

Public Parade

Living Dangerously

Chowan County's tentative 1980-81 budget is now on record. It requires a modest five-cent ad valorem tax increase. If all budget requests had been funded the increase would have been 27 cents.

The alarming fact is the \$215,000 being budgeted from Federal Revenue Sharing Funds. Should Congress not continue this program Chowan County will be in deep, deep trouble. Each penny on the tax rate increases revenue by \$13,783. This means the anticipated federal funds have kept the tax rate 15.6 cents lower.

It will be after the county's budget has been adopted and the tax rate set before final word on this federal money is received. Therefore, the commissioners are living dangerously, to say the least.

In neighboring Bertie County, a 41-cent tax increase is being proposed. This is primarily due to a more conservative attitude toward Federal Revenue Sharing Funds. There only revenue for two months is budgeted.

Bertie, like Chowan, is faced with less increase in the tax base than in prior years. There the increase was 4.47 per cent; in Chowan a mere 1.7 per cent. In Bertie each penny of tax will yield \$25,050 at a 92 per cent collection rate. Chowan budgets on a 95 per cent collection rate.

There is some criticism along the Public Parade over funds to open the new Detention Facility. The amount is \$77,719, or 5.64-cents on the tax rate. Meanwhile, in Bertie the county is putting \$300,000 or (11.97 cents per \$100 valuation) into first year money for a regional jail in Williamston. And once it is built the cost of operations will be greater than what is being spent locally.

The Chowan board's Finance Committee, composed of J. D. Peele and George Jones, has presented what could be called this county's tightest budget. They have kept the expenditures in line with a 4.3 per cent increase in revenue.

State law mandates that all levels of government have a balanced budget. Anticipating \$215,000 in yet unappropriated federal money is not only living dangerously but may be unlawful.

It doesn't take a wizard with figures to see that any change in expenditures in this budget cannot come from within. It will have to be in the form of additional increase to the tax rate. If the property owners are willing to pay, the commissioners should be willing to levy. But how are they to know?

Maybe the answer has been found in the State of Washington. There the state has assumed responsibility for basic public education, for example. Any other funds must come from the school district in the form of a special levy approved by the voters biennially. Probably only then will true accountability be realized.

In the whole, however, it appears that Chowan County property owners cannot bear any greater burden in the form of taxation. The commissioners apparently are willing to live dangerously this year. That's a little further than they should be asked to go.

Touching Base

It was refreshing Thursday afternoon to return to the Public Parade after a couple of days in the Capital City. The trip, though, allowed us to touch base with groups and individuals in which we have special interests.

Wednesday afternoon, we, along with David Bateman of Tyner, and other Advisory Council members of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, N. C. State University, were joined by representatives of commodity groups at the Faculty Club. Dean Ed Legates called the meeting to discuss limits on change budget requests to the General Assembly for 1981-83.

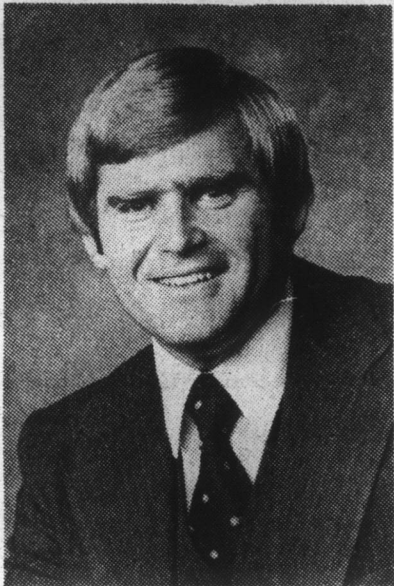
Extension, headed by Dr. Carlton Blalock, and Research, headed by Dr. Durwood Bateman (a native of Chowan County)

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'Textbook' Conditions Result In Algae Bloom

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.

