

Public Parade

Caesar, (j.g.)

Mayor Roy L. Harrell demonstrated last week that he had discovered the Town Charter. At the same time, he demonstrated his total lack of ability to handle some of the executive power he claims the charter mandates.

Coming on like a junior grade Caesar, he admonished two councilmen and two town employees for taking an "unauthorized" trip. Then he issued an ultimatum to the town administrator which certainly places the position slightly above that of a clerk.

Both of these are administrative matters which can best be handled as such, not in a public meeting. That is, unless one is seeking political gains.

The utterances of Mayor Harrell then take on the tones of political rhetoric. No one could construe this type gutter action to be in the best interest of all the citizens of Edenton.

Neither can one consider it wise to use appointive power to stack a governmental agency. But this is what Mayor Harrell has done with Edenton Housing Authority. Among the five members are his brother, his brother-in-law and his brother's brother-in-law. We do not say that all three men, and even some of his other relatives, are not qualified to serve on public bodies. We do say it would be a little more palatable if their talents were spread around.

Mayor Harrell frequently gets carried away with the program by referring to "my council" and "my finance committee", etc. There are six councilmen elected just like the mayor and nowhere in "his" charter does it give any of them a deed to the Town of Edenton.

Mayor Harrell's brand of leadership leaves a lot to be desired. There is a lot of talent on the Town Council and it is time those who possess it assert themselves.

A junior grade Caesar, Edenton needs not!

No Help

Teachers along the Public Parade got no help last year from local government in the battle against inflation. Public school teachers throughout Tar Heel got very little consideration as a whole.

These facts are revealed in the annual survey of local educators' salary supplement prepared by N.C. Association of Educators. "The average supplement paid went up 1.3 per cent," stated Lloyd S. Isaac, NCAE executive secretary. "This is obviously not keeping up with inflation."

Chowan County is among 141 of the 145 school systems in the state paying local supplements to superintendents and 89 systems giving some extra bucks to classroom teachers. Dr. John Dunn, superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools, is paid a supplement of \$4,500 and classroom teachers are paid \$300.

The local system is tied for 98th place with Greenville, Iredell and Maxton, in the superintendent category while eight other units are in a tie for 56th place with Chowan in extra financial help for teachers.

In neighboring Washington County, the superintendent gets \$7,896 (33rd in the state) while the

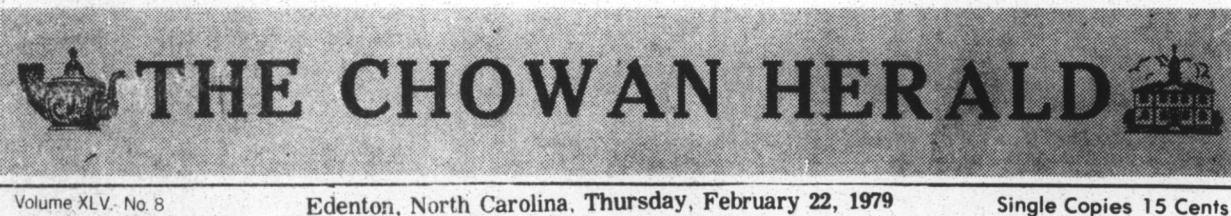
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CAR-TRUCK ACCIDENT—A young Chowan High School student escaped serious injury Tuesday afternoon in this car-truck accident in front of the school. At left, Sheriff Troy Toppin observes the position of the vehicles, headed north on Highway 32.



REMEMBER MONDAY?—Sunday's snow storm left Edenton and Chowan County almost paralyzed. Edenton is always picturesque but a blanket of snow seems to improve the town's beauty, as these pictures show. A small car found refuge under the porch at the Booth House. Below, a town employee works to clear the sidewalk while the stately Chowan County Courthouse keeps watch over the Green.



Foul Weather Lingers Throughout Area

Rain, sleet and snow. This area has had a little bit of some and whole lot of other in one of the worst Februarys in recent memory.

The area has had foul weather for three consecutive weeks. February was ushered in with a sprinkling of snow. The second week of the month found the area wrapped up with a combination of sleet and snow.

The largest accumulation of snow in nearly 20 years was measured Sunday night in a storm which moved into the area at mid-morning. After a day of blizzard-like weather, a warm front moved through changing the snow to rain.

After a period of time the temperature dropped below freezing and a crust of ice formed, making Monday morning particularly hazardous.

Marvin Smith, a weather observer in the Rocky Hock Community, measured nearly five

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County Break-ins

Chowan County Sheriff's Department is investigating two break-ins on Highway 32 Tuesday night where cash, cigarettes and beer were reported missing.

Sheriff Troy Toppin said B&R Grocery, operated by Eula Mae Watson, was entered through a rear door. A cash register was stolen, containing \$50, along with beer, cigarettes, cigars, and a gallon of milk.

Valhalla Grocery reported that thieves entered through a window, making off with about \$60 in cash and some beer.

Serious Injuries Escaped

Teresa Gentry, a sophomore at Chowan High School, escaped serious injury Tuesday afternoon when the sedan she was driving was in a collision with a tractor-trailer rig on Highway 32, in front of the school.

She was taken to Chowan Hospital by Unit 3 of Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad. Her head injury was not expected to require hospitalization.

