

Cornmeal From Local Mill Shows High Aflatoxin Level

A sample of cornmeal manufactured by a Tyner miller has turned up with an aflatoxin level of 1,822 parts per billion. The maximum permitted under regulations of the N. C. Department of Agriculture's Food and Drug Protection Division is 20ppb.

Labeled "Unbolted Water Ground Style White Cornmeal Manufactured By Lane & Byrum's Mill, Tyner, N.C." the meal is packaged in yellow two and five pound bags and sold through at least 12 stores in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties.

The find was announced Tuesday by Leonard F. Blanton, acting director, of the N.C. Drug and Food Protection Division. Blanton stated that the mill had manufactured approximately 3,500 pounds of the contaminated meal and distributed it since December 15, 1980.

"We have already checked the stores and embargoed all the meal in this lot remaining on the shelves," Blanton said, "but much of it has already been purchased and is in homes in the area."

"No one really knows the full effect this toxin might have on humans but the threat is sufficient that I would certainly urge anyone with this product on hand not to eat it and check with their supplier for refund or replacement," Blanton continued.

Blanton explained that the affected lot of Lane & Byrum's meal can be identified by a white twine on the bag rather than the metal clip which is used on other lots of the meal. Stores carrying the suspect produce are: Boswell's Market, Murray Nixon Fishery, Whiteman's Store, W. E. Smith's Grocery, and Byrum's Store all of Route 1, Edenton; Hurdle's Market and Family Grocery, both of Hobbsville; Layden's Grocery and Chappell's Store of Belvidere; M. & R. Grocery of Tyner; and Triple-A Grocery and Family Foods of Gatesville.

"In addition to our routine sampling of cornmeal as a good product we have checked it on a concentrated basis since September 10, 1980," Blanton said, "and this is the most serious level of aflatoxin we have found. I don't want to unduly alarm the people of North Carolina but I do think consumers in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties should check bags of cornmeal they use to be sure they do not eat this product."

"The Lane & Byrum mill has purchased a new lot of meal from another supplier which is being stocked on some store shelves in bags closed with the metal clip," Blanton said. "We have no reason to believe this new lot poses any threat."

"We will continue to monitor the cornmeal supply of Lane & Byrum's and all other mills in the state and when we find a condition that poses any health threat we will take appropriate action," Blanton concluded.

Second Suspect Apprehended

The second suspect in the armed robbery of a downtown Edenton drug store in mid-October has surrendered. Steve Wright, 20, of Hampton, Va., appeared in Chowan County District Court Tuesday morning after being formally charged by Edenton Police Department.

Parrish of Edenton Police Department. He waived extradition last week in Hampton, Va., and agreed to come to Edenton for first appearance Tuesday morning. He was accompanied by his parents and an attorney, according to local authorities.

Carroll Henry Dockery, 22, Route 5, Travelers Rest, S.C., has been identified as the "milkshake bandit" involved in the Sunday afternoon robbery at Hollowell & Blount Rexall Drug Store on October 12. Dockery, who is in the U. S. Navy, has also confessed to armed robberies in Elizabeth City and Murfreesboro.

Judge John Chaffin set bond at \$5,000. Wright was released on bond and a probable cause hearing for both Wright and Dockery has been set for Tuesday in Chowan County District Court.

Wright supposedly drove the car, according to Chief J. D.

Dockery allegedly spent some 45 minutes in the drug store, casually drinking a strawberry milkshake before pulling a gun and demanding drugs from W. H. Continued On Page 4

River Action Plan To Be Discussed

North Carolina officials are hopeful that a meeting in Richmond, Va., later this month will produce a positive plan of action to implement recommendations of a federal study of Chowan River problems.

Capt. Al Howard of Arrowhead, chairman of the Chowan Regional Task Force, shared the optimism of Dr. Neil Grigg, North Carolina's top water quality official, that the January 21 meeting will be fruitful.

In light of the meeting, Capt. Howard is calling a Task Force meeting for February 10 to receive a report on the North Carolina - Virginia meeting called by the Environmental Protection Agency, and to hear Dr. Gerlad Esch.

Dr. Esch, head of the Biology Department at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, has completed an exhaustive three-year study of water quality in the Chowan. He has gone so far as to predict the river will be technically dead by the year 2000 if positive action is not taken immediately.

At the request of Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Walter B. Jones, the federal EPA formulated a Blue Ribbon Committee to study Chowan River

data gathered over the years. The results were certain recommendations.

The State of Virginia has been reluctant to take positive action on the recommendations, according to Dr. Grigg. He sees the

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Merchants Declare 'War'

Retail merchants in Edenton have declared war on out-of-town business. The first maneuver is to make it more convenient for couples and families to shop local stores. Efforts are well along the way to have Edenton merchants remain open until 9 P.M. on Fridays.

program.

