

# 300 Witness Courthouse Dedication

## Priorities

With the dedication Sunday of a county facility which has turned an entire city block into one, if not the, prettiest areas in any municipality the county has now accomplished three of the four priorities on the shopping list.

Within the past decade a new hospital has been built, a countywide water system has become reality and a new courthouse and detention facility has opened for business.

The fourth priority has been public education. And we would be in the majority of those who thought it should have been somewhere higher on the list.

Chowan Hospital already has expansion pains. Phase II of the water system is ready to begin. The courthouse is open yet the detention facility only houses the Sheriff's Department but lacks funds to staff the jail.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is moving ahead with reorganization plans although repeatedly the five men who control the purse strings have turned a deaf ear to request for additional funding.

Federal funding provided the bulk of the first three priorities. Now that they have expansion pains this source of funds seem to be drying up.

While this is happening, the Town of Edenton, through the rezoning process turned down an "industry" which would put up a 75,000-square-foot building, employed more than 75 people and contributed greatly to the expansion of the tax base along the Public Parade. While other areas actively seek such business citizens, political debts are being paid. When will the green stamps expire?

County commissioners have an obligation to capital outlay for public schools. It is not likely in these times that voters across Tar Heelia will approve a massive bond referendum for this purpose.

This county needs to establish realistic priorities; and devise means of meeting the needs of all the people without constant play on personalities, etc.

The need can be met only through positive thinking and active. This negative can only delay while thinking is distracted. If we are to be hit it should be a blow to the back on our heads as we march forward.

The mandate, however, rests with the people—the majority

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## Vepco Seeking Increase

WASHINGTON — Vepco customers in Northeastern North Carolina were dealt another blow to an already strained pocketbook recently when the Virginia based power company went before the N. C. Utilities Commission to ask for a sharp rise in its fuel clause adjustment.

The blow was felt even more sharply by Vepco customers when they learned in the press that at the same time their supplier was asking for an increase, the two other suppliers of electric power to North Carolinians — Duke and Carolina Power and Light Company — were asking for decreases. "This is a critical blow," J.

BY L. F. AMBURN, JR.

Chowan County's top priority became a reality here Sunday with dedication of the new courthouse and detention facility in the downtown area. Platform dignitaries included U. S. Sens. Robert Morgan and Jesse Helms as well as Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District.

The ceremony, with Chairman C. A. Phillips in charge, started promptly at 2 P.M. and nine minutes later a light breeze made the U.S. and N.C. flags flutter. This portion of the activities was presented by



DEDICATION DIGNITARIES — Rep. Walter Jones of the First Congressional District responded to a photographer's comment by giving a big "V" sign after dedication ceremonies of the new Chowan County Courthouse and Detention facilities Sunday afternoon. Others are, from the left, U. S. Sen. Jesse

Edward G. Bond Post 40 of the American Legion.

Speaker after speaker hailed the day as yet another chapter in the history of Edenton and Chowan County.

Some 300 men, women and children filled Broad Street which was closed to traffic between Church and Queen streets.

They were entertained by the Marching Aces of John A. Holmes High School as well as the Concert Choir. Otis and Shelby Strothers are directors of the groups.

Chowan County hosted a luncheon at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant for



Helms, C.A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County Board of Commissioners; and U. S. Sen. Robert Morgan. The other picture shows the interior of the courtroom in the new facility which was visited by several hundred people who participated in an open house. (Staff Photos by Luke Amburn.)

participants in the event as well as out-of-town guests. From there they moved to the site where Chairman Phillips opened the ceremonies by saying it "is a historical day for Chowan County...in a colorful history." He briefly described the turmoil over \$1.8-million in grant money for the project. The county paid more than \$600,000 for the site which covers a complete block adjacent to the business district.

Later in the program Rep. Jones described the sometimes "incredible" maneuvers in the background to break the Economic Development Administration lose when a Perquimans County headquarters for Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission was mistaken for a project in Chowan County. (At the time ARDPC was headquartered in Edenton and this caused confusion in the bureaucracy.)

