

Farm Update

U. S. farmers spent over \$135-billion in 1979 to produce crops, livestock, and poultry, topping the previous year's \$114-billion level. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the N. C. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, this averages over \$58,000 per farm, nationally.

Purchases of livestock and poultry at \$21.5-billion, up 59 per cent from 1978, were the major expenditures for farmers. Feed purchases followed at \$18-billion, up 9 per cent; farm machinery and equipment at \$12-billion, up 11 per cent; rent at \$10.3-billion, up 11 per cent; wages at \$9.4-billion, down 8 per cent and interest at \$9.2-billion, up 23 per cent.

During February 10 through March 14, enumerators from the N. C. Crop and Livestock Reporting Service will interview a cross section of North Carolina farmers as part of a nationwide program to determine 1980 production costs.

Dan C. Tucker, Statistician In Charge, points out that information about the farm production outlays is important in comparing the farmer's well-being with that of other groups in the nation's economy. He adds that all responses will be confidential and only regional and national summaries will be published.

Under The Wire

Chowan County and the Town of Edenton have a new crime prevention program which involves volunteers from along the Public Parade. The local program is the newest in the state and comes just under the wire of Crime Prevention Week in North Carolina, as proclaimed by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., for February 8-14.

Representatives of some 30 designated groups, totaling more than 100, were enthusiastic at Friday night's meeting at Edward G. Bond Post No. 40, American Legion. Sheriff Troy Toppin is a power in the American Legion, but shared top billing at the meeting with Chief J. D. Parrish of Edenton Police Department.

Genial George Stokes put aside his cigar long enough to pass his temporary chairmanship to permanent officers. First, George needed someone to take the minutes. Mrs. Shirley Swain, a local homemaker who is a member of the Agricultural Extension Service Advisory Council in Chowan County, was elected secretary and was put to work immediately.

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Lay Leaders; Extension Professionals To Hold Workshop

RALEIGH — Chairmen of the Agricultural Extension Service county advisory committees and county extension chairmen from throughout North Carolina will meet here Thursday and Friday. The first statewide meeting of lay leaders and extension professionals will be held at the McKimmon Center.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., will address the group at 10 A.M. Friday. He will be introduced by L. F. Amburn, Jr., of Edenton, chairman of the State Advisory Council and secretary of the National Extension Advisory Council.

The conference begins at 11



SUPPORT WATER QUALITY PROGRAM— James Summers, left, assistant secretary, State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development, was among state officials attending a meeting here Tuesday on water quality in the Chowan River and entire Albemarle Sound Basin. Capt. Al Howard, center, chairman of the Chowan River Restoration Project, and Dr. Neil Grigg, director of the Environmental Management Commission and a ranking official in the NR&CD. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)

NR&CD Official Urges Collective Support Of River Restoration Work

Commissioners from seven counties in the Albemarle Sound Basin attended a meeting here Tuesday where water quality was the single agenda item.

C. A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County commissioners, said he is "tickled to death" with the existing condition of Chowan River and Albemarle Sound. The battle is long from won, he continued, and the good program now in place should be a foundation for a better program in the future.

Phillips said the program is being coordinated in Raleigh but there is a need for local support.

Dr. Neil Grigg of the State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development, expressed his great concern about the sound. He described the restoration project as a "pocket knife trying to kill a bear." He added that the state is pioneering the problem which exists in many, many other areas.

Dr. Neil Grigg said without such a program the river and sound might be written off as a useful natural resource. But, he hastened to add: "If it is going to be solved it will be your collective support."

The scientist said the state cannot expand the existing program to include the sound with existing state funds. He said it is estimated that it will take as much as \$100,000 in local money to match state and federal funds.

Dr. Bob Holman, the scientist in residence here, would have an expanded staff under the new plan. The staff would have lab equipment, etc, so there will be no delay in obtaining an analysis of

data gathered.

Phillips said this would be very helpful to the effort, calling additional technical assistance absolutely necessary.

During the meeting James Summers, new assistant director of NR&CD, said he can relate to the problem here since he was Mayor of Salisbury at a time when problems upstream caused severe damage.

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Elderly Pedestrian Killed By Auto

Charlie Pecky Lewis, 72-year-old Negro, died last week in Chowan Hospital after the bicycle he was riding on North Granville Street was struck by a car. Willie Privott, 50-year-old Negro, Route 1, Edenton, has been charged with death by vehicle.

Sgt. Joe Norman of Edenton Police Department filed the felony charge following Lewis' death. Privott had earlier been charged with two traffic violations.

The police report showed that Privott was traveling east on West Albemarle Street. He stopped and saw a car coming in the distance. He pulled into North Granville Street and looked into his rear view mirror and saw a body in the street.

Deputy Sheriff Glenn Perry was in his cruiser and was at the scene when Privott got out of his car to see what had happened.

