

Ideas Differ About Status Of Proposal

By Flynn Surratt

Jim Pressley, director of instruction for Edenton-Chowan Schools, told the board of education, Monday night, that staff planning should begin for future adjustments in curriculum if a career center becomes possible. At the same time a board member, Dr. J.H. Horton, cautioned that enthusiasm in other counties may be waning somewhat.

The statements came during a report by another board member, Mrs. Emily G. Amburn, on a recent tour taken by officials from Chowan, Perquimans, and Gates counties. They studied existing facilities in Monroe and Winston-Salem and according to Mrs. Amburn, received much valuable information on the planning aspects of such a project.

She also reaffirmed that other officials are "ready to go" with the multi-county project.

Likewise, Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, reported that Ken Stalls tri-county director of vocational education, is currently working with the Employment Security Commission in assembling a job needs assessment. That would provide a guide as to what jobs are in demand in the area, thereby effecting the type of curriculum the career center might offer.

Another joint meeting is scheduled by the three boards in Perquimans County on February 13 at 7:30 P.M.

One classroom at D.F. Walker School is no longer in use because of a sag in the boiler room ceiling adjacent to it, reported Dr. Dunn. Upon the advisement of Lewis J. Cooke, consulting engineer with the Department of Public Instruction, Division of Plant Operation, a maintenance crew is

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Action Approved

L. S. Blades, III, president of Norfolk Carolina Telephone Company, announced that at a special meeting held Tuesday in Elizabeth City, the company's common stockholders approved the acquisition of Norfolk Carolina by United Telecommunications, Inc.

The acquisition calls for an exchange of 1.1 shares of United common stock for each share of Norfolk Carolina common. With United Telecom stock closing at \$18.50 Tuesday, the purchase would be worth about \$15,873,000. The outstanding preferred stock of Norfolk Carolina is not being acquired by United.

Blades said that the consummation of the merger is expected to take place in the latter part of March or the first part of April of this year following satisfaction of several conditions, including the receipt of approval from the Federal Communications Commission.

Norfolk Carolina operates in eight counties in Northeastern North Carolina and parts of Southeastern Virginia.

United Telecom also owns Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company, based in Tarboro and United Telephone of the Carolinas at Southern Pines.

Institution's Assets Increase

Assets of Edenton Savings & Loan Association increased by 10 per cent during the past year with savings increasing at about the same pace. The association made 167 loans during the year, amounting to \$3.5-million.

James C. (Pete) Dail, president and secretary, revealed these and other statistics at Monday night's meeting of stockholders.

Officers and directors were re-elected.

Total mortgage loans at the financial institution are in excess of \$12-million out of assets of \$13.2-million.

While the firm maintains a strong reserve position with some \$50,000 added last year, Dail pointed out that "we paid our

Public Parade

Toward A Cure

The acquisition of Norfolk Carolina Telephone Company by United Telecommunications, Inc., was approved Tuesday in the Isle of Pasquotank by the company's common stockholders. Financially, it was a whale of a deal for them and it can prove to be of benefit to many, many others in Northeastern North Carolina.

The acquisition by United Telecom could lead to an expansion of the Albemarle Metro and toll free dialing. This will be

fully welcomed up in Gates. A present time a portion of the city is served by Norfolk Carolina. Another section by Carolina phone. This has meant that Gates residents had to call distance into Gatesville, the county seat, while customers of Norfolk Carolina on the Welch exchange in Chowan could dial direct, toll free.

The Albemarle Area Development Association has tried unsuccessfully for years to get this thing changed. The N.C. Utilities Commission recognized the inequities, but said the cure would be more painful than the illness.

United Telecom now owns both companies. They are in the same family so maybe something can be worked out equally for the brothers and sisters in Gates.

Scoutmaster Needed

A piece of history is on the brink along the Public Parade and without swift action it will succumb to apathy. What may be lost is not merely Troop 156 of the Boy Scouts, but youth who otherwise might experience a "happening" which would have a meaningful impact on their life.

The urgency of the situation must not be minimized. It is a simple problem with a complex solution.

