

# Mayor; Town Council Clash On Issues

Mayor Roy L. Harrell and Town Councilmen clashed on three issues Tuesday night in the most vocal meeting since adoption of the 1978-79 budget.

The mayor tried unsuccessfully to have the town "forget at this time" further implementation of a 10-year-old Thoroughfare Plan. The suggestion by Town Administrator W.B. Gardner was that Edenton negotiate a right-of-way with property owners as a

step towards completion of a loop road connecting US 17-Business (West Queen Street) with Highway 32, via Twiddy Avenue.

At a later point Mayor Harrell made "suggestions" aimed at closer monitoring of Gardner's activities. Councilman Allen Hornthal said the statement was more of an "edict" while Councilman Gil Burroughs said implementation would be "degrading" and it would be "in-

sulting" for the administrator to keep a sign-out sheet.

At another point, Hornthal charged the mayor with exceeding his authority. The mayor countered with a statement in the Town Charter which makes him chief executive officer, adding that implementation of the suggestions is needed to make it easier for him to "keep in touch with the situation." He said compliance with his suggestions would be a big help

to him, noting "it will make it easier on me."

The third point of contention was a recent trip by representatives of the town to Opp, Ala., to gather information regarding a municipally owned cable television system. Mayor Harrell charged that the trip by Councilmen Jesse L. Harrell and James P. Ricks, Jr., in the company of Gardner and James Martin, director of utilities, was not authorized and "gross neglect" on the part of those involved.

He said he was unsuccessful in attempting to stop the trip and threatened not to sign the expense checks which total \$1,161.

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**DISTRICT DECA WINNERS** — Six Distributive Education students at John A. Holmes High School earned district honors at a recent conference in Murfreesboro. All the students shown won the Proficiency Award. Left to right are: Sherry Parrish, Jan Burris, Jackie Hardy, Debbie Griffin, Martin Cross, and Kathy Lane. Miss Burris won first place in the selling event of Food Marketing Series; Miss Griffin, third place in the math event in the same series; and Cross gained first place in the math event of the General Merchandising Series.



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## Public Parade

### More Statistics

The saying goes that one can find statistics to support a particular point of view. While the N.C. Highway Patrol doesn't have to rely on numbers to prove their case, some figures distributed by Capt. Carl Gilchrist of Troop A won't hurt a bit.

Troop A, which is composed of 23 Northeastern Tar Heel counties, had a significant reduction in fatalities in 1978 as compared to the toll in 1977. The 7 per cent reduction may not seem significant until the increase in miles driven is considered.

At the same time, arrests for drunk driving, (7,087) increased 32 per cent, equal to 53 per trooper. Capt. Gilchrist points out that this does not necessarily mean that more people are committing this offense but only that more were detected.

The patrol has a unique overtime program. A trooper can voluntarily work an extra eight-hour shift per week and receive pay at a rate of time and one-half his regular salary for the additional eight hours. This provides more eyes for detection of speeders and the drinking driver.

Also, special efforts are being made to minimize off-the-road time. Capt. Gilchrist notes that the true problem driver is a very small part of the motoring public, although they are not always the only ones that are killed or maimed by their unsafe actions.

But let's look at those other statistics:

There are 143 working troopers in the district, who spent 14,201 actual hours patrolling. They investigated 8,322 accidents, gave 43,137 warning tickets and made 49,824 speeding charges. Their action resulted in 1,027 revocations or suspension of licenses.

North Carolina is fortunate to have a good Highway Patrol. Closer home, those who meander along the Public Parade are fortunate to have good Highway Patrolmen in Mike McArthur and Pat Mitchell.

Like we said, they don't need statistics to support their case. But they'll make you one in a heartbeat if you are detected running afoul of the law.

## No New Leads Reported In Jones Murder Investigation

Sheriff Troy Toppin reported "nothing new" Tuesday afternoon in the investigation of the robbery-slaying of Les Jones, a rural Chowan County merchant. He said his department continues to get leads but have gained nothing yet to offer encouragement of an immediate arrest.

Chowan County commissioners last week posted a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved. Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has been petitioned to post a reward on the state level.

A source last week said officers needed a mighty big break in the case but this break had not come by mid-week.

Jones was found dead in his rural store in mid-afternoon on January 31. An unidentified couple

## Clark; Kirby Take Heart Fund Posts

Rhonda Kirby, 104 South Oakum Street, and Alton Clark of Montpelier Acres, have accepted key positions in the 1979 Heart Fund in Edenton and Chowan County.

Vann H. Johnson, city executive of Peoples Bank & Trust Company who is chairman of the funds campaign, said Miss Kirby will be Balloon Sales Chairman while Clark will chair the Business Day activities.

