

Don't Fuss

Voters along the Public Parade go to the polls Tuesday. They won't be making a decision on liquor-by-the-drink, which would be more predictable, but on whether or not Edenton-Chowan Board of Education can spend \$3.5-million for a new consolidated high school.

At the outset, we want to say our vote will be "YES" on Tuesday. We have been an advocate of consolidation, with a firm belief that it can only be effectively and efficiently accomplished with new construction.

The outcome of Tuesday's referendum has no bearing on whether or not this writer will continue to have his meals prepared by a school board member. It will, however, have a great bearing on the quality of education along the Public Parade.

We were foolish enough, during the Hospital Bond Referendum, to feel that the issue could be settled on its merits, sans personalities. The Hospital issue cost the citizens of Chowan County no less than \$400,000 because the voters couldn't separate the two. Are we going to do it again?

Before going further, we want to commend Chowan County Board of Commissioners for the manner in which they have handled this referendum. Several years ago they set their priorities, i.e., the Sanitary Landfill, Courthouse-detention facility complex, and County-wide water system. All of these have been accomplished and it is, in our opinion, and apparently from their action, their opinion, the school's time at bat.

What they have said and/or done privately, is the "sack of rocks". They will be called upon individually to carry them, but as a board they have done things in a manner for which they should be commended.

It is refreshing to learn of new community interest in education along the Public Parade. Where was this interest while the board of education was neglecting (?) the existing facilities?

While no attempt will be made here to comment, let alone answer, some of the allegations made over the past few weeks, we want to refresh the public's memory regarding the "blank check" charge. In the Hospital Bond Referendum it was stated that the "politicians" couldn't be trusted to keep their word to spend only the amount of money

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CORRECTION

A portion of the story in last week's newspaper concerning formation of Interested Citizens Opposed to The Bond Issue was in error. The county commissioners were not mentioned in a fact sheet from which the story originated.

It is alleged in the fact sheet that only Edenton-Chowan Board of Education had neglected the existing buildings.

The Chowan Herald regrets the error and is happy to make this correction.



WATER QUALITY CONCERN AIRED—Capt. Alfred M. Howard, second from left, points to a point in the Chowan River on a map where algae blooms to be troublesome. At left is Bill Norvell, chamber president; at right is J. Gilliam Wood, chairman of the State Board of Natural Resources & Community Development with Sec. Howard Lee. In the other picture, Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and Sec. Lee have a private conversation in the yard at Hayes Plantation.



A RESOLUTION

Whereas: the Chowan River is of great economic, recreational and environmental importance to North Carolina; and,

Whereas: the full benefits of the river are being diminished because of environmental degradation; and,

Whereas: that degradation continues to worsen; and

Whereas: no plans to prevent further degradation has been developed

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development should place the highest priority on investigating the causes of environmental problems on the Chowan River: that based on the results of such investigation a plan for management and control of the causes of the environmental problems should be prepared and implemented; and a report should be made at each meeting of the Board on the current status of the Chowan River situation until such a management and control plan is devised and implemented.

Landfill Tract Not Approved

County Manager Eddie Dick is looking for land. Not just any land but a particular type which will pass state requirements as site for a sanitary landfill.

The state last week disapproved of a 30-acre tract in the Rocky Hock area, owned by Raymond Bunch. The soil did not meet state standards for a landfill.

In addition to a particular soil type, Dick said the state requirement is that you can't dig within two feet of the water table. "This is a serious restriction for most all of Eastern North Carolina," the county manager noted.

The present 25-acre site at Cisco is rapidly filling up and Dick predicts it will be full by the end of the year. In six years of operation the soil waste put into the fill has increased by more than one third.

"Finding a site that will meet state standards and one which will allow us several years of use is becoming critical," he said Monday afternoon. To dramatize the problem, he said the Soil Conservation Service had identified 13 suitable sites, with regards to soils. Five of these were considered "good" and apparently all of them are cleared and being used for agricultural purposes.

The current site is being leased from Union Camp and the firm has no more available land in either Chowan or Perquimans counties.

Dick said the seriousness of the existing problem makes it apparent that the counties must begin now seeking alternative means of handling solid waste. "The systems we now know about are extremely expensive,"

Resolution Asks River Clean-Up Be Top Priority

If attention, especially by policy officials in state and federal government, can solve the algae problem in the Chowan River local people are beginning to feel more comfortable.

"We've finally got their attention," declared Bill Norvell, president, Edenton Chamber of Commerce, following events last Thursday which brought ultimatums from Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and Sec. Howard N. Lee of the State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development.

Also, on Friday the NRCD board passed a strongly worded resolution calling for the river to be given the state's top environmental priority.

Monday, Norvell was notified that a representative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would visit the area this week to discuss the future course of action.

There was some disappointment, however, at Thursday's meeting when it was reported that the intensive crash study of the past three weeks had failed to turn up a specific cause for this years' tragedy, the first in six years.

J. Gilliam Wood of Edenton, chairman of the NRCD board, arranged for a portion of the quarterly meeting be held here to dramatize the problem. While his is a policy board the resolution called for an unprecedented course of action regarding the river.

The resolution followed Thursday's presentation at Chowan Golf & Country Club by Capt. Alfred M. Howard of the chamber's Water Resources Committee, made a detailed presentation regarding the history of the problem.

He called attention to a 1972 study and recommendations made at that time which have not been implemented. Sec. Lee appeared to be caught by surprise and quickly huddled with his aides before later telling the group action would be taken.

