

Unique Experience

People who choose the newspaper business as their vocation are always anxious to answer the telephone. They never know what message it will bring. It makes this business exciting. And you have to love it to sometimes tolerate it.

Last week a telephone call resulted in two people from along the Public Parade having a unique experience, something which generally doesn't make news in urban centers. The experience was in Washington, D.C.

First it was the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Committee. Next it was a reception hosted by President Carter at the White House. While we were not a media representative in fact, we seized the opportunity to capture the unique experience on film. (See page 1-B.)

Mrs. Johnnie Setzer of Catawba County is one of three Tar Heels on the Platform Committee. She is, among other things, a member of the State Advisory Council for the Agricultural Extension Service. This is where we fit in. She invited us to be her guest at the White House reception for Platform Committee members.

As secretary of the National Extension Advisory Council we saw an opportunity to make a pitch in efforts to get recognition in the Democratic Party Platform. This we did.

Our son Paul is both out of school and unemployed. This must qualify him for something. It ended up with meeting President Carter and a host of other prominent national figures.

A full day at the Sheraton Washington pretty well beats a guy down. But when the bus entered the White House grounds there was a new surge of energy. Some 150 people were in the East Room when President Carter entered. He gave a 10-minute pep talk in which he pointed out that the United States has always been on the "cutting edge" of change. In one of his few references to the upcoming Democratic convention he said the party was filled with people who have the ability to "compromise without compromising principle."

President Carter greeted each visitor personally and invited them into the State Dining Room for refreshments. Music was provided by a four-piece Marine ensemble.

Eight o'clock came rapidly. We told Paul it was obvious we were not going to be asked to spend the night so we headed home, fully satisfied by this unique experience.

Need Supported

Chowan Hospital is now developing an application for a 10-bed expansion along with additional ancillary space to meet the ever-increasing needs of a regional health care facility. Obtaining approval from review agencies is quite an exhausting process.

The application is justified and the need can be documented. Nevertheless, it takes time.

Those who meander along the Public Parade can point with pride to the health care facilities located here to serve only Chowan County but neighbors in Bertie, Gates, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties. Local citizens recognize expansion of medical providers which, coupled with available facilities, keep them in the community.

To substantiate how Chowan Hospital is being used is best pointed out by reports from The Duke Endowment. The endowment contributed \$4,691 to the local hospital in 1979. This is based on a formula including number of free days, hospital administrative services and a professional activity study.

Between October 1, 1978 and September 30, 1979, occupancy of Chowan's 61 acute care beds was 96 per cent. In 1978 it was 84 per cent; 77 per cent in 1977; and 74 per cent in 1976. This clearly reflects an increase in medical manpower, primarily the establishment of a group practice by Dr. C. Clement Lucas, Jr.

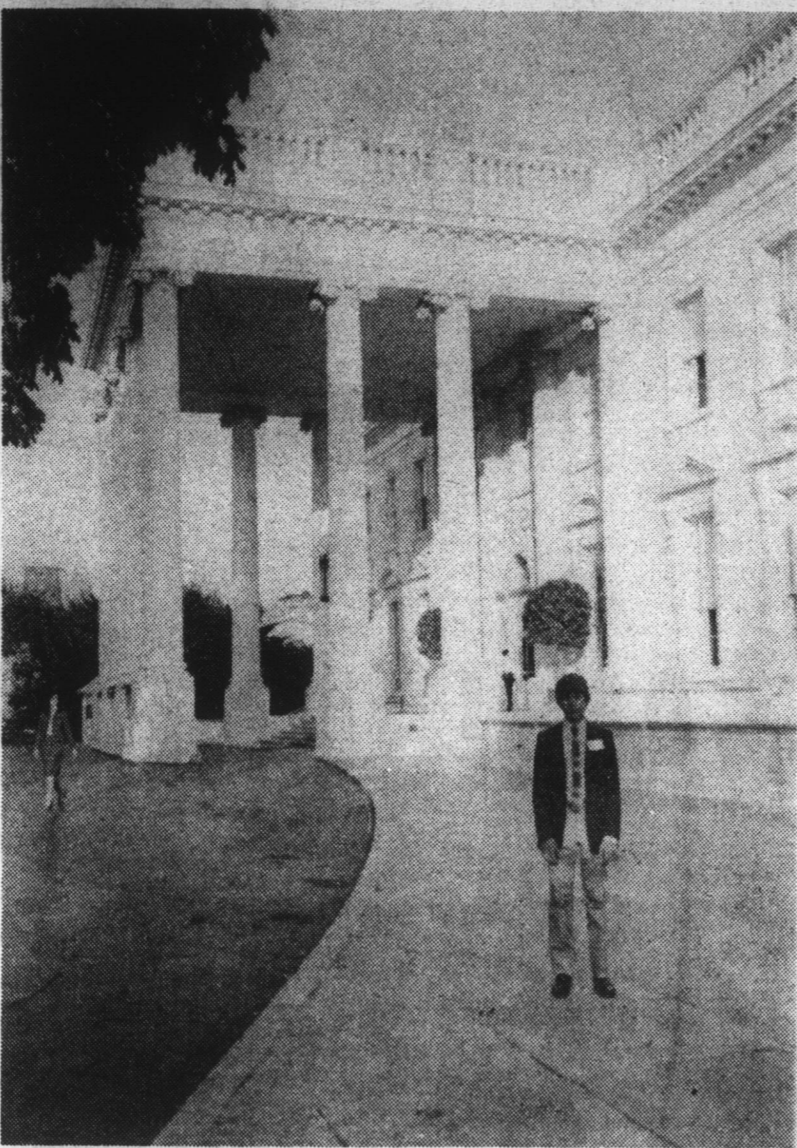
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THE CHOWAN COUNTY RECORD

