

## Standing Tall

Chowan and Albemarle hospitals have switched places in percentage of occupancy in the past five years. While the hospital along the Public Parade has enjoyed good health in recent years, the Isle of Pasquotank facility has grown in the number of beds while declining in occupancy.

The above observation is taken from one of the most reliable sources of information on non-profit health care - The Duke Endowment.

Between October 1, 1980, and September 30, 1981, the acute care unit at Chowan Hospital had a 99.3 per cent occupancy rate with 14.4 per cent free days. From the same source of information, Albemarle Hospital had 74.4 per cent occupancy and 21.9 per cent free days.

By comparison, during the same time period five years earlier, Chowan Hospital's occupancy was 74 per cent and Albemarle's rate was 98 per cent. During the period, though, Albemarle added 53 beds, which apparently aren't being utilized.

Also, other area hospitals were losing or just hanging on in the battle of occupancy, this single most important item to solvency in health care. Bertie slipped from 68 per cent to 59 per cent; Washington County did increase from 52.5 per cent to 62.9 per cent (and Tyrrell County's acute facility closed); and Roanoke-Chowan in Ahoskie went up slightly, from 83 per cent to 86.3 per cent.

The successful recruitment of additional physicians and the opening of a 96-bed long term facility (ElderLodge) in a great measure accounts for the better picture at Chowan Hospital. Improved management deserves a considerable pat on the back because the atmosphere of a facility has a lot to do with confidence and credibility.

There has been no erosion of health care manpower in the Isle of Pasquotank, but a lot of patients who once were given first aid along the Public Parade now have more specialized services available, so they are being retained at the initial point of entry.

The growth of Greenville as a more sophisticated health care center has also played a role in the decline in Albemarle Hospital's popularity. Patients once passed through Albemarle enroute to Norfolk. Now patients needing services not available along the Public Parade have a better choice - Greenville, Chapel Hill, or Durham.

All of this merely supports the claim that it takes more than the availability of hospital beds to attract patients. In addition to professionals at all level-skilled hands and minds - atmosphere is important. Sure, the professionals contribute or take away from a health climate of health care; the next most important ingredients are management and community lay support.

People meandering along the Public Parade are fortunate. A healthy mix exists. The Duke Endowment figures don't lie, neither are they easily explained away.

## Welcome CRC

Members of the Coastal Resources Commission and the Coastal Resources Advisory Council's Executive Committee are meandering along the Public Parade this week. Welcome!

The 15-member CRC and 48-member CRAC are performing a valuable public service to North Carolinians. While the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974 deals with 20 counties, the fragile area must be maintained in a manner which best serves all the people.

Opponents to CAMA in the General Assembly in 1974 and practically every year since have attempted unsuccessfully to tag a "no development" label on the measure. At no time have guidelines mandated by the act run contrary to sensible development.

CRC has kept close to the people  
Continued on page 4

## Mayor's Request Prompts Heated Debate

The rift between Mayor Roy L. Harrell and the Town Council continued Tuesday night with James Martin, director of utilities, being the focal point. Mayor Pro Tem Allen Hornthal was critical of the mayor's recent direct request to Martin for a detailed report of the director's daily activities.

While admitting the mayor had a right to such information, Hornthal questioned the motive of such a request. Hornthal, chairman of the Utility Committee, said the mayor's request was in conflict with stated policy and the chain of command outlined in the Town Charter.

In reply to a direct question from Hornthal, the mayor replied: "I wanted the information from Mr. Martin. I still want it and that's my reason for asking for it."

"I assume Mr. Martin is next on your hit list," the councilman said. Mayor Harrell denied the

charge. He said the councilman was reading something into the request which was not intended. When the mayor invited Martin to participate in the discussion, the utilities director said: "No comment at this time."

Mayor Harrell admitted that Martin's job description is available. However, he said it says what Martin is supposed to do. "I want to know what he is doing."

Councilman Gil Burroughs entered the discussion at this point. "I think we have been down this road before," he said. He charged that the council refused to deal with the issue some time ago when the mayor requested detailed activity reports from Gardner. He said he hopes the council will come to grips with the issue soon because there is need to follow a chain in command for smooth operations.

In other business, Town Council

accepted for study the proposed Land Use Plan from the Planning Board. John Ferren of Greenville, planner for the project, gave an overview of the plan. The plan will now be distributed to state and federal agencies for comment.

Ferren complimented members of the Planning Board for their cooperations and detailed study and discussion of the plan, which is required by the Coastal Area Management Act of 1974.

Gardner echoed the remarks. He suggested that Mayor Harrell write members of the planning board, thanking them for their superior work and service to the town.

Hornthal earlier noted that "pigs and parking" constitute a problem at the new softball fields off North Broad Street. Mike Johnson, recreation director, said he and Gardner are looking into the problems.

The transcript of the April 7 meeting of Town Council will not be published as a part of the minutes. Because of the length of the transcript the cost of such publication was considered excessive. A copy will be available at the Municipal Building for the public and copies of the 41 - page transcript can be obtained at cost.

