

Hold The Water

A hearing was held in Winton Tuesday night on an application by CF Industries to discharge water from holding ponds into the Chowan River. This is not an unusual procedure, but it is unusual that word was so slow in reaching those who meander along the Public Parade.

The "green tide" which all but killed the beautiful body of water is set in concrete in the minds of those who witnessed it. And the state Division of Environmental Management isn't regaining any of the lost credibility by keeping the firm's application a closely guarded secret.

We, in fact, learned of the hearing last Thursday while attending a meeting of the Coastal Resources Commission in Carteret County. Even then, the message came from a Tyrrell County resident.

At about the same time the word had reached Edenton Chamber of Commerce and Chowan County commissioners and both dispatched strong letters of opposition. The word has gotten out, then, at Tuesday's hearing should have been a barn-burner.

Water in those holding ponds, which earlier were found to have a considerable leaking problem, contain the same ingredients which were blamed for triggering algae blooms of tremendous magnitude. The company certainly has no right to discharge that water into the Chowan River, it would only open the gate. The state had better see that it doesn't happen!

Good Switch

An acceptable balance has been struck between farm to market as well as tourist to resort roads in the Hunt Administration's \$2-billion seven-year highway improvement program. And since the captain of the ship of state has been given the opportunity to succeed himself, he could be around to cut all the ribbons.

The State Board of Transportation, meeting in Raleigh Friday, also approved a project long on Edenton's throughfare plan—Coke Avenue extension—and gave the Community Development Project budget a shot in the arm by agreeing to be responsible for improvements on North Oakum Street.

The action brought Northeastern North Carolina from 14th in 14 highway divisions up to sixth. That's a pretty hefty jump and indicates that for the first time in memory, this area is being dealt a decent hand, highway-wise.

This is a mecca for tourism, recreation and a breadbasket for the most populated area of this country. One of the problems has been you could hardly get anywhere from here or from anywhere to here. This may now change, in our lifetime.

Crafts Leaders Form Association

A 10-county group of craft leaders met January 10 at the Extension offices at Elizabeth City to file for incorporation of a crafts



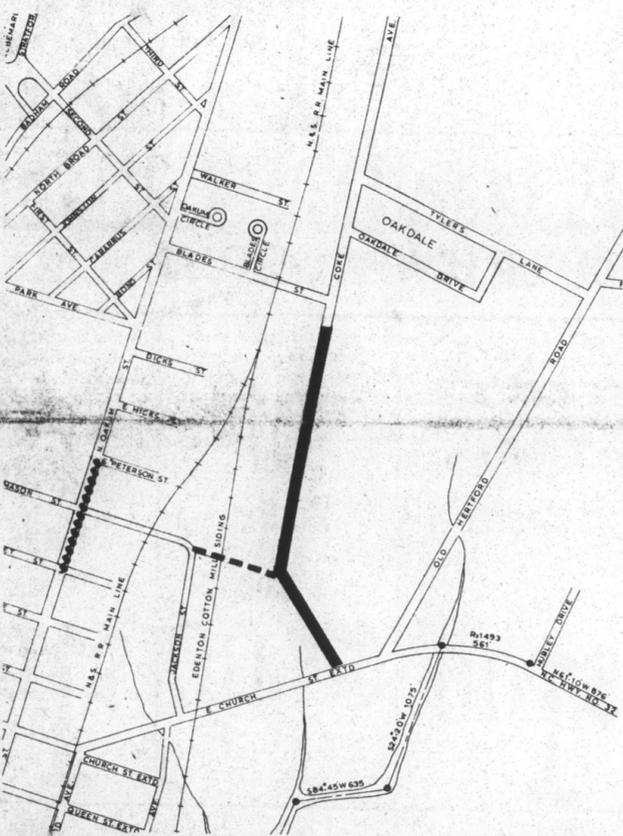
FIRE LEVELS VALHALLA PRODUCE — Though firemen gained control of a blaze at Valhalla Produce Co. last Thursday afternoon in about one hour, the facility was still completely destroyed. About two hours earlier, firemen responded to an alarm at Cape Colony involving a house now believed to have been deliberately burned.