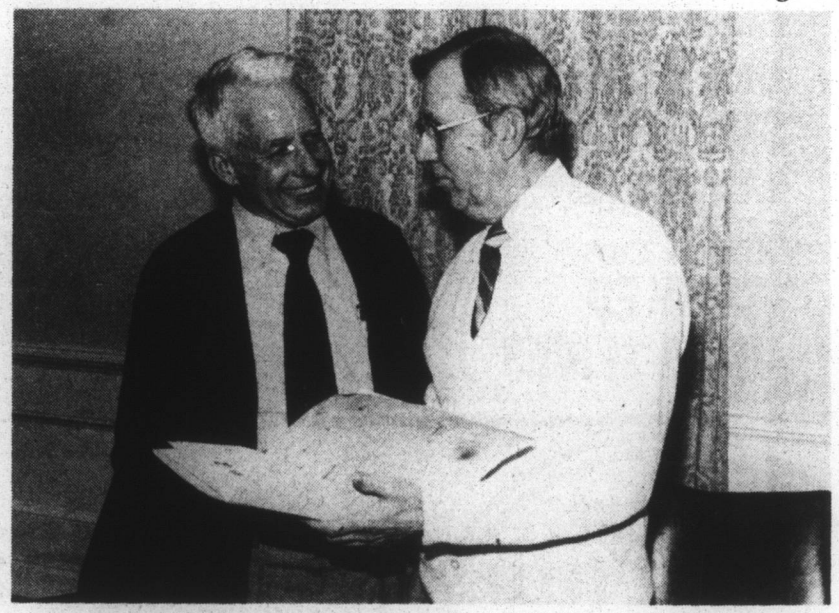
Bill Norvell, a former president of Edenton-Chamber of Commerce, led the discussion. He said the real competitors of Edenton merchants are those who draw local people to outside communities where longer shopping hours are observed.

The Merchants Committee held a general meeting Tuesday night with some 20 businesses represented. The overwhelming majority agreed to the suggestion of longer hours on Fridays. Others not present at the meeting but who discussed it at an earlier meeting had already endorsed the

Norvell called on all merchants in Edenton to promote the town as a shopping center. The first step, he argued, is to have extended hours at least one day each week and go after business with attractive merchandising.

John A. Mitchener, III, who owns a vacant building in the

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RETAIL MERCHANTS ATTACK COMPETITION — Ben Riddick, right, co-chairman of the Merchants Committee of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, and Jerry Hendee, executive vice president, discuss a "bold" move taken Tuesday night to attack out-of-town competition with special business hours. Progress is being made to make it more convenient for couples and families to shop in Edenton with 9 P.M. closings on Fridays.

Leary Addressing Chamber Banquet

Commissioner Douglas P. Leary of the N. C. Utilities Commission will be the featured speaker at the up-coming annual Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Leary, a long time Chowan County resident has been associated with rural electric cooperation for 18 years. His talk should be particularly timely in view of recent rate increase proposals by local utilities.

This year's event will be held at the Chowan Golf and Country Club on Friday. A social hour sponsored by Peoples Bank, Bank of North Carolina, Tarheel Bank & Trust and Edenton Savings & Loan Association will begin at 6:30 P.M. Dinner will be served at 7:30 P.M.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office, any of the local banks or the savings and loan.

At It Again

Nothing is sacred in Raleigh and-or state government. The 1981 General Assembly is in session. Yes, the lawmakers are at it again.

Those who meander along the Public Parade will be treated to the observations of Mildred Huskins. Her latest findings, as reported in her "Raleigh Round-up" column, are elsewhere in today's edition of The Herald.

For those who don't know, Sister Mildred is our favorite columnist, not to mention the fact that she works cheap. This session finds Sister in a new role. She has become somewhat of a syndicate writer since her column will appear in several Roy Park owned newspapers across Tar Heelia.

Even if Sister didn't enjoy sitting in the gallery, interrupting her needlepoint now and then to take notes, her meanderings around the Ivory Tower would be interesting. Her husband, Rep. J.P. Huskins (D-Iredell), has an almost uncanny knack of either starting action or being in the thick of some someone else may have started. (There is an American Legion story which might be told later to illustrate the point.)

In the 1979 session, then Speaker of the House Carl Stewart handed a bomb to the politician who moonlights as a newspaper publisher. It was in the form of chairmanship of the House Insurance Committee. He survived the tug of war between Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., Commissioner John Ingram, insurance interests and consumer activists.

