

## Disturbed, And More

"You damn right!"

This was Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.'s, response last Wednesday to a reminder of his pledge regarding restoring life to the algae-clogged Chowan River. He had just been told that the graphing of samples taken from the river around CF Industries at Tunis showed an estimated 1,200 pounds of nitrogen per day was entering the river.

At a September meeting along the Public Parade he pledged that his administration would get to the bottom of the matter and take whatever corrective actions necessary, no matter how drastic they might be.

The reminder brought the angry response from the usually well disciplined Tar Heel chief executive. The heat is now squarely where it should be — the Hunt Administration. However, whatever action is taken area citizens must prepare for many winters of unpleasantness before the wrong is righted.

Up until recently, state programs regarding our greatest natural resource have been a comedy of errors, looking the other way, inconsistencies, foot-dragging, buck passing, double-talk and general bureaucratic hogwash.

The confessions expected to be made at the December 11 public meeting won't be accepted by local citizens who have beat the drum off and on for six years trying to keep the attention of state environmentalists.

The State of North Carolina, through the Coastal Area Management Act, is seeking to administer more federal environmental permits in a 20-county area. This could wipe out duplication, cut red tape and eliminate costly delays. However, if the state doesn't establish a good track record on the Chowan River there are faint hopes that the liberals in Washington, D.C., are going to look with favor on any plan to relinquish control over permits.

If the latest findings do not challenge elected officials in the 11-county region which makes up the Albemarle Sound Basin to band together, and the Hunt Administration to be as good as its word, then the whole group needs to be turned out on election day.

Governor, think we are mad! "You damn right!"

## Priority Item

Tuesday was a Court Holiday along the Public Parade. This was by accident rather than design. But, whatever the explanation, it forcefully supports the need for an additional District Court judge.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of the Chowan County Superior Court, was notified after 4 P.M. Monday that Judge Grafton G. Beaman was being detained in a Raleigh case. Therefore, he would be unable to preside in District Court here at 9:30 A.M. Tuesday. This left the clerk little time to notify people who were scheduled to do business with the court.

Judge John T. Chaffin was involved in a civil term in Perquimans County and was not available. Franklin Freeman, administrator of courts, was unsuccessful in obtaining a jurist to substitute for Judge Beaman.

Defendants, witnesses, attorneys and the usual courtroom

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**TOOTS NAVY'S HORN** — Capt. Jim Earnhardt, a reservist, manages the Navy's Seapower Presentation Team as a volunteer on weekends and practices law in Edenton throughout the week. (Photos by PHI Isaiah Robinson).



**GETS GOVERNOR'S EAR** — W.B. Gardner, Edenton town administrator, buttonholes Gov. James B. Hunt in his Capitol office to inform him of recent findings of huge amounts of algae-feeding nitrogen flowing into the Chowan River near CF Industries at Tunis. Gov. Hunt has pledged to take strong action in the matter. (See Public Parade).

## Board Chairman Reviews Decision On Consolidation

In the wake of the defeated \$3.5-million School Bond referendum and the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education's decision to achieve consolidation in 1979 by placing ten temporary classrooms at John A. Holmes High School, there has been local speculation, criticism and questioning of reasons and motives for the decision.

An interview recently held with Board Chairman, Eugene Jordan, summarized the background leading to the board's decision and expanded on the Consolidation Steering Committee's report released at the November Board meeting.

In the meantime, a Public Hearing will be held at 7:30 P.M. today (Thursday) at Chowan High School. Such a hearing is required by law whenever a high school facility will no longer be used for that purpose. The proposed consolidation plan will change Chowan School from a high to a junior-high facility, to include grades 6 (in the northern end of the county) and grade 7 and 8 countywide.

In explaining the School Board's position, Chairman Jordan reiterated time and again, "The

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## Christmas Parade Scheduled Friday

The Christmas shopping season will be launched here Friday with the annual parade through downtown Edenton. It will mark the first official visit by Santa Claus.

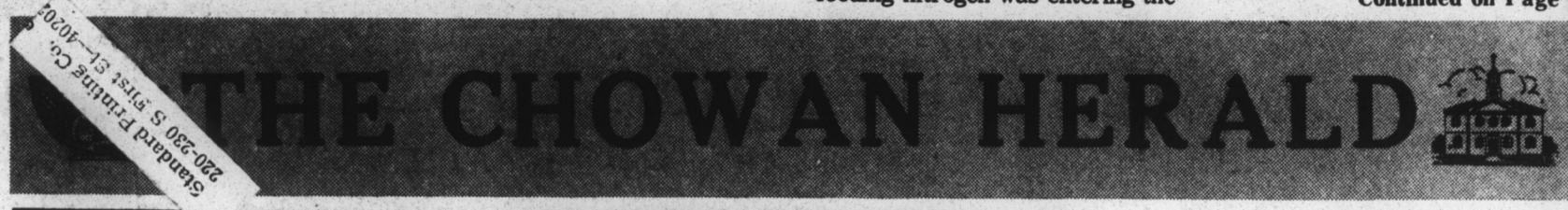
The parade will form on Coke Avenue and make its way down Broad Street at 3 o'clock. Units will break up on Water Street.

