

NRHDA Phasing Out Federal Grant

Still Alive

Northeastern Rural Health Development Association, Inc., may be down but by no means can be counted out. The agency has been more or less living on borrowed time since October 1, 1979. Now life has been extended to May 31.

Determination by the board of directors, now under the direction of Walter L. White, Jr., appears to be bearing fruit. Every week NRHDA stays alive the greater the chance of recovery; partial recovery anyway.

There is now a thriving medical and dental operation in Tyrrell County. In the past three weeks another medical and dental satellite center has been added at Colerain in Bertie County. A third clinic is still on the horizon for Perquimans County.

All of this has come about, including the addition of seven physicians and dentists, because of the unserved needs in Northeastern North Carolina. A spin off is that Chowan Hospital has become financially healthy and expansion plans are being discussed.

NRHDA may never again receive a penny of federal assistance for additional program development. Nevertheless, the dye has been cast and consumers of health care are the beneficiaries.

Mr. White said it adequately Monday night. "... (we are) still together and are going to fight, not for ourselves but for people out there who need and deserve the services."

It was on this concept that NRHDA came into being. Regardless of the epitaph the good that has been done overshadows mistakes made during the organization's infancy. NRHDA has now grown up, is strengthened by the past, and at present is still alive.

Will It Last?

Well, we spent a couple of days last week in the Nation's Capital participating in the formation of the National Extension Advisory Council. Events ranged from a visit with Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to a briefing by a chief White House aide.

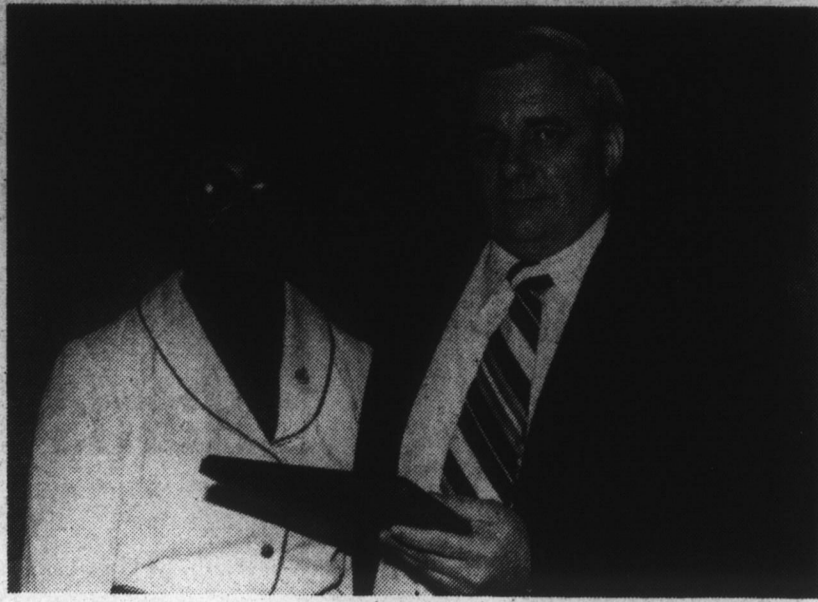
In between, representatives of 36 states from California to Vermont set into motion an organization which Dr. T. Carlton Blalock predicted could be looked on in 10 years as one of the significant events in the history of Extension. Dr. Blalock is state director.

During a brief business session, John Haas of Kansas was elected chairman; Mrs. Marianne Houston of New Hampshire, vice chairman; L. F. Amburn, Jr., of North Carolina, secretary; and Mrs. Frances McConnell of Colorado, a member of the Executive Committee.

