

N.C. Regaining Status As Wine State

Although New York and California are considered the "wine states" in this country today, the fact is that North Carolina is the home of the nation's first cultivated wine grape, and the state had a thriving wine industry before the adoption of statewide prohibition.

Now, the state's two wine producers are attempting to reclaim the state's wine-making heritage, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture is lending them assistance and encouragement.

Both wineries are located in the eastern part of the state, and on Monday, November 26, 1979, North Carolina Commissioner of

Agriculture James A. Graham invited the owners to bring samples of their product to Winston-Salem for a wine-tasting event with news representatives and restaurateurs of the Piedmont.

Mr. and Mrs. David Fussell of Duplin Wine Cellars at Rose Hill and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams of Deerfield Wine Cellars at Edenton met with the group at Benton Convention Center, served samples of six varieties of wine and discussed both modern wine-making techniques and the history of the industry in this state.

Colonists Found Scuppernongs

The Scuppernong is a native

American grape and was found growing wild by early colonists.

The earliest written account of the "white grape," as it was called by colonists, occurs in Giovanni da Verrazzano's logbook. Verrazzano, the Florentine navigator who explored the Cape Fear River Valley for France in 1524, wrote that he saw "...Many vines growing naturally there..." and that "...without doubt they would yield excellent wines."

Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists reported:

"In 1584 we departed from England with two boats and found Roanoke Island on the fourth of July and the smell was as sweet as if we had been in the midst of some

delicate garden, and grapes grew abundantly. Every shrub was covered, climbing towards the tops of high cedars and we think the like is not to be found."

The name Scuppernong comes from the Algonquin Indian name, "Ascopo," which means "Sweetbay" tree. On 18th century maps of Washington County, there is a village, a lake and a river by the name of Scuppernong.

Native grapes now known as Muscadines were used in wine by the country's early settlers. Sir John Hawkins, in relieving the French at Fort Caroline in 1565, found 20 hogsheads of Muscadine wine, and later history refers to

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AT STATE LEVEL — Angie Crone, a representative of the N.C. Department of Agriculture, is shown with a sign from Deerfield Wine Cellars of Edenton at a recent wine-tasting event attended by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams of Edenton.

Filing To Begin

Filing for the upcoming May Primary begins at 12 noon, January 7 and extends until 12 noon February 4, reports the Chowan County Board of Elections.

According to a letter from the Board of Elections, persons wishing to file as a candidate must not be registered as an affiliate of any political party other than the one in whose primary he is attempting to file.

In addition, anyone who has changed party affiliation or who has changed from unaffiliated status as allowed by law must have been a member of the party in which he seeks to be a candidate for at least three months prior to the filing date for the office for which he desires to file his notice of candidacy.

Those registered as unaffiliated will not be eligible to file as a candidate in the party primary election.

Collections Noted

Net collections from the local 1 per cent sales and use tax in North Carolina exceeded \$17-million in November.

Sec. Mark G. Lynch of the State Department of Revenue reported that the collections in Chowan were \$25,436.57.

Net collections from the other nine Albemarle Area counties included:

Camden, \$5,756.40; Currituck, \$24,404.73; Dare, \$68,280.83; Gates, \$4,332.90; Hyde, \$11,434.81; Pasquotank, \$112,527.77; Perquimans, \$12,530.39; Tyrrell, \$6,410.31; and Washington, \$32,375.72.

Work Of Sculptor To Grace Courthouse

When the Chowan County Courthouse is formally dedicated on February 3, two bronze sculptures will be unveiled.

They are the work of Michael Lantz, a 68 year old sculptor from New Rochelle, N.Y. whose list of commissions is quite impressive.

The 68 year old Lantz admits his name may not be as familiar as one as that of his brother, Walter Lantz, creator of Woody Woodpecker.

He and his assistant Sherry St. Penz, travelled to Edenton last week to install two of his works in the new facility under an \$18,000 commission. It also gave him the

Public Parade

From A Friend

The U. S. Postal Service catches a lot of flake. The free enterprise United Parcel Service has dug deep into the package delivery business; yet no one has come up with a program to cut the cost of delivering letter mail.

The Chowan Herald is probably one of the biggest users of the U.S. Postal Service along the Public Parade. And we have no complaints.

Annually we spend about \$10,000 for stamps, plus postage on newspapers and circulars. If there is a less expensive way we haven't been able to locate it.

There are complaints from time-to-time. Errors are made here in our shop and after the mail sacks are delivered to the post office. None, however, can be placed anywhere but to human error.

The Second Class mailer has been hit the hardest by rate structure changes within the U. S. Postal Service. A newspaper can absorb this for so long, along with the price of labor, materials and other items of overhead. Then it becomes necessary to hike subscription rates to compensate for increases in other sectors. This is being done this week.

The Chowan Herald crew works hard at putting together a good community newspaper. We depend primarily on the U. S. Postal Service to work with equal zeal in seeing that you are exposed to our product.

The Chowan Herald is proud to

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Courthouse Changes Will Aid The Handicapped

Steps are being taken to better adapt the new Chowan County Courthouse to the needs of the handicapped and elderly following a complaint by a local citizen concerning location and availability of handicapped parking spaces and wheelchair ramps.