Robert Moore, executive of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, said the final count of units was still undetermined. He did say, though, that "things are beginning to shape up" for a nice parade.

Byron Kehayes is chairman of the sponsoring Merchants Committee of the chamber. The Edenton Jaycees assist in the event and are headed this year by Bill Smith.

## Waning Naval Power Is Reservist's Concern

By Scott Hessek  
NORFOLK, Va. — A tall, soft-spoken man who describes himself as "a small-town lawyer practicing in Edenton", moonlights at a job whose success could



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**PETITIONS PRESENTED**—Governor James B. Hunt, at right in photos above, was presented petitions bearing some 43,000 signatures protesting high Veeco rates last Wednesday. In left photo, Charles Creighton, president of Edenton Chamber of Commerce is shown with the governor. In the right photo, Stan



Hege, left, chairman of the Petitions Committee and Richard S. Coimer of Washington, chairman of Operation Overcharge unload more petitions on Gov. Hunt. At his suggestion, the petitions were forwarded to the Public Staff of the State Utilities Commission.

## Governor Pledges Vigorous Pursuit Of Lower Utility Rates

RALEIGH — Repeating his claim that high utility rates are "hurting our economic growth" in Northeastern North Carolina, Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., received a delegation bearing petitions with more than 43,000 signatures here on Wednesday of last week.

The petitions ask Gov. Hunt, the State Utilities Commission and Federal Power Commission to roll back high electric rates charged by Veeco in its 22-county service

area of the state.

Gov. Hunt called the rate matter "a situation that is not only hard on the individual rate payer" but "the one thing that has made this intolerable is that this is hurting our economic growth."

He said this is only the beginning of investigations into high utility rates in the state.

"I intend for the state to do everything humanly possible to have reasonably comparable rates in this area," the governor said.

In conclusion he said: "I give you my word we'll pursue this matter as vigorously as we can."

At his suggestion, the petitions were taken to the State Utilities Commission where they were turned over to the Public Staff which is conducting the investigation called for by Gov. Hunt.

Stanley W. Hege, chairman of the Petition Committee of "Operation Overcharge" and representing Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, handed Gov. Hunt a letter in which he outlined the causes of concern.

"Veeco says, 'Price reductions will take time, but Veeco has lost sight of the fact that for more than 15 years their rates have been consistently higher than Carolina Power and Duke Power,'" he wrote.

"The people living in the area served by Veeco are speaking out

and do not feel they should be penalized 19 to 40 per cent more for electricity than our neighbors in the Piedmont and Western sections of North Carolina."

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce obtained 3,509 signatures on the petitions presented to Gov. Hunt.

## Chowan County Picked For Land Title Project

Chowan County has been selected for creation of a model land title recordation project funded by the Department of Housing & Urban Development. Once completed, the land records management system could be duplicated by some 3,000 counties throughout the United States.

The \$200,000 HUD grant will be administered by the State Department of Administration.

The manual will be the only model developed in North Carolina under the state-federal program which will cost the county approximately \$10,000. The only county cost, according to County Manager Eddie Dick, will be a 50 per cent match for "hardware".

Dick explained that the system will make title searches easier and quicker, thereby saving the property owner money. He said the cost-cutting feature of the system is what HUD officials are seeking.

The manager said because this is the only project in the state it will be watched closely by both state and federal officials. Also, when completed in the next two years, it will attract county leaders from all over the country.

Chowan County was chosen because of a movement already afoot to obtain new tax maps. That project will move forward at the same time as the system is developed.

Dick pointed out that the state is moving to establish certain standards for land records management, such as identification numbers for various parcels. "Chowan County will already be on such a system when it comes about," he added.

Competition for the grant was keen, Dick noted, saying Chowan received full cooperation from Sens. Melvin Daniels and J.J. (Monk) Harrington and Rep. Vernon James.

Dick went to Raleigh Wednesday to meet with state and federal representatives to establish the framework for this unique, innovative project.

## Legion Baseball Banquet Set

Edward G. Bond Post No. 40, American Legion, will host the N.C. American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame banquet on January 27, 1979. The event will be held at the Legion Building on U.S. 17 business.

Commander Carl Freese said this will mark the first time the Hall of Fame banquet has been held east of Greensboro. E.C. Toppin is handling arrangements for the event.

Inductees are:  
John H. Moss of King's Moun-

tain; Lawrence (Crash) Davis of Gastonia and Greensboro; G.W. (Bill) Leonard of Salisbury; and Ralph Michael Caldwell of Tarboro and Grafton, Wis.

A press conference with the inductees will be held at 5 P.M. The social hour at 6 P.M. will be followed by the 7 o'clock banquet. The speaker will be announced at a later date.

The 1978 American Legion state championship team from Ashboro and other state and national

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