

# Letter To The Editor: Need For New School Questioned

Much time could be spent discussing misleading figures and accusations surrounding this proposed \$3.5-million indebtedness; however in the interest of time, I will go to the heart of this issue.

The commissioners of Chowan County have been very liberal in the financing of the educational system of our county. The records will attest to this fact.

Chowan County has five brick structured schools. Under the law our primary responsibility is to provide the land, buildings and maintain these facilities. If maintenance has been neglected, this responsibility rests with the school board. This complaint was brought to the board of commissioners four or five years ago. We increased funding to the school system, told them to make needed repair and then keep them in shape. Now we have the same old story coming up again. There has to be a better reason for needing new school than pointing out faults in the existing schools that are primarily maintenance problems. A new facility, if neglected, will soon have the same problems.

With a declining student population, we have more than enough facilities to accommodate our students. Regardless of the business you are in, one of the first things one must consider in large expenditures is where will the money come from and it's effect on those who pay the bill.

The State of North Carolina dictates to the county the method of local taxation. The only substantial long-term financial funding of local government

is through property tax. Much of the 1 per cent sales tax is being used to retire the Hospital bonds, which will be retired in 1991.

The farmers of this county, because of their occupation, must own considerable property. They are a first degree taxpayer. Most of the farmers feel local taxation is high enough. This is a required tax regardless of net income. To build unneeded buildings is not only burdensome, but an insult to those who must pay the bill.

Because of an outdated tax system, those working for the county and those on welfare and those who are primarily exempt from the brunt of the local tax could very well hender or destroy the very people who have done an excellent job of providing for our county undermost difficult system.

How much property do professional people have to own to earn their living? Their children require school facilities just as the people who must own people who must own considerable property to earn a living.

Under the present local tax system, the primary taxpayers' future could be jeopardized and still not meet the desires of those who are getting essentially a free ride. The system must be changed not only for the protection of the property owner, but for the benefit of those making impractical demands on our present system.

When land is deeded to an individual, the tax becomes his responsibility and is fixed regardless of the debt he owes on it. The increase in evaluation is perpetuated by speculators as well as farmers and the rate of tax

on that evaluation is increased to meet the demands many times of those who are insulated from that tax system. The system requires a much more aggressive rate now because citizens are becoming much more vocal and demanding.

When a person or group is given something they never know how to appreciate it like someone who earns its. Under our present system, if those who are exempt, force this debt on the property tax payers it is no more than legalized robbery.

Under our present tax structure, people who are good stewards of their resources are being crushed by those who are misinformed, unconcerned, and have little or no compassion for the strong hand who has weathered the financial storms of past generations that has helped make us the greatest nation on earth. We have carried the burden long enough; we are not asking you to take our burden of taxation now, we are merely requesting you to help bear your rightful part of local financing by helping to build schools for your children and helping pay for other goods and

services you receive from the county.

For the past three years, I have been serving on the advisory council to the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. Carolina State University. We have 30 faculty members who must have offices off campus, and there are many pressing needs at this university. I am sure they would love to have some of these buildings our school board is trying to abandon if it were possible. Such waste in local government should not be tolerated.

Our country was built on logical people giving action to their thoughts by hard work to develop this great country. We today are the recipients of this great effort.

The philosophy today of many if to waste, let someone else pay the bill, milk the system for all it's worth. When this equity has been depleted, we will find a group of helpless individuals whose only capability is to want.

When our school system seeks support of the basically exempt groups to drive this unneeded debt down our throats, they are hitting below the belt. These

tactics are repulsive and are due a strong reprimand by the taxpayer.

I feel that the school board consolidation threat is being used to force support of the bond issue by setting one end of the county against the other.