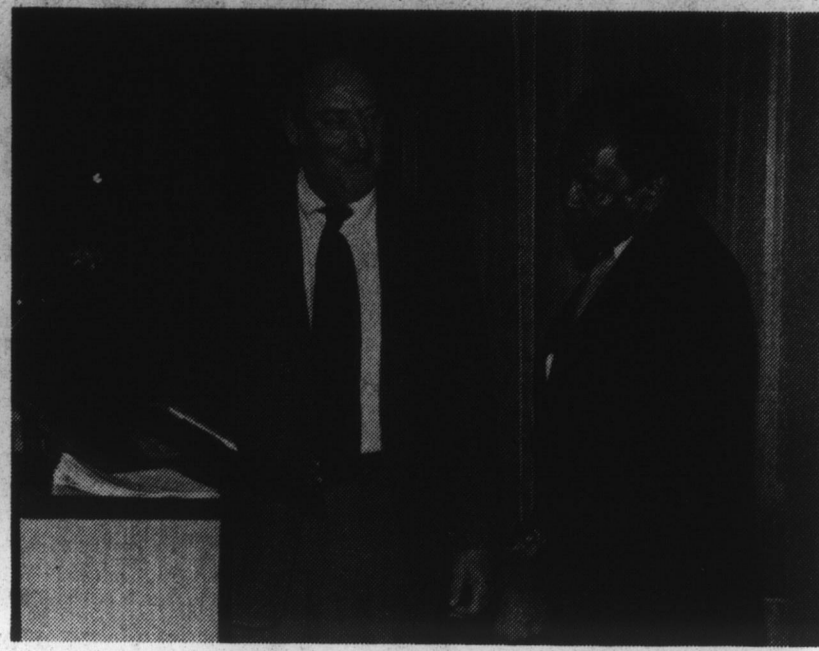
Sec. Bergland was tardy for his meeting with a delegation of 10 designated representatives. He came to the meeting directly from an earlier session with President Carter.

We had an opportunity to put in a plug for the masterful work of Chowan County Extension Service in putting together a county-wide

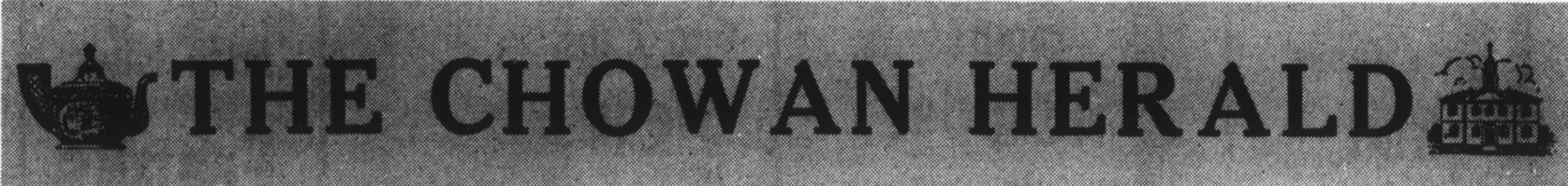
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ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNIZED — Mrs. Lucille Drake of Bertie County is shown with Andy Martin, administrator of Northeastern Rural Health Development Association, after she recognized him for his efforts on behalf of the association and the consumers of health care in this area.



PAST AND PRESENT — T. B. Wood, first chairman of the board of Northeastern Rural Health Development Association, Monday night presented a plaque to Walter L. White, Jr., current chairman, in recognition of White's contribution to the system.



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Easter Monday Schedule Is Set

Easter Monday will be observed as a general holiday in Edenton. Schools as well as all town and county offices will be closed. Some, though not all, businesses and industries will also take the day off.

Town trash collection will be handled in East Edenton on Tuesday, and West Edenton on Wednesday. A meeting of the Chowan County Commissioners has been moved to Tuesday at 9 A.M. in fourth floor conference room of the county office building.

Easter weekend will include a teen dance, Saturday from 8 to 12 P.M. at the Edenton Jaycee Building.

Conventions Set

Chowan County Republicans will elect delegates to the district and state GOP conventions and will hold their annual election of officers, this Friday, in the old county courthouse, reported Terry Boyle, local party chairman. The county convention will convene at 5 P.M.