The problem is that Troop 156, the oldest in the Tidewater Council, has died because of the lack of adult leadership. The solution is securing a scoutmaster before its charter expires on February 28.

Troop 156 has enjoyed many successes. There are proud Eagle Scouts among our leaders today who put their act together in Troop 156. Some of them are members of Edenton Rotary Club where a committee has been formed to try and save the troop for future generations.

The committee has been fortunate to find a young man who will serve as assistant scoutmaster. It is the top brass that they have not been able to find.

Between now and the end of the month the troop can be re-activated without loss of longevity. If this is not successful then a piece of history along the Public Parade will be lost.

"America Needs Scouting...Scouting Needs America" is the theme for the 68th anniversary of scouting, February 5-14. Troop 156 needs a scouter, and that's for sure.

Edenton has one strong troop which spun off from the older one. There is room for two or more troops here and the competition created would be healthy.

To prepare a boy for life, that's what scouting is all about.

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Three-Way Races Develop As Election Files Close

A three-way race developed for two Chowan County elective positions Monday just prior to the 12-noon deadline to file as a candidate in the May 2 Democratic primary and school board election.

Harry Spruill, Jr., a member of Edenton Town Council for the past four years, entered the race for Chowan County commissioner from First Township.

Also, Mrs. Thirza B. Shields, Route 2, Edenton, became a candidate for the Edenton-Chowan

Board of Education from Fourth Township.

Her first try for an elected position, Mrs. Shields joins Cecil W. Fry and Mrs. Gwen VanDyyn in a non-partisan race for the seat being vacated by Morris Small.

Incumbent N.J. George is seeking re-election to the county commissioners and last week George Jones entered the race to oppose him. Spruill's entry makes it a three-man race.

J. D. Peele is running unopposed for the Second Township seat on

the county board while Incumbent C.A. Phillips is challenged by Mrs. Lueta Sellers for the Fourth Township seat.

Dr. J.H. Horton is unopposed for re-election to a six-year term on the school board from First Township. This will be the last consecutive term he will be allowed to serve.

Sheriff Troy Toppin and Clerk of Superior Court Lena M. Leary are unopposed for re-election to four-year terms.

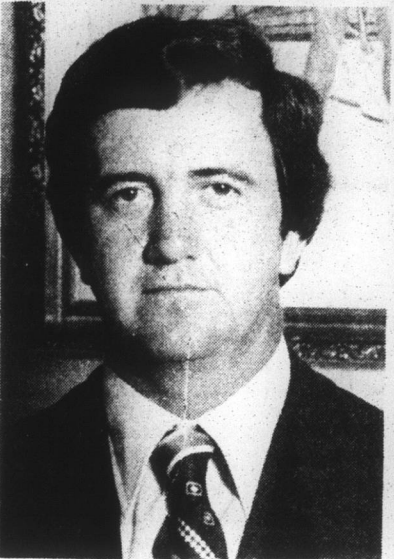
Spruill, who was unopposed in November, 1977, for re-election to a four-year term on the council from Fourth Ward, is a self-employed contractor. He did not issue a formal statement regarding his candidacy.

Mrs. Shields, wife of Robert Shields, Holmes High School athletic director, is educational coordinator with EIC, Inc. supervising the educational component of the seven-county Headstart program. Prior to 1970 the Norfolk, Va., native served as a teacher aide with the ESEA Title

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Mrs. Thirza B. Shields



Harry Spruill, Jr.

Officials Seek Closer Ties

Members of the General Assembly from the First District were put on notice Monday that locally elected officials are going to demand closer ties with local legislation.

The matter in which the "bingo bill" was handled in the last session caused Commissioner Alton G. Elmore to speak about the lack of coordination between commissioners and members of

the General Assembly.

"We need more input when laws are introduced which affect our county," he said. While he said he blamed to some degree, nevertheless, Chowan County commissioners had nothing to say regarding the "bingo bill."

Others agreed that proposed local legislation should have comment from locally elected officials before it is passed.

