

# School System Threatened By Deficit; Funds Are Frozen

John Dunn, superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools, moved Friday to freeze accounts involving local funds "as they presently stand" in an effort to ward off a \$30,719 deficit. The drastic measure to avoid financial disaster at the end of the 1980-81 fiscal year was announced Monday night to Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.

Dr. Dunn issued a three-pronged measure:

- 1-Freeze all positions that become vacant which require local money;
- 2-Freeze all spending in any local account with a balance; and
- 3-Freeze all out-of-county travel which would be reimbursed from local funds.

"Failure to do this would find us at the end of the year (June 30, 1981) with no savings and a debt," he told the board. "If we follow this now we can probably come out without a debt and maybe with a surplus to begin with in 1981-82," he added.

The superintendent said the principals believe all purchases that need to be made with local funds have already been made. "We believe we have enough materials and supplies to operate (for the balance of the school year)," he noted.

After a conference with J. P. Timberlake, CPA, the superintendent determined that some \$73,905 in local funds remained in the current budget. However, he said revenue is coming up short—to the tune of \$104,624. This would create the healthy deficit. It appears that fines and

forfeitures were considerably overestimated for budget purposes, for the second consecutive year.

Timberlake, in reviewing the 1979-80 audit, pointed out that the schools showed a \$24,000 surplus at the end of the year. However, by law he was required to restrict all but about \$100 of this amount.

In the October 6, 1980, budget resolution, the board reflected a fund balance appropriated of \$70,000 which automatically created a \$69,889 deficit because of what was actually available from the prior year.

"This deficit would need to have been covered through extra funds or the budget would have to be reduced," he said. He added that the budget resolution is always based on estimates, but it requires careful evaluation. This was discussed with Dr. Dunn at the auditor's exit conference, he said.

To compound the problem, he noted, is the fact that Chowan County has the same type problem and at the same time the county is the board's primary source for local funds.

After Dr. Dunn had announced the freeze on spending local funds, Timberlake explained that it is very important for the system to maintain a fund balance of between \$50,000 and \$60,000. This, he said, is necessary because of a trend more and more for the system to advance money and then get reimbursed for the current expenses.

Chairman Eugene Jordan said: "I hope everyone understands we are

in this problem because of a shortfall in money coming in."

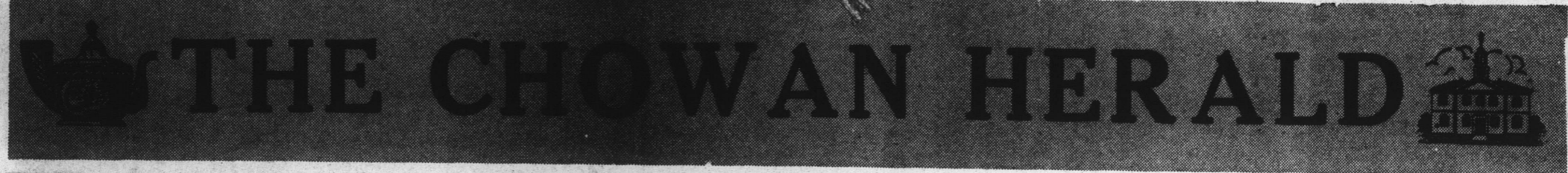
Shortly, Dr. Dunn noted that it is time to begin the 1981-82 budget process. It was decided to continue on the committee system which involves all board members in establishing priorities, etc.

Also, board members appeared upset that Chowan County Board of Commissioners did not have the Naval Junior ROTC request on the Monday agenda. Representatives of the two boards visited a project in Norfolk last month and the school board had promised to reply to federal officials by February 15.

The board authorized the superintendent to take whatever action necessary after hearing from the county. Some \$25,000 in local funds are needed to start the program at John A. Holmes School.

In another matter, board members received a draft copy of the tri-County Educational Center prospectus. Jordan said the Steering Committee from Chowan, Gates, and Perquimans had done an excellent job. "The committee feels like in the long run it is going to do the job for us," he added.

Dr. Dunn announced that Chowan Junior High School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. White Oak School and Edenton-Chowan Schools have gained affiliated status. Dr. Dunn said this is a result of reorganization.



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## Something Missing

Regular readers of The Chowan Herald will find a couple of things missing in today's edition. It involves court news.

Judge R. Michael Bruce of Mt. Olive is presiding over a criminal term of Chowan County Superior Court. Also, Judge Grafton Beaman was in town Tuesday for the regular weekly session of District Court.