Vol. XLVI-No. 25

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, June 19, 1980

Single Copies 20 Cents.



WHITE HOUSE VISITOR — Paul Amburn, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.F. Amburn, Jr., 104 West Gale Street, is shown outside the White House following a reception given Thursday by President Carter. Paul and his father were among some 150 people greeted by the President at a reception honoring members of the Democratic National Committee's Platform Committee. More pictures on Page 1-B. (See Public Parade.)

Top Level Meeting: Hunt Pleased With Progress

"We are hopeful, as is the governor, that we can come up with something that both regions and states can agree on." This comment was made by Mrs. Rebecca Hanmer of Atlanta, Ga., last week after a top level meeting with Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., about efforts to clean up the

Chowan River.

Later, Gary Pearce, Gov. Hunt's press secretary, said the governor was well pleased with progress made at the meeting. "He got everything he asked for", Pearce is quoted as saying.

Gov. Hunt called for the meeting between Mrs. Hanmer, director of the Atlanta Region of Environmental Protection Agency, and her counterpart in Philadelphia, Jack Schramm. North Carolina is in the Atlanta Region while Virginia is in the Philadelphia Region. This has caused some confusion over jurisdiction since 75 per cent of the Chowan River Basin is in Virginia.

The meeting Wednesday of last week in Raleigh came only days after Virginia officials circulated an "issue paper" on the Chowan.

Following the meeting, EPA said an "audit team" will be assembled to "determine once and for all" what is needed to correct algae problems in the river. It will include seven people, all experts in various fields. Work is expected to begin this month.

Schramm said the team would

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ANNUAL VISIT — Gen. Hubert Leonard, second from left, and Col. Sam Arrington, right, representatives of the N.C. National Guard were in Edenton Tuesday for an annual visit. Shown with them are Maj. Kenneth L. Stalls, left, and Mayor Roy L. Harrell.

\$1.04 Tax Rate Approved

Chowan County will operate on a \$4,228,100 budget during 1980-81. Before adopting the budget Monday with a 4-1 vote, commissioners accepted a recommendation from the Finance Committee to add \$27,650 for Edenton-Chowan Schools. A settlement with the board of education bumped the tax rate to \$1.04, two cents higher than was accepted two weeks earlier.

Commissioners denied a request from the school board to levy an additional two cents to establish a reserve.

Commissioner Lester Copeland objected to the \$39,000 item in the schools' budget for teacher supplement. He said it was "crazy thinking anymore" to pay teachers a \$300 supplement. This will not bring in better teachers because their regular pay is much

higher than when supplements were used, he added.

Copeland voted against the budget. He did not comment on his vote.

Commissioners J.D. Peele and George Jones, Finance Committee members, said they were convinced by Eugene Jordan, school board chairman, and Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, that a \$30,000 figure in the budget was in error.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said the Finance Committee felt the recommendation would allow the schools to operate at the existing level.

Chairman C.A. Phillips warned at the public hearing that this is going to be a very difficult year for the county. "The Finance Committee has done an excellent job with this budget," he added. He

thanked the school board and county departments for cooperation in "working within the framework of keeping expenses as low as possible."

Walter Bond appeared at the hearing to comment on annual tax rate increases and the growing difficulty of people, especially the elderly, to pay their taxes. Phillips said the county is well aware of the elderly and the tax department is working with them every way possible.

Warren Twiddy, a member of Edenton Airport Commission, thanked the board for approving the commission's budget. He pointed out that taxes on just one airplane housed at the airport is more than the commission's budget request from the county.

Twiddy revealed that the commission is seeking an \$800,000 grant for improvements. The local share will be \$40,000 with equal contributions from the town and county.

