

# Effects Of Dry Weather On Resources Concerns Officials

"Below normal rainfall this season may have serious effects upon North Carolina's natural resources," according to Dr. Neil Grigg, assistant secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

State officials have become increasingly concerned over what effects dry weather may have upon the state. Since the first of the year, rainfall has been approximately 40 per cent below normal in many areas of North Carolina.

Severe reductions in rainfall may result in low stream and lake levels, well problems, decreased water quality and reduced water supplies for municipal, industrial, hydropower, agricultural and fish and wildlife needs.

"In a growing state such as North Carolina we may be faced with even more pressing water problems in the future," Grigg said. "We need to commit ourselves to successful water management."

Dry weather and water shortages are having a significant impact on water supplies, water quality, agriculture, fisheries and the number of forest fires.

"Low water tables could cause serious water shortages for many towns and communities this summer," Grigg said. Ground and surface water levels are below normal because replenishing rains have not occurred this winter and spring. Many municipal and community water systems may not have sufficient supplies to meet their demands this summer. Individuals and families who use wells could also be hard hit.

Drought conditions can cause water quality problems. Pollutants which are usually carried to streams during storms - soil, animal waste, gasoline, lead and debris from city streets - build up on the land surface. However, when a storm finally does come, a heavy load of these pollutants is washed into the streams and is especially harmful to water

quality and aquatic life, Grigg said. Low water levels in streams and rivers provide less dilution for treated wastewater discharged by industries and municipalities, contributing further to poor water quality during droughts.

Important agricultural crops could suffer from lack of irrigation water this summer. "Prolonged drought conditions will result in more serious water table declines during the growing season," Grigg said.

"Reduced rainfall may have a significant effect upon the striped bass population in the Roanoke River," explained Don Baker, chief of the Wildlife Resources Commission, Division of Inland Fisheries. "Water supplies in the reservoirs of the Roanoke River may not be sufficient to maintain an adequate volume of water downstream for the striped bass to spawn," Baker said. A water depth of 13 feet is necessary for ideal spawning conditions.

"If the striped bass has to spawn downstream its eggs could be deprived of the stream mileage necessary to hatch," Baker added. The eggs of the striped bass rely on water velocity for suspension. Otherwise, they could drop to the stream bottom and die before hatching.

The prolonged drought in North Carolina is likely to affect the state's 20-million acres of forest land. This spring over 83,000 acres of forest lands in North Carolina have already been lost to forest fires. "If we don't receive some general rains soon, the number of forest fires could certainly increase," according to Tom Hege, fire prevention specialist for the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Forest Resources.

The Department of Natural Resources and Community Development has several programs geared toward water supply planning.

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation offers assistance in cooperation with North Carolina's 93 local soil and water conservation

districts. Each district can assist farmers and rural water users in methods of efficient water utilization and storage. Assistance in emergency situations such as forest fires can be obtained from the districts by locating emergency firefighting water supplies through farm pond inventories. Data from district sponsored watershed projects could also prove invaluable in locating emergency drinking water supplies if conditions become severe.

The Office of Water Resources assists communities with short and long-range plans for developing additional supplies of surface and ground water. The office can assist municipalities and smaller communities and their consulting firms to develop drought management plans and to identify emergency sources of raw water supplies. The program can also provide funding sources to deal with drought problems.

The Department of Natural Resources and Community Development also coordinates with the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety on the use of pumps, pipelines and water hauling tankers in drought emergencies.

The Office of Water Resources has available, upon request, free literature on water conservation practices and devices. Demonstrations and assistance on water conservation methods and means to stretch existing water supply sources are also available on a request basis.

"Planning and developing additional water supplies will be necessary to meet the future needs of our growing state," Grigg said. "We need to build state awareness and concern for water conservation and the development of reliable water sources to withstand future droughts. Private individuals, businesses, local government, state government and federal agencies all have a key role in moving toward better conservation and management of water -- one of our most valuable resources."