Neither proceedings are reported because of space requirements at the last minute. We have learned on good authority that Judge Bruce is a top sports reporter so he will understand the pressure on deadlines and space.

Both court proceedings will be reported in full next week.

## Getting Closer

Sec. Howard N. Lee of the State Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, and Dr. Parker Chesson, chairman, Coastal Resources Commission, are jubilant over a recent decision by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The federal agency will no longer require a separate permit on dredge and fill work in coastal Tar Heelia.

This is a significant breakthrough in permit procedures for development projects in the state's coastal waters and wetland areas. The new procedure, the first of its kind in the nation, means that most projects which receive state permission under the Coastal Area Management Act will no longer be required to obtain another permit from the Corps of Engineers.

The one permit concept, then, is getting closer. The federal agency's decision is a major hurdle which observers over the years called insurmountable. It is a victory for property owners in the 20-county Coastal Zone. It is a victory for such advocates of lessening the regulation maze as Dr. Chesson and T. Erie Haste, Jr., of Hertford of CRC, as well as W. B. Gardner of Edenton and Riley S. Monds, Jr., of Hertford, two members of the Executive Committee of the Coastal Resources Advisory Council.

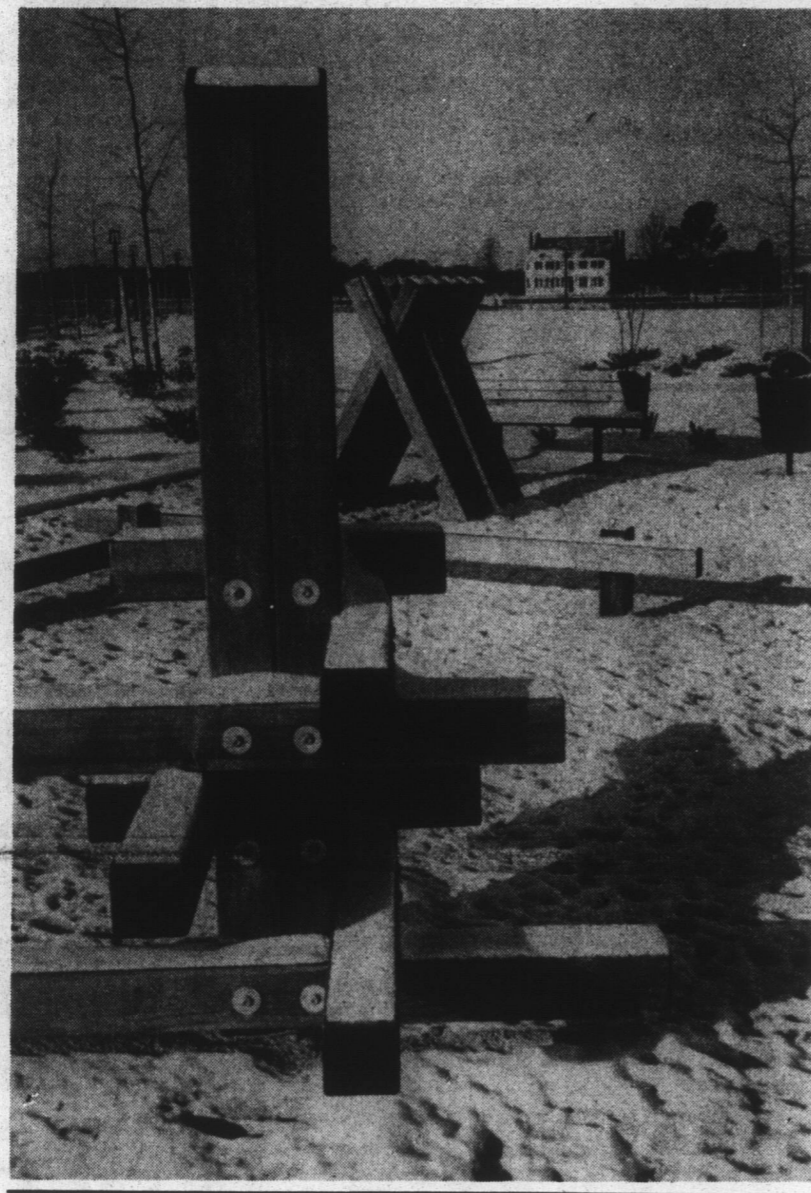
At a time when CAMA is headed for another in a series of legislative battles, the decision is powerful ammunition for those who must face special interest groups. Regardless of what State Sen. Melvin R. Daniels, Jr., of Pasquotank County, may think, CAMA is not a "no development" law. This has been proven time and time again.