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STREET IMPROVEMENTS — Two street improvements within the Town of Edenton were approved by the State Board of Transportation at a meeting in Raleigh Friday where a \$2-billion seven-year plan was adopted. The solid line shows the approximate location of extension of Coke Avenue to Highway 32. The wavy line at left is the location of improvements to North Oakum Street. The broken line is the town's proposed extension of East Freemason Street to Coke Avenue.



CRAFTS GROUP INCORPORATES — WATERMARK Association of Artisans, Inc., has been formed by craft interests in the 10-county Albemarle Area. Pictured are Katherine Wessink, chairman, left; Janice Eure, Chowan County representative; and Melrie Bell, Pasquotank County representative.

marketing association.

Attending were representatives from the following counties: Chowan, Camden, Currituck,

Dare, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. Also, Albemarle Area Home Economists Fran Ward, Ann Edge, Sandra Brown and Jessica Manning. Elsie Edwards, area agent in creative crafts and home industries; Josephine Patterson, Northeastern district extension chairman; Marge Adams, creative crafts specialist, N.C. Extension Service, Raleigh and Gene Sutton of N.C. Rural Fund for Development, also attended.

The name of the association is WATERMARK Association of Artisans, Inc. Its objective is to provide a market for quality craft and home preserved food products produced in the Albemarle Area. Coordinated with its market program, the association will purchase supplies and train craftsmen.

An application for grant funds to the N.C. Rural Fund for Development is being drafted. With use of grant funds and membership shares the association has begun plans to select a manager and a site for the operation.

Street Improvements Set

Extension of Coke Avenue to intersect with Highway 32 near Old Hertford Road has been approved by the State Department of Transportation and "hopefully" work on the project will begin this summer.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, also said DOT has approved work on North Oakum Street adjacent to the Community Development Project, which is now underway. He said "hopefully" this also will be accomplished this summer.

Gardner has proposed to Town Council that when the Coke Avenue work is underway that the town extend East Freemason Street to connect with the new street. This would take a considerable amount of traffic off of heavily populated Jackson Street.

The town has sufficient right-of-way to extend Freemason to Old Hertford Road. It is not proposed that this be done in a single phase.

At the same time the DOT board approved a \$2-billion seven-year highway plan which includes four "top priority" projects in Northeastern North Carolina. They include four-laning a 16.2-mile portion of U.S. 17 from north of Elizabeth City to the Virginia line at a cost of \$29.5-million; and a 25-mile stretch of U.S. 158 from Point Harbor to Barco in Currituck County, costing an estimated \$17.5-million.

Also, improvements to U.S. 64 were also approved at an estimated cost of \$13-million along with Highway 12 from Nags Head to Hatteras. The Dare County project will depend to a great extent on whether or not aid is received from the National Park Service, according to Marc Basnight, a member of the DOT board from his area.

Basnight, who resides in Manteo, predicted that the Hunt Administration's highway improvement program will "move quickly".

Sec. Thomas Bradshaw conducted a series of 14 public hearings across the state to get citizen participation in the state program. He said at the time Northeastern North Carolina could expect to receive more than casual treatment, primarily because the Albemarle Area Development Association had an active Highway Committee which established a list of priorities and presented them to DOT.

Basnight said this division jumped from 14th position, or last, to sixth this year. He was active on the area committee before being chosen by Gov. Jim Hunt to become a member of the DOT board.



Mrs. Lueta C. Sellers

County Board Seat Contested

A contest developed this week for the Chowan County Board of Commissioners as Mrs. Lueta C. Sellers announced that she would seek the seat now held by C.A. Phillips from the Fourth Township. Like Phillips, Mrs. Sellers resides in the Montpelier Acres area.