Three delegates and three alternates will be elected to the district convention, April 19 in Greenville, and the state con-

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Rescue Squad Holds Convincing Exercise

The automobile speeding toward the intersection of N.C. 37 and U.S. 17 at the 5-mile Y was carrying five passengers, three women and two men. The conversation was casual and the driver listened with half-interest as they approached the rainslick and water pocked junction. Though he could occasionally feel the steering go mushy as the car cut through the little puddles, the driver was unworried. He had driven in worse weather than this. It was no

problem. One of the women in the back seat made a comment, cracked a little joke, and the driver laughed as he glanced into his rear view mirror. At that moment, he allowed the car to drift right, running partially onto the road shoulder. Without thinking, he jerked the steering wheel sharply to the left, and the car, instead of righting itself, began to spin out of control.

Crossing the highway, the car struck the grassy median separating the two highways and started rolling, doors flying open, glass bursting and people screaming. Two of the passengers were hurled by the centrifugal force out of the car. The other three were still inside when the car finally struck a light pole and stopped.

That's the way the scenario for real accident might be written, and could have been just what Harvey Williams and Bill Underkofler had in mind when they set up the fake disaster, Friday night. Williams is captain of the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad Unit One, and Underkofler is regional coordinator of Emergency Medical Services. What they had put together was a very realistic drill for members of the squad.

The accident victims were members of the Perquimans



SCOTT STUMPS IN CHOWAN — Bob Scott brought his campaign for the Democratic nomination for governor to Edenton Tuesday night. The Edenton Jaycee Building hosted a pig-picking sponsored by local Scott supporters as a fund-raising affair. Scott is shown at center, above with W. T. Culpepper, left, an Edenton attorney and Joe Nowell of Perquimans County.

County Rescue Squad, carefully prepared to test the readiness and capabilities of the men who would respond to the emergency call from Chowan Hospital.

Earlier in the day, Williams and Underkofler had a wrecked car towed from Albemarle Motor Company to that intersection, undoubtedly one of the worst in the two counties. After bashing in the top a little more for added effectiveness, the wrecker wrenched the car onto its side, against the pole.

In Hertford, Underkofler busied himself with creating the "victims". Among the grisley injuries he made was an open chest wound on one of the men, complete with spurting blood activated by a bulb syringe in the man's pocket. One of the women had a compound fracture of the thigh bone. The broken ends of the largest bone in the woman's body protruded from the flesh of her leg. It was neatly created from a beef bone acquired at S&R Supermarket. Another "victim" had a spinal injury, as evidenced by the lump on her neck, and a laceration on her forehead. The two thrown from the auto where dressed in a variety of lacerations and instructed to fake shock.

A carefully guarded secret, only a handful of people knew the "accident" was a drill, Williams

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Bob Scott Campaigns At Local Pig-Picking

Bob Scott wants to be governor for another four-year term; then that will be it. He feels now more than at any other time he is the right man for the job; a job description which includes fiscal responsibility, belt tightening and compassion rather than computers.

It was a "new" Bob Scott who dined on two of his favorites—politics and pork barbecue—with a generous helping of both. After a

stump speech at Edenton Jaycee Community Building Tuesday night he got in line for seconds (or was it thirds?) at the barbecue cooker and was overheard saying to an old political ally: "I'll be the first to admit that I have changed since I was in there before."

During his term he successfully guided a government reorganization program through the General Assembly. Observers say this has resulted in more state

government instead of less. In his remarks he noted that the state payroll alone has swelled by 15,000 in the past three years alone.

Additional experience and a closer touch with reality, he says, has brought about the new Bob Scott. "Things are moving our way," he told a small but enthusiastic crowd generated from Chowan, Perquimans and Gates counties. "I see it changing every day and this tide is indeed turned in our way."

He talked about many things at the rally, but his most pointed reference to the Hunt Administration came when he charged that public education is being run out of the Governor's Office. "No need to have a state superintendent," he said. And he said a lot of the same things are happening at other places. "I will be supportive of the Council of State because I think this should be a shared government," he added.

In fielding questions, Scott said he didn't know enough about the Currituck Outer Banks problem to voice an opinion; and that a move to run Vepco out of North Carolina wouldn't work. "Even if everything was agreed to and signed today it would take 10 to 15 years to get it consummated," he said of the utility issue.

On the campaign trail in the past 10 days to two weeks, he says, he is finding it more difficult to get people talking politics. "People are worried, frustrated and concerned," he noted. "There is deep seated frustration."

