

It is an exception rather than a rule for us to amend or bend policies established for the operation of this newspaper. However, this week two instances are of such importance that exceptions were made to normal policy. By coincidence the subject of both is the \$3.5-million school bond referendum.

First, the general policy regarding the length of Letters To The Editor is waived to print in full correspondence from John A. Mitchener, III. While we can argue with Mr. Mitchener's conclusions, it is felt he couldn't have come to them in less space.

Then there is the statement from Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, signed by them individually, regarding a commitment to consolidation. While board action was taken in May it is felt their statement is of such importance to pass it on in the format in which it was presented.

With this explanation we recommend both letters for reading.

Office For DA

The State of North Carolina pays the salary of the District Attorney and furnishes him a staff. That is the end of the state's responsibility.

But fortunately, no tax funds go toward the expense involved in operating the DA's office along the Public Parade and throughout the First Judicial District. Tom Watts appears to be as crafty as a manager as he is a prosecutor.

The DA has designed a fee for counties based on the number of weeks of court. In Chowan in fiscal 1977-78, five weeks of court was held and \$640 from facilities fees went toward the operation of the prosecutor's office. In the seven-county district, 39 weeks of court was held and \$4,890 was paid.

More specifically in Chowan, \$47,610.27 in fines and forfeitures was collected and went into the school fund. Another \$8,464 in facilities fees went to the county. And these figures don't reflect payments in District and Superior courts the last week in June.

The bulk of the DA's expense is rent for office space. This amounts to some \$5,000 annually. As new, expensive construction and renovations are done, someone might consider permanent headquarters for the DA.

Multi-county projects are becoming more and more attractive as costs increase in every sector. Commissioners in the First Judicial District might start looking for grant and loan funds for such a project.

School Opening

Dr. Craig Phillips, state school superintendent, is enthusiastic about the prospects for the 1978-79 school term. The following release covers a multitude of subjects which might help get our readers Continued on Page 4

Lake Gaston Recommended Courts May Decide Issue

Lake Gaston will be recommended by the U.S. Corps of Engineers as the future source of water supply for the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. However, the choice of Col. Douglas L. Haller of the Norfolk District, has already been threatened with legal action.

At a hearing in Emporia, Va.,

County, Va., officials would bring suit to protect Lake Gaston from any water withdrawal. Earlier, Gov. Jim Hunt told Virginia authorities that every effort would be made, including a fight in the courts, in order to protect the quality of Tar Heel water.

Water from Lake Gaston flows



CALLS FOR ACTION—W.B. Gardner, town administrator, is pictured talking with Mike McCarthy, center, and an unidentified news reporter prior to a team being dispatched to study the Chowan River. McCarthy heads an eight-man team which has been working in the river for the past week.

CF Industries Suspected

No conclusions have been arrived at by scientists from the state's Division of Environmental Management regarding this year's excessive algae bloom in the Chowan River. However, one member of an eight-man team working 50 miles of the river from Edenton Bay to the Virginia line is quoted as saying CF Industries at Tunis must be handled first.

Area residents are confident that the fertilizer complex in Hertford County is a major polluter of the river, thus triggering the "green tide" in the Chowan.

The state team has been taking samples at 22 points in the river on a regular basis for the past week. It is expected to take at least another week to obtain sufficient data to arrive at conclusions.

While they work in the river, the federal Environmental Protection Agency is being pushed to join in the search for solutions to the problem. Edenton Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Edenton are requesting EPA action.

In response to a chamber letter, Rep. Walter B. Jones of First Congressional District has asked

John C. White, regional EPA administrator in Atlanta, Ga., to personally get involved.

Rep. Jones has sought White's guidance in bringing about a cooperative effort on the part of all federal and state agencies in the hope of determining the cause of this pollution and those steps Continued on Page 4

Conger Presented Award

The Thomas Jefferson Award was presented to J.H. Conger, Sr., 105 West King Street, in ceremonies at his home Monday afternoon. It is in recognition of his long tenure as a weather observer for the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Weather Service.

At the same time, the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award" was presented to Conger by Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District. It was made by Gov. Jim Hunt whose accompanying letter was read by Walter B. Jones, Jr., the eastern representative of his office.

William Pogerman, chief of the Substation Program at the National Weather Service

into the Roanoke River and that basin is believed to be harmed with any withdrawal, as would the Albemarle Sound Basin.

The Coastal Resources Commission, meeting in Edenton in June, adopted strongly worded resolutions dealing with the problem. The commission is petitioning Congress to fund a study of the environmental impact of water withdrawal as far south as Pamlico Sound.

"We will go to court to oppose this proposal," Gov. Hunt stated shortly after Monday's announcement. "It would take water out of watershed where we have so much unemployment. We need to have industrial development over there in the years to come."

Like Gov. Hunt, Sen. Jesse Helms supports going to court to protect Tar Heel water. He sent a representative to the Emporia hearing to outline his views for the record.

The corps concluded that Lake Gaston was the more desirable alternative because it would be implemented without construction of a major impoundment. "...(it) would involve only intake structures, pumping stations, pipelines and treatment facilities..." it was stated.

The withdrawal at Pea Hill Creek would be 70-million gallons per day. As proposed the project would be built in three phases, the first to be completed by mid-1980's.

Congress authorized the Corps study and will get the report after Lt. Gen. John Morris, chief of engineers, solicits views from officials in Virginia and North Carolina and passing it by Secretary of the Army and the president's Office of Management and Budget.

Headquarters in Washington, D.C., presented the Jefferson Award to Conger. He cited the fact that the Conger family had been volunteers in the program for more than 80 years, the last 35 by the recipient of the award.

Pogerman described it as a "very select award" that recognizes only those who have provided exceptional service. There were but seven given in the nation this year.

