

Public Parade

For The Record

An editorial in this column last week has drawn a great deal of conversation, and one letter. The letter appears elsewhere in today's newspaper. While critical of our observations, the writer is entitled to have her expressions of disagreement circulated among those who meander along the Public Parade.

For the record, however, we want to point out that our critic's comment regarding our lack of attention to the Harrell Administration is ill founded.

We are confident that Mayor Roy L. Harrell could quote "chapter and verse" of all our writing, but due to our lack of time we only turned to the August 12, 1976, edition of this newspaper.

In our column regarding candidates in the Democratic Primary election, we enthusiastically endorsed the candidacy of Mayor Harrell for one of two seats in the First House District of Tar Heelia. Furthermore, we contributed in other respects to this campaign, before and later. But because of the personal nature of this, we will allow the mayor courtesy of any further comment.

This writer didn't set out last week to defend anyone for anything. That was not considered necessary. If others shoulder a different sack of rocks then the burden is theirs.

But we want to make certain the record is kept straight.

Welcome Back

Walter Jones is always welcome to meander along the Public Parade. The senior grade Walter captured the heart of an Edentonian and from that union came Walter, Jr., who still has a soft spot in his heart for his mother's homeland.

It was a sight for sore eyes Tuesday afternoon to have Walter, Jr., drop in for a visit. It was especially delightful to learn that he had regained his wings in the Hunt Administration and will be a listening post in much of Eastern North Carolina.

Walter Jr., was taught well, and learned fast. Walter Sr., the representative of the 21-county First Congressional District, believes in responsiveness to citizen concern and this has been passed on to his son. The trump suit of the Jones' is not found among the four of a deck of cards. It is their sensitivity to the human element — i.e. recognition.

For a time the Hunt Administration, probably because of lack of communication and indecision, appeared to have lost a great asset with the assignment of Walter, Jr., to the Department of Commerce. This now seems to have been corrected to the benefit of the worker and the "workees."

Welcome back, Walter, Jr. While the hat you wear may be dingy it is from the old school, a school which remains refreshing.

Safeguards Needed

If there is a better place to meander than along the Public Parade we haven't found it. There is a social, business and industrial mix here which every community desires, but which few ever experience.

It is for this reason that every safeguard should be employed to insure no further deterioration. Divide and conquer is an age old theory of messing up a good thing and it is incumbent on those in positions of leadership to see that this community doesn't succumb to such a ploy.

While steeped in history, there are few along the Public Parade who have gotten carried away with their heritage.

But there are those who would pit the "haves" against the "have-nots" in an effort to benefit per-

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Mayor Delays Consideration Of Hicks Street Extension

Mayor Roy L. Harrell was successful Tuesday night delaying further consideration by Edenton Town Council of extension of West Hicks Street to tie into Virginia Road. At the same time he apparently prohibited the town's availability to right-of-way to complete another section of a

thoroughfare plan more than a decade in the planning stage.

"We were ready but the mayor wanted it delayed," was the explanation of a councilman following a meeting of council with Chowan County commissioners and the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Commission.

The source said a meeting would probably be called later in the week but it was learned that Mayor Harrell wanted it on the March agenda of the council.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, had earlier informed councilmen in a memo, of his negotiations with developers of the property in question. At the same time the administrator renewed his recommendation that right-of-way for the connector between West Queen Street and Virginia Road be acquired at this time.

The extension of electric service to the new Edenton United

Methodist Church has been delayed for several weeks awaiting a decision by the council regarding the loop street. Earlier it had been proposed that the town pay one-third of the \$33,000 cost of the street in exchange for a dedicated right-of-way for the connector road.

Mayor Harrell objected to the arrangement, saying he did not favor the expenditure of town funds for private roads and furthermore, that the connector road was unnecessary.

Proponents of the project have pointed out that such action as proposed would not set a precedent since the town obtained right-of-way for the recently completed extension of Coke Avenue in the 1950s.

L.F. Amburn, Jr., chairman of the Building Committee of Edenton United Methodist

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Increase Excepted

Electric customers of the Town of Edenton are in for a surprise when their utility bill arrives in the next few days. There is considerable increase in most bills.