Phillips, former board chairman and an executive of Edenton Cotton Mills, filed for re-election last week.

This is the second race to develop in the May 2 primary and/or election, but the first in the Democratic primary. Two—Cecil

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Firemen Battled Thursday Fires

A fire that gutted a vacant house in Cape Colony is believed to have been deliberately set and the Valhalla Produce Company was nearly leveled by fire last Thursday afternoon. Edenton firemen responded to both calls about two hours apart.

The second blaze was brought under control after one hour, but firemen were unable to save the feed mill and other facilities of Valhalla Produce Co.

Murray J. Tynch, Sr., owner, reported the fire may have started in a pile of wheat straw on a porch resulting in the loss of the \$200,000 mill and another \$100,000 in fertilizers and insecticides. The day's records and receipts were also lost. Tynch reported that the property was partially insured.

A series of explosions rumbled through the burning ruins, believed to have been exploding truck tires, it was reported.

Edenton Fire Chief Luther Parks said the fire was brought quickly under control and firemen remained after the blaze to watch over the smoldering debris.

Center Hill-Crossroads Fire Department also responded to the alarm under the direction of Carlton Besell.

Hertford firemen provided local back-up from the Edenton fire station.

Earlier an occupied house believed to be owned by Roy Bryant of Norfolk, Va. was gutted by a fire that Edenton firemen battled for some two hours.

Chief Luther Parks and Sheriff Troy Toppin requested an investigation by the SBI who later discovered kerosene soaked rags by a water heater that had burned through to the ground.

Entry had been gained by breaking out a window in the rear of the house, indicating either vandalism or arson in the incident.



Cecil W. Fry

Cecil W. Fry Ends Career

Cecil W. Fry, associate superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools since 1970, has retired after 31 years of service to public education. This announcement was made and acknowledged at the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education's regular January meeting.

A Resolution of Appreciation for his years of service as a teacher, principal, and Associate Superintendent was unanimously approved to be entered in the Board's permanent records, with the consensus that "he will be sorely missed on all educational fronts."

According to Supt. Dunn, "An associate superintendent to fill the vacancy will be announced for the board's approval at the February meeting." Fry's retirement was precipitated by health reasons.

As the result of a recent joint meeting between Chowan, Gates, and Perquimans County school board members, concrete plans were made to visit existing educational centers employing the concept of providing vocational training and academic enrichment to students. Visitation to The Pruden Center in Suffolk on January 11 by school board members, school administrators, and invited county commissioners is the first step in exploring the feasibility and educational ad-

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Deadline Set February 3

Property owners have until February 3 to list their property for taxes without penalty, according to Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator and tax supervisor. After this date a 10 percent penalty will be added for failure to list.

The First Township, Fourth Township, Arrowhead Beach, Chowan Beach and Cape Colony list in the County Office Building where six listers are on duty from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday and 8 A.M. until 12-noon on Saturday.

Listers in the Second and Third townships have various schedules which are posted and have been advertised in the newspaper.

CF Industries Seeks Permit

CF Industries at Tunis has made application to the State of North Carolina for a permit to dump water from holding ponds into the Chowan River. A hearing by the Division of Environmental Management was held Tuesday night in Winton.

The board of Edenton Chamber of Commerce last week expressed opposition to the application in behalf of "our citizens, fishermen, sailing and boating enthusiasts."

W. L. Norvell, president, said there had been no announcement of the meeting and the chamber is "bitterly opposed" to any action which would allow the firm to discharge water containing nitrogen and phosphorous into the river.

Several years ago the state and federal governments joined together in efforts to solve the algae problem in the river. "It is hard for us to believe you to even consider such action from a firm that was fined for allowing seepage into our river and assisting other elements present to reach this stage," Norvell wrote.

Chowan County commissioners have also expressed opposition to the latest application and J.D. Peele and Lester Copeland, board members, planned to attend the meeting.