

March Blizzard Paralyzes Chowan County

Common sense and ample precautions kept most local residents safe and secure during the blizzard that dumped over 21 inches of snow between Saturday

and Sunday nights. Private citizens and National Guardsmen in 4-wheel drive pick-up trucks and jeeps assisted local law enforcement and emergency per-

sonnel. There were no serious accidents or fatalities as a result of the storm, though the blizzard claimed 13 lives elsewhere in the state.

First signs of the impending storm came Saturday morning in the form of light but persistent rain, sleet and granular snow. An accumulation

of four to six inches was being predicted for the day. Students making up for lost days from the last heavy snow were released by mid-morning. Business at local supermarkets was brisk in anticipation of what was to come.

By Sunday morning, five and half inches was on the ground and a second storm moved into the area bringing with it 35-mile per hour winds and a torrent of precipitation. Motorists were advised to stay off the roads as three to five foot drifts piled up.

The storm was punctuated by thunder and lightning with gusts of wind building up to 60 miles per hour Sunday night. By Monday morning, another 16 inches of snow had fallen, making it a record for the area.

J.D. Parrish, Edenton Police Dept., said patrol cars operated until about 10:30 P.M., Saturday,

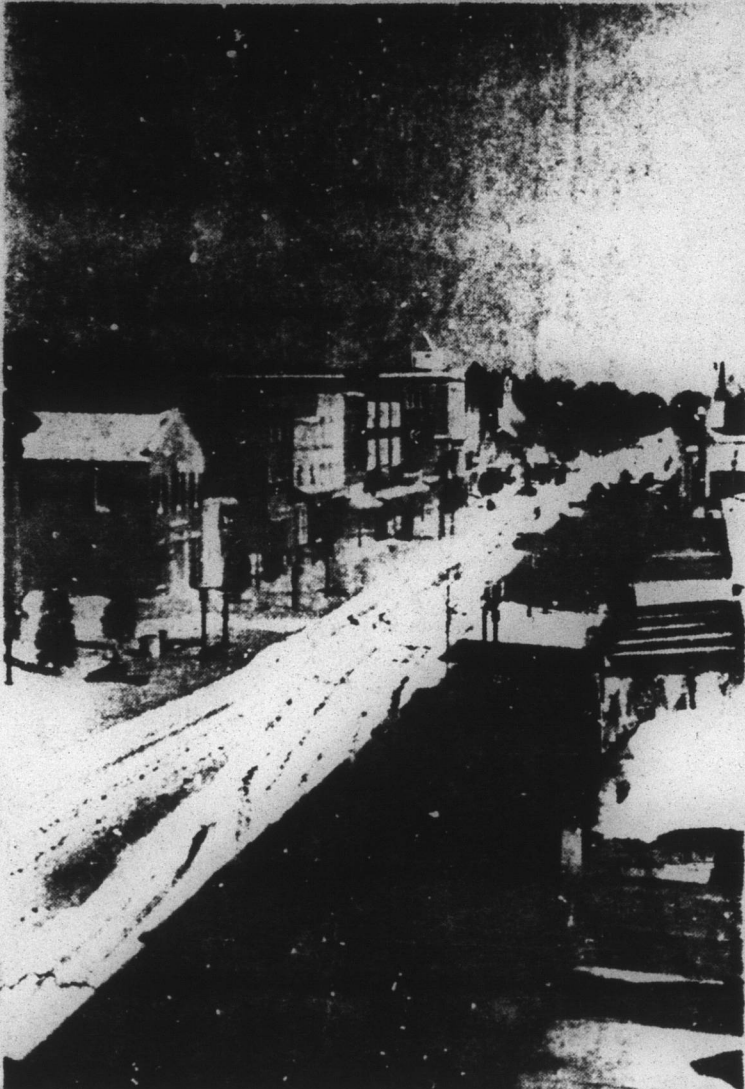
then began moving in vehicles provided by George Chevrolet and Hoke Motor Corp. Some 15 National Guardsmen were mobilized to assist officers and provide transportation for citizens in need.

Hobbs Implement Co. and Edenton Tractor and Implement Co. brought out large tractors and Byrum Implement Co. stood-by in case more equipment was needed.

