E CHOWAN HERALD

Liquid Gold

The drought along the Public Parade, in Northeastern North Carolina and pretty much across Tar Heelia was broken last week. The much needed rain was called "liquid gold."

The drought was the most severe since 1945. And it couldn't have come at a worse time. Farmers are just coming off a real bad crop year and the prospects for the 1981 season were not good. The rain came in time to turn many bad situations into a brighter future.

There still remains a healthy balance between agriculture and business along the Public Parade. When one hurts the ache is felt by the other. It is a partnership that is respected.

It takes rain to produce bountiful crops so it is "liquid gold", coupled with hard work that makes the cash registers ring happy tunes.

Minding The Store

Members of the N. C. General Assembly are beginning to react to some recent drafts of redistricting the House, Senate and U. S. Congress. Redistricting, like revaluation and other "res", are never painless but in many cases the hurt is self-inflicted.

There is one public servant who is minding the store. He is Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District. Rep. Jones is a veteran-of elections and always tends to make good on whatever position in which he finds himself. His ability to be consistently consistent baffles those who try to penetrate his armor of superior qualities.

Shortly after Rep. Jones became chairman of one of 14 standing committeees in the U.S. House of Representatives -- Merchant Marine and Fisheries - he wore himself out and ended up in the hespital. Therefore, he has been somewhat slower in putting the Jones flavor into the committee staff. Like those who watch closely expected, he has been deliberate. patient and understanding.

Rep. Jones has moved recently to implement his plan. Edmund B. Welch of Greenville has served Rep. Jones well on the House Agriculture Committee staff. He had the assignment of injecting his boss' flavor into the new position. Now Mr. Welch moves into a big slot, that of chief counsel. The new appointee has worked closely with Lawrence J. O'Brien, Jr., who has been in the job several years. Mr. O'Brien will practice law in

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Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, May 14, 1981

Council Acts Against Owner Of Sunken Tug

Emmett H. Wiggins, 60, has been arrested on a charge of violation of a Town of Edenton code dealing with docking of certain size vessels. He vowed Tuesday night to fight the charge and the code in court.

Concerned citizens from Pembroke Circle and Queen Anne's were on hand to support the action being taken against the resident of the Lighthouse at the mouth of Filbert's Creek.

"I'll see you in court," Wiggins told Town Council. Earlier he said his intention is to fix the tug boat. "I think I have the grandfather clause to protect me some," he

Councilman J. P. Ricks, Jr., said the questions involved dealt with maritime law and he knew of no one locally capable of dealing with the matter. "To have it (Wiggins' action) continue would be a continued affront to the people of this town," he added.

"We should employ (a qualified attorney) or forget it," he said.

Crime Specialist To Speak Here

A regular meeting of the **Chowan Community Crime Watch** is scheduled to be held on May 21, at 8 P. M. in the American Legion Building in Edenton.

Tony Young, the crime prevention specialist from the N. C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety will be there with the N. C. Mobile Crime Prevention Unit.

Chowan County Sheriff Troy Toppin and Police Chief J. D. Parrish Police Department will also be there.

Several community groups have met and ordered Crime Community Watch Signs for their individual communities.

"Can your community or the area in which you live answer, yes to the next three questions!" It is pointed out.

1. Do you have a community crime watch program?

2. If a burglary took place in your home today, could you locate your possessions thru proper operation identification or "Proper usage numbers."

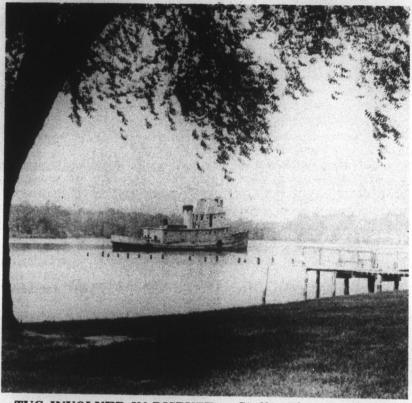
3. Do you know the North Continued On Page 4

Wiggins said he had been notified that action would be taken at the council meeting. "I was arrested yesterday," he said. "Why jump the gun before we had a meeting to discuss the matter?"

Councilman Allen Hornthal said the intent of the council was to halt any movement of the tug or other vessels close to the shoreline.

Councilman Steve Hampton asked Wiggins directly of his intent. The reply was: "I don't intend to move it but closer to my property."