Sen. Helms said he could see the country returning to the faith of our fathers. He called it "the miracle of America."

He quoted Thomas Jefferson who noted that the best government is the least governed. He admitted that some levels of the bureaucracy had been asleep for a while. He pointed out that in America we live under a rule of the law...that the facility blended the old and the new...and the new facility would be a forum of judgment of generations to come.

Sen. Morgan said it was an honor to participate in the dedication and he outlined the great leaders of the U.S., who called Edenton their home.

He said the ceremony demonstrated the dedication of numerous working together to bring the project into reality. "The final work shows that the community has worked together in a great spirit of cooperation," he added.

Sen. Morgan said good government is that government closed to and responsive of the people. He said the facilities demonstrate the work of local, state and federal agencies working together.

In his remarks, Rep. Jones joked: "We almost didn't get here today." He said it is trying to deal with the bureaucracy.

J. Everett Fauber, Jr., of Lynchburg, Va., architect for the project, spoke briefly and thanked the community for letting him be a part of this wonderful day.

After the 55-minute ceremony people spent the next two hours at the open house.

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## Second Suspect Is Apprehended Out Of State

The second suspect in the theft of stained glass windows and other valuable items from Evans United Methodist Church has been arrested in Florida. He was identified by Sheriff Troy Toppin as being James E. Killermier of Ft. Lauderdale.

Earlier, Paul E. Miles, Jr., was arrested in Ohio. He was scheduled for a hearing on bond in Chowan County Superior Court this week.

The stained glass windows were located at an antique dealership in Virginia Beach, Va.

Sheriff said the crime has been solved through close cooperation of his department, especially Joseph Byrum, SBI Agent Kent Insoe and officers in Virginia, Ohio and Florida.

## Underwater Studies Planned

By William A. Shires  
ECU News Branch  
The rippling waters of the Chowan River have lapped at the

doorstep of this lovely old town since it was settled 275 years and now may hold a lot of unseen and long-forgotten history in the mud

and marl of the riverbottom.

This spring divers will try to find out how much.

Its harbor potentially holds historic cultural material from the earliest periods of European settlement in North Carolina, say investigators who will direct an underwater archaeological field school near Edenton's picturesque waterfront.

"Preliminary investigations have shown that the sediments of Edenton harbor will have offered excellent protection or whatever submerged material they may contain," says Dr. William N. Still Jr., maritime historian from East Carolina University.

Of particular interest, says Still, "is the possibility that shipwrecks and vessel remains, perhaps including unique and valuable local

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A PRELUDE — Last week's snowfall, which interrupted the flow of business for about a day, was merely a prelude of things yet to come. Wednesday morning, the season's first real snow began, dropping well over six inches by the afternoon. A power outage forced the closing of remaining downtown establishments, and telephone service was impaired by the precipitation.

## Evans Named President Of Chamber

Wallace B. Evans of Parker-Evans Hardware assumed the presidency of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce at the annual banquet last Wednesday night at the Edenton Jaycee Community Building on Base Road.

Outgoing President Charles

Creighton made a special presentation to Mrs. Peggy Anne Vaughan who successfully coordinated the local project of winning the Community of Excellence Award.

The recognition was the framed front page of The Chowan Herald on the day of the inspection by a

team from the State of North Carolina. L. F. Amburn, Jr., publisher, designed the page and contributed the aluminum plate to the chamber.

New directors of the chamber are: Gary Anderson, Chris Bean, Les Fagan, Tilmon Keel and

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MRS. VAUGHAN HONORED — Mrs. Peggy Anne Vaughan was singled out by Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce for her coordination of the Community of Excellence Award. She was presented a framed aluminum plate of an edition of The Chowan Herald on the date of judging. Shown with her are Charles Creighton, left, and Wallace B. Evans.

## Mrs. Wood Enters Race

CAMDEN — Mrs. Winnie Wood has entered the race for one of two State Senate seats in the First Senatorial District. Following here a copy of her campaign statement.

