

### Herring - Bad News!

The early predictions regarding herring in the Chowan River didn't materialize this year. Scientists saw signs which led them to believe fishermen would have one of the best seasons in recent years. A few good catches were reported but Murray Nixon's prediction was better than that of others. Herring was bad news!

In fact, the state's river herring harvest this year was the lowest on record, and biologists suspect dry weather and pollution from Union Camp in Virginia are to blame.

The following report tells the story:

The spring harvest totaled about 4.3-million pounds, a drop of 2-million pounds from last year. This year's catch, worth about \$300,000 to fishermen, sank below the previous low of 5.1-million pounds in 1979.

Michael W. Street, the research and development chief of the N. C. Division of Marine Fisheries, said state agencies are investigating the possibility that the poor harvest in the Chowan River was related to a discharge from a Union-Camp paper mill on a tributary of the river in Virginia. The Chowan contains the state's major river herring fishing grounds.

He said fishermen blamed the discharge, which discolored the river water for weeks, but state officials cannot yet prove a link.

"The fishermen think so, and on the face of it there is circumstantial evidence that there is a relationship," Street said.

The paper mill, located on the Blackwater River at Franklin, Va., has a permit to discharge wastewater into the river between December and March in a volume depending on the river level. The discharge usually takes about 35 days to flush out of the river, but low water levels due to an area drought increased the time to an estimated 85 days.

According to Street, the dark, polluted water was in the river when the herring entered to spawn. He said it may have kept the fish from areas where they are usually caught.

Normally about 85 per cent of the state's herring catch comes from the Chowan, but the river accounted for only half of this year's catch. The decline occurred despite indications of large numbers of the fish in the ocean, which is usually a sign of a good harvest.

Street said the state is working with environmental agencies in Virginia and with officials of the paper mill to alleviate problems from the discharge. He said the decline in the river herring fishery was related to other environmental problems in the river.

Before 1970, fishermen caught 10 to 12-million pounds annually from the river.

### Switching Aisles

The law profession has its ups and downs, just like anything else. There are those men and women who like the excitement afforded by the practice of criminal law. Likewise, there are those who prefer to match wits with others on the civil law side.

It takes a particular breed to possess the talent in today's complex world to successfully blend criminal and civil law. While D. Keith Teague of the Isle of Pasquotank hasn't tried his wings on the civil side, his success as a prosecutor in the First Judicial District will make it easier for him to weave in the thread for balance.

Keith is affectionally known along the Public Parade and throughout Northeastern North Carolina as "the tall man with a bow tie." In his seven years as assistant to District Attorney Tom Watts he has represented the public with skill and dignity. Although mild mannered by nature, it is not uncommon for his face to flush up and his speech increase in volume as he puts himself totally into the situation at hand.

Keith Teague and Tom Watts have matched skill with some of the most able defenders in the business. They have racked up more successes than failures. It

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W. B. Gardner

## Efficiency Councils Created

Gov. Jim Hunt has signed an executive order creating a County Transportation Efficiency Council in Chowan County and each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

Under the executive order, the councils "will examine the work program, policies, methods and operations of each Department of Transportation county maintenance unit" and "make recommendations to the governor and the Board of Transportation on improving efficiency and productivity in those units."

Each council will have five to 10 members appointed by the governor, as well as an ex-officio member of the Board of Transportation serving with them.

Marc Basnight of Dare County, a member of the Board of Transportation, said Tuesday that the council members in Chowan County have not yet been appointed. He added that recommendations are now being received and will be forwarded to Gov. Hunt for action in the near future.

In announcing his order establishing the councils last week, Gov. Hunt said, "this will give citizens someone to go to when they have complaints about a maintenance crew wasting time, or not doing a thorough job, or whatever it may be."

He added, "I would particularly

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**COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM PROMOTED** — Tony Young, left, of the N. C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, admires a handsome personal portfolio being distributed to promote the Chowan County Community Watch Program. C. B. Smith, chairman, holds the portfolio. Others pictured are Police Chief J. D. Parrish and Sheriff Troy Toppin. Nine local businesses sponsored the project which was handled by Portfolio Specialists of Edenton.

## Conference Stresses Individuality For Women

The women who attended the governor's leadership conference Saturday at Holmes High School were told that "you need to do those things that fulfill you as an individual and as a woman," by Juanita M. Bryant.

Mrs. Bryant, executive director of the N. C. Leadership Development for Women, delivered the keynote address at the conference luncheon.

Stating that the traditional roles of women are changing, she told the group that only seven percent of the state's families are the "ideal" — a working husband, the housekeeping mother, and two children. The economic situation

has made it necessary that women get in the work force. Mrs. Bryant told the women that it is important that they have their own identity.

The meeting in Chowan County was one of many she has had across the United States and abroad. Mrs. Bryant, who lives in Boonville, has spoken to women's groups in 47 states.

Mrs. Bryant was the first woman to be appointed to chair a state board in North Carolina. She has been presented the Distinguished Citizen of North Carolina Award by Governor James B. Hunt. Having been spotlighted by the Raleigh News and Observer as "Tarheel of the

## Gardner Submits Resignation; Says Controversy Was Not A Factor

W. B. Gardner, town administrator in Edenton for more than 20 years, submitted his resignation Tuesday. He asked in a letter to Mayor Roy L. Harrell that the resignation be effective July 4.

