



## Round-Up Missing

Those who meander along the Public Parade will immediately notice that the Raleigh Roundup column is missing from today's edition of The Chowan Herald. Mildred A. Huskins, our favorite columnist, has not been on the Raleigh scene for the past week.

Rep. Jay Huskins of Iredell was admitted to Davis Hospital in Statesville on Wednesday of last week. He is reported to be making satisfactory progress and is expected to return to the General Assembly soon.

Mildred assures us that once she returns to Raleigh her popular column will resume.

## Resignations

There have been a rash of resignations recently. And those who meander along the Public Parade have no reason to be jubilant.

In the past two weeks, two strong individuals in the Hunt Administration have announced their intent to leave state government. By coincidence, probably, Eastern North Carolina's most prominent public figure has decided to cast his lot in the private sector.

Sec. Thomas Bradshaw of the Department of Transportation and Sec. Howard N. Lee of the Department of Natural Resources & Community Development have been kind to Edenton and Chowan County during their tenure. So did their predecessors, both Democrats and Republicans.

The one person most responsible for the preferential treatment is W. B. Gardner. As town administrator for more than 20 years he has put his community above himself. Because of his personality and uncanny ability to get things done, there has not been a year during his two decades of public service when he failed to earn his salary several times over from sources other than taxes.

Those who were not shocked by Mr. Gardner's announcement last week of his intent to resign effective July 4 number among those oblivious to the most obvious. And even before the shock waves began to subside, Mayor Roy L. Harrell was quoted as saying he hadn't given much thought to the events which precipitated the ultimate decision.

There is no person known to us more unselfish than Mr. Gardner. He demonstrated this time and time over as he forged ahead for what he felt best for this area of Tar Heelia. He knows no municipal or county boundaries. While his salary came from the municipal coffers, he was foresighted enough to realize that in promoting the region Edenton was bound to get some of the fallout.

The development of industry at Edenton Municipal Airport is an example. And he practically singled handedly got the new National Guard Armory project off the drawing board and to reality.

Three local people played key rolls in a \$1.8-million Economic Development Administration grant for the new Chowan County Courthouse. Mr. Gardner was one of them. There are many, many other examples of his untiring devotion to duty and commitment of purpose.

The Tom Bradshaws, the Howard Lees, and the Bill Gardners are so vocal they are ready targets. Now and then the opposition scores a hit and some damage is done. But they keep on keeping on for their mission is not based on petty things. They are in an elite group; leaders who are born and not made.

Edenton's Town Council has an awesome responsibility in filling the administrator's post. No one planned for Mr. Gardner's departure on Independence Day. If there is a bright spot in the cloud hanging over the Public Parade it is the fact that Mayor Harrell still cannot vote except in the case of a tie.

## Not Unrecognized

The 1981 Biennial Pilgrimage of Colonial Edenton is history. By all standards it was a huge success. The Chowan Herald is proud of

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## Budget Tentatively OK'ed

# Tax Increase Is Proposed

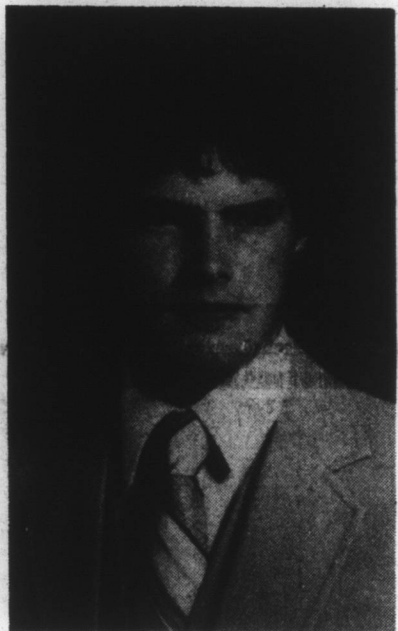
Tentative approval was given Monday to a budget for Chowan County in 1981-82 which requires a six-cent increase in property taxes. The budget calls for \$2,938,994 in the General Fund, up some \$117,000.

The budget is based on a valuation of \$147.5-million - up \$1.5-million - with a 95 per cent collection rate. The tax rate would be \$1.10. The fire district rate would be \$1.14.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said this will be the last year for budgeting on the current valuation. Revaluation is nearing completion and will be used next year.

The county manager praised the Finance Committee, consisting of J. D. Peele and George Jones, for coming up with a "conservative but adequate" budget. "This is a more realistic budget than last year," he commented. Peele noted that Mrs. Barbara Ward sat in on the committee's session in order to become more familiar with the county's financial matters.

The budget, which will go to public hearing on June 15, includes a 5 per cent cost of living raise for county employees and a 10 per cent increase in appropriations for Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.