North Carolina's No. 1 fisherman has joined the long list of people in government, business and the private sector who continue to express alarm over algae blooms in the Chowan River. Connell E. Purvis, director, Division of Marine Fisheries, recently told Chowan County commissioners his agency is applying pressure at every possible source to get the almost



Connell E. Purvis

criminal situation corrected.

Saying "fish is my business", Purvis did note, however, that landings in the Albemarle Sound Basin were up 1-million pounds this year. Credit for some of this goes to enforcement (headed here by Carlton Nixon) which has been successful in keeping foreign ships off the Tar Heel coast, he noted.

Meanwhile, environmental officials of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development have sighted algae blooms in the river, Edenton Bay and in tributaries to the lower portions of the river. Capt. Al Howard of Arrowhead, chairman of the Chowan River Restoration Task Force, said evidence of algae blooms were reported two weeks earlier than in 1979.

The temperature and rainfall patterns this winter and spring

have provided "textbook conditions" for the blooms, according to Dr. Robert Holman of the Division of Environmental Management, the scientist in charge of state government's

research in to Chowan algae problems.

Purvis, traveling the circuit of coastal counties, said his mission is to bring local and state governments closer together through

frank discussions about the fishing industry. "We want to see the most number of fish caught, and get the top dollar for catches without destroying the population," he said. Backing him up here was W. Earl Smith of Rocky Hock, a member of the N. C. Marine Fisheries Commission who keeps steady pressure on state officials about the Chowan problem; Harold Johnson of Elizabeth City, a marine biologist; and Nixon, chief of enforcement in the area.

Chowan County ranks sixth in the quantity of commercial fish landings and 10th in the money volume. Purvis said fishermen were paid some \$500,000 at the dock for their catches; with a total economic impact of between \$4 and \$5-million.

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From Va. Water Control Board 'Nasty Paper' Is Distributed

The Virginia State Water Control Board has distributed what has been labeled a "nasty paper" concerning the algae problems in the Chowan River, along with steps being taken to correct the problem. Seventy-five per cent of the Chowan River Basin is in Virginia.

Sec. Maurice B. Rowe of Virginia's Commerce and Resources suggested in a trans-

mittal letter of the department's "issue paper" that the problem can only be corrected by "allowing our technical folks to proceed and bring to us their recommendations." Sec. Howard N. Lee of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development had no immediate response to Rowe's letter or contents in the "issue paper."

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Public Hearing On Town Budget Set

A public hearing on the Town of Edenton budget for 1980-81 has been slated for June 23 at 6 P.M. at the Municipal Building. The tentative budget of \$6,163,725 was presented to the Town Council, Tuesday night, during its regular monthly meeting.

Based on a valuation of \$55-million, the property tax rate will be 79 cents per \$100 valuation with a collection rate of 95 per cent. The tax rate will be up five cents over 1979-80.

The total figure calls for a general fund of \$1,272,853, and \$620,000 in capital outlay. In addition, \$65,000 will come from the Powell Bill fund, \$3,732,836 from the electric fund, and \$407,488 from the water-sewer fund. Only one-half, \$65,548, of the Revenue Sharing fund was budgeted pending action of Congress.

W. B. Gardner, town ad-

Law Changed

A change in the town ordinance relating to alcoholic beverages was unanimously approved by the Town Council, Tuesday night, and enforcement will begin immediately.

The ordinance now makes it unlawful to possess or consume any alcoholic beverage in a public place. W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said previously the ordinance only effected those seen consuming alcoholic beverages. The new law has been extended to include the possession of open containers on streets, in parking lots, in alleys, on sidewalks or in businesses frequented by the general public.

The ordinance was modeled after one recently adopted in Elizabeth City.

ministrators, said three of the main expenditures will be \$40,000 as the first payment on a solid waste transfer station, \$80,000 for a new deep well at Beaver Hill, and \$500,000 for construction of a new waste water treatment plant.

Town employees will receive a 10 per cent cost of living pay increase.