W. P. (Spec) Jones said he had lived across from the Wiggins property for 28 years. While he admitted that Wiggins had certain rights, he felt Wiggins ought to be



TUG INVOLVED IN DISPUTE - Staffer Flynn Surratt, anticipating problems, recorded this picturesque scene of an old tug boat anchored in Edenton Bay near Queen Anne's Creek. Emmett H. Wiggins, owner of the tug, has been indicted for violation of a Town of Edenton ordinance dealing with large vessels of more than 30-feet in length. Wiggins, who lives in the Lighthouse, vows to fight the ordinance in court.

Neal, Tynch Arraigned On

broken, 20 days, suspended upon

payment of \$40 fine and cost.

Counts of drunk driving, reckless

driving and carrying a concealed

Barren Kyle Mack, traffic

Dan Junior Bembery, improper

Richard Welch, reckless driving

after drinking, 60 days, suspended

upon payment of \$100 fine and

Richard Welch, failure to report

Willie Athen Twine, Jr., drunk

Dannie Edward Pierce, drunk

Robert Day Hutchison, larceny,

seven to nine months, suspended

and placed on probation for two

years upon payment of \$200 fine

weapon were dismissed.

equipment, dismissed.

accident, dismissed.

driving, not guilty.

driving, dismissed.

violation, called and failed.

guided by the same laws as other citizens.

Councilman Hampton said the Finance Committee had nothing to report with regards to obtaining a town attorney. This prompted a heated exchange between Mayor Pro Tem Hornthal and Mayor Roy L. Harrell.

Hornthal accused the mayor of misrepresentation of certain private conversations. "Three attorneys have declined to submit bids and another one's bid was in excess of what we are now paying," he said.

The councilman requested that a letter from Mrs. Lena M. Leary, Clerk of Superior Court, be placed in the minutes.

Mayor Harrell answered Hornthal, point-by-point, and added that the collection of delinquent taxes are part of Gardner's duties. "We have a very qualified administrator," he said of Gardner. "He is very capable of sending out notices, etc.,"

Hampton said he expected the Finance Committee would have a recommendation at the next meeting. The contract with Earnhardt & Busby runs until July

Gardner injected the thought that while the collection of delinquent taxes is one thing, the town has a tight time frame established by law regarding the collection of assessments.

At the beginning of the session, Hampton asked that his comments at an earlier meeting be included in the minutes. He said the

and costs. He was ordered to

spend three weekends in jail.

Lew Reech Parker, exceeding

David Granby, drunk driving,

second offense, six months,

suspended upon payment of \$360

Kenneth M. Granby, reckless

James A. Holley, speeding,

Donald Lee Hayes, worthless

Gregory G. Parker, speeding, \$5

James Kenley Leary, drunk

driving, 60 days, suspended upon

Thomas Adolph Holley,

Continued On Page 4

payment of \$150 fine and costs.

driving, 30 days, suspended upon

payment of \$50 fine and costs.

Notice of appeal was entered.

relony

safe speed, costs.

fine and costs.

called and failed.

fine and costs.

check, called and failed.

statement dealt with the change of his vote regarding bids to purchase vehicles.

Hornthal questioned the need for such action. "It is very important or I wouldn't have said it," Hampton replied. Hampton then read into the minutes the earlier comments as taken from the tape.

Hornthal informed the council and citizens of problems being experienced at the playground at Freemason and Oakum streets. He said repeated damage to the property, including the theft of a basketball goal, threatened the

Council approved the purchase of property for an easement to allow work which is designed to improve the drainage problems near the Masonic Temple.

Mayor Harrell appointed Eric Byrum to the Recreation Committee, Terry Williams to the Planning Board, and Harold Babb of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Council approved two zoning requests and approved the plat of Thomas Francis for property on Mexico Road.

Council approved a \$750 contribution to Operation Overcharge, but not before calling on Chowan County commissioners to reconsider last week's action to deny financial participation.



Mrs. Janice H. Faulkner

Party Executive Is Guest Speaker

Janice H. Faulkner, executive director of the N. C. Democratic party, will be the principal speaker when the Democratic Women of the first Congressional District gather at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant here Saturday for their annual meeting.

Also on the program will be Sen. J. J. Harrington of Lewiston, according to Lauretta Parker of Ahoskie, first District women's chair. Sen. Harrington, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, will speak on needs of the state Highway Fund.

Mrs. Faulkner, a native of Martin County, is on leave from East Carolina University while heading up state Democratic

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Herring Run Worst In History

By Jim Tyler

Chowan River registered the worst herring catch in history this spring. Silver fish by the millions have ascended this river for springs unnumbered and have been a bountiful harvest for Indians, colonists, and descendants to down to present day fishermen.