Frank G. Halsey, Sr., 820 Cabarrus St., in a discussion with Cliff Copeland, county manager, aired his concerns over access into the facility from the front of the building.

Halsey, who is handicapped, also questioned whether or not the new facility had met State and Federal building code provisions for the handicapped.

J. Everette Fauber, architect, in response to a letter from Copeland about these problems indicated it would be relatively simple to provide a wide parking space closer to the main entrance

by converting two normal parking spaces into one special space indicated by an international-symbol sign.

An additional concrete ramp from the parking lot would allow access to the abutting sidewalk.

However, a However ramp access from the portico floor to the front door sill, some five inches higher, is a more complicated problem, Fauber said.

In order to meet specifications concerning slope of the access ramp, it would be necessary to build it at least five feet long, thus splitting the porch in half and creating a stumbling block to

people transversing the porch.

Otherwise, the entire portico floor would have to be torn up and rebuilt five inches higher. Fauber stated the door sill is needed to

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Guns Confiscated

"War" games erupted about 1:30 P.M. December 26 in West Edenton.

Chowan Court on Twiddy Avenue challenged Davis Place on West Albemarle Street. Police were called to the scene to bring about a cease fire.

Nine BB guns were confiscated.

Chowan Native Accepts Post

A Chowan County native this week took a seat on the N. C. Utilities Commission. He is Douglas P. Leary, who was appointed by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., to replace Robert Fischbach, now executive director of the commission's Public Staff.

His term will expire July 1, 1985. He must be approved by the General Assembly which does not meet until June.

Leary is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Leary and the

brother of Lewis Leary. He grew up in the Crossroads Community.

He attended Chowan High School and East Carolina University. For 10 years he was staff assistant at the Four County EMC in Burgaw. Since that time he has been general manager of Wake Electric Membership Corporation, headquartered in Wake Forest.

In an interview shortly after his appointment was announced, Leary said: "I was shocked as some other people were, I am not a political animal in the sense that this was a political plum. I want to be open on all issues and situations that come before the commission."

Leary said he did not know the details behind Hunt's statement in August that Virginia Electric and Power Company should get out of North Carolina because its high rates were hampering industrial development in the Northeastern portion of the state.

"I'll remain open as to what my convictions finally become on this," he said.

Mrs. Leary is a third grade teacher at Wake Forest Elementary School. They have three sons: David, Jon and Paul.

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Elderly Woman Is Injured By Unknown Assailant

Edenton Police Department assisted by the SBI is conducting an investigation into the assault of an elderly Edenton woman on December 18, 1979.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish reported that Mrs. R. W. Hurdle of 315 W. Queen Street suffered multiple injuries from an attack by an unknown assailant in her home.

The Edenton-Chowan Rescue responded, at 5:50 P.M., to a call from the residence made by Mrs. Paul Partin. She told Murray

Ashley, Rescue Squad coordinator, that it appeared Mrs. Hurdle had fallen.

Upon investigation and discovery of a broken window at the front of the home, Ashley contacted the police for assistance.

The police learned the attack occurred earlier in the day, possibly around 2 P.M. and that Mrs. Hurdle had been alone since. Mrs. Partin arrived after 3:15 to check on the elderly woman and

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Telephone Company Serving 535,000

TARBORO — On December 27, the North Carolina portion of Norfolk Carolina Telephone Company merged with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, headquartered in Tarboro.

Both companies are members of the United Telephone System whose parent company, United Telecommunications Inc., is located in Kansas City, Mo. Norfolk Carolina was merged with United Telecom on April 26, 1978. Soon after that Carolina Telephone assumed management responsibilities for the Elizabeth City-based company.

The two companies have adjacent service territories. Carolina Telephone is the largest company in the United Telephone

System, serving more than 535,000 customers and 880,000 telephones in eastern North Carolina.

With the acquisition of Norfolk Carolina, Carolina Telephone will be serving an additional 32,000 customers and 50,000 telephones. When the two companies merge, Carolina Telephone will operate in a total of 50 counties through 146 telephone exchanges.

Besides serving seven counties in Northeastern North Carolina, Norfolk Carolina also served a small portion of southeastern Virginia. The Virginia properties of the company will be sold to United Intermountain Telephone Company subject to approval by the Federal Communications Commission.

The Norfolk Carolina exchanges involved in the merger with Carolina Telephone are Buxton, Coinjock, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Gatesville, Hertford, Kill Devil Hills, Mamie, Manteo, Moyock, Piney Woods, Shiloh, South Mills, Sunbury, Waves, Weeksville, Welch, and Woodville.

The Norfolk Carolina service area includes some of the state's most popular beaches, and it also offers a wealth of historical interest. The coast, which is protected by an abutment of slender islands known as the Outer Banks, is famous for variety fishing in deep-sea, surf, inlet, and sound waters. The coastal area also is known to sportsmen who

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COURTHOUSE SCULPTURES — The state seal and herring fishing scene shown above are the work of Michael Lantz, a 68 year old sculptor from New Rochelle N.Y., who was commissioned to execute those works for the new Chowan County Courthouse. Lantz created the works from bronze and termed the herring fishing scene was of his most difficult projects.