Following a brief public hearing, the council unanimously approved certain changes in the Zoning Ordinance relating to development of subdivisions in order to clarify and make enforceable the requirements of the text.

A request by Bernard P. Burroughs for \$7,000 in financial assistance to provide sewer lines for a medical arts subdivision on Hicks Street behind Chowan Hospital was turned down, 3-2. He requested the town to pay the difference in cost of digging trenches to 11 feet instead of the standard eight feet. Burroughs said the additional depth would be needed to adequately serve property owners as the tract is developed.

Councilman Gil Burroughs, in moving to deny the request, suggested that the additional cost be passed on the purchasers.

Voting in favor of the motion were councilmen Burroughs, W. H. Hollowell, and Steve Hampton. Against the motion were councilmen Harry Spruill and J. P. Ricks. Councilman Allen Horntal excused himself from voting due to conflict of interest.

Street and sanitation department employees will have the weekend off, beginning June 21. Gardner said the full crew had been reporting to work for 2½ hours each Saturday to sweep the

sidewalks and clean the street openings. In the future, Broad Street will be cleaned Friday night, and downtown merchants will be asked to sweep the sidewalks from the front of their businesses to the curb, Saturday nights at closing time.

Hearing June 19

HERTFORD — A public hearing will be held here June 19 on the Area Aging Plan for 1981-83. The hearing will be at the Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission office, beginning at 2 P.M.

The Advisory Council to the 10-county Area Agency on Aging will conduct the hearing, according to Carlotta Jordan, program administrator.

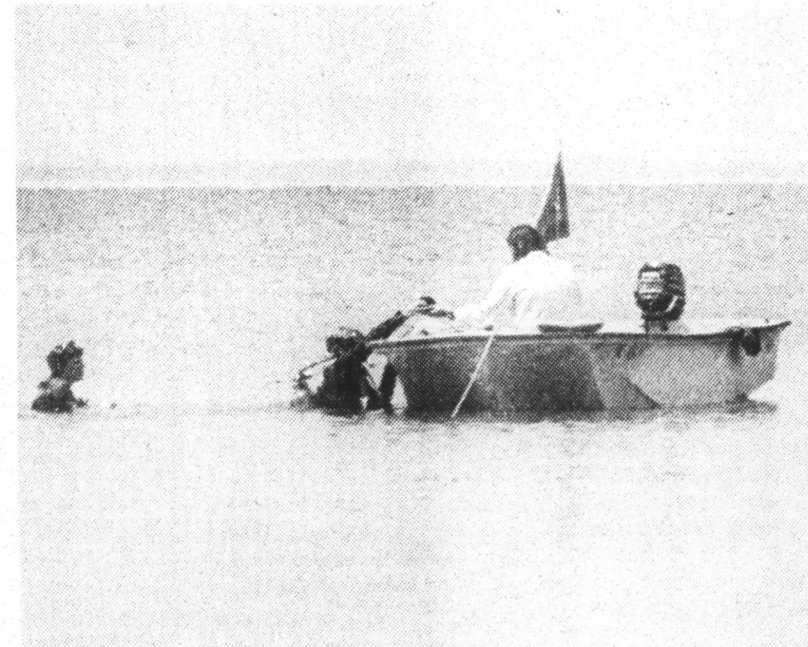
A copy of the document is available for public inspection at ARPD.

Construction Contracts To Be Awarded

Contracts are ready to be awarded for construction of a new National Guard Armory in Edenton. Total cost of the project is \$539,560.54. The armory will be located on a seven-acre site at Edenton Municipal Airport.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said Monday the local share of the project is \$70,411.50. The town will pay \$46,936.31 with the county contributing \$23,475.19. The site, where the old Administration Building was located on Base Road, was obtained from Edenton Airport Commission. The state has put \$75,199.48 into the project.