This spring's catch, at 4.3-million pounds by the end of April, was some 2-million pounds less than last year, according to records. Prior to 1970 average catch was 10-12-million pounds annually since 1970, 6-8-million pounds annually. It is a fast paced fishery, a flurry of activity, and most fish are caught in less than one month.

Fishermen are blaming the decline this year on discharge from a papermill in Virginia coupled with drought conditions. Annual discharge from the papermill is usually flushed out of the river into Albemarle Sound and diluted by the time fish arrive. The ocean living fish leave saltwater through Oregon Inlet, enter Albemarle Sound, and journey up Chowan to spawn in fresh water.

The slug of effluent normally takes 35 days to clear the river, according to records. With water so low and flow so sluggish, this year it will take an estimated 85 days. It lay like a gigantic bottle of ink spilled in the middle of the river when the fish arrived this spring. It disrupted completely the normal spawning patterns, according to Marine Fisheries biologists.

Normally 85 per cent of the herring catch comes from Chowan. This year about 50 per cent did. Catches were very good in Albemarle Sound, below the slug of water that "looked just like ink," and 50 per cent of the catch was taken there. Yet was it more fish milling around in the sound unwilling to broach dark waters, or was it more fishing pressure in the South that accounted for increase catch there? Marine Fisheries law officers report more fishing for herring in Albemarle Sound than ever before. Prices were good, and many fishermen who normally fish for striped bass moved over to herring because stripers were few this year.

Upriver, where Chowan narrows after Holiday Island, catches were good. So some fish did go through the bad water. One theory is the fish made a straight run through the effluent, straight up the center channel, and did not linger or run close to shore where they have been traditionally caught in quantities in the lower wider portion.

Some fishermen, down around Roanoke Island, where the fish pass on their way to the Chowan, say the big run never did come in this year.

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Juveniles Arrested

Two juveniles were apprehended Tuesday afternoon as suspects in the theft of a billfold from a downtown drug store. The billfold and a portion of money was found.

Police Chief J. D. Parrish said the investigation would be continued by juvenile authorities.

James Blount of Hollowell & Blount Rexall was suspicious of two young men in the store. A visitor from Mt. Airy later reported that her billfold had been taken from a counter.

Blount called police. Capt. C. H. Williams and Cpl. Chuck Alexander responded. Within a few minutes the billfold had been found, along with some of the

Blount publicly commended the Edenton Police Department for swift action at the Town Council meeting Tuesday evening.

sporting liquor with the seal Community

The newly organized Advance Ruritan Club was presented its offical charter, Tuesday night, during a meeting at the Advance Community Building and a slate of four officers and three directors was installed.

Ruritan National president Robert K. Davis of Newport, TN was welcomed by guest Ruritans from the Albemarle District as he presented the charter.

Presiding over the new civic

club is Carlton Perry. Carroll Smith will serve as vice president, Ray Goodwin, secretary, and Carroll Wood Jones, treasurer. Mike McArthur, Willis Bond and Lloyd Parrish were elected directors.

The Chowan Ruritan Club and its president Melvin Byrum sponsored the formation of the new club and members of the district board of directors were on hand to assist with ideas and directives.

"The club looks forward to having strong local support and a large membership to accomplish its many community service projects," a spokesman stated. Persons are invited to forward advice and helpful suggestions.

Two defendants face trials in

Chowan County Superior Court

after probable cause was found

Tuesday in felony counts against

William C. O'Neal and Carroll

Judge Richard Parker of

Manteo, presiding in District

Court, found probable cause in

cases where O'Neal is charged

with possession of stolen property

and accessory after the fact.

Tynch faces two morals charges.

Asst. Dist. Atty. H. P. Williams

prosecuted the docket. The

following other action was taken:

David P. Ward, speeding, costs.

William Ray Harrell, tran-

Edward Tynch.

The sponsoring Chowan Ruritan Club holds annual auctions at Valhalla and recently assisted the Harold L. Bunch family after their home was heavily damaged by

BURITAN CLUB CHARTERED — The Advance Ruritan Club was presented its official charter, last Tuesday night, and a slate of officers was installed. Robert K. Davis, president of Ruritan Ingernational, is shown at left addressing, from the left, Carlton Perry, president, Carroll Smith, vice president, Ray Goodwin, secretary, Carroll Wood Jones, treasurer, and directors Lloyd Parrish, Mike McArthur and Willis Bond.