Town Administrator W.B. Gardner said bills reflect as much as 25 per cent increase. He said two factors are suspected: extremely cold weather during this billing period; and higher fuel adjustment charges from Veeco.

Poster Contest Winners Named

The Chowan County Conservation Poster Contest, an annual event sponsored by the Chowan Board of Conservation District Supervisors, was held February 22 at Swain Elementary School.

Winners in the contest were: Fourth Grade: first place - Jason Harrell, Chowan Academy, and second place - Liza Vaughan, Swain Elementary; Fifth Grade: first place - Smith Roberson, Chowan Academy, and second place - Robert Keeter, Swain Elementary; Sixth Grade: first place - Neal Bass and second place - Michael Byrum, both from Chowan Academy.

The event is the climax of a course on conservation conducted, in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades during the month of February. The students study conservation and then prepare individual posters on any sound conservation practice at the end of the course.

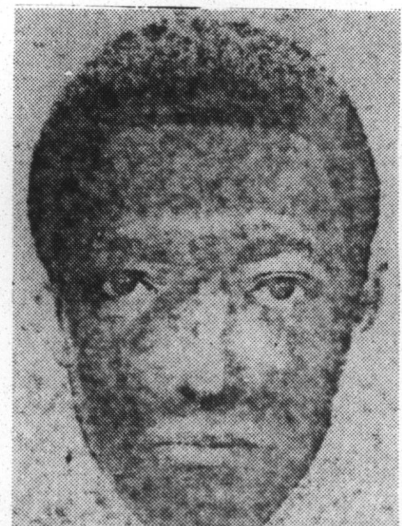
Cash prizes of \$10 were presented to the first place winners and \$5 to the second place winners. A \$3 prize was also presented to room winners for those rooms not having a county winner.

The county winners will compete with winners from Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties in the Albemarle District Poster Contest being held at the Albemarle Electric Membership Building in Hertford today. (Thursday).

The local board of Conservation District Supervisors wishes to express their appreciation to the students and school officials for a job well done and for making this event possible.



LOOK ALIKES—Law enforcement officers in Chowan County and the Town of Hertford feel like they are looking for the same person in their investigation of armed robberies in the area. At left is an SBI composite of a suspect in the robbery-murder of Les Jones at his store in rural Chowan. The other composite, done by a different artist, was the result of descriptions given by witnesses to a Hertford robbery last week. Sheriff Troy Toppin said some helpful information regarding the two cases has been obtained in Virginia.



IS IT LEGAL?—Does Edenton Police Department have the authority to periodically abolish the U-turn at the intersection of South Broad and Water Streets? This was exactly what is happening as this handsome sign indicates. The last time it happened was Saturday as a bucket brigade was underway for the Heart Fund.

Policy Discussions Planned

With the advent of the state mandated Competency Testing Program, school systems through North Carolina have been faced with establishing a policy on types of Exit Documents to be issued upon the successful completion of 12 years academic work.

As required by law, only students who have satisfied the local school's academic requirements for graduation, as well as passed the State's Competency Test, may receive a High School Diploma. The type of document presented to students failing the Competency Tests, but meeting other requirements, has been left to local educational agencies.

The first year in which the students will be affected is 1980.

At its regular monthly meeting, 7:30 P.M. Monday Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will consider an Exit Document Policy which was developed over a period of time by local high school teachers and instructional administrative personnel. "Even though the policy will not take effect until 1980, we feel that students and parents need to know in advance what to expect upon graduation," commented School Supt. John Dunn, "and before the last opportunity to take the examination."

Juniors failing any part of the Competency Test administered in the fall of 1978 will be given three more opportunities to pass before the end of their senior year in 1980. Remedial instruction is now being offered to failing students. The Competency Tests were designed to measure "minimum survival skills," not academic ability.

Other items for discussion on the board agenda affecting students and school personnel will be a tentative School Calendar for 1979-80 and the make-up days missed due to recent snow.