Maj. Gen. William E. Ingram,



HARBOR STUDY PROGRESSES — A bottom survey of Edenton Bay and nearby waters was completed, Monday, by team members from East Carolina University and the Underwater Archaeology branch of the Department of Archives and History. Dr. William Still, ECU history professor, said the remainder of the five week study period will be used to investigate various targets and to possibly recover some items. Among those targets will be the wreckage of a 105-foot sailing vessel found at the mouth of Pembroke Creek near John's Island.

N. C. adjutant general, told The Chowan Herald the facility is one of two being let to contract this year. A contract was let in May for a facility in Morganton and the replacement program is beginning to lag because of fewer federal funds.

"We're in good shape as far as state funds are concerned," Gen. Ingram said, "and local communities seem to be ready with their share."

Gen. Ingram is a native of Elizabeth City and has been interested in the Edenton project long before he was named adjutant general. "I hope we can get the contracts signed and people on the job before the end of the month," he said.

The Town of Edenton has a long-

range plan for renovating the existing armory on North Broad Street into a comprehensive recreation center. Gardner did not indicate when the first phase of the plan would be implemented.

Wimco, Corp. of Washington was low bidder on the general construction with \$417,788; Lenoir Plumbing & Heating Co., Inc., of Kinston, plumbing at \$27,483; Climate Craft, Inc., of Washington, heating and air conditioning, at \$43,495; and Stuart-Shinn, Inc., of Greenville, electrical, at \$27,250.

Elbert McPhaul, Jr., chief, engineering and facilities for the N. C. National Guard, said the bids were received May 29. The total construction cost was \$14,384 less

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Brown Takes Bank Post

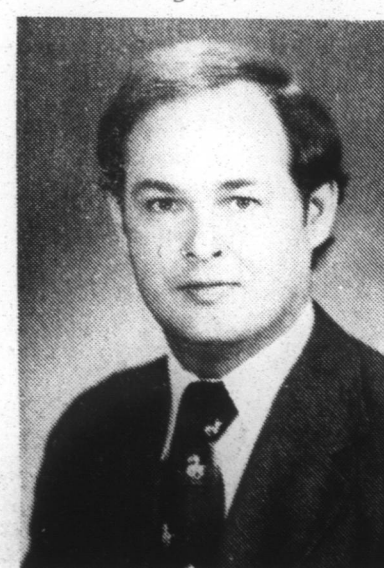
ROCKY MOUNT — Peoples Bank and Trust Company recently announced the promotion of James E. Brown, Jr., to city executive of its Edenton branches. Brown is a vice president and formerly worked in the Commercial Loan Department at the Rocky Mount main office.

Formerly associated with First Citizens Bank and Waccamaw Bank, he is a graduate of East Carolina University and the American Bankers Association National Commercial Lending School.

Brown has been active in many civic and community organizations. He is Nash County chairman of the N. C. Bankers Association, president of the Tar River Kiwanis Club, Lt. governor-elect of the Carolina District of the Kiwanis Club, president-elect of the Rocky Mount Children's Museum Board, member of the Board of Directors of the United Community Services, chairman of

the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce Division of New Business Development, and a deacon and Sunday school teacher at the First Presbyterian Church.

He and his wife, the former Luanne Roebuck of Williamston, have one daughter, Amanda.



James E. Brown, Jr.



STREETS FORMALLY OPENED — Arrowhead Beach Property Owners Association now has 6.5 miles of the 12 miles of subdivision streets on the State Maintenance System. The streets were formally opened June 4 with brief ceremonies. Rep. Vernon James, left, assisted the association in getting legislation passed designating the area as a Wildlife Sanctuary. Capt. Al Howard, head of the Arrowhead group, Marc Basnight of Dare County, State Board of Transportation member; and Chairman C. A. Phillips of Chowan County Commissioners also participated. At left is one of the handsome signs posted in the area. Property owners paid \$2.89 cents per front foot to provide the \$48,920 necessary for the project.