Miss Gentry, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Navy Gentry, Arrowhead Beach, said she was going back to school to return some

Chowan's Farm Income Goes Over \$18-Million

The estimated gross income from farming in 1978 has been set at \$18,412,775.32, according to R.M. (Pete) Thompson, Chowan County extension chairman. Thompson said the total the year before was \$16,027,530.

The estimate is compiled by the chairman after consulting with suppliers, producers and buyers of farm projects. "We gain the best information available in arriving at the estimates," Thompson pointed out.

He said the biggest increase last year was in hogs. Income from the sale of hogs was near \$4.9-million, up more than \$1-million over the previous year.

Peanuts ranked second in farm income at \$4.1-million. Thompson pointed out that the estimate was conservative since it was figured on a unit price of 22-cents per pound.

Chowan farmers planted 6,119 acres of peanuts and harvested 18,785,330 pounds for an average yield per acre of 3,070. This was the county's second highest yield on record.

Tobacco was also a bright spot for local farmers, as was cotton. Cotton is becoming more and more popular with Chowan farmers as a rotation crop, especially since the cost of production is less and yield

is higher.

Sour notes in the farm economy centered around corn and soybeans. Income from each was less than \$2-million and growers were hampered by low yield as well as price.

"Farmers lost money on the average acre of corn in Chowan County," Thompson declared. "This was also true with soybeans."

Government payments went from \$50,000 to more than \$100,000, primarily due to "set aside" programs.

Nearly 1-million pounds of

turkey was sold in this county for a total of \$390,000. Income from sweet potatoes was estimated at \$762,450 from 112,125 bushels grown on 345 acres.

Thompson said cuts in the cost of production is necessary for farmers to keep pace with inflation. "We can do this by using selected herbicides and chemicals only when they are needed," he said.

"We can use cotton as a substitute for corn as a rotation crop and make a few bucks."



KEEPING TABS ON WEATHER—Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smith are not meteorologists but as Chowan County's newest weather observers they are playing a key role in a new plan to aid farmers. North Carolina is the second state in the U.S. to have a statewide weather reporting service aimed at farmers. R.M. (Pete) Thompson reads the high and low temperature while Smith gives instructions at his home in the Rocky Hock Community. Below, Mrs. Smith prepares the touch tone attachment to her telephone to send the information directly to the National Weather Bureau in Washington, D.C.



Probable Cause Found In Case

Probable cause was found Tuesday morning in Chowan County District Court in the case where Fred Edward Keeter, Jr., is charged with second degree murder.

Keeter is charged in the February 6 death of George Daniels at the Daniels mobile home on Base Road, near Edenton Municipal Airport.

Judge Grafton G. Beaman ordered Keeter returned to Tri-County District Jail in Elizabeth City under \$50,000 bond.

Daniels was killed with a single .45 caliber bullet fired from a gun Keeter admitted in testimony that he was holding. However, he said a former girlfriend, Ann Mizelle, fired the fatal shot.

The defendant's testimony about the incident varied from

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Consultant Hired

A cable TV consultant is expected to be in Edenton within the next 10 days to conduct a feasibility study for the town. Ralph Boutwell of Greenville, Ala., has been employed for the study at the direction of the Town Council.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, said if such a system is feasible it could lead to the use of the system in electric load management. "If this becomes a reality it would save the town's electric customers a tremendous amount of money," he added.

Reporting to council at last Tuesday's meeting, Councilman Jesse L. Harrell said Boutwell had designed a system for Opp, Ala., that paid for itself in seven years. He pointed out that the system has been in operation for 10 years and is now making available some \$40,000 annually for the town's general fund after the funding of depreciation.

He said a municipal system also has the advantage of holding rates below those of commercial companies since the town already owns the utility polls, may use existing personnel, etc.

Mayor Roy L. Harrell took exception to a trip two councilmen and two town employees made to Alabama to gather information about the system.

Tryouts Slated

The Edenton Little Theater group has plans for the production of "Dirty Work at The Crossroads" on April 5 and 6. This is the first time the local group has undertaken a melodrama, and there is great excitement and hope that this kind of high comedy will be well received.

Tryouts for the seven women and three men needed will be held at the John A. Holmes High School Auditorium next Tuesday and Wednesday, starting at 7:30 P.M.

Backstage and other help is needed also, so those interested in filling non-acting positions should also attend the tryouts, or contact Ross Inglis or Bruce McGraw.

Sen. Helms Clears Record

U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms recently responded to a telegram to him concerning his position on a permit for CF Industries to discharge nitrogen-filled water into the Chowan River.

The wire was from Willie and Robert Brake of Brake's Fishing Center at Harrellsville. The text of Sen. Helms' reply follows:

"I have your telegram expressing disappointment for my 'support' of C.F. Industries in securing a discharge permit to discharge nitrogen into the Chowan River.

"I have no idea who told you I

was supporting the issuance of such a permit, but I can assure you that I am not. In fact, I have personally called the governor and urged him to direct his state officials to take steps to clean up the river. I called the governor because this is a state matter rather than a federal one, and I wanted to see some action taken to protect the river.

"For whatever reason or reasons, someone has totally misrepresented my position in this matter. If you know the mistaken party, I would appreciate your setting them straight for me."



The center picture was taken facing south, Teresa Gentry of Arrowhead Beach is placed in an ambulance by Rescue Squad attendants for her trip to Chowan Hospital and emergency treatment.