

Chowan County Gets Recognition

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.
COBO HALL, Detroit, Mich. — Vice President Walter F. Mondale addressed the conference of National Association of Counties here Wednesday, three days after the Alliance For Progress, Inc., was presented a National Achievement Award.

Chowan is one of six counties in Northeastern North Carolina making up the educational consortium. In three years AFP has drawn national attention for innovative programs with special emphasis on closer ties between boards of education and county commissioners.

J.D. Peele, a Chowan commissioner, attended the 42nd annual conference which drew some 3,000 delegates from throughout the United States.

Outside of the host state, Tar Heels made up the largest delegation.

The other five counties participating in AFP are: Gates, Perquimans, Bertie, Hertford and Martin. Peele joined 25 representatives from the consortium at conference activities, headquartered in the new Detroit Plaza Hotel.

The National Achievement Award recognizes the counties for their participation in AFP, which has as its goal the improvement of the educational process through cooperative efforts of elected officials — namely the commissioners and board of education members in the member counties.

The counties pay \$1 per capita toward the AFP budget with the remainder coming from grants

acquired through a number of foundations.

AFP was among some 31 National Achievement Award participants to have an educational display at the conference. The display included three panel sections featuring

artistic representation of the areas of involvement: government, education, culture-heritage, and community citizenship. A slide presentation was also presented.

The close ties between com-
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Registration Plan Opposed

COBO HALL, Detroit, Mich. — County officials at the National Association of Counties annual conference here voted Tuesday morning to adopt a resolution against election day registration.

Efforts to delay action until next year's conference were unsuccessful as delegates voted overwhelmingly by a show of hands to adopt the highly controversial resolution.

The action by the delegates, some 3,000 of whom are attending this 42nd annual conference, came as the issue is being hotly debated in Washington, D.C. It is expected to come before the House this week. The Tar Heel delegation supported the resolution.

Breakthrough was believed to have come earlier when the White House agreed to amend its
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AWARD WINNERS—Chowan County Commissioner J. D. Peele, left, is shown with Riley S. Mondale, Chairman of Perquimans County, with an award presented by the National Association of Counties to six local counties and the Alliance For Progress, Inc. They stand in an AFP booth at the NACo conference in Detroit, Mich. (Photos by Amburn).

Public Parade

Rx For Cooperation

We read where our least favored morning daily of general circulation along the Public Parade is attempting to get the Wake County commissioners and board of education pulling together.

It is ironic that this comes at a time when the same two groups in six Northeastern North Carolina counties were receiving a National Achievement Award in recognition of an improved educational process "through the cooperative efforts of elected officials."

Alliance For Progress, Inc., has brought county commissioners and elected boards of education together in areas of mutual concern. This process will continue and be broadened in the future as new ground is plowed.

National recognition was not the motive which influenced leaders of the project. They saw a problem area, which potentially would get too big for our small counties, and tailored a program to solve it. The fact that it was successful afforded them the opportunity to gain national exposure for the six counties at no expense to the local governments.

So, Wake County, cooperation is not an impossible dream. And in fact, you don't have to be lulled into slumber to experience it.

Bullishness on both sides must first be laid to rest. Openness, honesty and the kindling of a warmth of mutual trust and understanding are prime ingredients for meaningful cooperation of elected officials.

Valuable Studies

The N.C. State University School of Design has completed a study of downtown store fronts and trees throughout Edenton. It was presented to Town Council last week and received less than enthusiastic acceptance.

The town has spent more than \$300,000 in the past few years on a downtown beautification project. This project was without cost to the property owners, except for a sidewalk assessment.

Now it is time for the property owners to take more than a lukewarm approach towards doing their part in making downtown Edenton a shopping center which will continue to draw
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BUSY IN DETROIT—The Alliance For Progress booth at the National Association of Counties conference in Detroit earlier this week was a busy place. Pictured here are Lester Simpson, chairman, Riley S. Mondale, and Joe Nowell, all Perquimans County commissioners; and J. D. Flowers, a colleague from Hertford County.

AID Cites Local Cooperation

Chowan County's cooperation and assistance in a two-week field study program for administrative trainees of the Agency for International Development gained the acclaim of Dr. Richard Blue, director, as displayed in a plaque presented to C.A. Phillips, chairman of the Chowan County commissioners. The presentation was made during a luncheon Monday attended by various local officials.