Labeling it a "watershed", he said this is the most important time in our history since World War II. "There are a new set of conditions for the 1980s, and this is especially true with our young

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Census Bureau Is Offering Jobs

The Bureau of Census is seeking an unspecified number of persons to employ for follow-up work beginning April 14, reported Bill Hodges of the Census Bureau's Greenville office. Those wishing to apply for the job should contact the chairmen of their respective precincts or the Job Service in Edenton, he said.

Follow-up work will include contacting households who failed to return a census questionnaire or returned it incomplete.

Testing of prospective employees will be handled on an appointment basis, it was stated.

The chairmen of the county precincts are: East Edenton, J. L. Fenner; West Edenton, Alton Elmore; Yeopim, Tom Palmer or Dr. Clement Lucas; Rocky Hock, Jack Evans; Wardville, H. Ivey Ward; and Center Hill, Helen Hollowell.

Northeastern Rural Health Development Association, Inc., has been given a 60-day extension to phase out a federal grant. This was announced Monday night at an appreciation dinner for directors who have worked with the non-profit association for the past two years.

While the new phase out date is May 31, Walter L. White, Jr., board chairman, told a group at Angler's Cove Restaurant in Perquimans County that the board has every intent of remaining active.

NRHDA was formed to provide health services in Tyrrell, Perquimans and Bertie counties. Federal officials, acting on recommendation of the Eastern Carolina Health Service Agency, has not renewed funding for NRHDA. The decision is on appeal and late Monday the decision was made to extend the date to phase out the agency.

Andy Martin, NRHDA administrator, said the agency is responsible for expansion of the health care delivery system in Northeastern North Carolina.

Giving special thanks to board members and Drs. C. Clement Lucas, Jr., and Richard N. Hines, Jr., Martin said "this has been a very successful organization" and one which has caused much change.

Earlier, White said representatives of two counties not addressed in the new grant application have expressed interest in joining NRHDA to obtain health services. He said the Colerain satellite clinic is now in operation with both medical and dental services available. The next target is Perquimans County.

Mayor Bill Cox of Hertford, a board member, expressed his appreciation for what has been done and what continues to be done in the field of primary health care in Perquimans County.

White said despite opposition the board should be proud of the fact that "you have brought about change" (in the health delivery system). This has been, he added, even after there has been a lot of misunderstanding about grants and what was being addressed. "I don't see how anyone could say we duplicated services when there was no service," he added.

Dr. Hines said he and Dr. Lucas have enjoyed a "great experience" of working with a group of folks who are on the receiving end of health care.

Holiday Death Toll Is Estimated At 18 Fatalities

CHARLOTTE — Approximately 18 people may die in traffic accidents on North Carolina streets and highways over the upcoming Easter weekend, the N. C. State Motor Club has estimated, unless Tar Heel motorists change their driving habits and use more caution and common sense.

The state will count its toll over a 78-hour period, from 6:00 P.M. Friday, April 4 through midnight Monday, April 7. Last year 20 persons lost their lives and 883 were injured during a similar period, while 23 died in 1978. The latest figures show a total of 262 fatalities already this year despite all efforts to keep the traveling public aware of the causes contributing to highway deaths, and how they can help reduce the needless loss of life.

"Only the drivers themselves can help reduce the morbid figures showing the loss of life", Dr. John G. Frazier, III, President of the Statewide motor club said. "The drivers must change their driving habits. Good common sense and consideration for others would help greatly, along with the observance of our traffic safety rules", Frazier stated.

It is every driver's personal responsibility to drive safely. Observe the 55-mph speed limit: "55 I Believe" is the first big step to increase highway safety. Don't drive and drink: alcohol is a factor in half the fatal accidents that occur in North Carolina. Use safety belts: it only takes half a

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USED IN SIMULATION — This 1967 Chevrolet Impala was used in an accident simulation last Friday night at the 5-mile Y during an exercise by Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad Unit 1. Squad members responding to the "emergency" were not told it was a simulation and carried on as though it were the real thing. Volunteers from the Perquimans County Rescue Squad posed as the accident "victims".