David L. Jordan

## Jordan Awarded 4-H Scholarship

David Lindley Jordan, Route 2, Edenton, has been named winner for a \$500 educational scholarship from the N. C. 4-H Development Fund.

Jordan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lindley Jordan, is one of 12 4-H members from across North Carolina selected to share in \$6,000 of scholarship money being distributed this year by the Fund.

Harold J. Brubaker, Route 3, Asheboro, president of the fund, says the scholarships are awarded to outstanding 4-H members for college study during the 1981-82 academic year.

The 4-H Development Fund, with headquarters at N. C. State University at Raleigh, was organized in 1958 by friends and alumni of 4-H to help support certain phases of club work.

Brubaker explained that this is the 20th year that scholarships have been awarded. Recipients, he reported, are selected on the basis of their high school record, evidence of college aptitude and 4-H work.

Jordan has compiled an outstanding record of accomplishments during nine years in 4-H work. He has completed 45 projects, given 25 demonstrations and received more than 75 awards in 4-H competition. He has served as a junior 4-H leader and held offices in his local 4-H club and the county 4-H council. He has also been elected vice president for the Northeastern District 4-H Clubs.

David will represent N. C. 4-H'ers at the Georgia 4-H Congress June 15-17.

Copeland reported that the \$1.10 tax rate would generate \$1.5-million in general fund revenues, or about one-half the budget in this area. He pointed out that in the past three years the fund balance appropriated to balance the budget has declined from more than \$200,000 to \$105,000.

Each one-cent on the tax rate generates \$14,012.

The budget reflects a reduction in force in the tax office and the extension office. There is a new position in Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad and money to purchase materials for a new rescue squad building in Gliden. Five positions in the county were reclassified.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore inquired about plans for maintenance of county property. Copeland said maintenance budget was up 10 to 15 per cent and included is money for a new air conditioner at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

Elmore noted that requests from department appeared to be pretty well met this year. Jones added that the committee had "some real good budgets" from the county departments.

Chairman C. A. Phillips pointed out that the county earned some \$110,000 in interest on investments. "That is very commendable," he added.

Another important source of revenue for the county is the 1 per cent local option sales tax. Revenue for budget from this source amounts to \$275,000.

Mrs. Ward said she got a valuable education by sitting in on

the Finance Committee meetings. "I am now much more knowledgeable about what a big business the county is," he added.

In other matters, the board recognized John Lee Spruill upon his retirement at Veterans Service Officer.

J. W. Davis was reappointed to the Chowan ABC Board during a brief joint meeting of the commissioners with Edenton-Chowan Board of Education. The appointment is for a three-year term.

Copeland reminded board members that the Chowan County Planning Board is planning a dinner June 18 for Charlie Overman who is retiring from the board.

The board also discussed some form of recognition for W. B. Gardner, Edenton town administrator, who had resigned. Phillips, who noted that he was on the committee which recommended Gardner for the position, said he is "one of the top city managers in this state." He said Gardner's decision to resign is "a tremendous loss to the town and county."

Elmore added that Gardner has done a "fantastic" job and has helped the county in any way that he could.

Sheriff Troy Toppin distributed community watch portfolios to board members and reported that six programs are in place in Chowan County. He also asked the board to comment on policies being developed for the Detention Facility.

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## Disaster Status Being Sought For Commercial Fishermen

Chowan County commissioners acted positively Monday to a request for designation of the region as a disaster area for commercial fishermen. County Manager Cliff Copeland was instructed to inquire at state and federal levels of proper procedures to obtain such classification.

If the disaster status is received it would mean that commercial fishermen could obtain low interest federal disaster loans.

Copeland said Tuesday evening that full cooperation has been promised by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., and Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District. Commissioner J. D. Peele

presented the county board a letter Monday morning from commercial fishermen asking for assistance in having the area declared a disaster. "The catch is going down, down, down," Peele said.

Chairman C. A. Phillips said there is no question about commercial fishing being a disaster. "Yes, I would think it would qualify (for disaster status)," he added.