Rhonda will be in charge of volunteer Heart Fund workers who will sell the bright red balloons at shopping areas in Edenton on Saturday when the Chowan County Heart Association conducts its annual fund raising campaign, the city chairman said.

The city chairman said that

## Home Destroyed

Fire destroyed the home of Evelyn Simpson in the Green Hall Section of Chowan County Friday night, and although weather conditions delayed firemen from arriving on the scene, Chief Luther C. Parks said the firefighters did an excellent job.

Firemen were alerted at 8:55 P.M. on the blaze. The residence was located some 10 miles from Edenton.

The highways were a solid sheet of ice and it took firemen almost twice as long to arrive on the scene. The two story frame house was completely destroyed. Firemen remained on the scene for some two hours.

Firemen responded to a call at 4:12 P.M. Saturday at the Laundrymat in Mitchener Village. There was a short in the transformer on a boiler. There was no reportable damage.

## Citizens Support Rate Hike Protest

WASHINGTON — The people of Northeastern North Carolina, upset over rising electric rates charged by Vepco and feeling that they are not justified, will file a petition of intervention with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, it was revealed today.

Richard S. Coiner of Washington, chairman of Operation Overcharge, an organization formed by Chambers

of Commerce in the region to fight Vepco's rates and backed up by 45,000 signatures on related petitions, said his organization will pursue the matter on behalf of the people of the region.

Coiner said the people are asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman, Charles B. Curtis, of Washington, D.C., to assign an attorney from the commission's legal staff to the people, on a temporary basis, to represent them in the matter.

Specifically, the people will intervene in Docket No. ER 78522, a matter currently before FERC in which Vepco has asked for a 19.86 per cent increase in the rate it charges wholesale to municipal electric systems and to electric co-ops in the region.

This is the same matter in which Gov. Jim Hunt instructed Attorney General to start an intervention action on behalf of the State of North Carolina.

North Carolina Electricities is already fighting the matter as are a number of South side Virginia Co-ops.

"The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has been insensitive to the people, wittingly or unwittingly," Coiner said, "even though it is our contention that FERC was set up to protect the interest of the people." They have set themselves up as some kind of supreme court, not wanting to take sides," he contended.

"We just want them to provide the service for which they were

established."

Coiner said FERC has no public advocate to represent the people and the "people need representation against Vepco."

Coiner said that's the reason the people have asked Chairman Curtis for assignment of a member of the FERC legal staff on a temporary basis. "Even though North Carolina is considered somewhat provincial in the nation's capital, even our state has a Public Staff to represent the people in matters

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## Cross Burners Are Arrested

A cross burning at the residence of a mixed couple in Cape Colony has led to two arrests, including a juvenile.

Tried Tuesday for the January 19 incident was Jeffrey Wayne Vaughan, 16, of Cape Colony. Sheriff Troy Toppin testified in Chowan County District Court that Vaughan and the juvenile set the cross in front of the mobile home of Mr. and Mrs. Shane Massey and struck a match to it.

The only damage was to a pine tree, which Mrs. Massey valued at \$300.

Judge Grafton Beaman sentenced Vaughan to six months, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs, make restitution for damages to the tree and \$35 for loss of wages. He was placed on probation for two years.

Vaughan was also charge in two cases of larceny by trick involving bogus barbecue supper tickets he allegedly made from notebook paper. He was sentenced to six months, suspended upon payment of \$125 fine and costs and ordered to make restitution.

The defendant gave notice of appeal in each case.

In other cases called by Asst. Dist. Atty. H.B. Williams the following action was taken:

William Warren Barrow, speeding, \$30 fine and costs.

Dan Junior Bemby, three counts of no operator's license and speeding, six months, suspended upon payment of \$300 fine and

costs. He gave notice of appeal. Rowland Mark Holley, speeding, \$5 fine and costs.

John William Brabble, driving after drinking and transporting alcoholic beverage with the seal broken, \$110 fine and costs.

Walter Vance Wright, drunk driving, second offense, 90 days, suspended upon payment of \$225 fine and costs.

Larry Lee Bond, speeding, \$10 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

George Alma Byrum, reckless driving after drinking, \$100 fine and costs.