I have filed as a Democratic primary candidate for the N.C. State Senate. I believe I have the interest, energy and enthusiasm needed to represent the people of the First Senatorial District.

As a candidate for the State Senate I will visit often in the 14 counties of our district and ask the voters, face to face, how they

can be better represented.

It's not difficult to know some of the problems you will be mentioning to me as I visit your area. Inflation plagues our economy, fuel costs continue to rise, good jobs for our citizens are scarce, and he roads in our area are not maintained and improved as we wish them to be. Your state government can't solve all these problems but it can provide leadership and it can and must prepare and encourage its citizens to work toward solutions to these and other problems.

Your leaders should have skills and experience in problem-solving. I believe the activities and organizations that I have participated in have given me good training in this area of problem-solving.

I teach a course on communication skills for parents, teachers and students designed to help these groups find solutions to the problems they face. This teaching experience has given me a keen appreciation for the important, demanding job of parents and teachers and the special need of our children.

My practical experiences as a substitute teacher, a teacher's aide and reading tutor in our public schools have underscored the need to improve the quality of education in North Carolina. Responsibility for this lies not only with teachers but with students, parents and the community.

My church work over the years, as a teacher, and as a deacon and elder, has given me additional

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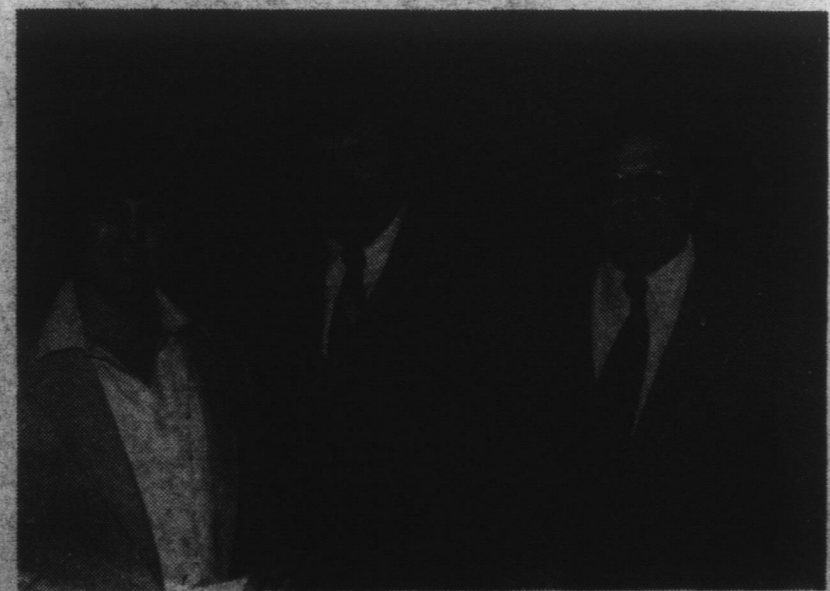
## Two Incumbents Are Unopposed

Two incumbent county commissioners in Chowan do not have opposition in the Democrat primary in May but three people are seeking a seat on Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.

Alton G. Elmore filed early but Lester L. Copeland didn't file until about 10 A.M. He excused himself from the monthly meeting to walk across to file. The deadline was 12-noon Monday.

Mrs. Emily G. Amburn announced recently that she would not seek re-election. Three people are seeking the First Township seat. They are James E. Taylor, Mrs. Patricia B. Downum; and John A. Mitchener, III. Eugene Jordan, board of education chairman, is seeking re-election in the Third Township.

Mrs. Anne K. Spruill is seeking re-election for register of deeds.



EMPHASIS ON TOTAL DEVELOPMENT — Sec. of Transportation Tom Bradshaw, center, was keynote speaker at the Chamber of Commerce banquet. Left is Marc Basnight of Dare County, a member of the State Board of Transportation, and W. B. Gardner of Edenton who introduced the speaker.