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CHEAP TRANSPORTATION — Snowbound students took advantage of snow that fell on Edenton last Thursday morning by hitching a sliding ride down South Broad Street behind a pick-up truck. Similar antics reportedly resulted in injuries to another student who was hurt when his car hood skidded into the vehicle towing him.

Snow Fails On Second Try

While it might be difficult to determine who is on second, it is safe to say that the weather is holding down the top spot of the majority of conversations in Chowan County and throughout the Albemarle Area.

The weatherman predicted snow for last Thursday. Like the prediction for high winds the week before, it became a reality.

Snow began falling here about 6 A.M. and before it moved on some four to five inches had accumulated. It was the most concentration of snow in this area in a number of years.

It tried again Monday morning. Wind flurries were all that resulted.

There has been plenty of sunshine in the past week but the temperature has remained near the freezing mark and much of the snow remains in certain areas.

The snow storm brought about an unscheduled holiday for students in Edenton-Chowan Schools, at

Chowan Academy and Immanuel Christian School. There was no school Thursday and Friday but it didn't keep the children at home. There were no complaints expressed about the possibility of having to cut the Easter holiday short as they were having a ball

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CLOSED EARLY — Pembroke Circle, the site of Edenton's only hill, was closed down for sledders almost as early as the schools were. A warning sign flanks a speed limit sign indicating a rate of travel probably unattainable under the conditions. At left, a snowman in the yard of Hoke Roberson, Jr., was among the first yard art to appear.

Farming Income Shows Decline

Gross income from agriculture in Chowan County declined to \$16-million in 1977, off some \$1-million from the previous year. And farmers lost an estimated \$25 per acre on corn.

R. M. (Pete) Thompson, county extension chairman, said while farm income declined the cost of doing business continued to increase. Also, dry weather teamed with increased production costs to make 1977 an unprofitable year for most farmers.

Income from peanuts was up some \$100,000. The yield was higher — 2,947 per acre in 1977 and 2,896 in 1976—but the cost of production and finishing was also higher.

The figures gathered by Thompson listed the corn income at \$1.6-million. He pointed out that in 1976 the yield was 100 bushels to the acre and corn sold for \$2.55. The yield in 1977 was 75 bushels to the acre and corn sold for \$1.80.

"Farmers lost \$25 per acre on corn," he estimated. With 16,649 acres harvested this meant a loss of \$416,225 on this crop alone.

Income from soybeans last year was \$150,000 less than the previous year with yield and price both lower. Soybean income was estimated at \$2.2-million.

Sweet potatoes produced \$140,000 more income in 1977 than the previous year but Thompson

said the higher cost of processing cut into the grower's margin of profit.

Hog income was down due to price but it still accounted to \$3.75-million of the total farm income. Feeder pigs were off substantially.

Income from timber was also off because farmers didn't cut as much as usual.

Thompson said the ASCS had confirmed that land clearing since 1970 had made available as much as 6,000 acres more for farming. Chowan County now has 45,000 acres in cultivation.

While the figures were estimates, Thompson said they are the most accurate of any available because they were gathered through conferences with farmers and businessmen alike.

Officials Want Coop Put Here

Efforts are intensifying to get the Albemarle Home Industries Cooperative headquartered in Chowan County. While no location was revealed, C.A. Phillips of Chowan County commissioners, said a site had been offered.

At the board meeting Monday, commissioners were told by R.M. (Pete) Thompson, county extension chairman, that home industries, such as crafts, have become big business in the Albemarle Area. He pointed out that the crafts fair in Elizabeth City last year took in \$48,000 in three days.

Commissioner Phillips said to have the cooperative headquartered here would be a big boost to Chowan County. He said a committee was actively working on the project but is "not quite ready to announce the location."

Thompson said such a headquarters would bring a lot of people into the area and bolster the economy.

The organization has been incorporated and application is being made to N.C. Rural Fund For Development for a grant and loan to get it off the ground.

The board voted to accept a grant from the state to expand the county-wide water system. This prompted Commissioner Lester Copeland to make a pitch for

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