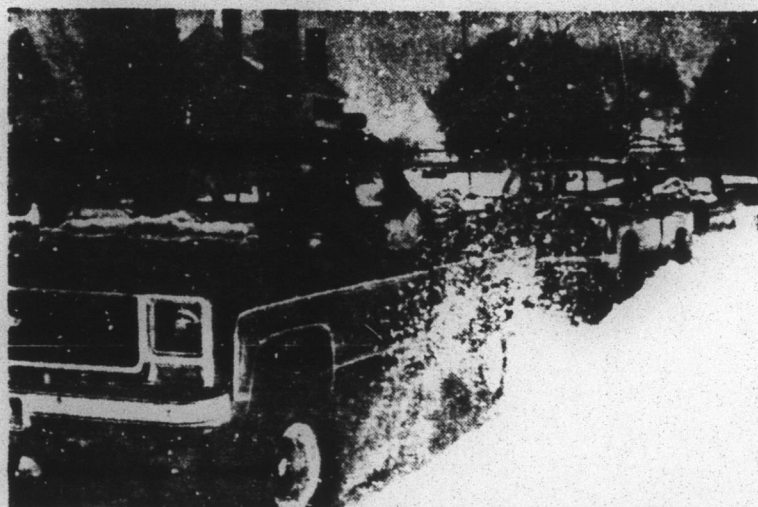
Sheriff Troy Toppin said their last patrol car was parked about 9 P.M.

He said the National Guard Edenton, Chowan Rescue Squad and county fire department responded to calls for the Sheriff's Department. Private citizens volunteered their services in helping to keep the department mobile.

Sheriff Toppin said, "I was
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VIEW FROM A HEIGHT — A view from atop the Chowan Herald building downtown shows Broad Street under a 21-inch blanket of snow that paralyzed Edenton and Chowan County. (Photo by Luke Amburn)



IMPASSABLE STREETS — Broad Street, like all of the rest in Edenton, was negotiable only in four-wheel drive vehicles and tractors, but as the bottom photo shows, even the pick-ups proved ineffective under some circumstances. It took the assistance of two other trucks to get one unstuck from in front of the Municipal Building. (Photo by Luke Amburn)

Public Parade

Enough's Enough

A record 34 inches of snow has fallen along the Public Parade in less than a month. And if we are to believe weather observers more is yet to come.

Enough of a good thing is enough. There are mixed feelings about whether or not it is good. Those who would argue the point are school children.

Edenton-Chowan Schools were open last Saturday to make up a snow day lost in February. By 10:30 A.M. the buildings were cleared as snow began to fall. It turned into blizzard proportions, just like the weatherman forecast.

The storm turned ye old towne on Queen Anne's Creek into a giant snow bank and 20 inches accumulated. Now they are calling for a "sister" storm to pass through the area today (Thursday).

One downtown merchant
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Grant Sought For Algae Studies

The State Environmental Management Commission is seeking \$880,838 in federal grant funds to further study the cause of extensive algae blooms in the Chowan River.

A public hearing on applications to the federal Environmental Protection Agency was held Wednesday of last week in Raleigh. Two of the six projects being considered were sent forth by the Water Quality Management Planning Staff involve agricultural practices.

While endorsing the projects, the Water Resources Committee of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce has entered a letter in the hearing record to clarify portions of the projects.

The big project, which would be funded at the \$680,838 level, involves a study of agricultural

practices in the Chowan River Basin. Another \$200,000 is being sought to do the same thing in Cutawhiskie Creek.

The projects would aid in control of non-point sources of water pollution at specific sites. Agricultural practices that could reduce the amounts of fertilizer, animal waste and soil that are washed into streams are the focus of three projects.

Septic tank malfunctions are a chronic problem in some parts of the state and they are the subject of two projects. Roadbank stabilization is the topic of the remaining proposal.

The staff claims that a detailed study is needed of the water quality below agricultural areas to determine how much phosphorus and nitrogen from farm operations is entering creeks that

flow into the Chowan River.

The 49-square mile watershed of Cutawhiskie Creek, which has been extensively ditched and channelized, will be analyzed for nutrient delivery to the river.

The staff is seeking \$87,500 in funds to cover four other projects.

Wallace B. Evans, chamber president, pointed out in a February 27 letter to Alan Klimek, Division of Water Quality Management, that such studies as are proposed are "a vital part of the overall program for cleaning up the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound." It was noted that data developed from these programs will greatly aid in resolving similar programs with other bodies of water in Eastern North Carolina.

Capt. Al Howard is head of the local committee which is seeking answers to the following questions:

1. The scope of the proposed study and work to be accomplished with the specific projects.

2. Specific projects to be funded. From information available, it appears the plan is to fund one project in Bertie County, one project in Chowan County, one project in Gates County and three

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Trash Collection Resumes Today

Trash collection, hampered by the weather, will resume in Edenton today (Thursday). W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said garbage in East Edenton will be picked up today with West Edenton on Friday.