The current county budget was amended by \$6,698 to bring the

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Compromise Budget Reached

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education in a special budget meeting last Thursday night approved what school Superintendent John Dunn presented as a "compromise proposal." The compromise budget, reached during a joint meeting of school board and county commissioners last Tuesday week, sets the school system's 1980-81 budget at \$868,377.

The approved budget, after negotiations, falls \$119,751 short of the board's originally requested \$988,128, but is \$27,656 higher than an \$840,721.00 offer previously made by the county commissioners' finance committee. The new budget reflects a 10 per cent increase over the 1979-80 budget, after removing \$23,000 which had been agreed upon for 1979-80 only, to employ a music teacher and make school renovations. It also includes \$64,585, as agreed for 1980-81 only, to purchase four new school buses needed to effect consolidation.

The board approved cuts as recommended by Superintendent Dunn for new and existing programs and personnel. The approved budget, including recommended cuts, will leave approximately \$30,000 in unappropriated fund balance.

According to Superintendent Dunn, affected personnel will be notified on Friday and Monday before this information is made public. \$47,326 in personnel salaries, the largest cut, was removed from the original budget.

The NJROTC program scheduled at Holmes High School next fall will not now be possible. \$25,000 was previously budgeted for this program for which the school board has fought since 1973. In expressing disappointment over the loss of NJROTC, chairman Jordan stated that he would

"personally push for this program again next year and hopes the board will do the same." Superintendent Dunn remarked that in contacting the Navy, he was told that "they would give us one more year on our contract to start the program."

Other cuts were necessary in areas where funds had been

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Mrs. J.C.B. Ehringhaus

Death Claims Mrs. Ehringhaus

Funeral services were held Wednesday for Mrs. Matilda Haughton Ehringhaus, widow of Gov. J.C.B. Ehringhaus and mother of Haughton Ehringhaus of Edenton. The services were held Wednesday at 11 A.M. at Christ Episcopal Church in Elizabeth City. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Ehringhaus, 89, was a resident at Mayview Convalescent Center in Raleigh at the time of her death Monday.

The former First Lady of North Carolina was born October 23, 1890, in Williamston. She attended St. Mary's College, where she received a business certificate in 1908.

In 1912 she married John Christoph Blucher Ehringhaus, who served as governor from 1932 to 1936. Her husband died in 1949.

Mrs. Ehringhaus collaborated with the wife of North Carolina

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Finance Director Post Abolished

Mrs. Pansy A. Elliott, 112 West Gale Street, will end more than 16 years with the Chowan County Finance Department on July 1. Her duties as finance officer will be assumed by County Manager Cliff Copeland.

The Finance Committee did not include the position of finance director in the 1980-81 budget, which was adopted Monday. Mrs. Elliott had been told some time ago of plans to abolish her position.

Chairman C. A. Phillips told Mrs. Elliott at Monday's meeting that she had done a particularly good job of keeping the county's funds invested. Saying "change is inevitable", Phillips thanked her for her past service to the county. He further pointed out that when the board employed a county manager it was believed that some existing positions would be assumed by the manager.

"This (expanding the responsibilities of the manager) will be beneficial in reducing the costs of doing business," he added.

Cliff Copeland publicly thanked Mrs. Elliott for the degree of professionalism shown after being informed of the board's decision not to fund her position.

Earlier, Mrs. Elliott said she

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P & Q To Close

P & Q Supermarket on Broad Street is going out of business. This follows by only two weeks the closing of Harris Super Market in Edenton Village Shopping Center.

Byron Kehayes decided Wednesday morning to substitute the announcement of plans at P & Q for his weekly merchandise advertisement. He did not comment on circumstances surrounding his decision. He plans to remain in Edenton.

Guard Unit Draws Praise

National Guard brass from Raleigh was liberal with praise from the unit headquartered in Edenton, during a visit here Tuesday morning. It is believed that the unit, Det. 1, Company C, 1st Battalion, 119th Infantry, will make even greater strides when the new armory is completed.

Gen. Hubert Leonard and Col. Sam Arrington arrived in Edenton at mid-morning and were met by Maj. Kenneth L. Stalls, St. Carroll Wood Jones and Mayor Roy L. Harrell.

Maj. Stalls is executive officer of the 1st Battalion. The local unit in June, 1977, celebrated he 30th year of reorganization.

Gen. Leonard and Col. Arrington noted that the local unit now has the third generation of guardsmen. Also, they said in September each unit mobilized in North Carolina in 1940 will be asked to have a special celebration. There were 45 towns with units at that time and 42 of them are currently in place.

The delegation represented Gen. W. Emmett Ingram, adjutant general, and former mayor of Elizabeth City. Gen. Leonard scotched rumors that changes were forthcoming in the Battalion, headquartered in Ahsokie and now under command of Col. William Joyner.