

The Season Opens

From last week's opening of the filing books to the general election next November, politics will move to front and center stage along the Public Parade and elsewhere in North Carolina.

So far, U. S. Sen. Robert W. Morgan is about the only major officeholder in the state who has escaped announced opposition; but that is a situation that could change in these highly unstable times.

Gov. Jim Hunt, Jr., first in this century to be eligible to seek re-election will square off against former Gov. Robert W. Scott and possibly others for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

State Sen. Beverly Lake, Jr., who switched parties in order to seek the Republican nomination for governor, does not as yet appear to have any serious opposition among his new-found friends. It certainly cannot be said of him that he has no visible means of support.

A heated race is already underway between Lt. Gov. Jim Green and House Speaker Carl Stewart, Jr., for the lieutenant governor's nomination on the Democratic ticket. And, here again there may be others.

And already the GOP line is beginning to form for the lieutenant governor's race. Athletic Director Bill Cobey of UNC-Chapel Hill has resigned, effective April 30, to make the race, an enterprise in which he no doubt will have company.

Meanwhile, races are developing among Democrats for secretary of state, insurance commissioner, and state auditor; and, the political climate being what it is, there is no telling what the outcome of any of these will be.

Clerk of Court, Lena M. Leary, Register of Deeds, Anne Spruill, and Sheriff Troy Toppin, having been elected to four-year terms in 1978, are not up for re-election; but all seats in the General Assembly are open.

On the local level, Alton Elmore has already filed for another term on the Chowan County Board of Commissioners. Lester T. Copeland, the other incumbent up for election, has not made a final decision at this writing.

Furthermore, seats are up for election on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. Mrs. Emily G. Amburn, who has served for 10 years, made a surprise announcement last week. She will not seek re-election.

Reps. Vernon James of Pasquotank and Charles Evans of Dare are unofficial candidates for re-election in the seven-county First House District. The same is true in the First Senatorial District with Sens. Melvin R. Daniels Jr., of Pasquotank and J. J. "Monk" Harrington of Bertie going for another term.

We will make the facilities of this newspaper available to all of them, including their opponents in the general election.

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County Census Plans Revealed

The federal census of Chowan County is planned for March and April, and crew leaders and enumerators will be hired in February for that job, N. J. George, chairman of the Chowan County Democratic Executive Committee, told those attending a "pep rally" last Thursday night at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant.

Testing of applicants is scheduled for the last of January and the first of February. Some 30 persons will be hired to take the first census by an appointed Democratic committee in 20 years.

George stated that Chowan County is an experimental district and that census forms will be hand delivered to each house in Chowan County.

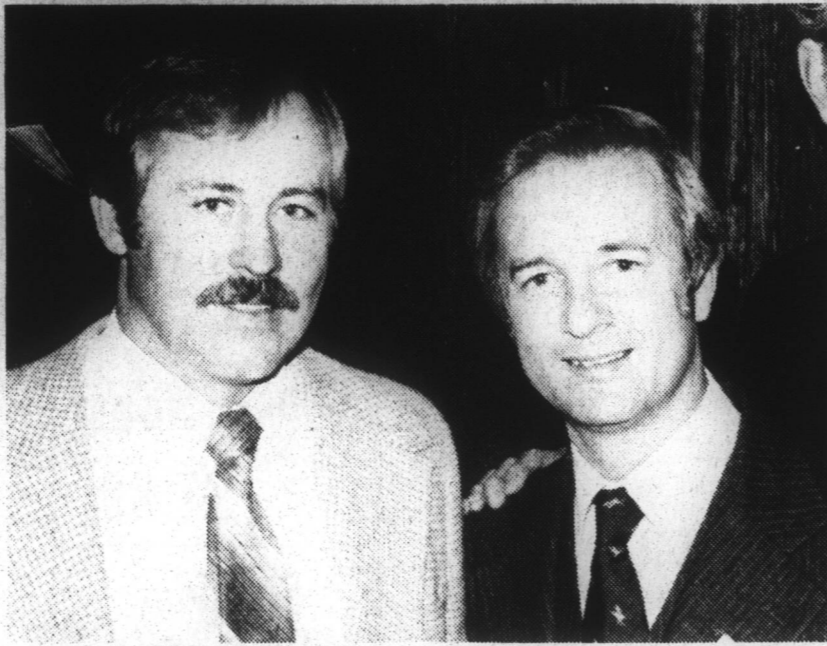
Crew leaders will be paid \$4.50 per hour and enumerators will be paid \$4.00 per hour.

