



Betty Pruden and Jeff Winslow

Public Parade

Personnel Changes

This week we say "farewell" to a veteran member of The Chowan Herald crew. At the same time we welcome two new staff members to meander with us along the Public Parade.

Flynn Surratt has resigned to join the staff of a local radio station. The newcomers are Betty Dixon Pruden and Jeff Winslow.

Although it very well could take two - or maybe three or four - people to fill Flynn's shoes, we have been a little tardy in getting the crew back to full complement. This is where Betty and Jeff come in.

Flynn has clocked more than 10 years at The Herald. During that time he has done about everything but sign the payroll checks. Honestly, he is that versatile.

Flynn had radio experience while in high school and has moonlighted on the air waves from time to time since he came to The Herald. He leaves with our very best wishes.

Betty Pruden joined the staff some six weeks ago. While her primary responsibility will be in advertising, Betty has already proven to be quick to adapt to composition and other functions in the shop.

Jeff Winslow will be a general assignment reporter-photographer. Like everyone else around here he too will be called on to work in sales, composition, printing and mailing. He is now in his second week of employment and has a lot of enthusiasm and talent.

Mr. Commander

Another signal honor has come to Northeastern North Carolina. It is the selection of E. C. Toppin as commander of the American Legion in Tar Heelia. He becomes the first person from this entire section of the state to garner such a lofty position.

We want to be among the first along the Public Parade to salute E. C. and wish for him a fruitful term. There is nothing more rewarding than to be in a position of leadership in an organization like the American Legion. As in any group there is a built in hazard of the over zealous, the person who would mar the image to obtain personal gain. Not so with the new commander.

E. C. has more than paid his dues along the Public Parade and throughout the state. He has been in the thick of the action, always putting his community above himself. He has given tirelessly of his time, talents and energy to make sure he put in many times over what he derived in personal satisfaction for seeing that a job is well done.

The new commander has vision. He can see the big picture, and he will.

Mr. Commander, we salute you. You have done your family, friends and the entire community proud by being recognized with this signal honor, a honor richly deserved.

Bailing Out

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has done Chowan County commissioners one better in the belt tightening process. The 1981-82 school budget is \$9,545 less

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U. S. Industries Closes Down Local Fiberform Boat Plant

The Fiberform boat manufacturing plant on Albemarle Sound has shut down operations. The plant is the victim of a recent decision by U. S. Industries, Inc., to divest itself of 14 divisions and subsidiaries.

An announcement appeared June 22 in The Wall Street Journal that USI was selling off unprofitable operations. It was reported that the divisions and subsidiaries being dumped had sales of about \$230-million in 1980, equal to about 20 per cent of total USI sales of \$1.14-billion. However, the units accounted for some \$4.5-million in losses.

Eugene Evans, Fiberform plant manager, said he knew nothing more about the status of things

Toppin Is Elected State Commander

E. C. Toppin of Edenton was elected commander of the American Legion in North Carolina at a recent conference and rolled up 2,000 miles of travel in the first week of his administration. Thousands of more miles are ahead as he leads the 45,000-member organization. There are 343 posts throughout the state.

Toppin was elected without opposition at the conference in Raleigh which was the best attended of any such gathering in recent history. He had campaigned throughout the state and hints of possible opposition failed to develop.

In an interview Monday afternoon, Toppin said emphasis is being placed on revitalization of small posts with potential for growth. "We want to key in on problem posts who are not actively participating in their community," he continued.

Also, he wants to re-emphasize the founding principle of American Legion which is rehabilitation. "When times get good people tend to forget those who need help," he said.

The veterans need a strong voice in the General Assembly and in Washington, he said. "We will push a strong legislative program to insure that cuts in present programs, as well as lack of funding for new projects, are absolutely necessary."

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Cmdr. E. C. Toppin

Town Employees Honored By Council

The Town of Edenton's nearly \$7-million budget for fiscal 1981-82 took second billing Monday night as members of the Town Council paid tribute to W. B. Gardner, administrator, who has resigned to enter private business.

Councilman Allen Hornthal, mayor pro tem, read an eloquently worded resolution which was signed by the six council members. Councilman W. H. Hollowell, Jr., presented Gardner with a handsome wall plaque featuring a

clock. Special note was made that the expense of the items was borne by private donations, not tax funds.

Gardner was visibly shaken by the special recognition and responded with a simply: "Thank you very much."

Mrs. Betsy King, veteran Finance Officer, was also recognized. Her resignation was accepted with "deep" regret. Hornthal noted that she contributed greatly to the accomplishment's noted in the resolution of appreciation given Gardner.

Gardner, who rounded out 20 years as town administrator in March, has resigned to become a partner in AGEEnterprises. He is senior vice president and chief operating officer of the multi-faceted company. Mrs. King assumes the position of administrative assistant with AGE.

Mayor Roy L. Harrell, who sparred with Gardner and the Town Council during most of his 10 year tenure in politics, moved into "the purpose of the meeting" and opened the public hearing on the budget.

When there was no response from some 20 friends of Gardner in the audience, Mayor Harrell noted that the budget required no increase in the 79-cent tax rate. He said he spoke for the entire council in being "extremely proud" of the accomplishments during the past year and yet "hold the tax rate."

Councilman Gil Burroughs blocked clear sailing on the budget when he pled for the council during the next year to "sit down and take to heart what I keep pointing out" as "gross inequities" in funding for the Recreation Department.

