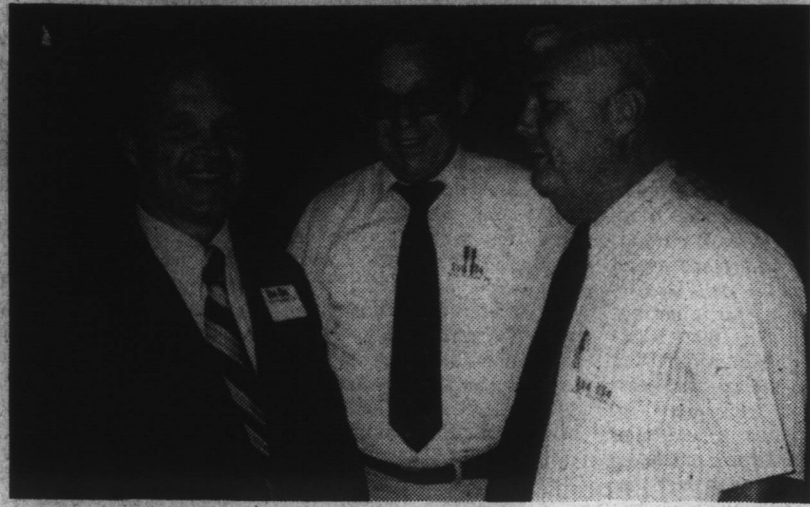


Engineers Uncover New Source Of Nitrogen



Dr. Neil Grigg W.E. Smith Capt. Al Howard



Brent Brower C.A. Phillips

By L.F. Amburn, Jr.

WINTON — Five tons of nitrogen per day could be going into the Chowan River from the CF Industries site at Tunis. Three tons of it may be coming from air emissions, an entirely new source uncovered in a two-month study by a private engineering firm.

This damaging evidence surfaced here Thursday afternoon when engineers with the J.E. Serrine Company reported to the Chowan Regional Task Force. Representatives of CFI and another primary polluter - Union Camp in Franklin, Va. - attended the briefing.

Brent Brower of the Serrine firm predicted clean-up efforts at CFI will "never get to the point where you totally eliminate the flow of nitrogen from this site to the river." He added: "You must try to harness what you can in the most feasible manner."

Schools Receive Grant Totalling \$162,714.84

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District has announced the approval by the Office of Education of grants totaling \$162,714.84 to Edenton-Chowan Schools.

Edenton-Chowan Schools will receive \$150,277 in the form of a basic grant under the Emergency School Aid Act; and \$12,437.84 in federal assistance.

Edenton-Chowan Schools will receive \$150,277 in the form of a basic grant under the Emergency School Aid Act; and \$12,437.84 in federal assistance for current expenditures.

The purpose of the ESAA grant is to assist the process of eliminating, reducing, or preventing minority group isolation and aiding school children in overcoming the educational disadvantages of minority group isolation.

Federal assistance for current expenditures is available to schools in federally affected areas. Dare County received \$47,952.88; Jones County, \$10,193.65; and Hyde County, \$6,576.68.

Rain Arrives

"Great! A great rain," is the way Pete Thompson, Chowan County extension chairman, described the general rain which fell here Sunday night.

"It was spotted," he continued. "All areas of the counties didn't get an inch and a half of rain, but in general it was great."

This was the first general rain in the area in several weeks. Some fear that a greater portion of the field corn will be severely damaged because of the drought.

Also, dry, hot weather has curtailed the vegetable crop in many areas.

Later in a private conversation, Brower said shutting down CFI would not be in the best interest of cleanup efforts. It has been estimated that some 14-million pounds of nitrogen is on the plant site.

The state had estimated up to 1,200 pounds of nitrogen per day were entering the river from CFI. Serrine engineers said nitrogen entering the algae-choked river from an 87-acre swamp and possible cracks in a \$1-million wall were more accurately estimated at 2,000 to 4,000 pounds.

Terry Bradham, a second Serrine engineer, pointed out that the surface entry tends to go up and down with the river flow. He did say, however, it is encouraging to see vegetation increasing in the swamp.

Capt. Al Howard, chairman of the task force, and C.A. Phillips, chairman of Chowan County commissioners, had been most vocal in obtaining a report from an independent engineering firm. After much insistence from local people the statefunded the Serrine study at a cost of \$11,990.

One task force member pointed out that the most damaging evidence of CFI's contribution to the low water quality in the Chowan River was uncovered in such a short period of time. "The state and CFI have been going at it since 1972 at an enormous cost, yet it takes a private firm only 60 days to 'tell it like it is,'" he said.

A state environmental official told the group that at the present time CFI is meeting air standards. "We know there is certain amounts (of nitrogen) going into the river through air emissions but there is no technically acceptable means of measurement," he added.

Serrine engineers estimated that bluff stormwater improvements and east ditch stormwater improvements were acceptable short-term solutions. The cost was set at \$275,000; the "cost to benefit" being relatively small.