Arrests Made

Five break-ins in Edenton and Chowan County have been cleared by the arrest of two residents of Chowan Beach, according to Sheriff Troy Toppin.

Charles Ray Embury, 20, and Joyce Faye McKown Lane, both of Route 1, Edenton, had their first appearance in Chowan County District Court Tuesday on charges of breaking and entering and larceny. Embury is being held in lieu of \$2,500 while Mrs. Lane is free on bond.

Judge John T. Chaffin set the probable cause hearing for March 13.

Sheriff Toppin said his department has information that a third subject was involved in the crimes. This suspect had not been apprehended at noon Wednesday.

The defendants are charged with breaking into Byrum's Servicenter on Highway 32, north of Edenton, and Cypress Point Fishing Center, Route 3, Edenton, the night of January 30. The allegedly went into Griffin Musicenter on South Broad Street on February 6 and B&R Grocery on Highway 32, north of Edenton; and Valhala Grocery, Route 3, Edenton, the night of February 20.

A considerable amount of the stolen merchandise has been recovered, the sheriff reports.

Council Hears Recreation Proposal

The Edenton-Chowan Recreation Commission has a preliminary plan for renovating the National Guard Armory on North Broad Street into a functional center which would include a swimming pool. The price tag is \$331,000, less than one-half the estimated replacement cost.

The plan was presented Tuesday night to a joint meeting of Chowan County commissioners and Edenton Town Council. The presentation was made by Bill Britt, architect for the proposed project. Britt's firm had done an evaluation of the entire recreation program.

Mike Johnson, recreation director, briefly described the local program which includes 30 activities with 9,622 participants in 1977-78.

Johnson said participation is on the increase. Plans are being made for Summer Day Camp as well as supervised teen-age dances. "Once we acquire the armory we can have a further expanded program," he said.

In answer to a question, the

Roads Meeting

Chowan County commissioners and State Department of Transportation representatives will meet at 10 A.M. Tuesday to establish the county's 1979-80 Secondary Roads Improvement Program. The meeting will be held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room in the County Office Building.

Marc Basnight of Manteo, a member of the Board of Transportation, will lead the state delegation. F.W. Adkins, Jr., of Ahoskie, division engineer, and Earl Moore of Plymouth, district engineer, will also be in attendance.

director said he sees no immediate need for additional full time personnel.

Britt called the plan "a conceptual approach to maximize the use of what you have now." He added: "This represents more than the armory down the street. he added.

The architect said the armory would become a community center, in the plan, with neighborhood and mini parks throughout the area.

He also pointed out that Edenton-Chowan Schools have expressed interest in cooperating with the town and county in the recreation program.

Herbert Hollowell, a councilman who is chairman of the Recreation Committee, expressed his pleasure with the number of people in attendance. He said he felt the community had a good opportunity to develop a recreation center at the existing armory at a reasonable cost.

ECU Chancellor To Speak

Dr. Thomas Brewer, chancellor of East Carolina University in Greenville, will be the guest speaker at the quarterly meeting of the board of Albemarle Area Development Association. The meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on March 8 in Edenton Restaurant.

Larry Davenport of Washington County, president of the 10-county association, says he hopes there will be good representation from each participating county at this particular meeting.

Those who plan to attend from Chowan County are asked to contact the County Extension Office, 482-8431.

This will be the first time Dr. Brewer has addressed an audience in the Albemarle Area since he assumed his duties as chancellor, succeeding Dr. Leo Jenkins. His appearance was arranged by Tom Willis of ECU's Regional Development Institute.

Program chairman for AADA this year are L.F. Amburn, Jr., of Edenton, and Wayne Ashley of Hertford, past presidents. Future board meetings are set for June, September and the annual meeting in December.



CONTEST WINNERS—Winners in the Chowan County Conservation Poster Contest are pictured here as they display their winning posters. Left to right are: front row - Fourth Grade, first place - Jason Harrell and second place - Liza Vaughan; second row - Fifth Grade, first place - Smith Roberson and second place - Robert Keeter; and back row - Sixth Grade, first place - Neal Bass and second place - Michael Byrum.

