



RONALD REAGAN

Sick Society, Cont.

Monday, March 30, 1981, will be remembered as the day America got another black eye. It is the day President Ronald Reagan was on the receiving end of an assassin's bullet.

President Reagan is the ninth President of the United States to have faced attackers' gun. Unlike Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy, the attempt was unsuccessful.

Monday's incident outside the Washington Hilton brought back memories of November 22, 1963, when President Kennedy was fatally wounded in Dallas, Tex. The remembrance was awesome, all so real.

America stands for so much that is good it is shameful that people in our sick society can't control their emotions. America can be thankful that President Reagan, at 70, is a specimen of health and there was no hint of fatality.

While prayers are raised for our president, his press secretary and two lawmen we should lift up a particular utterance for our society. "One nation, under God..." must be rediscovered before we self-destruct.

Billion-Dollar Year

North Carolina set a new record in value of building activity in 1980. The billion-dollar year was cautiously noted by Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks when he called 1980 "only a reflection of inflation and is not to be used as an indicator of economic recovery or growth."

Chowan County ranked second in the Albemarle Area in the dollar value of construction authorized in Tar Heelia in December. The total was \$685,565, half of which was for 10 units of a single family housing. Ten multi-family units also contributed heavily to the total.

The December totals in other area counties surveyed by the state were: Camden, \$51,550; Currituck, \$230,425; Dare, \$2,471,181; Pasquotank, \$241,100; Perquimans, \$167,800; and Washington, \$58,500.

The \$1-billion figure cited by Commissioner Brooks was the total from 44 reporting cities or more than 10,000 population. While the value of construction increased 7 per cent, while the number of units decreased 8.7 per cent.

Construction of single-family homes gained a bare 1.3 per cent from 1979, while the number of multi-family dwellings plummeted 26 per cent. This is an indication of changes in our society—higher costs are forcing people to pass up their dream of a home of their own in favor of townhouses, apartments, etc. Cost sharing is here to stay.

Dress Well Used

Recently a pretty special baby boy was christened out at Edenton United Methodist Church. Jack Smith, son of John R. and Melissa A. Smith of Wilson wore the gown of his mother, two aunts and two uncles.

The fact that he didn't particularly enjoy the ceremony is incidental. The important fact is that he is our grandson.

We had decided to let the event pass without any mention along the Public Parade. What changed

ECHSA Denies 34 Beds

ElderLodge Continues Expansion Plans

A committee of the Eastern Carolina Systems Agency denied an application Tuesday to add 34 intermediate care beds to ElderLodge-Edenton. However, owners of the facility on Paradise Road are continuing with plans for a 64-bed addition.

The application from Colonial HealthCare, Inc., was to build the addition and lease it to Cape Colony Haven, Inc., the parent company of ElderLodge-Edenton. The project was among 12 reviewed in Greenville by the Project Review Committee of ECHSA. The projects totaled 440 beds and 187 were approved, including a new project in Plymouth.

The principals of the new project in Edenton are also developing nursing homes in Nags Head and Smithfield. The fact that these projects are behind schedule, primarily because of litigation involving the state, is believed to have been a big factor in denial of the addition here.

W. P. Rawls of Wilmington, president of SouthEastern Health Services, Inc., said the 13,000-square-foot addition to the 96-bed skilled nursing and immediate care will be built to nursing home standards. While they will be designated as home for the aged, where no certificate of need is required, efforts will be made in the future to have them licensed for immediate care.

Cape Colony Haven, Inc. owns an additional three acres on Paradise Road with long range plans to erect a home for the aged.

Rawls said the owners and developers are quite naturally disappointed by the committee's decision, but that it will not alter plans for the \$700,000 addition. The

addition would increase the total facility cost here to more than \$1.8-million.

The developer said he felt the application for more immediate care beds here was impressive in that the facility maintained a census of 97 to 99 per cent over the past 16 months. Also, during the same period of time residents were admitted from 21 North Carolina counties and from Virginia.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., president of the corporation involved in the development, along with Jack Habit, vice president, and John A. Mitchener, Jr., secretary-treasurer, were supported at the public hearing by seven Edenton and Chowan County officials.

C. A. Phillips, chairman of

Chowan County Board of Commissioners, told the committee the application for expansion of the facility in Edenton is in keeping with the regional health care concept in the area. Phillips also presented a letter from David Henson, director of Chowan Hospital, supporting the application.

Other local people at the hearing were: W. B. Gardner, town administrator; R. M. (Pete) Thompson, a member of the hospital board; A. C. Hudson, president, Chowan Credit Union; James C. (Pete) Dail, president, Edenton Savings & Loan Association; Jerry Hendee, executive vice president, Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce; and Fire Chief Luther C. Parks.

Special Olympics Saturday

The traditional Parade of Athletes, lighting the Olympic Torch and welcome by coordinator, Betsy Kelly, will be among the highlights of pre-game activities for Edenton and Chowan County's first Special Olympics on Saturday. All activities are scheduled to begin by 10 A.M. on Hick's Field, adjacent to John A.

personal thanks are extended to everyone involved for their donation of time, money and concern.

"Everything is ready, students are excited", she said, and "we just hope lots of people will turn out to support the special students in the Olympics - they need somebody to watch and share their enthusiasm."

