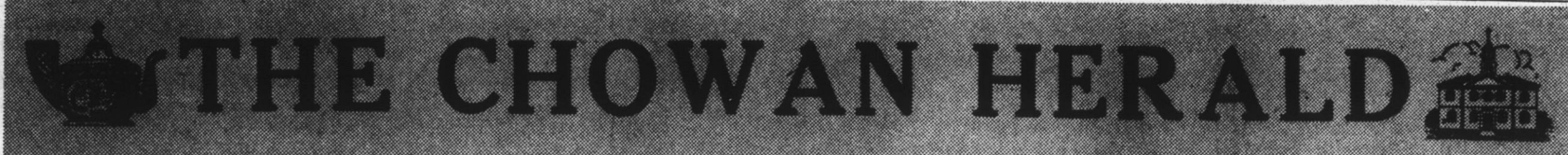
Gardner said the budget was adopted based on the assumption that Chowan County will participate in the Fire, Recreation and Police departments.

The property tax will bring in \$291,000, based on a valuation of \$45-million and 95 per cent collection. The other big item of estimated revenue is the transfer of \$214,330 from the Utility Department.

The town anticipates \$77,500 from the 1 per cent local option sales tax and \$172,000 from the Revenue Sharing.

The Electric Fund is \$2,121,973 and the Water and Sewer Fund is \$292,869.

General Fund budget include: Administrative 84,174; Police Department 217,100; Fire Department 84,153; Street Department 92,000; Sanitation Department 91,225; Cemetery Department 17,525; Garage 49,650; Mosquito Control 12,000; Recreation Department 58,815 and Other Expenses 169,030.



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MAKING IT OFFICIAL — Riley S. Monds, Jr., chairman, Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission, applies a shovel to the soft soil at the site of the Perquimans County-ARPD office building in Hertford. Official ground-breaking ceremonies were held Monday morning. Others taking part were, from left, Joe Nowell, a county commissioner; Mayor Bill Cox; Lester Simpson, chairman of Perquimans County-commissioners; and Robert Whitley, ARPD executive director.

Construction Of Offices Begun

HERTFORD — Construction on the \$500,000 Perquimans County and Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission office building was made official Monday morning at ground-breaking ceremonies.

Rose Brothers Construction Company of Ahoskie had already done considerable site work before Lester Simpson, chairman, Perquimans County commissioners, and his colleague, Riley S. Monds, Jr., chairman, ARPD, turned the first spades of dirt.

They were followed by a third county commissioner, Joel Nowell, Mayor Bill Cox, and Robert Whitley, ARPD executive

director.

Simpson and Mayor Cox both said they were pleased to have been funded by Economic Development Administration for the project which will primarily house ARPD, now headquartered in Edenton.

"This is a project and a building for all 10 counties in the Albemarle Area," Simpson stated. He added that Perquimans especially appreciated the support realized from the other counties in the area.

The building, situated on a six-acre tract owned by the county, will sit 345 back from the road. It will contain 11,163 square feet of floor space of which 7,500 will be used by ARPD and a 1,200 square foot wing for the county. It will have a 1,600 square-foot multipurpose room plus a core area.

It was designed by Williams and Works of Sanford. L.P. Cox Construction Co., of Sanford, has

the \$295,000 general contract. Other contractors are: Rose Brothers, \$66,800 for site and utility work; Raper Plumbing & Heating of Elizabeth City \$23,760; Stuart Shinn Electric Company of Greenville, \$26,160; and Baker Heating Company of Wilson, \$81,000.

Bank Officers Are Promoted

ROCKY MOUNT — Peoples Bank and Trust Company City Executive Vann Johnson today announced the promotion of two officers of the bank's Edenton office. Mrs. Evelyn Keeter was promoted to the office of assistant vice president and cashier and Mrs. Betty Bunch was elected assistant vice president.

Mrs. Keeter is a native of Chowan County and a graduate of John A. Holmes High School. She joined Peoples Bank in 1956 and has served as a bookkeeper, teller and clerk in the bank's Edenton office.

She is a member of the National Association of Bank Women (NABW) and is past treasurer of the D.F. Walker P.T.A. She is treasurer of the Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Association and has served as treasurer of the Chowan Chapter of the N.C. Heart

Association since 1967.

Mrs. Keeter is a member of the Edenton Baptist Church where she is a member of the adult choir. She is married to Fred E. Keeter of Edenton and they have five children: Deborah, 20, of Raleigh; Susan, 13; Karen, 10; Robert, eight and John, four.

Mrs. Bunch, also a native of Chowan County, is a graduate of Chowan High School at Tyner. She has been associated with Peoples Bank for 12 years and has served as a bookkeeper, commercial note teller and loan officer. An active member of the Rocky Hock Baptist Church, Mrs. Bunch has served as Acteen leader, Sunday School teacher and member of the Officers and Teachers Nominating Committee.

She is married to Wayne Bunch of Edenton and they have two children: Teresa Jean, eight and Alta Sonya, four.

HUD OK's Local Grant

First District Rep. Walter B. Jones announced this week the approval by the Department of Housing & Urban Development of Section 8 Housing Assistance Funds in the amount of \$119,844 to Economic Improvement Council, Inc., headquartered in Edenton.

The funds are to be utilized in assisting 284 low income families living in Chowan, Perquimans, Camden, Gates, Currituck, Washington, Dare, Hyde and Pasquotank counties in the form of rent subsidies.

"This program has been in effect approximately one year and has been invaluable in providing low income families with more adequate houses and a better environment," the congressman stated.

Gil Johnson directs the program.



Mrs. Evelyn Keeter



Mrs. Betty Bunch