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Fever Is Rising As Vote Nears

A last minute promotion blitz is underway by those on both sides of the \$3.5-million School Bond Referendum to be put to the voters of Chowan County Tuesday. The volunteer group promoting a "Yes" vote for Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has clashed in recent days with a newly formed core group organized to attempt to defeat the issue.

Polls in the six precincts will open at 6:30 A.M. and close at 7:30 P.M. Curbside voting will be allowed between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M. only, according to Mrs. Corinne F. Thorud, supervisor of elections.

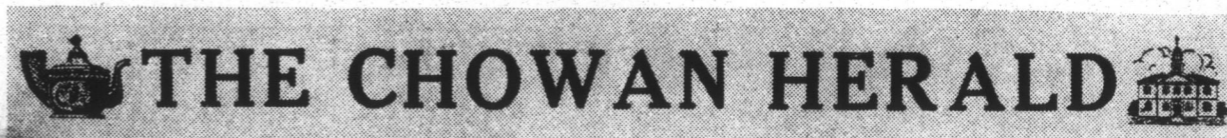
When the registration books closed for this special referendum at 5 P.M. on August 21, Mrs. Thorud reported a total of 5,475 eligible voters.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot was 5 P.M. yesterday (Wednesday). However, provisions are made for those who become ill after that time. Such a person must apply before noon on the day before the election. This application must be accompanied by a statement from the attending physician.

In East Edenton, voting will be at the County Office Building; West Edenton, Municipal Building; Rocky Hock Rescue Squad Building back of Earl Smith's Store; Center Hill, Community Building; Wardville, Ward's Community Building on Highway 32; and Yeopim, Edenton Municipal Airport.

The question on the ballot in this "Yes" and "No" referendum is: "SHALL the order authorizing \$3,500,000 of Bonds secured by a pledge of the faith and credit of the County of Chowan to pay capital costs of providing public high school facilities in Chowan County, including the construction of school buildings, plants and other facilities, the acquisition of necessary land or rights-in-land and the acquisition and installation of furnishings and equipment necessary for such school facilities, for the maintenance of public schools in the County for the school terms prescribed by law, and a tax to be levied for the payment thereof be approved?"

A copy of the sample ballot can be found on Page 14-A of today's edition of this newspaper.



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Rate Hike Examined

State Sen. Melvin R. Daniels of Elizabeth City is championing the cause of customers of Virginia Electric Power Company in North Carolina and as a result, the Consumer Advocate Public Staff of the N.C. Utilities Commission is taking a second look at a recent 17.8 per cent rate increase.

Earlier in the week Sen. Daniels asked Hugh Wells, executive director of the staff who is a former Utilities Commission member, to have his legal department work toward a restraining order to delay the September 1 effective date of the increase.

The senator called the increase an "economic disaster" for families and businesses in Northeastern North Carolina. He said the Vepco customers are now paying more than is being charged elsewhere in the state by Carolina Power and Light and Duke Power.

Wells said in Raleigh that the Vepco rates are 15 to 20 per cent higher than those of the other two power companies. "I don't think we can accept the proposition that the people in that part of the state (served by Vepco) have got to pay significantly higher rates than the people in the rest of the state," he added.



COMMISSION MEETS—R.S. Monds, Jr., right, and Don Bryan, officials of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission, and Edenton Mayor Roy L. Harrell are shown with Gov. James B. Hunt at last week's special commission meeting here.

Area 'Neglect' Is Cited

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., laid it on the line here Thursday night. He believes in strong regional organizations where local leadership is exerted and has a commitment to see that Northeastern North Carolina catches up in sharing Tar Heelia's progress.

"This region hasn't had a fair share of the progress North Carolina has made," he said in his prepared address at a special meeting of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission. He went on to say a number of things are being done at the state level "to overcome this

neglect". But he warned that they can't be done overnight. "In some areas we are just getting serious about it."

He encouraged some 150 local government representatives at the meeting to "put past problems behind you" and called for a renewed interest in the regional commission.

Gov. Hunt said the commission is a "creature of local government and certainly not a third layer of government."

"The staff has no business running it, but should carry out the policy established by a strong

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GOV. HUNT IN CHOWAN—Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., flew in to Edenton Municipal Airport late Thursday afternoon and in the next couple of hours saw a lot of the area. In the left photo, he is shown being greeted by Floyd Bunch and Elizabeth Rorrer, students at Edenton-Chowan Alternative School and Mrs. Susan Wellborn, a teacher. From the airport he went to Hayes Plantation where he met Mrs. Susan Creighton, Mrs. Jean Norvell and Mrs. Nellie Jones. At Fisher Nut Company he was given a tour by Marvin Shaw before he left for downtown Edenton and tea at the Cupola House. With him there are: State Sen. Melvin Daniels, Mrs. Ross Inglis, and Miss Elizabeth Vann Moore. He then went to Edenton Jaycee Community Building where he addressed the Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission, before departing for Raleigh.



Gov. Hunt Tours Edenton

By L.F. Amburn, Jr.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., received a mini-dose of Historic and Progressive Edenton last Thursday when he came to address a special meeting of the 10-county Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission at Edenton Jaycee Building on Base Road. Traveling with State Sen.

Melvin Daniels, Jr., of Elizabeth City, the governor's plane arrived at Edenton Municipal Airport at 4:45 P.M. He was greeted by Sheriff Troy Toppin, this writer, along with the usual SBI and State Highway Patrol contingent.

A special welcoming group included two representatives of

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