The death was the first motor vehicle fatality in Edenton this year.

speaking are Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green and Speaker of the House Liston Ramsey.

David Bateman of Tyner, chairman of the Chowan County Agricultural Extension Advisory Council, and Pete Thompson, county extension chairman, will be among some 2000 people expected for the conference.

The N. C. Agricultural Extension Service initiated a revision of its Advisory Leadership System in 1979. A goal was set to complete the implementation of the system by December 31, 1980.

Early in 1980 a survey showed the system was already in place

Potential Shortfall Forces Surcharge On Electric Rates

Faced with a possible \$98,000 shortfall in the utility fund due to a Virginia Electric & Power Company wholesale rate increase, the Edenton Town Council Tuesday night approved a 7 per cent surcharge on electric rates. It is to be effective with the next billing.

Although not on the agenda, the issue created a discussion of the philosophy of how the town obtains money to support its budget. Councilman Gil Burroughs noted that this is the first time the town has deviated from tracking Vepeco's retail rate.

"We are now starting a rate penalty for the town being in the electric business," Councilman Burroughs observed. "Which is more effective, more equitable, high utility rates and low property tax rates, or the reverse?" he asked. "Our money has to come from one or the other."

The councilman suggested that a "real hard look" be taken at the

impact of letting high utility rates soften the blow of property owners. He specifically cited senior citizens.

Also, he pointed out that some large property owners don't buy electricity from the town but get all the town's services. (Edenton Cotton Mill purchases power directly from Vepeco.)

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, reported that Vepeco plans to file a "full blown" rate increase application no later than March 31. He predicted that the existing situation will only be temporary.

Dr. Allen Hornthal, who brought up the matter, sided with Councilman Burroughs in part. "If on a long term basis we have our retail rates higher than Vepeco then we are asking for trouble," he said.

Vepeco has put into effect a 9.6 per cent wholesale rate increase, pending approval of the state Utilities Commission. The action narrows the gap between the

company's wholesale and retail rates. Since the town purchases power from Vepeco at wholesale and resells it on the utility company's retail rate, the profit margin is eroded.

Consultant engineers have advised the town to expect a \$98,000 shortfall as the result of the wholesale rate increase. While the Town of Edenton will hold the line at 7 per cent, towns like Greenville, Hertford and Tarboro are planning a 10 per cent surcharge.

Gardner said while the 7 per cent surcharge will not really make up the town's loss it is something that can be lived with.

While in the past any mention of charter changes has been met with anger by Mayor Roy L. Harrell, the Finance Committee's recommendation for some legislation to do certain things, such as abolish the office of Town Treasurer, was generally accepted. In fact, Mayor Harrell commended Councilman W. H. Hollowell, Jr., on the committee report.

The objections this time around came from Councilman Burroughs. He didn't see the recommended changes as going far enough. He cited other areas which need cleaning up. This will be accomplished on motion of Councilman James P. Ricks, Jr., to have a watchdog committee appointed within 60 days after the beginning of any calendar year to suggest changes which will bring the charter language in line with how the council operates.

Don Vicini of Albemarle

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ENCOURAGE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION— The two ranking law enforcement officers here - Police Chief J. D. Parrish and Sheriff Troy Toppin - encouraged citizen participation in crime prevention. Shown with them at Friday night's organizational meeting is Tony Young of Garner, of the Crime Prevention Division of the State Department of Crime Control & Public Safety.

Crime Prevention Is Stressed

A change in attitude of law enforcement officers and citizens is needed if any success is to be realized from a war on crime. This was stressed Friday night at a meeting of more than 100 local citizens, representing 30 organizations who met to organize

a Chowan County Crime Prevention Committee.

Tony Young of Garner, a member of the Crime Prevention Division, State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, said the attitude has been to apprehend, convict and punish. This must be changed to an attitude of prevention, he added.

"We must stop a person before an act is committed," he said. Pointing to the theft of stained glass windows at Evans United Methodist Church on Highway 32, Young added: "Nothing is sacred anymore."

He called on citizens to approach crime prevention the same way the medical profession attacked polio. "The citizens have a responsibility to protect their own property," he continued, and help prevent crimes before they happen."

Young estimated that between 500,000 and 1-million citizens in North Carolina are already actively engaged in a crime prevention program. It is paying off in many ways, he continued,

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Hospital Seeks Modified Plan

The N. C. State Medical Facilities Plan has been amended to allow for 164 additional general acute care hospital beds, including 10 in Region R. Chowan Hospital has mounted a charge to get the plan modified.

David Henson, hospital director, said the health care facility will move within a matter of days to reactivate the application for a Certificate of Need for the 10 beds. Construction, though, is estimated to be at least nine months away.

Although Chowan Hospital petitioned for the additional acute care beds, the allotment is to the 10-county region. Therefore, it is possible, while not probable, that Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City and Washington County Hospital in Plymouth could seek the beds.