Nine persons will handle East Edenton and Rev. J. L. Fenner will be chairman. Another nine

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Terry Williams, asst. mgr. of WCDJ, interviews Gov. Hunt at the fund-raising affair.



Former New York Yankees pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter warms up to Gov. Jim Hunt.

At Angler's Cove: Hunt Attends Fund-Raising Affair

Gov. Jim Hunt was in the Albemarle area, Thursday, to speak at the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce banquet. During his visit, he made a stop-over in Perquimans County to attend a fund-raising pig picking at Angler's Cove sponsored by Perquimans County Democratic Committee to Elect Jim Hunt.

Well over 300 local supporters as well as a host of state and federal elected officials packed the restaurant to see and chat with the governor.

In a brief interview, Gov. Hunt commented on the past three years and his plans for Eastern N.C. in the future.

The governor included economic

growth, improved education and better crime control as some of his greatest accomplishments.

Hunt re-emphasized his determination to continue his fight against Veeco's high utility rates, stated his support for a pull-out by Veeco.

Stating that he will not release his specific plans for the next term until after his formal announcement of candidacy, January 23, Gov. Hunt said future emphasis will be placed on balanced economic growth for Eastern N.C., proper treatment of senior citizens, stronger crime control programs, and continued educational improvements for our young people.

In conclusion, he added, "Eastern North Carolina is the area of the future."

Other elected officials offered their comments on the forthcoming election.

Senator Melvin Daniels of Elizabeth City said everyone is aware of his support for Gov. Hunt.

"North Carolina has had many good governors," Sen. Daniels commented, "now Eastern N. C. has a great governor. If it came down to Melvin Daniels or Jim Hunt being elected, I'd step down. I'm expendable, he's not."

Rep. Charles Evans of Nags Head, who announced his candidacy on Friday, said he supports Gov. Hunt. "He has done more for Eastern N. C. than any other governor and I believe we can look for more."

In a news conference, Hunt emphasized the importance of tourism to the state's economy. He pledged his efforts to seeing that vacationers are treated fairly if and when gas rationing becomes a reality.

Concerning a possible \$600-million school bond referendum, the governor said he had supported school bonds in the past and would fight for this one. He added, though, that he would like to see what the needs are.

Ingram To Speak

North Carolina Insurance Commissioner John Ingram will be the guest speaker at the January meeting of the Albemarle Regional Planning Commission Thursday (tonight) at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will be

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Former Governor Stumps In Chowan

Former governor Bob Scott, who has filed as a Democratic candidate for governor, campaigned in Edenton, Tuesday, at a luncheon attended by more than 70 persons. Besides commenting on the Chowan River algae problem, he also touched on several issues important to his campaign.

W. T. Culpepper, III, an Edenton attorney and Scott supporter, said in introducing the candidate, "Since I've been in Chowan County, the most frequent criticism I've heard of politicians is 'they never come to see us'. Well, we can lay that criticism to

rest for Bob Scott, because he is certainly here today."

Scott said he felt personal appearances were the most effective type of campaign at this point in time, and that he did not favor a "packaged" candidate marketed through public relations firms.

He said his campaign staff was mostly volunteers and that there were "no \$45,000 salary people working on his staff."

Scott was sharply critical of Gov. Jim Hunt's campaign financing, which amounts to over \$700,000.