## Public Parade

### Facilities Expanding

Edenton is becoming the hub of regional medical care with both health care facilities along the Public Parade involved in expansion programs. It is, therefore, fitting that added emphasis be placed on the value of a regional center during the next week.

National Hospital Week and National Nursing Home Week observances begin Mother's Day. Chowan Hospital and ElderLodge have put together interesting activities to stress the individual theme.

"Looking Well Into The Future" is the theme for National Hospital Week. "Visit Someone Special" is the spring board for National Nursing Home Week.

Chowan Hospital has won approval for a 10-bed addition as well as the expansion of ancillary space and equipment. Projects costs exceed \$4-million.

ElderLodge is involved in a 64-bed expansion which will cost approximately \$700,000. Developers of the addition continue to battle the bureaucracy regarding designation of 34 of the new beds for intermediate care residents. The remaining 30 would be labeled rest home beds, a new level of care along the Public Parade.

Both the Chowan and ElderLodge projects have enjoyed exceptional community support. This is an important factor in gaining necessary regional and state approval. It demonstrates the caring attitude which abounds hereabouts.

Chairman C. A. Phillips of Chowan County Commissioners and Mayor Roy L. Harrell have inked proclamations. They pay tribute to the dedicated people who provide skilled and compassionate health care to our citizens. People in the community are urged to take cognizance of these events and to participate fittingly in the observances.

### Insurance No Excuse

Insurance, like security, is something with a price some cannot afford but which the same people cannot afford to be without. Health, automobile, life and comprehensive insurance rates soar when companies require claims which are not substantiated by fact.

In the area of crime, for example, we tend to treat robbery lightly especially if it happens to the other guy and he's covered by insurance.

There was a good example recently in Chowan County Superior Court where an attorney attempted to hide his client behind the shield of insurance. But it didn't work.

The defendant had assaulted his estranged wife. "The medical bills have been paid by insurance," the attorney injected as the district attorney informed the jurist on the prosecuting witness' plight.

"No," replied Judge Edwin Preston of Raleigh. "This is what

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**HOSPITAL WEEK** — David Henson, standing, is shown with Chairman C. A. Phillips of Chowan County Board of Commissioners as he signs a proclamation for National Hospital Week. The commissioners Monday approved the action during the regular meeting. (Staff Photo by Flynn Surratt.)

## National Observances Will Cite Hospitals And Nursing Homes

National Hospital Week and National Nursing Home Week run on about the same course this year. Special events are planned May 10-16 at Chowan Hospital and May 10-17 at ElderLodge.

"Looking Well Into The Future" will be the theme of Chowan Hospital's celebration of National Hospital Week.

"We think that our 1981 National Hospital Week theme fittingly describes the commitment of our hospital staff to improving the future health of our community," says David Henson, hospital director. "We devote our fullest resources to providing the best health care possible today. But we know that we have to look to the future to find even better ways to care as patient and community needs change," he stated.

Some of the ways Chowan Hospital is caring for the community's future are best shown through its present commitment for a hospital expansion. This includes an addition of ten medical-surgical beds, an ex-

pansion of many operating departments, and the addition of several new diagnostic services.

During the celebration of this special week, Chowan Hospital activities will include events honoring employees, physicians, volunteers, and members of the Chaplaincy Service.

National Hospital Week is sponsored each year by the American Hospital Association and its approximately 6,000 member hospitals to foster better communication, and understanding between hospitals and their patients, their employees, and the communities they serve.

ElderLodge - Edenton on Paradise Road will join with thousands of nursing homes across the country in celebrating National Nursing Home Week beginning on Mother's Day.

The 1981 themes will be "Love is Ageless" and "Visit Someone Special" will be used to remind everyone in the community that nursing home residents need continued involvement with their families, friends and neighbors.

During this celebration ElderLodge will hold a number of special activities to honor their residents and staff.

