

Breaking Ground

Edenton United Methodist Church broke ground Sunday morning for a fellowship hall-Sunday School building, the first phase of a building program which spans 10 years.

Edenton Construction Company has the contract for the \$379,000 project. The church owns the land on Virginia Road adjacent to Chowan Hospital and has enough money in sight to pay for the initial phase. It is anticipated that sanctuary construction will follow shortly.

The downtown property will be sold and Ross Inglis informs the Building Committee he hopes to have the new building available for use by Easter.

Andy Pendleton of Design Associates in Statesville, is the architect. He has designed the two-phase project in such a manner that when the first structure is completed it won't look like half a church. It will be in keeping with architecture along the Public Parade and contains some 7,500 square feet.

We inherited the chairmanship of the Building Committee when Thomas Surratt moved to Morehead City some 19 months ago. It was determined at that time that it was in the best interest of the church to have another new start at the program which culminated with the breaking of ground Sunday.

Sunday was not only a "red letter" day for Methodists along the Public Parade but for the entire community. Those seeking a fresh, vibrant community are first impressed with the houses of worship. If they show progress then there is little doubt that things are happening.

Things are happening at Edenton United Methodist Church and all along the Public Parade. Ain't it nice!

Another Tarheel

Tarheel Bank & Trust Company, headquartered in Gatesville, has gained approval from the N.C. Banking Commission to locate a branch in Edenton. While it is some five or six months away, we want to be among the first to welcome the new financial institution to meander along the Public Parade.

The \$35-million bank, chartered in 1904, joins Peoples Bank & Trust Company and Bank of North Carolina, N.A., here. Both are viable institutions and Robert E. Lee, Tarheel executive, vows to protect a growing market as well as expand with the local economy.

Tarheel Bank is no stranger to these parts. With five locations in the area and \$1-million in business in Chowan County, the institution will open in a permanent headquarters on North Broad Street. It is, however, unfortunate that something was not available in the downtown for the bank's initial office in Edenton.

The fact that Edenton is the hub of the Albemarle Area, culturally and financially, was best demonstrated by no formal opposition to Tarheel Bank's application to formally enter the local market.

Mr. Lee, a Chowan native who has guided the bank through its greatest period of growth since 1966, has good credentials as a community-oriented banker. We wish him well in this new expansion program.

Eddora's Help

Since we left Sunday on our first full week vacation in 14 years it was necessary to get our journalistic house in order early. Hazel Conkwright had given us a tearsheet from the May 28 edition of The Charlotte Observer in which Eudora Garrison had an interesting piece.

Too often we take our community for granted as we struggle with our sack of rocks along the Public Parade. So, with Eudora's help we hope to rekindle a spark which may be fading. Here it is:

I like the rolling countryside of Piedmont Carolina. I like the hustle and bustle and prosperity of this area. But when it comes to

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METHODISTS PROJECT BEGINS — Groundbreaking ceremonies for construction fellowship hall-education building for Edenton United Methodist Church was held Sunday marking the beginning of the first of a two phase project. This first phase will consist of a 7,500 foot building to be erected at a cost of \$379,000. It will be located on Virginia Road adjacent to Chowan Hospital. The photo above shows L.F. Amburn, Jr., chairman of the Building Fund Committee breaking ground at the new site. Edenton Construction Company was awarded the contract for the project. The second phase will involve construction of a new sanctuary. (See Public Parade.)

College Receives Reynolds Grant

MURFREESBORO, N.C. — Chowan College has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem to assist in the construction of a gymnasium-physical education center, it was announced today by Chowan

President Bruce E. Whitaker.

The Reynolds Foundation, which was established in 1936, is restricted by a charter, to making grants to non-profit institutions and organizations in the State of North Carolina. Through the years, the Foundation has made grants in 91 of the State's 100 counties.

The new facility will replace the present gym, which Dr. Whitaker called "overcrowded and inadequate." It was built in 1954 for a student body of 300. Chowan now has an enrollment of some 1,000 students.

Whitaker said Chowan appreciates the support of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in helping to provide for the cultural and physical needs of both the college community and entire area and region.

"A new gymnasium-physical education center is an urgent need for Chowan's students," remarked Whitaker. "Through its gift, the Foundation is helping Chowan increase its service to its students in the area of academics, physical fitness, and recreation. But the Foundation is also helping Chowan

meet the needs of the area and region for a facility for cultural, religious and civic events."

Continued Dr. Whitaker, "Thousands of people, including our students and citizens of the area and region, will benefit from the new gymnasium-physical education center. We appreciate the Foundation's support and continuing interest in helping Chowan serve the needs of many different individuals and groups."

Whitaker said the grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation also will provide momentum for Chowan's "Accomplishing Our Mission" campaign. "We must now continue to move forward to reach the minimum \$2 million goal. Many gifts, from many different sources, will be required to reach our goal and finance construction of the new facility," he said.