The four paragraph letter, dated Monday, was distributed to members of the Town Council and was shared with department heads at the regular weekly session Tuesday morning in the Municipal Building.

Gardner did not disclose his plans for the future. "I believe I have an opportunity now that might now be available to me a few years down the road," he wrote. He said "there comes a time when one must look to the future, for himself and his family."

The administrator also pointed out that a recent controversy over bids for police vehicles did not enter into his decision to resign.

"It came as a complete surprise to me," Mayor Harrell said when he was contacted Tuesday morning. "We wish him well in anything he chooses to do," he added. "We've been together for a long time, about 10 years."

The Mayor continued: "He assures me, as his letter stated, that the recent controversy has nothing to do with his decision."

Mayor Harrell said he had not made a decision about calling a special council meeting to begin preparing to take applications, but hinted that he might wait until the next regular meeting — June 9 — to take action.

Gardner's letter included the

following:

"I have been privileged to serve the town during an unprecedented era of progress and, for the most part, have enjoyed my relationship with the mayors and council members with whom I have worked, and I believe I leave the job with the support and confidence of an overwhelming majority of the present council. I have always attempted to fulfill the duties of my office in a manner that would most benefit all the citizens of Edenton.

"In closing, I want to particularly thank the employees and especially the department heads, for all their support and cooperation through the years. Sometimes I think the citizens of Edenton do not realize how for-

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### Northeastern N.C. Tomorrow

## Task Force Launched

**WILLIAMSTON** — A movement to establish a Northeastern North Carolina Tomorrow Task Force was launched here Wednesday of last week as leaders from a 16-county area met to prepare for the future. The action, as proposed, would center around Elizabeth City State University and the five community colleges located in the region.

A ranking state official, Sec. Joe Grimsley of the Department of Administration, put forth the suggestion that "maybe this area should be promoted as Norfolk" since it is isolated from Raleigh. Anyway, he warned, the area must prepare to live with fewer state and federal dollars.

Sec. Grimsley said as discussions continue there are a number of important topics which

would lead to a better future for the region. One, he pointed out, is the fact that five state parks already exist and they should be enlarged. Furthermore, he expressed hopes that the 400th Anniversary of the founding of American (1984-87) would leave a lasting affect, such as the Wright Memorial.

Robert Jernigan of Hertford County, a former legislator and chairman of the board of Roanoke-Chowan Technical College, said the region is fortunate to have a governor who is willing to help. But, he emphasized, the people in the area must demonstrate that they can help themselves.

Jernigan listed the region's assets as: water supply, trainable work force, nearness to Northern markets, fair transportation and tourism. With these assets and "this group gathered here today we can do anything we want to do," he added.

Earlier, Joe Parker, publisher of regional newspapers in Ahoskie and a member of Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.'s State Goals and Policy Board, opened the meeting at Martin Community College as describing the area as a "basket case" in regards to economic development and balanced growth. He blamed this posture on the fact that the area is disconnected, unorganized, and unwilling at the present time to help

ourselves.

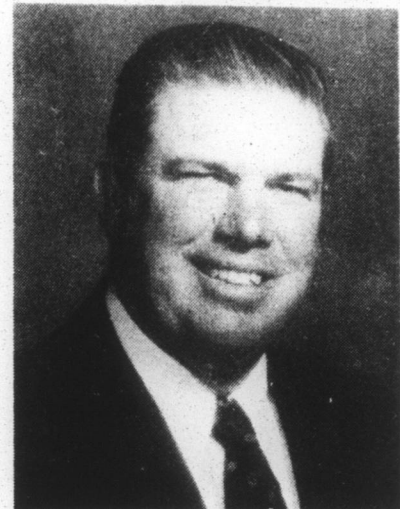
Gov. Hunt has appointed the Northeastern North Carolina Task Force and Sec. Grimsley is chairman. The chairman said ideas are being gathered and a report is expected to result from a meeting in about a month. "Where we go from there will depend greatly on where you want to go," he pointed out.

Richard Baker, executive director of the Alliance For Progress, a six-county education consortium, discussed the area's resources. He listed them as the people who are friendly and hardworking; water, the location as it relates to population centers, etc. and industry. The speaker said the area needs to work closer with existing industry to help it expand.

Baker said there are already organized groups in place but efforts should be made to get more of them working together.

President Ed Wilson of

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David T. Bateman

## Mr. Bateman Named To Post

David T. Bateman, Route 1, Tyner, has been named to the board of directors of Peoples Bank & Trust Company in Edenton. The announcement was made today by Jim Brown, city executive for the bank here.

Bateman owns Bateman Produce Farms and is president of the N. C. Peanut Growers Association, having served earlier as secretary and vice president. He has also been executive director of the Peanut Growers Cooperative Marketing Association.

He served as a Chowan County commissioner for several years and was vice chairman at the time he chose not to seek re-election. He is active in the Chowan County Farm Bureau, having served as a board member, secretary, treasurer, vice president and president.

Bateman is a member of the advisory board of the School of Agriculture & Life Sciences at N. C. State University. He is also

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**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE OFFICIALS** — Mrs. Betty Manning, left, and Mrs. Beth Taylor, right, co-chaired the Governor's Conference on Leadership Development for Women which was held Saturday in Holmes Auditorium. Shown with them are Betsy Kelly of Greenville, second from left, and Ann June Heffelfinger, also of Greenville, presenters at the conference. Some 70 women from throughout Chowan County attended.