"If he has done such a fine job,

why does he need to spend about \$1-million on a campaign to make himself look good. I don't think my campaign will ever get that amount, nor do I think we need this amount," Scott said.

At present, he said he has about \$70,000 in campaign funds and that his fund raising efforts will begin in February. He included that some unsolicited contributions have already been made.

One of the goals of his campaign, Scott commented, is to "destroy the myth that Jim Hunt can't be beaten."

"There are two teams on the field, and now we have a ballgame going."

Scott stated that his basic philosophy was not more government, but better government, and that it was his intention to live up to the state motto of "to be rather than to seem."

He pointed out that during the Hunt administration some 15,000 people had been added to the state payroll and that the staff of the governor's office had been increased by 130 per cent.

Scott criticized the cutting of state funds to the handicapped and elderly at the service level, while finding funds to buy a helicopter to woo industry.

"I'm going to continue my old saying that I will shake the apple trees to knock out a few of the big apples," he remarked, "but this time I'm not only going to shake it, I'm going to do some pruning, too."

He called for eliminating some positions at the top of state government that he called "unproductive" and that "do nothing"

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No Short-Term Solution To Chowan River Problem

Ecological problems that plague the Chowan River in northeastern North Carolina will take years to correct, and a strong governor who will demand a comprehensive program to "bring the river back into balance," former Gov. Bob Scott said in a prepared speech Tuesday.

Scott, who officially filed as a Democratic candidate for

governor on January 7, made the remarks during a campaign luncheon in Edenton Tuesday afternoon.

He said the level of municipal, industrial and agricultural nutrients now washing into the Chowan River must be more strictly controlled.

Environmental studies indicate

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SKETCH OF ATTACKER — Edenton Police have released this sketch of a black male who attacked Mrs. R. W. Hurdle of 315 West Queen Street on December 18. The 87 year old woman, who lives alone, was admitted to Chowan Hospital for treatment of several head injuries and a broken arm. She was attacked with a vase.

Sketch Of Suspect Released

A composite sketch of an unidentified black male who beat an elderly Edenton woman on December 18 has been released by the Edenton Police Department.

Mrs. R. W. Hurdle, 87, of 315 West Queen Street, was admitted to Chowan Hospital for head injuries and a broken arm after the attack at her home on that date.

Mrs. Hurdle reported she had been attacked about 2 P.M. by a young black male who forced her into the house after she had gone to the front porch to check on her mail.

Mrs. Hurdle was discovered sitting on the floor by a couch in her livingroom by neighbor, Mrs. Paul Partin, who dropped in to check on her at about 5:10 P.M.

Mrs. Partin called the Rescue Squad, and it was after Mrs. Hurdle arrived at the hospital that it was learned she had been attacked, not fallen down.

Murray Ashley of the Rescue Squad notified authorities of the incident.

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Grant Receives Endorsement

A grant totalling \$30,000 to Town of Edenton has been recommended by Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. for the development of Softball Field Complex.

This recommended grant is from the North Carolina allocation of federal Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service funds for 1980. Federal approval of the grant is expected within two months. The grant will be matched by local funds.

Project consists of the development of two softball fields with lighting, fencing, bleachers, dugouts, benches and bases.



CAMPAIGNS IN EDENTON — Former governor Bob Scott, a Democratic candidate for governor, became the first major figure to stump in Chowan County, Tuesday. He is shown at left above with W. T. Culpepper, III, a local supporter, following a luncheon at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant. Over 70 people turned out to hear his address on the Chowan River problem and other aspects of his candidacy.

Licenses Valid Thru Jan. 31

The 1979 N. C. commercial fishing boat licenses will be valid through January 31, 1980, according to Connell Purvis, Director, N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Although 1980 licenses were on sale in December, 1979, a one month extension is normally allowed each year.

Last year, 23,592 N. C. commercial fishing boat licenses were sold to commercial and recreational fishermen who fish coastal waters.