

# Gov. Hunt Outlines Strategy

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., was given a cordial welcome last Wednesday afternoon at W. E. Smith's Store in Rocky Hock. He was nearly an hour late for the second of three stops in Chowan County during a whistle stop campaign tour through Northeastern North Carolina.

It didn't take long for an outspoken fisherman like Murray Nixon to put the formality aside and get to the real issue—the lack

of fish in the algae-plagued Chowan River.

Nixon was quick to get to the scenario and gave the "marble in the bowl" reasoning of Dr. Gus Witherspoon, a N. C. State University scientist who is considered a foremost authority on the river problems.

"All we know is that we didn't have any problems until that fertilizer plan started," Nixon said. "That was the marble which caused the bowl to overflow."

Gov. Hunt also talked tough. "If we took that marble out would the problem correct itself?" he asked. And then he added, "If I can get the information to back me up in court I'll see that all the damn marbles are removed."

The governor, campaigning for re-election, was tardy because he had chosen to go out in the river at the Chowan bridge on U.S. 17 to gather a sample of the water. Dr. Bob Holman, the state's scientist in residence, explained the samples.

Earlier the governor had spoken to an attentive audience at the old Chowan County Courthouse. There

he outlined steps his administration was taking to clear up the river.

There were some kind words at the rural store. J. Gilliam Wood, long a strong Hunt supporter, calmed the waters somewhat when he said Gov. Hunt is basically an honest man. "Our best bet of continued progress out here lies in Jim Hunt," he said. At the courthouse, Gov. Hunt said the algae problem is his top environmental priority. He called what has happened to the river "a sin and a tragedy." He went on to say: "I get mad when I see what has happened to it, and I plan to go out there today and see it again."

And he added: "We're not going to give up until that river flows clean and clear again."

At his request, the State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development has been given "every penny" requested for the Chowan River Restoration Project.

Gov. Hunt revealed that he has personally contacted Gov. John

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ARRIVES IN EDENTON — Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., center, is shown as he entered the old Chowan County Courthouse for a speech Wednesday of last week. With him are, from left: James C. (Pete) Dail, Sheriff Troy Toppin, and W. B. Gardner.



HEARS ABOUT CONDITION OF RIVER — Murray Nixon, left, explains to Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., the bad condition of the Chowan River. Shown with them at a stop last week at W. E. Smith's Store in Rocky Hock are: J. Gilliam Wood, center and Smith.

## The Other Side

The Coastal Resources Commission has developed stringent guidelines and regulations for major energy industries. First Colony Farms' peat manufacturing process in Northeastern North Carolina falls in CRC's definition of major energy operations.

However, the regulations, which have the same effect of law since they must be met in order to obtain a state permit for construction, were the result of plans for a \$300-million oil refinery in Brunswick County. Within the last year representatives of the consortium making up Brunswick Energy, Corp. have appeared at a CRC meeting to discuss preliminary plans.

Refinery officials have repeatedly said they intend to meet all environmental regulations. "The refinery will be environmentally sound," one was quoted as saying. The company even flew some CRC members along with representatives of the Coastal Resources Advisory Council and Brunswick County leaders to the State of Washington to see a refinery in operation.

At this week's meeting of CRC and CRAC, Walter Davis of Elizabeth City and Midland, Tex., presented the other side. Mr. Davis has made millions of dollars in the oil business; he speaks with authority and readily admits that he might have a conflict of interest in the matter.

Mr. Davis served for two years on the CRC. He was an original appointee by Gov. James Holshouser in 1974. Although he spends more than 60 per cent of his time outside North Carolina he was an active member.

The oilman has financed a 30-minute documentary on the danger oil spills cause to the environment. In remarks prior to a showing of the film Tuesday, Mr. Davis declared that North Carolina cannot afford the "environmental risk" of a major oil refinery. He said he came to this decision after much thought. He supports people who like their environment like it was and furthermore, he is interested in more and better jobs.

Mr. Davis said all of the 60 major oil spills are the result of human error. "We can develop a fool proof machine but we can't avoid hiring fools to operate them," he said.

Because existing refineries are now working at only 80 per cent capacity, he added, there is no need for another costly refinery in this country.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., is among those in state government who supports location of the refinery in Tar Heelia. However, he says it must be able to meet all environmental regulations.

The refinery may be "environmentally sound" but there is bound to be an "environmental risk". The question remains: How much risk is the state able to take?

CRAC now has heard the other side. And it didn't make their awesome responsibility any easier.

## Too Costly

We read in our favorite daily newspaper of general circulation along the Public Parade where the Isle of Pasquotank is on the verge of getting a group home for mentally retarded adults. On the surface, the project appears to be too costly.

The group home, built with a \$135,000 HUD grant and furnished with another \$30,000 in public money, is designed to house five adults and the cottage family. The first operating budget is \$44,184.

This is the second time Charles Franklin, Albemarle Mental Health Center program director, has attempted to cash in on dollars from outside Northeastern North Carolina. A few years ago he had costly plans and specifications developed for a new Mental Health Center which included some accommodations for patients. Those plans now merely gather dust. Mr. Franklin failed to come up with adequate matching funds at the

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# Copeland Found Not Guilty

Carlton Eugene Copeland, shaken but relieved, walked out of Chowan County Superior Court, last Friday, a free man, found not guilty of second degree murder in the shotgun slaying of Sammy Lucien Langley, a Perquimans County man.

A 12-man jury deliberated about 45 minutes before returning the not guilty verdict. Applause erupted from among Copeland's relatives, friends and character witnesses when W. E. Goodwin, Sr., jury foreman, read the verdict before Judge Herbert S. Small.