The field study, conducted in the spring of 1976, was the culmination of a 12-week AID development studies program in which 30 persons applied classroom knowledge to analyzing, designing and developing the skills needed to aid growing foreign nations. Most of those involved had had prior experience in foreign affairs.

The thrust of the work involved evaluating and analyzing development issues in various areas and seeing "how human beings try to improve their lives", Dr. Blue remarked.

During the two-week period such programs and services as the Albemarle Feeder Pig Cooperative, the Chowan County Water System, the solid waste disposal program, FmHA subsidized housing, and the Expanded Food Nutrition Program fell under the study.

What made the Chowan County study unique, Dr. Blue said, was the openness, cooperation, and sense of working together. "We've

never gotten as close to the people before. I feel like we enjoyed a special kinship in sharing development and domestic issues," he said.

"Though \$10-million was cut from our administrative budget, we hope we will be able to come back next year," he added.

W.B. Gardner, Edenton town administrator, commented, "It was evident that it was a learning experience for us all. We benefited
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Payments Upheld

The Finance Committee of Chowan County commissioners has concluded that Murray D. Ashley, director of Civil Preparedness, was entitled to pay from the county while a candidate for Register of Deeds last year.

Earlier, a member of that committee had tried unsuccessfully to get a motion passed to require Ashley to repay half of his salary for several months.

Ashley resigned as CP director and state and federal funds for his salary were cut from the department. However, he continued to draw full salary for his work with Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad from county funds.

N.J. George, committee chairman who questioned the payment, has been quoted as saying the inquiry showed Ashley did in fact "earn" his salary.

Alton G. Elmore is the other member of the committee who questioned Ashley and Commissioner Lester Copeland also joined in the meeting.

At the August meeting of the board, the Finance Committee is also expected to recommend that Chowan Hospital initiate payment for ambulance service for patients transferred to another facility. This service has been rendered by the rescue squad without charge in the past.

The hospital will be asked to seek third party payments — insurance companies and Medicare — if payment from individuals is not possible. If payment is not obtained the squad will continue to use its vehicles and manpower for the ambulance trips.

The proposed new policy is not expected to in any way affect the volunteer emergency services now being administered by the squad.



Dedication Slated

An address tentatively scheduled by Gov. Jim Hunt is expected to highlight the official opening and dedication of U.S. 17 by-pass on August 8, reported C.A. Phillips, chairman of the Chowan County commissioners.

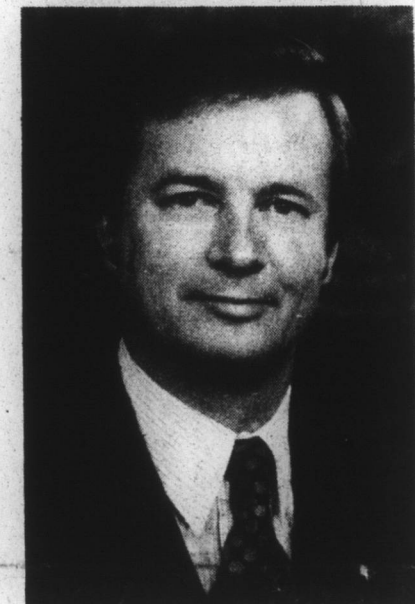
In addition State Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw is slated to be on hand, joining area officials and ranking Department of Transportation members for the event.

The ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication will begin at 10:30 A.M. on the overpass at the intersection of U.S. 17 by-pass and Highway 32, near Chowan Hospital.

Chowan County commissioners, in cooperation with the Town of Edenton and Edenton Chamber of Commerce, are organizing the affair. Other tentative plans include a special invitation to

chairmen of the area county commissioner commissions and mayors.

It is hoped that the John A. Holmes High School Band may



Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.

Basnight Appointed

Marc Basnight of Dare County will be appointed to the State Board of Transportation by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., according to a reliable source.

The Chowan Herald learned Wednesday of the impending appointment which will be announced by Gov. Hunt this week.

Basnight, a contractor, has been active in Democratic Party circles in North Carolina and was a strong supporter of Gov. Hunt in his bid for the governorship.

He is a member of the newly organized Albemarle Area Highway Committee and has, for a long period of time, expressed an interest in obtaining better highways for Eastern North Carolina.

J. Gilliam Wood of Edenton and Joe Nowell of Perquimans County are both on the AAHC and are former state highway commissioners. Neither of them sought appointment to the enlarged State Board of Transportation.