Gardner asked that only spillable items be put out, saving boxes paper and other unspillables for collection next week.

County manager Cliff Copeland reported that the county commissioners' meeting originally

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Pork Conference Is Held

Some 300 people attended the Edenton Regional Swine Con-

ference last week. The conference was held Thursday at the American Legion Building.

The program began at 10 A.M. with a discussion on "Farrowing House Management" by Charles Stanislaw, area extension swine specialist. "Update on Swine Medications" was presented by Bob Jones, an extension swine specialist.

"My Swine Operation" was the topic of Tony Hale, a hog farm manager. "Producer of Tomorrow"

Dr. Charlie Randall of Kinston ended the morning session with a discussion of "Pig Pneumonia."

The lunch was sponsored by the Albemarle Feeder Cooperative. Carlton Perry, president of the cooperative, was in attendance.

Afternoon topics were: "How To Live With Low Hog Prices," Jack Parker, area extension swine specialist; "Eperythrozoonosis" by Bob Behlow, and "Update on Pigs in Decks" by Dr. Dave Spruill, extension swine specialist.



SWINE CONFERENCE OFFICIALS — Four of the officials at the Edenton Regional Swine Conference held here Thursday of last week are pictured above during the noon break. Left to right are: Dr. David Spruill of Raleigh, extension swine specialist; Tom Farmer, executive of the N. C. Pork Producers Association; Jack Parker, area swine specialist; and Carlton Perry, president of Albemarle Feeder Pig Cooperative.

Annual Testing Program Is Scheduled In March

Chowan County students will participate in the state's Annual Testing Program during a two-week period beginning March 17.

The 1980 annual testing marks the third year the state's program has been in operation.

The tests will be administered to students in the first, second, third, sixth, and ninth grades.

State education officials are confident that the test results for 1980 will continue to show the improvement illustrated in the first two years of testing.

Reading and mathematics scores improved at all grade level and in all areas of the state from 1978-79.

First and second graders scored above the national average in all eight of the state's educational districts in 1979.

Math scores increased from a grade level equivalent of 2.1 to 2.3 among first graders and from 3.2 to 3.4 among second graders

between 1978 and 1979.

Reading scores went up from a grade level equivalent of 1.7 to 1.8 for first graders and from 2.8 to 3.0 for second graders.

Third graders also improved, from a 1978 grade equivalent of 3.5 in reading to 3.7 (the national average) in 1979, and from 3.6 to 3.8 in math.

Sixth grade reading scores remained below the national average, 6.7, in 1979, despite having improved from a 1978 grade equivalent score of 6.3 in 1978 to 6.5 in 1979.

Math scores among sixth graders averaged a grade equivalent level of 6.8 in 1979, up from 6.5 in 1978 and above the 6.7 national average.

Ninth grade students remained below the national average, 9.7, in both reading and math in 1979, despite improving in both areas from a grade equivalent level of 9.0 in 1978 to 9.2 in 1979.



LAUNDROMAT FIRE — A fire between the false ceiling and roof of Edenton Laundromat at Mitchener Village resulted in heavy damages to the facility. Half of the roof was badly damaged as was all of the interior ceiling and wall panelling. Firemen had the blaze under control in about 15 minutes and remained on the scene for three hours afterward. The actual cause of the fire is undetermined pending further investigation.

Submarine Cable Needed

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co., headquartered in Rocky Mount, has applied to the Department of the Army to construct two submarine cable crossings of the Chowan River, adjacent to the U. S. 17 bridge, according to a public notice from the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District office.

Plans submitted with the application call for the placement of two cables parallel to an existing cable about 50 feet downstream of the bridge. The cables are to be placed at a depth of 3 feet below the existing bottom contours of the river.

The purpose of the proposed work is to provide improved communication facilities for Chowan County.

Before the project may proceed, it will be reviewed by the N. C. Office of Coastal Management and the Division of Environmental Management for compliance with the Clean Water Act, Coastal Area Management Act and regulations governing dredge and fill work.

A preliminary study by the district engineer shows that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required and that the project will pose no threat to marine life or their habitat.

No permit will be issued if the project is found not to be in the public interest.

Citizens wishing to make comments on the proposed work may do so by writing to the attention of Ken Jolly, Department

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