After the presentations, Conger said receiving the awards made him feel that he had been well paid for all his efforts.

Thomas Jefferson Awards were originated in 1959 for the National Weather Service to honor volunteer weather observers for unusual and outstanding achievements. It is the highest award the National Weather Service presents to volunteer observers. The award is named for Jefferson because the statesman-scientist made an almost unbroken series of weather observations from 1776 to 1816.

Conger was honored for unselfish and dedicated service in continuing a family tradition of weather observing and storm warning that began in the last century. In fact, the records maintained by the Congers at Edenton are among the longest in the state. They began in 1896.

The National Weather Service Continued on Page 4

EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EDENTON, N. C. 27932

August 21, 1978

Dear Citizens of Chowan County:

We, the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education, would like to re-emphasize the fact that the Edenton-Chowan Schools will be consolidated, regardless of the outcome of the school bond referendum. The decision on consolidation was unanimously made in May 1978.

The vote on September 19th will determine the method of consolidation. The vote is not being held to decide whether or not consolidation should take place.

If the bond issue passes, the school system will be reorganized, hopefully by the fall of 1980, in the following manner:

Table with 3 columns: Grades (9-12, 7-8, K-6), Countywide (Southern, Northern), and School names (New High School, Holmes School, D. F. Walker School, Chowan High School).

If the bond issue fails, the school system will be reorganized, maybe as early as the fall of 1979, in the following manner:

Table with 3 columns: Grades (9-12, 7-8, K-6), Countywide (Southern, Northern), and School names (Holmes School, Chowan School, D. F. Walker School, White Oak School).

We feel it is imperative that you understand exactly what the school bond issue means to the children of Chowan County. Should you have any questions concerning the educational need, please contact your school board member.

Sincerely,

John B. Dunn, Secretary

Thomas P. Griffin

Morris Small

Wilbur Ray Burch

Eugene N. Jordan, Chairman

Dr. J. H. Horton, Vice Chairman

Edward G. Bond

Emily G. Kurnum

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Water System Funds Sought From FmHA

A \$312,000 Farmers Home Administration grant is being sought by Chowan County to defray some of the cost of Phase II of the county-wide water system. Chairman N.J. George was authorized by board action Tuesday night to sign the application.

During the special session, commissioners signed an agreement with W.T. Culpepper, III, for legal services regarding the grant, and a contract with Rivers & Associates for engineering work.

FmHA played a major role in financing of the initial phase of the system and continues to show interest in the project.

At the same time, the board approved a new schedule for water rates which creates a residential rate. The new rate will be 75 cents per 1,000 gallons for all over 10,000 gallons. The old rate was 50 cents per 1,000 gallons for all over 20,000. This was deleted.

A considerable portion of the meeting centered around a discussion of the financing of school bonds should the \$3.5-million referendum pass on

September 19. Commissioner J.D. Peele said the board is obligated to state a definite time for repayment so the voters will know exactly what they are passing on.

At an earlier meeting the board tentatively approved a 40-year payback at 5 per cent interest. A decision was made to reconsider this at a meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. on September 5.

Capt. Al Howard, chairman, Edenton-Chowan Airport Commission, outlined plans for the replacement of the tower and hanger buildings at the airport. Earlier he had discussed the plans with Edenton Town Council.

Application Gains Approval

Following earlier action by the State Banking Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has approved the application of Tarheel Bank & Trust Company to open a branch in Edenton. The \$3-million bank has home offices in Gatesville.

"We expect to develop our plans as expeditiously as possible," stated Robert E. Lee, executive vice president. At a hearing in Raleigh, Lee told the state commission that his bank could be ready to begin doing business at an Edenton location in as little as five months.

Organized in 1904, the financial institution now has branches in Lewiston, Winton, Murfreesboro and Ahsokie.

250 Assisted

The Economic Improvement Council, Inc., recently assisted 250 low-income families under the Emergency Energy Assistance Program.

The grant awarded to EIC was for \$27,669 and was designed to assist low-income individuals, especially the elderly and the disabled, in paying back fuel bills and to prevent utility shut-offs. Over 700 individuals residing in the households benefited from the project.

"The Emergency Energy Assistance Program is a one-time funding from the Community Services Administration and designed to lessen the impact of high fuel costs and to enable the poor to respond to crisis situations," said Festress Morris.

Parking Limit

Chief J.D. Parrish has issued a warning that Edenton Police Department will begin strict enforcement of the two-hour parking limit in the downtown area. He said it would start immediately.

Chief Parrish said the parking limit is for all spaces on Broad Street, between Water and Queen Streets, as well as the 100 block of East King Street.

At the same time the Merchants Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce has a drive underway to have employees of local businesses to park in off-street lots, not along Broad Street.

Semester Calendar

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is publishing the following 1st semester calendar for the benefit of parents and students:

- August 28 — Pupil Orientation Day - 1/2 day
August 29 — First full day for students
Sept. 4 — Legal Holiday - LABOR DAY
Oct. 10 — End of 1st six weeks grading period
Oct. 17 — Report cards go out
Oct. 20 — PARENT CONFERENCE DAY - STUDENT HOLIDAY
Nov. 22 — End of 2nd six weeks grading period
Nov. 23-24 — Legal Holiday - THANKSGIVING
Nov. 30 — Report cards go out
Dec. 20 - Jan. 1 — CHRISTMAS VACATION AND NEW YEAR'S DAY
Jan. 2-1979 — Students return to school.



WEATHER OBSERVER RECOGNIZED—J.H. Conger, Sr., 104 West King Street, second from left, is pictured at his home shortly after he was honored Monday afternoon for his contribution to the National Weather Service. Left to right are: Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District; Conger; Bob Daniels, William Pogerman and John McClain all of the federal agency.