Horace Dentist White, drunk driving and reckless driving, 60

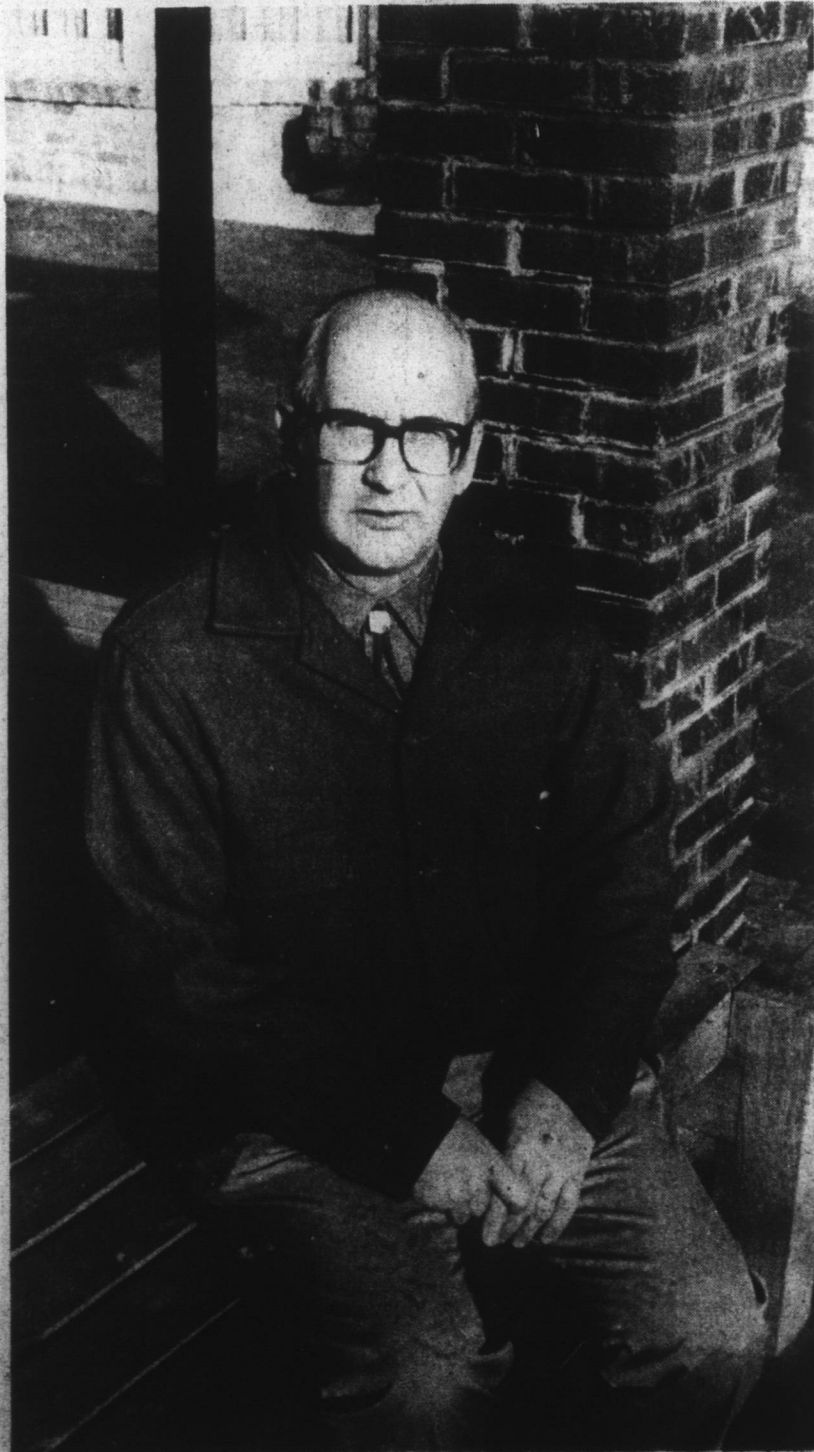
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## Little Theater Tryouts Slated

The Edenton Little Theater Group is making preparations for their second production of the season. As was announced earlier, Ross Inglis will direct an old fashioned melodrama (comedy) entitled "Dirtywork at the Crossroads."

Tryouts will be held February 27 and 28 at 7:30 P.M. at the John A. Holmes High School auditorium. There are 10 parts — seven for women, and three for men.

If you have a desire to work with the play in any capacity, please come to the tryouts.



**TOP SCOUTMASTER** — Leo Lavoie was recently honored at the annual Albemarle Area Scout Appreciation Banquet in Elizabeth City. Lavoie, scoutmaster of Troop 164 in Edenton, received the Scoutmaster of the Year award for the district. A rural mailcarrier, he has been active in scouting for the past 10 years. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)

## Parrish Accepts Association Post

The appointment of J.M. Parrish, Jr., to the board of directors of Edenton Savings & Loan Association was announced today by James C. Dail, president. Parrish fills one of two vacancies on the board.

A native of Edenton, Parrish graduated from local schools and attended Chowan College before graduating from N.C. State University.

He is a member of Edenton Jaycees, Edenton Investment Club, Chowan County Farm Bureau and Chowan County Young Farmers & Ranchers. He has received both the Outstanding Young Farmer and Outstanding Young Man of America awards.

Parrish is married to the former Anne Leary and they have a son.