"This may be the only chance

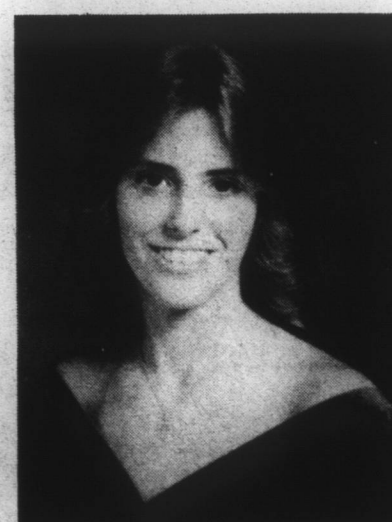
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## Commencement Exercises Will Be 'Firsts'

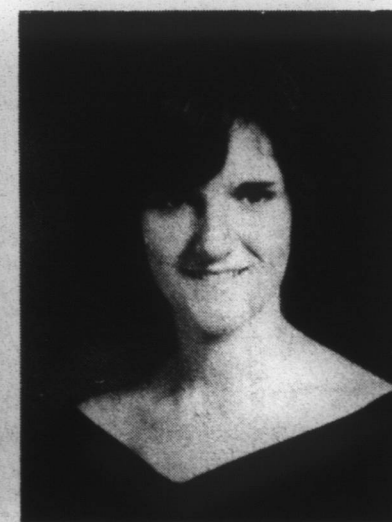
Commencement activities for 201 Chowan County public school graduates will occur this weekend and next. Two major firsts will be reflected through the exercises.

The John A. Holmes Class of 1981 will be the first to graduate from the county's consolidated high school and the Edenton-Chowan Alternative School will conduct its first formal graduation exercises.

The Baccalaureate Service for the 175 Holmes graduates will be held at 7:30 P.M., June 7 at the Edenton Baptist Church. Dr. John Allen, minister, and Ralph Cole, D. F. Walker School principal will address the students. Introductions of the guest speakers will be made by Eliot Atstupenas and Patricia Bunch.



Charlene Evans



Martha Gibson



Benita Ward



**SPRUILL RETIRES** — John Lee Spruill, left, Veterans Service Officer for Chowan County has retired. He was recognized Monday by Chowan County commissioners. Making the presentation is Chairman C. A. Phillips.

## Board Agrees To Cut Budget

Edenton-Chowan County Board of Education agreed Monday night to trim \$38,022 from its budget for fiscal 1981-82 to come in line with what Chowan County commissioners approved in a tentative budget for \$883,715, which is a 10 per cent increase.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, told the board the commissioners' action is encouraging, especially when big cuts are expected from the federal government. Furthermore, while the General Assembly has made no commitment, there are indications any increase will be at a minimum.

The board of education sent a \$986,854 budget to the commissioners. It included \$972,113 for current expense and \$14,741 for capital outlay. The county was asked to fund \$921,737 with the additional \$65,117 coming from fines and forfeitures and indirect costs.

Anticipated revenue from fines and forfeitures, which in the past two years have been greatly overstated, was placed at \$43,210 for the next fiscal year. "They anticipate a lot of crime in Chowan County in the coming year," was the comment heard later.

The school budget includes \$25,000 for funding a Naval ROTC program at John A. Holmes High School. This program has resulted in much criticism from faculty and school patrons who argue there is a need to beef up existing areas rather than bring on something new.

A three-man committee of the board -- Chairman Eugene Jordan, Dr. J. H. Horton, vice chairman, and Thomas Paul Griffin -- was named to trim the budget down to funding offered by the commissioners. The school board will meet again prior to June 15 to formally adopt the budget. (The commissioners will hold a public hearing on the entire county on that date.)

Asst. Supt. James A. Kinion presented the first draft on a Fixed Asset Inventory Policy, which was called for in the audit by Timberlake & Sykes, P. A. Action on adopting the policy will come at a later meeting.

Butch Ricks, principal at White Oak Elementary School, presented the final report from the Math Committee of a general Curriculum Study now underway in the system.

The board approved a schedule of meetings for 1981-82. All of the meetings will be held on the first Monday of the month except July 2 (Thursday); September 8 (Tuesday); and January 5 (Tuesday).

Dr. Dunn presented a directive from the State Board of Education concerning positions included in the federal reduction list. He said there are no such programs in the local system, but the directive is something unusual coming from the state board to local boards.

The board expressed opposition to a bill in the General Assembly which would authorize payroll deductions in order to enhance membership in employee associations. Dr. Dunn said this would require extra work on the part of staff at a time when efforts are being made to limit staff.

herald the Holmes Class of 1981 at 7 P.M., June 12. The outdoor ceremonies will be held on Hicks Field.

Dr. Elizabeth Koontz, assistant superintendent from the State Department of Public Instruction, will be the guest speaker. Charlene Evans, valedictorian, and co-salutatorians, Martha Gibson and Benita Ward, will also address their fellow classmates.

Dr. Dunn and Eugene Jordan, school board chairman, will present diplomas and certificates.

Under the direction of Mrs. Shelby Strother, special music for Holmes' baccalaureate and graduation ceremonies will be presented by the John A. Holmes High School Concert Choir.