Funds Allocated

RALEIGH — Secretary of Transportation Thomas W. Bradshaw, Jr., announced today that \$43,800 have been allocated for improvements to secondary roads in Chowan County for this fiscal year.

This allocation is part of a \$25-million statewide appropriation enacted by the last General Assembly, effective July 1.

"The Chowan County share of the funds is based on a formula that puts all counties on an equal footing by considering the number of unpaved miles of secondary roads in any given county and the relationship of this mileage to the overall mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the state," explained Jack Murdock, Department of Transportation's Secondary Roads Officer.

There are 36 miles of unpaved secondary roads in Chowan County.

Downtown Restoration Plans Seen

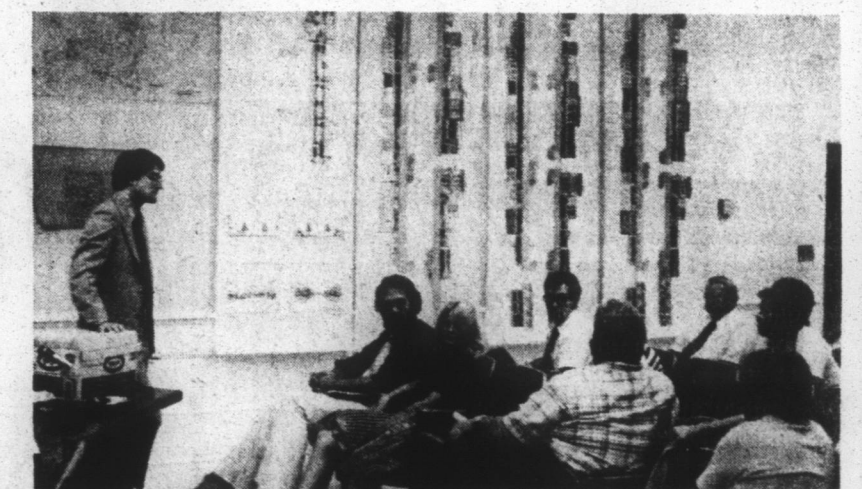
Members of the NCSU School of Design last Thursday night presented Edenton Town Council and a representative group of downtown merchants and interested citizens the results of the school's restoration and vegetation studies for downtown Edenton.

Professor Randy Hester told the group a plan had been devised whereby the historic integrity could be maintained while reinforcing the attractiveness of existing structures and enhancing tourism at a cost not far-fetched or unreasonable.

Hester termed Edenton a national leader in historic renovations and a living model of the country's heritage, two reasons for implementing the proposals put forth in the studies.

Will Hooker, graduate teaching assistant, reviewed the restoration study. He pointed out that tourists' first impression of Edenton is from their car, thus increasing the importance of entrances into town, the intersections, the waterfront area and the second floors of the South Broad Street businesses.

For the Broad Street commercial area a list of recommendations included the improvement of the visual impact of the Queen Street intersection; make additional planting peninsulas to give more views of the buildings at street level; emphasize the statue and waterfront as a focal point at the
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RESTORATION PLANS AIRED — Professor Randy Hester of the NCSU School of Design, standing, is shown reviewing the schools' plan for restoration of the Edenton downtown commercial district. Two other team members involved in the presentation to the Edenton Town Council are shown seated from the left. They are Will Hooker and Annette McAllister.

Principals Switch Locations

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education recently announced the change in assignment of several principals in the school system. John Guard, former principal of White Oak Elementary School will become principal of Chowan High School; Gilliam Underwood, former principal of Chowan High School, will become principal of Ernest A. Swain Elementary School; and Ralph Cole, former principal of Ernest A. Swain Elementary School, will become principal of White Oak Elementary School.

In making the announcement, Supt. John Dunn indicated that each principal had expressed an interest in making the change and in working with the age group at each new assignment.

"It is our intent this year to place increased emphasis on curriculum development at each school," Dunn said. "Each principal has expressed a desire to do this and we expect increased educational opportunities for our students to be the result."



COOPERATION LAUDED—C. A. Phillips, right, chairman of the Chowan County commissioners displays a plaque presented to the county for cooperation and assistance given during a study program administered by and for the Agency for International Development. Dr. Richard Blue, center, director for AID, a federal agency, presented the award during a luncheon Monday at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant. At left is W. B. Gardner, Edenton town administrator.