Sec. Lee said, "This agreement with the Corps of Engineers testifies to the integrity and strength of our state coastal management program. This new permitting procedure will give the applicant a quicker, simpler process to follow and eliminate the necessity of obtaining multiple permits for coastal development projects."

The new procedure is expected to reduce state and federal processing time by an average of 7 to 14 days. That process presently takes about 75 days to obtain both permits.

"This action does not reduce any of the state or federal protections which are so vital to our fragile coastal environment," Sec. Lee said. "But it does make it easier

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## Tentative Ordinance Is Passed; Cable System May Expand

Cable television would be offered in parts of rural Chowan County under a tentative ordinance passed Monday morning by Chowan County commissioners. The first area to be served would be Cape Colony and U. S. 17 north to Hertford.

The franchise would be awarded to Albemarle Cable Television under the ordinance. ACT already has the franchise for Edenton and is seeking the agreement with Hertford and Perquimans County.

Chairman C. A. Phillips appeared disappointed that more area could not be served initially. However, Don Vicini of ACT said every effort would be made to serve other areas in the future. Phillips said the only hope for the county is to tie in with Edenton.

The cost of service, chosen from three packages, would range from \$6.95 per month to \$16.50 per month.

Vicini said construction work by the Erie, Pa., firm would begin in Edenton in the next week.

County Manager Cliff Copeland expressed doubt that another firm would be interested in coming into the county alone.

A second reading of the ordinance is required in 30 days. If the ordinance is adopted on March 2 cable television could be available to some rural residents before those in Edenton. This prospect is because of construction being concentrated in one area at a time.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore asked his colleagues to expand on a suggestion by R. M. (Pete)

Thompson which would have an in-depth evaluation of the Agricultural Extension program. Thompson said if the board is contemplating such a step he would want to have it done before he retires February 28.

Elmore said the board should not limit the evaluation to

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## Mr. Tynch, 73 Died Saturday

Vaiden Elisha (Doc) Tynch, 73, Route 3, Edenton, died Saturday morning after an extended illness.

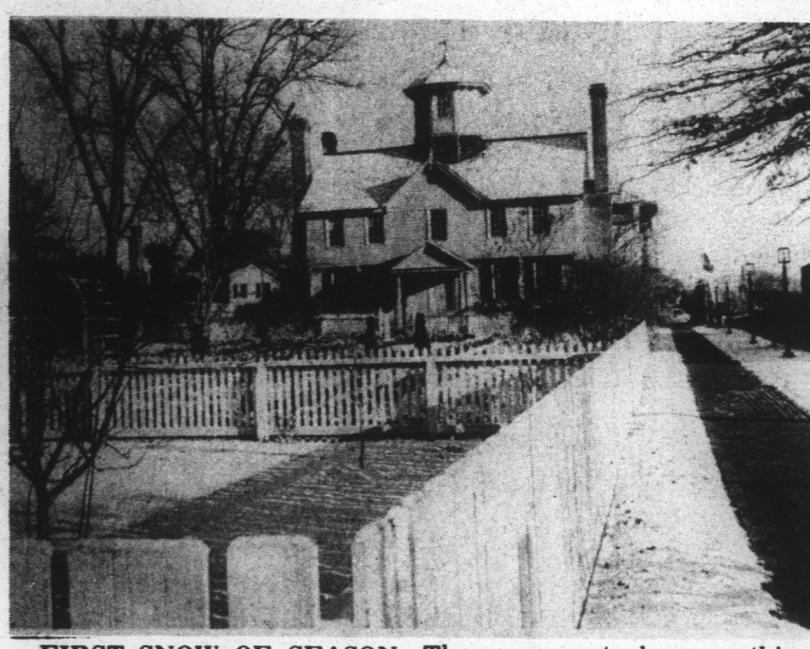
A native of Chowan County, he was the husband of Mrs. Myrtle Williams Tynch and a son of the late Thomas Riddick and Roxie Harrell Tynch.

He was a member of Edenton Baptist Church and was a retired fisherman and a member of the Redmen.

Other survivors include two daughters: Mrs. Guy Toppin and Mrs. Thomas Perry both of Edenton; one son, James Larry Tynch of Edenton; one sister, Mrs. Bailey Miller of Edenton; and four grandchildren.