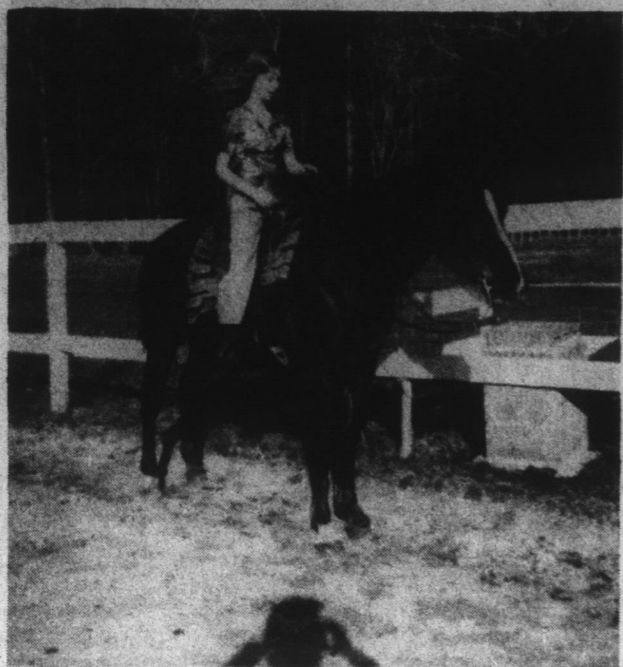
This country was founded on the principle of freedom of religion and equal justice under the law. Many still look with pride on wisdom our founding fathers possessed. Because of change through the years, our method of local taxation has become unequal. Many people who have not earned the right to vote on specific issues are given that right. Would it be just for me to tell you how you must spend your family income? I am

sure you would detest such an unwarranted intrusion.

Is it right for people who are exempt from paying property tax to force a debt on those who pay? We need a method of taxation that will allow us to earn the right to vote. Then we will be more interested in seeking out the facts pertaining to need and our ability to pay for county services and facilities.

We encourage you to defeat the \$3.5-million issue by voting "No" on September 19th. Then let's get involved in a drive to change the law concerning local financing so when we have justifiable needs to arise, we will be able to accommodate them.

David Bateman



**HOLIDAY EVENT**—The Perquimans County Horse and Pony Club will have their annual Labor Day Horse Show on Monday, at 1 o'clock. The ring is located approximately 4 miles west of Hertford on Joe Perry farm. Classes will be held for children and adults. They include western pleasure, halter, trail, barrell racing, pole bending, fastest horse around the ring and many more. The public is invited to attend. There is no admission fee, and the concession stand will be open for the entire show.

## 4-H'ers Enjoy Outing

By Jewel Langley  
Club President  
The Ryland Jr. 4-H Club held its yearly August outing, August 8 at 4 P.M. at Arrowhead Beach.

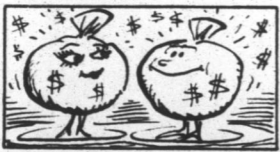
The afternoon was great for a sunny day at the beach which everyone enjoyed. After splashing around in the water for a long period of time everyone enjoyed a delicious supper of hotdogs and hamburgers.

The money for the food was provided from our club treasury.

The following: Wanda Byrum, Richard Umphlett, Dawn Umphlett, Donna Pippins, Gary Copeland, Carol Jordan, Mike Pippins, Keith Jordan and Dee Bunch attended the outing.

Mrs. Blannie Copeland and Mrs. Richard Umphlett the club leaders, and Murray Goodwin, an Extension Agent were also present.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the days events.



According to the Internal Revenue Service, in 1975, there were 90,836 women millionaires—but only 89,164 men millionaires.



Hot dogs can be frozen for up to two months.

## Matching Grant To Be Alloted

Rep. Walter B. Jones today announced the approval by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior, of matching grants-in-aid funding for improvement of the James Iredell House, East Church Street, Edenton, in the amount of \$4,750. This sum will be matched by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

These funds will be used to install a security system and for restoration of the property.

The house is significant as being the original house purchased by James Iredell around 1778. Iredell was Attorney General of North Carolina and an Associate Justice of the first U.S. Supreme Court. The house is a State Historic Site Museum.

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**STARTS FRIDAY!**