Chowan Hospital's application for the Certificate of Need has already been reviewed and approved by the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency. This is considered a major hurdle toward approval by the Division of Facility Services of the State Department of Human Resources.

The application was filed in June, but it was "shelved" pending action on the hospital's petition for modification of the state plan. A public hearing on the petition was held in October and proper clearance was given by

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Wine Thief Hurls Goods

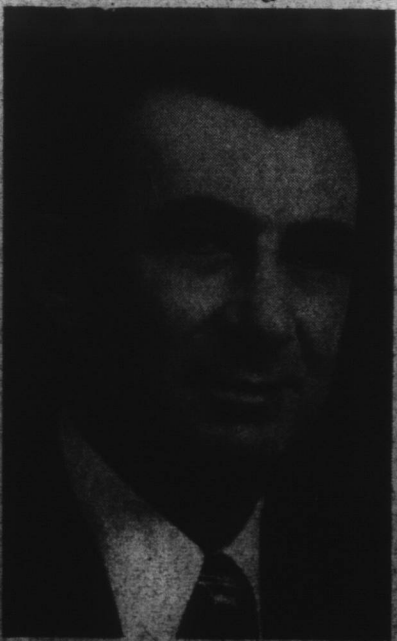
Shoplifting is becoming an everyday occurrence in Edenton and Chowan County. However, an incident recently has an unusual twist.

It was about 9:15 A.M. on February 3 when Edenton Police Department received a call from Arnett Chappell at S&R Super Market. She reported the theft of a bottle of Wild Irish Rose wine.

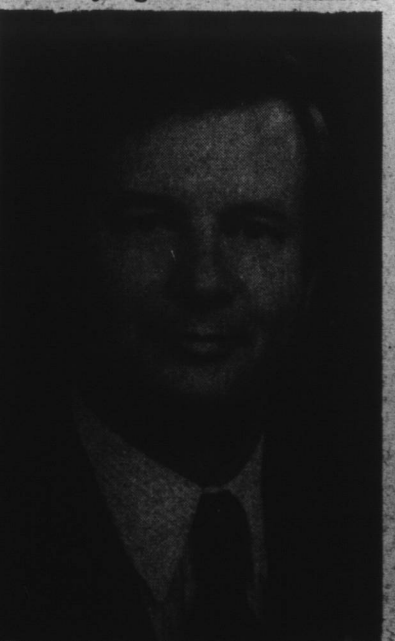
Police were told that the suspect ran across the parking lot in the direction of Tastee Freeze Restaurant, with Johnny Copeland, a store employee, in hot pursuit. As Copeland appeared to be winning the foot race he was met with a bottle of Wild Irish Rose, to his forehead.

Ritchie Adams, 202 North Mosley Street, was arrested a short time later by Patrolman Linwood Bonner. In addition to being charged with larceny he faces a count of assault and battery. He is free on bond.

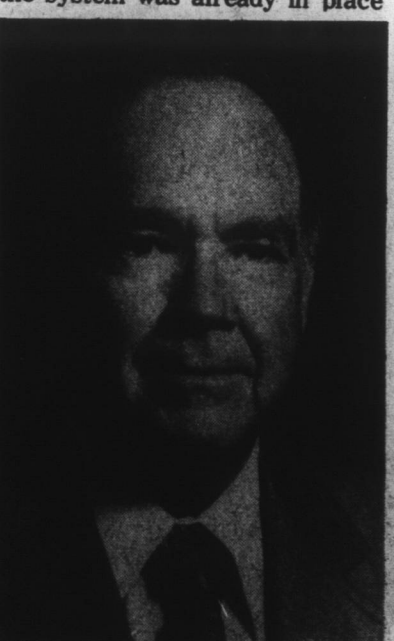
Sgt. Gregory Bonner recalls the day before the incident when Adams volunteered that he was going straight. About as straight as the bottle of Wild Irish Rose he allegedly hurled at Copeland?



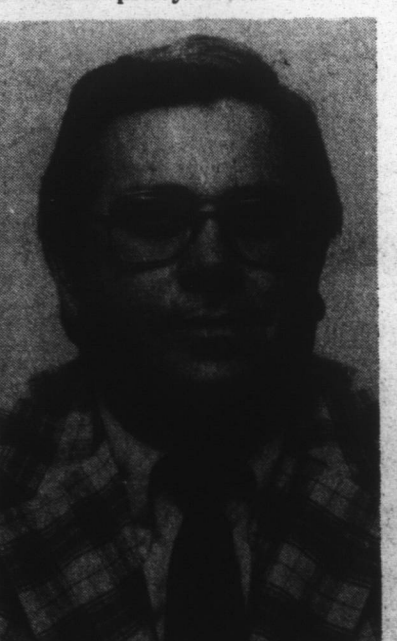
John Sledge



Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.



Dr. T. C. Blalock



L. F. Amburn, Jr.