A funeral service was held Monday at 11 A.M. in Edenton Baptist Church by Dr. John Allen. Burial followed in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Vernon Barrow, Kenneth Tynch, Mike Perry, Melvin Ray Miller, Ellis Ray Tynch, and Willie Spruill. Swindell-Bass Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



**FIRST SNOW OF SEASON**—There seems to be something special about the first snow of the season. It happened here Friday! As the sky darkened and a cold front moved through Northeastern North Carolina, snow began to accumulate. Unlike deep snow of last winter, this was merely a teaser. Saturday morning dawned bright but these photographs were taken before the melting process began. Two pretty scenes were Queen Anne Park with the Barker House in the background across Edenton Bay. The Cupola House is always a favorite and the white snow created a contrast with the mustard color of the historic building. (Staff photos by L.F.A.)

## COA Gets Commendation

The impact of College of The Albemarle in Elizabeth City was shared Monday by Dr. Parker Chesson, president in an appearance before Chowan County Board of Commissioners. Chowan is one of seven counties in COA's service area and was a leader in showing regional support in attracting a \$1.8-million Economic Development Administration grant.

Chowan County contributed \$5,300 on a per capita basis to aid COA's capital project which has resulted in a new campus on U. S. 17, north of Elizabeth City.

In a resolution unanimously adopted, the local board cited 20 years of outstanding service by COA and joined Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., in proclaiming 1981 as The Year of the Community College in North Carolina.

COA was the first community college in the state, starting in September, 1961 with 182 students and five faculty members. The college presently has 1,159 curriculum students and a full-time faculty and staff of 107 persons. This represents a 12 per cent increase in enrollment over the 1979 winter quarter.

With the largest number of counties and the largest geographic service area of any school in the community college system, COA tailors its offerings to meet the needs of the people of this sparsely populated, rural seven-county area," Dr. Chesson said. Approximately 7,900 people took some type of class sponsored by COA in 1979-80.

In 1979-80, 9 per cent of the curriculum students were Chowan County residents, according to Dr. Chesson. The winter quarter adult education courses include 14 classes in Chowan. During the fall quarter 318 residents were enrolled in 21 adult education classes. Mrs. Pauline Travis works as coordinator of the adult education courses.

Also, Chowan is one of two counties in which COA has part-time supervisors of adult and continuing education classes. Mrs. Judy Earnhardt of Edenton works in this area.

One of the two learning labs operated by the college is in Edenton.

Dr. Chesson also pointed out the valuable service being rendered by Jim M. Hare as a member of



Dr. Parker Chesson the COA Advisory Council, and J. Gilliam Wood as a member of the newly formed COA Foundation, Inc.

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## Savings And Loan Finances Reported

"Although record high interest rate made 1980 a difficult year, I am happy to report that Edenton Savings & Loan Association ended the year in a strong financial condition."

This was the opening statement of James C. (Pete) Dail, president, at the annual meeting of stockholders. He pointed out that total assets on December 31,

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## State Reviews Demolition Plan

John A. Mitchener, III, has filed a Notice of Proposed Demolition of four buildings in Edenton's central business district. The notice, as filed with the Historic District Commission, includes three buildings vacated by Rose's and one now occupied by Tarkington's.

Ralph Parrish, zoning administrator, points out that the local ordinance does not prohibit or restrict demolition of buildings in the historic district but does require a 90-day written notice.

Mitchener's proposal has met with concern from the Division of Archives and History of the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources. In a letter dated January 2, Dr. Larry E. Tise, director, said it is the opinion of his staff that the demolition "would have a serious adverse effect on the character of downtown Edenton and on the Edenton Historic District."

Dr. Tise, who is no longer with the department, suggested a false front alternative to total demolition or complete rehabilitation. "Mr. Mitchener could retain the facades of the existing buildings and erect a new two-story structure behind them," he wrote. "The upper portions of the facades would have the appearance of stage props without a second story."

In an earlier letter to local officials, Mitchener pointed out the importance of a viable central business district. However, he noted that the buildings under consideration must be replaced if the type tenant desired is attracted. Also, it was pointed out that the second floor space is not desirable to many tenants, therefore, he would propose a one-story replacement for the existing space.

Mitchener has agreed to

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## Road Deleted From Program

A rural unpaved road Chowan County Board of Commissioners sought to get on the state's secondary road improvement program has been deleted.

W. E. Moore of Plymouth, district engineer, said the Lester Lane Road (SR 1326) was to include surveys, plans and right of way acquisition in order that a project for upgrading could be considered in a later program.

"When we attempted to start the field survey, there was considerable protest from one property owner who stated outright they would not sign for a 60-foot right of way," according to Moore. Other property owners were then unable to work something out.

Marc Basnight of Dare County, a member of the State Board of Transportation, instructed the district office to handle the matter after Chowan officials expressed a desire to have the road improved by the state if it was possible.