Long-term solutions were
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Schedule On Page 4

10,000 Expected For Fourth

Public Parade

Noted And Passed

A group of businessmen along the Public Parade were involved in a discussion about bad checks. There were as many ways of handling the increasing problem as there were participants in the conversation.

Murray Nixon gets a lot of checks in his fishery operations on the Chowan River and in Hyde County. "When I get a bad check I just post it in the window."

Does it work? "Ain't got but one up there now," he answered.

Elsewhere in today's newspaper a letter regarding an editorial in his space last week. Our immediate reply is:

If the "locally owned restaurant" served food at prices in par with the bargain one gets by purchasing this newspaper, then maybe the "one sided" editor could afford to take his family out to eat more often.

The Town of Edenton's general fund revenue this year is boosted by \$271,249 from electric fund profits. This is equal to 52 cents per \$100 valuation on the tax rate. Without these profits, the town tax rate would be \$1.31.

In order to continue this practice, the town needs more large volume electric customers, not vacant homes and businesses.

Fourth Of July

A blending of new with the old is what has made the Public Parade a good place to live, work and play. Friday's Fourth of July celebration is a case in point.

When the kids on Pembroke Circle grew up the last semblance of local observance of Independence Day faded away. In recent years Murray Nixon's fishery drew crowds to his fishery on the Chowan River. Some later gathered on the east bank to enjoy fireworks from Colerain.

Attention this year, however, will focus on downtown Edenton. The inflation and the greedy have cancelled the Nixon fish fry and what is billed as the largest fireworks display on the water in North Carolina is set for Edenton Bay.

The "proposed" Edenton-Chowan Optimist Club is sponsoring a series of activities Friday, beginning at 10 A.M. Plans have been made to attract 10,000 people to Edenton. A majority of them are expected to

Continued on Page 4

Closings Slated

All local, county, state and federal offices will be closed Friday, in observance of Independence Day.

The Town of Edenton, therefore, as scheduled the following garbage collection:

West Edenton - Tuesday and Thursday.

East Edenton - Monday and Wednesday.

Edenton Bay will become aglow Friday night to signal the end of the first annual Fourth of July celebration which could attract upwards of 10,000 people. The grand finale, at about 10:45 P.M., will be a giant American Flag fireworks presentation.

The event is billed as the largest

fireworks display on the water in North Carolina. The first blast from the \$2,000 display will take place at 10 P.M. on one of two barges anchored in bay behind Edenton Municipal Building, and just off Colonial Park.

A sailboat race will kick-off the day's activities at 10 A.M. and

street dances begin at 8 P.M.

Water Street will be blocked off all day Friday. Broad Street from Eden Street south will be blocked off at 7:30 P.M.

Edenton Jaycees are in charge of the 12:15 P.M. from Water Street to Holmes High School. Harold Herman and Blake Harmon are in charge of the event and say time remains for entrance of units.

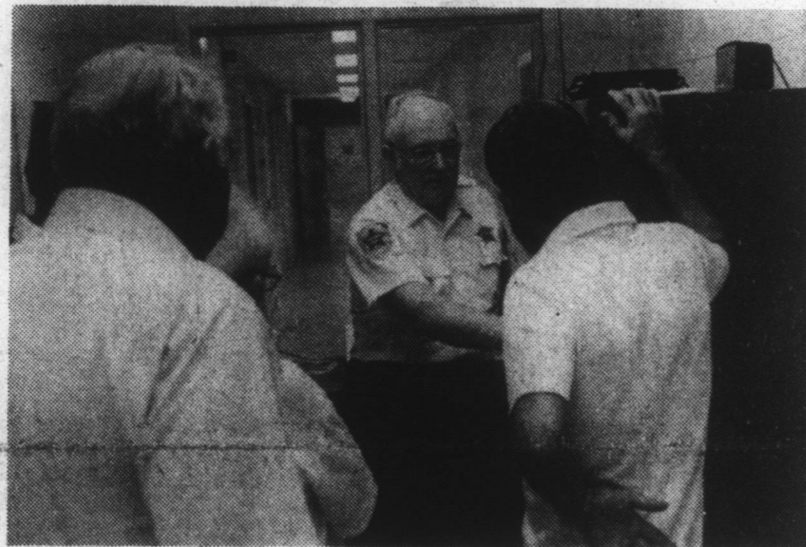
Music for the street dances will be Smokin Joe and Frank Corey and The Squires.

Bruce Creekmore and Richard Dixon, co-chairman of the Edenton-Chowan Optimist Club sponsored event, will be aided by representatives of the Smithfield Optimist Club in the fireworks display. Creekmore organized a similar celebration 10 years ago in Smithfield.