Speaker Liston Ramsey has handed Jay another hot potato - chairman of the Congressional Redistricting Committee. It is one of the most controversial assignments; one which comes along only once every decade. Those who meander along the Public Parade and throughout Eastern North Carolina can expect fair treatment from the committee chairman. In the past he had been a strong supporter of our section of the state. One case in point: He didn't let the heat from neighboring Mecklenburg County melt his enthusiasm for the Medical School at East Carolina University. During the next several months reams upon reams of news copy will be generated at the Legislative Building in Raleigh. Although The Herald isn't a part of the Park media family, we are glad to share Sister with them while the lawmakers are at it again.

Broad Brush

The Highway 17 Transportation Association in North Carolina is plowing ahead, apparently with little if any assistance from along the Public Parade. This needs some attention.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., through continuous pressure from influential Eastern North Carolina citizens, has placed a high priority on U.S. 17. One of the groups is the Highway 17 association. Another is the Transportation Committee of the 10-county Albemarle Area Development Association.

For years it has been understood that Virginia would meet North Carolina at the state line with a four lane road. This will hardly be the case. The Tar Heel commitment is well along the way and by this time next year U.S. 17 from Elizabeth City to the Virginia line will be a reality. From that point traffic will flow into a two-lane Virginia highway through the Dismal Swamp.

North Carolina and Virginia have never been able to get together on highways. The same is true with the question of water. Both are important to North-eastern North Carolina and every nut needs to be turned in applying pressure where results can be

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UNC Asst. Athletic Director Predicts Rapid Growth Of Women's Sports

"I think the greatest growth you'll see in college athletics in the next five to 10 years will be in women's athletics," said UNC asst. athletic director Moyer Smith during the Fall Sports Awards Banquet Monday night.

Smith, who was guest speaker for the banquet honoring the Holmes High School girls' tennis team, the Edenton Aces football squad, and Jayvee and Varsity cheerleaders, said girls who were freshman starters on the UNC women's basketball team may find it more difficult for them by the time they are seniors because

of improved fundamental skills in upcoming players.

He said that UNC currently has 26 varsity sports programs divided equally between the men and women.

One of the secrets to success in athletics is constant improvement, Smith said. "You must improve every day or you have wasted that day."

While athletics is just a game, he added: "If the game you're playing is not worth winning, it's not worth playing". He cited hard work, team spirit and un-

selfishness as keys to success in sports.

"Athletics can be a tool in which you grow as a person," Smith commented.

Another special guest of the Edenton Aces Booster Club was Frank Sutfenfield, who founded Edenton High School's first football team in 1926. Sutfenfield was presented a cake honoring his birthday which was Monday.

Aces star fullback Henry Drew and girls' tennis player Patricia Ashley were named most valuable players in their respective sports.



AWARDS PRESENTED — Outstanding members of the Edenton Aces football squad are shown above with the coaching staff. From left to right, first row: Henry Overton asst. varsity coach and head jayvee coach; Ernest Riddick, outstanding defensive lineman; Tom Bass, asst. varsity coach; Thomas White, outstanding defensive back; Jimmy Addison, head coach and Randy Hollowell, asst. varsity coach. Second row: Brother Bonner, team manager; Henry Drew, most valuable player; Jimmy Addison, Jr., most dedicated; Ed Small, outstanding offensive lineman. Third row: Cedric Harrell, outstanding leadership award; Steve Holley, outstanding offensive back; Marvin Moring, most improved player, and Marvin Bonner, co-captain.

The Aces football team had a record of 10-3 while the girls' tennis team went 13-2 for the season.

Other awards included: Susie Keeter, girls' tennis sportmanship award; Ernest Riddick, outstanding defensive lineman; Thomas White, outstanding defensive lineman; Jimmy Addison, most dedicated; Ed Small, outstanding

offensive lineman; Cedric Harrell, outstanding leadership award; Steve Holley, outstanding offensive back; and Marvin Moring, most improved.

In junior varsity football, Ed Alston was named offensive player of the year and Haywood Perry was named defensive player of the year.



TENNIS TEAM RECOGNIZED — The Holmes High School girls' tennis team drew praise for their 13-2 record which placed them second in the Northeastern 3-A Conference. Team members and award winners are shown above. From left to right, first row: Karen Keeter, Pam Babb, Patricia Ashley, most valuable player; and Missy Underkofler. Second row: Linda Felton, Patricia Flanagan and Martha Harless. Third row: Coach Terry Ransom, Susie Keeter, outstanding sportmanship award and most improved; Elizabeth Hornthal, Tracie Clark and Susan Downum.

Tax Preparation Classes Set

Just in time for "do-it-yourself-ers", an introductory course on "How To Prepare State and Federal Income Tax Returns" will be offered at John A. Holmes High School February 3. Registration for the ten weeks course will be held at 7 P.M., January 27 at

Holmes School. James Pressley, former H&R Block consultant, will serve as instructor from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. each subsequent Tuesday through March 24.

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