The jury's finding ended two days of testimony during which Copeland admitted shooting

Langley in self-defense on Happy Home Church Road between Center Hill and Ryalnd. He stated that Langley, who was married to his ex-wife, had threatened to kill him.

Outside the courtroom Friday afternoon, Copeland paused briefly to say, "I had begun to doubt the truth would pay off. The only thing I can say is it does."

W. T. Culpepper, III, defense attorney said simply, "The jury system works." He added, "It didn't take long, about 45 minutes. They found a proper verdict; that's all there is to it."

The jury had been charged by Judge Small with returning one of three verdicts: guilty of second degree murder, guilty of voluntary manslaughter, or not guilty. In order to get a conviction on second degree murder the state had to prove the element of malice.

In his summation, Culpepper contended that if there was malice, it was on the part of Langley, who after beating Copeland up, had chased him down and threatened his life. He cited court rulings upholding a person's right to self defense when reasonably certain that inaction will result in serious bodily injury or death.

The state argued it had produced evidence to back the contention that Copeland acted maliciously, and without cause, had fired the weapon at an unarmed man.

Because Copeland entered a not guilty plea, it was up to the state to prove that he had acted for reasons other than self-defense.

Copeland, a 43-year old Chowan native now residing in Chesapeake, Va. and employed by Vepco, testified that since his separation and divorce from his wife, Sylvia, nine years before, he had frequently visited the county to hunt, but had never seen his former wife, or was even acquainted with Sammy Langley.

On the day of the shooting, a Wednesday, Copeland had come to Chowan County to hunt deer and allow his three month old "bird puppy" to romp around.

He testified that shortly after arriving here, he ran into Lester Ray Copeland, a Tyner farmer, who showed him a field they

leased on Happy Home Church Road as a possible place to hunt. They visited the site about 10 minutes before going their separate ways for lunch.

The defendant said he arrived at Teenie Boy Perry's Store on N. C. 32 shortly after noon, where he spoke to H. Ivey Ward and Perry's wife. He said he noticed Teenie Boy outside talking to a man in a blue two-toned pick-up truck.

They did not speak, but later Perry testified that Langley, the man in the truck had said, "That man has caused me a lot of trouble. I'm going to get him." Perry said Langley had been drinking.

About 15 minutes later, Copeland said he left the store, heading north on the highway to see about a Volkswagen that Ward had mentioned was for sale by Wayne Goodwin. Passing the place, Copeland didn't see the

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# Long Stumps For Insurance Commission

Jim Long, a Democratic candidate for Insurance Commissioner, visited Edenton last Friday morning, talking to citizens on the street and telling them he wants to return professionalism, stability and credibility to the commissioner's office.

Long, who served two years as Chief Deputy Commissioner under John Ingram, said Ingram's ineffectiveness as commissioner stems from his inability to win court cases.

"He fired his chief actuary," Long commented, "and without his technical evidence, the courts don't have anything to base their decision on."

Long went on to say he thought the Rate Bureau has outlived itself and that decontrol of insurance rates would, in the long run, help out the consumer.

"If we allow open competition in the insurance industry, it'll give people the chance to shop around and find the best rates," he said.

Long predicted that decontrol of rates would result, initially, in some increase followed by a stabilizing period and ending with a gradual decline.

# Lecture Tickets Are Available

For the first time, persons wishing to attend the Edenton Symposium on History, Architecture and Furnishings will have the opportunity to purchase tickets to individual lectures for \$5 each or block tickets to any three lectures for \$12.50.

Mrs. Anne Schenck, director of the Northeastern Historic Places Office explained that it is an effort to give interested persons who are unable to attend the entire symposium a chance to hear presentations on topics of individual interest.

The registration fee for the full symposium, including meals, tours and lectures is \$60.

The symposium begins today (Thursday) at 9 A.M. with registration at the Municipal Building on South Broad Street. At 10 o'clock, Catherine Bishir, architectural historian with the Division of Archives and History, will examine and interpret the town's architecture as it evolved during the 1800's. Her presentation will include slides of many of the significant buildings and a walking tour of the Historic District.

During a luncheon at St. Anne's Catholic Church, nineteenth century glassware will be the topic of discussion by Nancy Merrill from the Chrysler Museum. She will discuss the types and uses of all kinds of glass and stem ware popular in the Victorian period.

Tom Funk, chief archaeologist of the Historic Sites Section, Department of Archives and

History, at 2 P.M. will talk about discoveries made at various digs in the area. His presentation will be entitled "Archaeological Excavations in Edenton: Overview of the Nineteenth Century".

The schedule for Friday, starting at 9 A.M., includes "Style in the Nineteenth Century" by Sumpter Priddy, associate curator of Colonial Williamsburg, Va. He will discuss taste in the 1800's—why our ancestors chose the colors, fashions, designs, furnishings, and decorative arts that

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# Convention Set By Democrats

L. F. Amburn, Jr., publisher of the Chowan Herald, will be keynote speaker at the Chowan County Democratic Convention, Saturday. It will begin at 12 noon in the new county courthouse on Broad Street.

Democrats will elect a slate of delegates to district and state conventions and will act on reports from the Resolutions Committee.

Two members each will be elected to four executive committees including the district congressional and judicial committees as well as the state Senatorial and House of Representatives district committees.

Reports on the federal census and local party registration efforts will be heard at the meeting.



CAMPAIGNS IN EDENTON — Jim Long, a Democratic candidate for Insurance Commissioner, left, pauses on Broad Street to chat with Raymond A. Tarkington, an Edenton merchant and county magistrate. Long spent time in Edenton Friday morning talking to local citizens and sounding out their views.