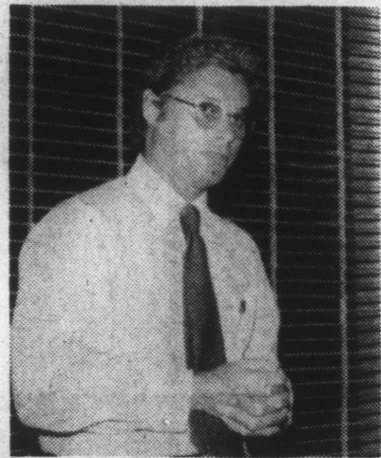
Most of the activities of the day will be free. There will be a minimum charge for some activities.

Creekmore said 15,000 soft drinks are expected to be sold during the day, along with 4,500 hot dogs.

Plans to have formal dedication of Queen Anne Park on East Water Street had to be cancelled because work on the facility had not progressed sufficiently. Some of the events will be held in the area anyway.



RURITANS TOUR JAIL — During a dinner meeting of the Chowan Ruritan Club at the new detention facility, Sheriff Troy Toppin gave the guests a first-hand look at the security set-up. He is shown demonstrating the use of the television monitors. Sheriff Toppin said the jail is also equipped with an interlock system that prevents more than one security door from being opened at a time. He added that an escaping prisoner would have to get through eight such doors before breaching the cell block.



Bob Lewis
Jail Inspector

Tour Facility

Members of the Chowan Ruritan Club got a first hand look at the Chowan County Jail, Monday night on the eve of its opening, and Bob Lewis, a jail inspector with the state Department of Human Resources termed it one of the most unique and modern in the country.

Sheriff Troy Toppin and his staff of four jailers gave the guests a guided tour of the \$650,000 facility. Included in the group were commissioners Alton G. Elmore and Lester T. Copeland as well as Mrs. Lena M. Leary, Clerk of Superior Court, and Mrs. Anne K. Spruill, Register of Deeds.

During the dinner meeting,
Continued on Page 4

Permits Decrease

Building permits in North Carolina, in 44 reporting cities of more than 10,000 population, in January dropped 2 per cent below December, 1979, and 8.9 per cent under January, 1979.

Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks has reported a total of 2,513 permits, valued at \$67,333,789 were issued in the cities.

Commissioner Brooks also reported that in Edenton and Chowan County the permits totaled \$379,276. It included seven single-family units; four multi-family units; one nonresidential unit; and five additions or alterations.

In other Northeastern North Carolina counties the following was reported:

Camden, \$72,400; Currituck, \$699,930; Dare, \$2,322,930; Pasquotank, \$16,000; Perquimans, \$57,500; and Washington, \$40,967. There were no reports from Gates, Hyde and Tyrrell counties.

The report showed that 20 of the cities had less new activity than Edenton and Chowan County.



LEADERS IN COTTON PROJECT — Carroll Bass, right, president of Albemarle Cotton Growers Cooperative, Inc., is pictured here with other project leaders as construction began of a gin in rural Chowan County. Left to right are: Roy Shaw, N.C. Rural Fund for Development; J. Clarence Leary, Jr., board member; Thurman Ashley, vice president; George Jordan, treasurer; David Ober, secretary; Melvin Howell, Farmers Home Administration; and James Ball, Bank of North Carolina, N.A.

Cotton Cooperative Formed By Local Farmers

Thirty-five farmers have formed the Albemarle Cotton Growers Cooperative, Inc., and work began this week on the site of a gin. Growers have purchased \$66,000 in stock and have obtained a \$191,000 loan in order to establish operations.

Stock was purchased on the basis of \$50 per acre of cotton grown. The loan was obtained from Bank of North Carolina, N.A., in Edenton, with a 90 per cent Farmers Home Administration guarantee. No grant money was available for this

program.

There are approximately 1,600 acres of cotton planted in Chowan County this year, up from 710 acres harvested a year ago. A spokesman for the cooperative predicted that more than 3,000 acres would be planted next year, primarily due to "droughted" corn.

The cooperative has purchased a gin in Georgia and it is being moved to a five-acre site on SR 1223, some 10 miles north of Edenton, off Highway 32. There will be three gin stalls, capable of

handing 10 to 12 bales per hour.

J. Clarence Leary, Jr., one of the organizers and a member of the board, said cotton farmers in this area had been required to haul their cotton to gins in Murfreesboro or Bethel, both 40 miles from Edenton. Transportation costs were placed at \$15 per bale.

"Also, if we had kept those trailers on the highway for such distances someone would have been killed," he added.

Chowan Construction Company, Inc., has the contract for site preparation and concrete work. Harry Ussery is the engineer.

Carroll Bass is president of the cooperative. Thurman Ashley is vice president; David Ober, secretary; and George Jordan, treasurer. Leary, Fahey Byrum
Continued on Page 4

Fire Tax Levied

In adopting the Chowan County budget for fiscal 1980-81, commissioners approved a fire district tax of four cents per \$100 valuation. This is a penny higher than for the current year.

County Manger Cliff Copeland said the first district fund totals \$39,548. Of the amount budgeted, the Town of Edenton receives \$27,000 and the remaining \$14,548 goes to Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

With the new rate, residents living within the fire district will pay \$1.06 per \$100 valuation in ad valorem taxes.