At the suggestion of Mayor Harrell, the Recreation Committee will review an earlier decision, which was approved by the council, to move youth playground equipment from the park on North Oakum Street at Freemason.

Insurance bids were awarded to Twiddy Insurance & Real Estate, the low bidder.

Gardner was instructed to move ahead with extending the sidewalk on North Granville Street to a point at Unit B of Chowan Hospital. The cost is estimated at

between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Final plats for Tom Francis property on Mexico Road were approved.



John C. Brooks

## Safety Awards To Be Presented

N. C. Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks will present the labor department's annual award for outstanding safety achievement to 35 businesses, governmental agencies and service establishments at a dinner in Elizabeth City on June 17.

At the program, cosponsored with the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce, Commissioner Brooks will honor firms from throughout a six-county area.

Brooks will note particularly the achievement of Ricks Laundry & Cleaners Inc., Edenton, which qualified for the department's safety award for the 16th consecutive year.

Other recipients will include Carter's Ink of Edenton, fourth consecutive year; Atlantic Forest Products, Inc., of Edenton, fourth consecutive year; Chowan Veneer Company, Inc., and P. H. Rose Store, both of Edenton, second consecutive year; and The Chowan Herald, Inc., and Tee-Lok Corp., of Edenton, first year.

Qualifiers for the department's 1980 award either maintained a perfect safety record during the calendar year or recorded an occupational injury incidence rate at least 50 per cent below the statewide rate for their particular industry.

The awards dinner is scheduled to begin at 7 P.M. at the Holiday Inn in Elizabeth City.

Presiding will be Larry D. Tucker, first vice chairman of the chamber of commerce and vice president of First Union National Bank of North Carolina, Elizabeth City.

Mary W. Livengood, president of the chamber, will welcome guests.

Rev. Robert B. Poole, minister of Corinth Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, will give the invocation.

The Elizabeth City dinner is the 27th in a series of 30 labor department safety awards presentations scheduled across the state this spring. The safety incentive program began in 1946 as a cooperative effort with the U. S. Department of Labor under the World War II Manpower Act.

Continued on page 4

## THE CHOWAN HERALD

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AWARDS DAY AT HOLMES HIGH — Principal Greg Todd addressed students, faculty and visitors during the annual Awards Day program at John A. Holmes High School last week. Scholarships and awards totaling more than \$10,000 were presented to outstanding students.

## Joint Venture Announced Gardner To Assume Post

L. F. Amburn, Jr., 104 West Gale Street, and W. B. Gardner, 1001 West Queen Street, today announced the formation of AGE Enterprises. Offices will be located at 913 North Broad Street.

Amburn is editor and publisher of The Chowan Herald. Gardner recently resigned as administrator of the Town of Edenton. He will leave the post July 4 after more than 20 years with the municipality.

The joint venture will include health care, development of senior citizen villages, manufacturing of custom vinyl products, paper and screen printing, specialty advertising, corporate identity marketing and real estate development.

Amburn is president of AGE. Gardner is senior vice president and chief operating officer.

## Probable Cause Is Determined

Probable cause was found in Chowan County District Court in the felony case against Edward Louis Coffield. The 18-year-old Negro of Route 3, Edenton, is charged with breaking and entering.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Michael Johnson dismissed a larceny count. Coffield was also charged with injury to real property. Judge Grafton G. Beaman sentenced him to 180 days in the county, suspended upon payment of \$200 fine and costs. Coffield was placed on probation for two years. Notice of appeal was entered.

The following other action was taken during the weekly court session:

Richard Elliott, compliance, order of arrest.

William Russell Smith, no operator's license, \$40 fine and costs.

Ada Leary, worthless check, 10

Continued on page 4

## Awards Day Program Nets Seniors Over \$10,000

The prevalence of scholarships presented and recognition of academic scholarships won during The Awards Day Program at John A. Holmes High School last week signified strong community support for the high academic capabilities of the school's class of '81. Scholarships and awards in excess of ten thousand dollars were presented by presidents and representatives of numerous local organizations and the school in recognition for outstanding scholarship, leadership, citizenship and community service. Cups, certificates and medals honoring students in many other areas were also presented.

The traditional Robing Ceremony, at which time members of the Class of '81 are formally recognized as graduates, was a highlight of the Awards Day Program.

Competitive academic scholarships in the amount of \$400.00, renewable for each of four years, were received by Graham Cox, to pursue his music, and by Martha Gibson, who will attend Meredith College. Sherrod Banks, as the result of oratorical abilities in local, district and State Elks Club competition, has been awarded \$1,650. to attend the college of his choice. He has the possibility of earning \$7000.00 in additional scholarship funds by winning at the upcoming Regional and National competition. Sherrod also received a \$100.00 scholarship in Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA)

## July Fourth Festival Is Slated

The Chowan - Edenton Optimist Club is sponsoring its second Fabulous Fourth of July Festival in downtown Edenton. The festival is for the entire family but major emphasis is placed on children's activities.