"We welcome visits from our community at anytime but during National Nursing Home Week we are extending a special invitation to everyone to come by and spend a few minutes of your time to 'visit someone special,'" said Charles Andrews, administrator. "We would also like to extend

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## No Action Taken On Police Car Controversy

Edenton Town Council took no action on a request by Mayor Roy L. Harrell to withdraw contracts for two police cars which were altered contrary to state law, and town administrator W. B. Gardner, who approved the change on the recommendation of Police Chief J. D. Parrish admitted it was a mistake made with "good intentions".

During a special meeting called

by Mayor Harrell, the mayor said it was the opportunity for the council to "right a wrong" and suggested courses of action to bring the situation within the letter of the law.

The conflict emerged when the town received two 1981 Buick Le Sabres equipped with 252 cubic inch V6 engines from Hoke Motor Corp. The bid specifications called for eight cylinder 350 cubic inch

motors. Hoke Roberson informed the police department those were "on hold" and not currently available.

Chief Parrish suggested to Gardner that the town accept the vehicles since the purchase price was the same and would mean savings through better gas mileage.

Mayor Harrell said he was told by other bidders that had they been informed of the change, they could have bid lower.

Councilman Allen Hornthal reported he had also talked to a dealer who said no other V6 with the same displacement as the Buick lawman package was available.

The mayor referred to a letter from DeWitt McCauley, asst. general counsel with the N. C. League of Municipalities who stated one proper course of action would be to return the cars to the dealer, pay a fair rental fee on the vehicles and re-advertise for bids specifying six cylinder engines and allowing used cars to be bid.

McCauley also reasoned that since the town administrator is not authorized to make a change in specifications, the original contract still stands. The town could return the vehicles and then require the dealer to replace the existing engines with V8's.

"Here are 15 points from the League," the mayor commented, "not one says 'go along with modifying the bid'".

Councilman Gil Burroughs said the town would still be in violation

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**THE WINNER!** — Richard Beekers of Ahoskie is shown as he crosses the finish line to capture the 10,000 meter event of the Third Annual Edenton - Chowan Herring Run held Sunday. Mayor Roy L. Harrell, right, officially started the event and stayed around to lead the cheers for Beekers and other winners. Some 100 people participated in the event which was held in cooperation with Tidewater Striders. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)

## Blood Drive

John A. Holmes High School of Edenton will be the site May 12 of a community-wide blood drive which is being sponsored by the high school.

The drive is scheduled from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. and has a goal of 110 pints of blood. High school seniors are being scheduled to donate during the morning hours of the drive, and other residents of Edenton and the surrounding area are encouraged to donate any time between noon and 4 P. M.

Individuals needing more information are asked to contact county co-chairmen Bill Smith at 221-4323 or Blake Harmon at 482-3617.

The 58 hospitals in Eastern North Carolina and Eastern Virginia receive all blood and blood components from Tidewater Regional Blood Services, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. The Blood Services region encompasses 56 counties and 2.5 million residents.

Usage by the 58 hospitals requires that at least 450 units of blood be collected daily. Blood collected during bloodmobile drives may be used as whole blood or it may be separated into components for specialized uses, such as in the treatment of cancer. By separating blood into several components, the single donated pint may benefit as many as four patients.

## Baccalaureate Service Slated

The Edenton - Chowan Alternative School will hold its first Baccalaureate Sermon at Ballard's Bridge Baptist Church this Sunday, at 3:30 P. M.

Delivering the sermon will be Rev. George Cooke, home pastor.

Participating in the program will be members of the graduating class; Bill Griswold, counselor; and Eugene Jordan, chairman of Edenton - Chowan Board of Education.



**FUNDS REQUEST DENIED** — Stan Hege, chairman of Operation Overcharge, is shown seated at left with Jerry Hendee, center, executive director of the Edenton - Chowan Chamber of Commerce, and Oscar White, chamber president, during the meeting of the Chowan County Commissioners on Monday in which a request from the consumer group for \$1,000 was denied for legal reasons. Hege said the group has been responsible for holding electric rates down in the region and needs the funds to keep their \$18,000 per year program in operation. Operation Overcharge receives funds from the Chamber of Commerce which is supported by the county. While the commissioners were not able to honor the request, they did endorse the groups efforts.