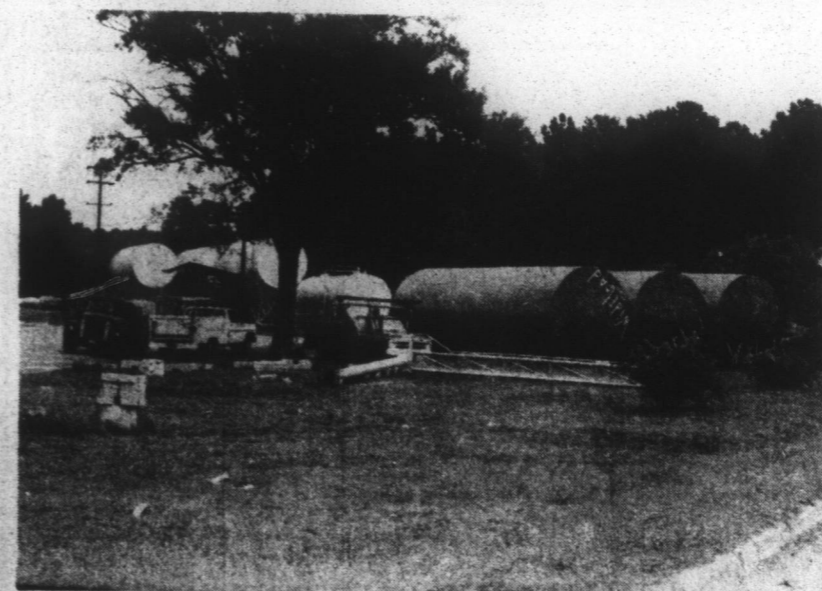
Whitaker said the features of the new gymnasium-physical

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Called Meeting Slated Tonight

The Chowan County Commissioners will meet in special session tonight at 8 o'clock in the Chowan County Courthouse. Among other items to be discussed will be school bond financing options.

The commissioners will also consider a transfer of up to \$2,000 from the Contingency Fund, authorization for the county manager to enter contracts and agreements for the county up to \$2,500, appointment of a voting delegate for the N.C. Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference, and presentation of the Chowan County Personnel and Affirmative Action plans.



by others being used temporarily while the move is being made. J.H. Conger, Jr. reported he is meeting a November deadline set by his insurance company which says it might be liable for fines up to \$25,000 for any oil spills into the bay from its present location on West Water Street.

County Utilizes AFP Computer

SUNBURY — Chowan became the second county in Northeastern North Carolina to utilize a new computer base of the Alliance For Progress. The county's payroll is now computerized and County Manager Eddie Dick "couldn't be more happy with it."

The computer potential was described last Thursday night at a meeting of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission here. Bill Oetker, computer specialist from Youngstown, Ohio, who heads the AFP program, said the plan is to keep "hardware and personnel cost down" thereby giving the participants quality service at a reasonable cost.

AFP has been fortunate to pick up a lot of software without cost and plans to obtain its own computer which will be available to various governmental agencies in

the Albemarle Area.

Richard Baker, AFP director, said the computer project has been under investigation for more than four years. He traced the progress, financed by grant funds, which led to Oetker's employment.

Dick said the three mistakes made on the initial payroll was the fault of the county, not the computer. "Junk in and junk out", he said. "We put junk in in these instances and got junk out," he added.

The manager said he hoped Chowan could get data base for re-evaluation by October.

ARPCD will again contract with Employment Security Commission, with a sub-contract to Economic Improvement Council, for the Manpower program. Bob Whitley, executive director, said

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STATIONED HERE — State Trooper Pat Mitchell, a native of Atlantic Beach, has been assigned to Chowan County, it was reported Monday. Mitchell was among 30 other patrolmen in the first class to graduate from the Highway Patrol Training center, newly located in Raleigh. He is a 1974 graduate of West Carteret High School, and attended Carteret Technical Institute for one year where he studied police science. Mitchell also served with the Beaufort Police Department for a year prior to joining the Highway Patrol. His training officer was Trooper M.J. McArthur.

Mail Customers Overpay

Many customers mailing heavy envelopes are not aware that postage is only 13 cents for each additional over one ounce, Postmaster James M. Bond said today.

Spot checks of large envelopes deposited in the Edenton Post Office indicate that families are often using two or more 15-cent stamps in mailing items weighing over one ounce, Postmaster Bond finds.

Postal rates effective May 29 call for 15 cents for one ounce or less and 13 cents for each additional ounce through 12 ounces.

Because many families have a

surplus of 13 cent stamps on hand, Postmaster Bond suggests that in addition to matching them with two-cent stamps, they may be used for mailing large envelopes or small packages weighing more than one ounce.

Beyond 12 ounces, first-class mail is called priority mail. Packages weighing up to 70 pound can be mailed.

Within a radius of 300 miles of Edenton, priority packages should be delivered the next business day. With the exception of a few distant areas, there is second-day service within the U.S. for priority

Savings Bond Figures Noted

Sales of Series E and H Savings Bonds in Chowan County during the first half of 1978 were \$29,820. This represents 56.5 per cent of the county's goal of \$85,750, according to Graham White, County Volunteer Chairman.

Sales of Series E and H United States Savings Bonds in North Carolina rose to \$62,522,280 for the first six months of 1978. This is 15 per cent above the same period last year, and the highest six-month total since 1945. This represents 51 per cent of the state's dollar goal of \$122,500,000. Second quarter sales of \$31,565,224 were recorded, 18 per cent higher than the April-June period last year.