In conjunction with the event will be a big Arts and Crafts Festival. It will be located in the Mitchener Building (formerly Rose's) in downtown Edenton.

The Saturday activities—Fourth of July—will begin with a 30-unit parade at 11 A. M. and will end with a bang, according to M. J. McArthur, a club official.

The "bang" will cost \$2,500 and will be provided by the largest aerial fireworks display over the water in North Carolina.

McArthur said the parade will include a military marching band, old cars, new cars, fire engines, clowns, National Guard weaponry, dressed up bicycles, decorated wagons, law enforcement vehicles, the Optimist Club train, commercial business entries, and other historical reminders of our nation's quest for freedom. Anyone interested in participating in the parade should contact Joe Hollowell at 482-4578.

During the day, the public is invited to enjoy horseshoe pitch-

ing, train rides, carnival games, boat rides, watermelon eating contests, hot wheel races, dunking fun machine and others. Some sponsor will receive \$100.

Small children, six and under, will have a golden opportunity to be measured in copper. Also, they will be allowed to seek and keep their find of \$50 in pennies which the Optimist Club will throw into the grass at Colonial Park.

The Chowan - Edenton Optimist Club, while being the chief sponsor, is seeking outside support in these efforts. Financial contributions may be mailed to the club at P.O. Box 1096, Edenton, or given to any Optimist Club member.

Craftsmen, artists and woodworkers from throughout the area are invited to participate in the Arts and Crafts Festival.

The festival will be Friday through Sunday - July 3-5 - Space cost for all three days is \$15.

People with arts and crafts who would like to display in the festival should contact John Mitchener, III, 482-3711, or Lane Kinion, 482-4510 or 482-8788. Those wishing to contact the officials by mail should write Mitchener at 1000 West Queen Street, Edenton, 27932.

Continued on page 4

Sorority competition.

David Jordan received the prestigious Rotary Cup, presented annually to the graduate demonstrating the "highest degree of excellence in all facets of student life" and was awarded a \$500.00 scholarship. David also received a \$500.00 4-H Scholarship, one of twelve offered in the State and one of two out of seventeen counties in the 4-H northeastern district.

Craig Halsey had the unique distinction of receiving a twelve year Perfect Attendance Certificate. Jackie Boyce and Carolyn Stepany received four year Perfect Attendance Certificates. Roses and Hollowell & Blount provided gifts in recognition of these honors.

Other local scholarships and awards ranging in value from \$50.00 to \$500.00 were presented from the following organizations to the following students:

AKA - Susan Leigh, LaVerne McCleave, Darlene Overton, Ronald Stallings and Gwen White; The American Legion Oratorical Award - Sharon Hollowell; BPW scholarships - Karen Evans, Laurie Everson, Stacy Waller and Benita Ward; Chowan Hospital Auxiliary - Eliot Atstupenas and Susan Miller; Chowan-Perquimans EOP scholarship -

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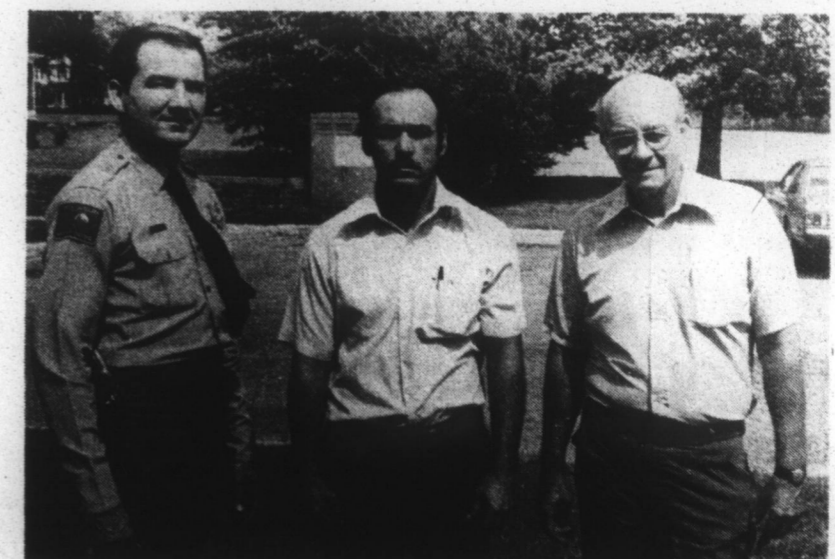
## Meals Available

Edenton-Chowan Schools will serve breakfast and lunch to children attending both the migrant and regular summer school program at Ernest A. Swain Elementary School.

Meals will be served without cost to the children under 18 years of age. All children attending the program will be treated the same.

In operating the program, no discrimination will be made against any child because of race, color, sex or national origin.

Continued on page 4



PREPARING FOR CELEBRATION — The Chowan - Edenton Optimist Club is busy finalizing preparations for Edenton's second annual July 4th celebration. Three of the principal organizers for the event are Mike McArthur, Richard Dixon and Ted Wright, shown above from the left. The celebration will include numerous games, contest and exhibits as well as a parade and a big fireworks display over Edenton Bay.