Burroughs pointed out that of a total \$115,000 budget Chowan County contributed but \$28,000. "The citizens of the municipality paid \$7 for each \$1 paid by county residents for a truly countywide program," he said, adding that the residents who reside outside



COUNCIL HONORS EMPLOYEES — Two veterans of public service, Mrs. Betsy King, finance officer, and administrator W. B. Gardner, drew recognition from the Town Council, Tuesday night at a special meeting. Mrs. King and Gardner are shown above second and third from the left with councilman Allen Hornthal, left, and W. H. Hollowell, Jr., right.

Edenton make up more than 50 per cent of participation.

The councilman said his decision to "register a protest" did not say he isn't in favor of recreation. "I'm for recreation," he said. "I am for it getting bigger and better." While he said the budget reflects a tradition "that doesn't make it right."

Hornthal, chairman of the Recreation Committee, agreed with the "soundness" of Burroughs' logic. He called it a

July Fourth Holiday Schedule Set

With the Fourth of July being on Saturday and a big Optimist Club celebration on tap there is no set pattern for business activities.

Financial institutions will be closed Monday. The Edenton Municipal Building will also be closed Monday, while Chowan County offices will be closed Friday, as will federal offices.

Postmaster James M. Bond said the U. S. Postal Service will operate on a normal holiday schedule Saturday in observance of Independence Day. No

perplexing problem and agreed that continued efforts should be at obtaining a more equitable distribution of the load in financing recreation.

The General Fund of the next year is \$1.3-million while the Electric Fund exceeds \$4.3-million. The Capital Account is \$595,000 the same as this year. The budget calls for \$280,482 to come from the Electric Fund and \$206.74 from surplus to maintain the 79-cent tax rate per \$100 in property valuation.

residential, business, or rural delivery will be provided. The customer service windows will be closed.

Jerry Hendee, executive vice president of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, said there is no general agreement from the merchants in the area on holiday closings.

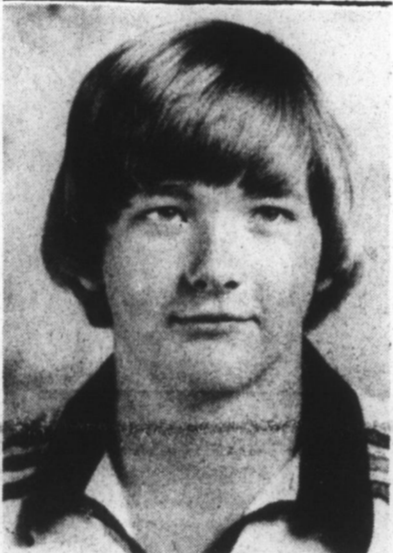
The Chowan Herald will be closed Friday but the newspaper will be printed on regular schedule next week.

regarding the company other than what appeared in the financial newspaper.

Fiberform purchased the plant near Edenton Municipal Airport from Cris Craft. Fiberglass pleasure boats were the top of Fiberform's line manufactured at the local plant.

An announcement by USI stated that the company will put added emphasis on energy equipment manufacturing, specialty building materials, industrial equipment, furniture and furnishings.

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John Michael White

Incident Results In Youth Fatality

A popular rising junior at John A. Holmes High School drowned Saturday afternoon in the Albemarle Sound. John Michael White, 16, Route 2, Cape Colony, apparently died instantly from a broken neck when he jumped from a rope swing into shallow water.

He became the first drowning victim in Chowan County since August, 1978, when a swimmer lost his life at Sandy Point Beach.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Glenn Perry investigated the accident Saturday afternoon and found no evidence of foul play. An autopsy was performed at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

Deputy Perry said his investigation showed that the young man was last seen around 12-noon at the Cape Colony Park. His body was discovered about 3 P.M. by a friend who was swinging from the same rope.

The body was about 100 feet from shore in four-foot water.

Ernest McDaniels, Grant McDonald, David Rea and George Ross had seen the victim swing on the rope and drop into the water. When young White came to shore the four-boys left the scene and the victim remained. The young men said there was nothing unusual about the activity.

Mr. White was born November 19, 1964, son of Mrs. Shirley Smith White and the late Johnny F. White. He was a native of Hertford County but had spent most of his life in Chowan County.

He was a member of the John A. Holmes High School "Marching Aces" band and was a member of the Chess Club. He was a member of Cape Colony Church of Christ where he served as Sunday School secretary.

In addition to his mother, sur-

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TRANSFER STATION OPENS — Dedication of the Town of Edenton's new \$325,000 solid waste transfer station was held last Friday on Hicks Street. Mayor Roy L. Harrell is shown cutting the ribbon at the facility. Those on hand for the brief ceremony included members of the Town Council and Chowan County commissioners as well as administrator W. B. Gardner and county manager Cliff Copeland. Jerry Petock, sales representative for Sanco Corp., is shown at far left. Behind Mayor Harrell is Ken Crutchfield, Sanco Corp., president. In bottom photo, a tractor and 65 cubic yard trailer is shown waiting beside the station. The trailer will do the work of four packer trucks in hauling waste to the county landfill.



Officers Elected

C. B. Smith was recently installed as president of Edenton Lions Club. Other new officers for 1981-82 include:

Earl Britton, first vice president; Erwin Griffin, second vice president; Tom Cross, third vice president; Ben Riddick, lion tamer; and Ben Rinehart, tail twister.

Directors for two years are: John Guard and J. D. Parrish; and for one year: Bill Myers and Walter Noneman.

J. Clarence Leary is Song leader; Ralph Outlaw is treasurer and Arthur F. Beeler is secretary. Ken Stalls is the local representative to the Mobile Eye Unit Committee.