For three months, 51 school students have been training for this local event and are eager to pass through the six game stations set up to test their skills. Just as eager are over 100 community volunteers, who either will be actively helping with the day's events or who have contributed either in kind or preparation of time.

Mayor Roy Harrell will be on hand to officially announce the beginning of the Special Olympic Spring Games. Ralph Cole, D. F. Walker principal, will have a special message for the special athletes taking part.

Adding to the dignity of the

Continued On Page 4

Public Hearings Begin Monday

A joint Senate-House Congressional Redistricting Committee begins a series of Public hearing Monday at Martin Community College in Williamston. The hearing begins at 11 A. M.

The hearing in Williamston is one of five being held to seek public comment from the 11 congressional districts. Focus at Monday morning's meeting will be on the First, Second and Third districts.

Sen. Helen Marvin of Gaston and Rep. Jay Huskins of Iredell chair the joint committee. Rep. Allen Barbee of Nash is a sub-committee chairman and will preside Monday.

All incumbent congressmen from North Carolina have been invited to present testimony at the hearings. Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District is expected to attend. If business in Washington prohibits his personal appearance he will have a spokesman at the meeting.

Rep. Huskins said following the five public hearings the committee will begin reducing what they heard to proposed district boundaries. Because of constraints by law the committee is limited in the variations available.

Sen. Melvin Daniels of Pasquotank, who has been mentioned as a candidate for a congressional office in the future, has expressed concern about what might happen in the First District. He plans to attend the public hearing.



JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW — Kent Howell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Howell, will be among 4-H and FFA members participating in the 1981 Chowan County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. The show and sale is planned for April 21 at the American Legion Fairgrounds. Members of Ryland, Chowan and Cape Colony Ruritan clubs sponsor the show.

Livestock Show-Sale Slated

The 1981 Chowan County Junior Livestock Show and Sale will be held on April 21 at the American Legion Fairgrounds. The show will begin at 2:30 P. M. and sale will be that night, 7:30 P. M.

Wallace Evans will be the auctioneer.

Four-H and FFA members will

Editorial Correspondence:

Agriculture Awareness

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.

RALEIGH — This may not be the year to do it, but efforts are now well underway to create a new awareness of the importance of agriculture in the lives of North Carolinians. It is being spearheaded by a freshman legislator who is putting his political future on the line in the same enthusiasm and drive which earned him a seat in the 1981 General Assembly.

Rep. John Gilliam, D-Bertie, claims North Carolina lawmakers, as well as other people in decision-making roles, don't give proper attention to agriculture. The bottom line in the state's General Fund for all agriculture is 1.675 per cent in this fiscal year and slides to 1.61 per cent in 1982-83. This includes the Department of Agriculture, along with the Extension Service and Experiment Stations.

Rep. Gilliam, a member of the House Agriculture Committee, Tuesday suggested to the panel that the chairman, Rep. Vernon James, D-Pasquotank, appoint an ad hoc committee to determine the most feasible way to attacking the problem. Rep. James has appointed such a committee and Rep. Gilliam is a member. This, according to the Bertie County agribusinessman, is a good sign, an important step toward a renewed awareness of agriculture in this state.

The sound of Rep. Gilliam's voice had not died out before newspapers in North Carolina received a questionnaire from the Political Science Department of Appalachian State University dealing with various news publications. Question No. 7 read: "What does your newspaper consider to be the important issues facing North Carolina in the 1980's?" The choices were: racial, economic, environment, education and roads. The fact that agriculture was omitted supports Rep. Gilliam's claim as well as the concern of thousands of agriculture-related people.

Continued On Page 4

Farmers To Meet

A meeting of Chowan County peanut farmers will be held Tuesday night at 8 o'clock at the Rocky Hock Rescue Squad Building. The group will discuss the "current marketing situation."

R. M. (Pete) Thompson, a consultant with Peoples Bank & Trust Company and former Chowan County Agricultural Extension Chairman, is temporary chairman for the meeting.

The peanut program, as it has been known historically, appears to be in deep trouble, Thompson pointed out. Several farmers in this county have joined ranks with colleagues in Southeastern Virginia. Tuesday's meeting is designed to bring to the farmers the latest information available.



MAKING IT OFFICIAL — Mayor Roy L. Harrell recently signed a declaration which urges participation in Saturday's Special Olympics. Mrs. Betsy Kelly, coordinator for the event in Edenton-Chowan Schools, watches as the document is inked. The spring games, the first in this area, will be held at 10 A.M. Saturday at John A. Holmes High School's Hicks Field.

Holmes High School. The public is cordially invited to attend.

In retrospect, Mrs. Kelly said that since it was first announced that there would be a Special Olympics, she has never seen a school system and community pull together as in Chowan County. Her



BANK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS — Peoples Bank and Trust Co. invited the public to join its employees in celebrating the 50th birthday of the institution, Wednesday. A birthday cake and refreshments were available to visitors at both of the Edenton branches. Theme of the event was "50 Years of Confidence in People". Shown above from left to right is R. M. Thompson, agribusiness consultant; Ruth Ann Jordan, note teller; Linda Evans, customer service officer; Betty Bunch, asst. vice president; Evelyn Keeter, asst. vice president and head cashier; Carolyn Ricks, secretary; and Jim Brown, vice president and city executive.

Shop In Edenton Every Friday Night 'til 9 o'clock