

Wise Decision

Court buffs who settled in Monday along the Public Parade for a retrial of felony charges against a Dare County official were surprised. District Attorney Tom Watts of the Isle of Pasquotank and Charles S. Ferring's attorney agreed on conditions for a guilty plea.

Mr. Fearing will certainly benefit from the plea bargaining. So will the people of North Carolina.

Mr. Fearing along with his cousin and an ex-deputy sheriff were convicted in the 1979 death of Cloise H. Creef, an elderly pedestrian. The defendant spent 145 days in confinement before he was released while pending appeal to the higher courts. The N. C. Supreme Court ordered a new trial for Mr. Fearing, finding certain errors charged to Judge James Strickland of Onslow County.

In an announcement Monday, Dist. Atty. Watts said: "It appears that a full-blown second jury in this complex matter, involving an extensive and expensive outlay of judicial, prosecution and law enforcement resources, would not result in substantial additional punishment at best."

We agree with the astute prosecutor. While plea bargaining at times to be grossly overused, it is a tool which can be used to extract the best out of a bad situation. We are quite comfortable with the plea bargaining tool in the hands of this district attorney.

Judge Frank Brown of Rocky Mount has postponed sentencing the defendant until the other two men charged in the offense are given a new trial, also ordered by the courts.

Mr. Fearing has already suffered considerably. At best he could be confined for an additional 60 to 90 days. Furthermore, he earlier reached a financial settlement with the victim's family. He has also spent untold thousands of dollars in his defense.

Dist. Atty. Watts leveled with the victim's family and law enforcement officers before agreeing to accept a plea from Mr. Fearing. While emotion is high in such proceedings, it is evident that stark reality prevailed.

Call your next case, Mr. District Attorney!



Anita Tarkington

Mrs. Tarkington Is Merchant Of Month

Editor's Note: In an effort to acknowledge the outstanding background qualifications of so many of Edenton's merchants, the Herald began a series in January featuring a merchant each month. For February, the Herald is proud to announce the selection of Anita Tarkington of Tarkington's as our Merchant of the Month.

Anita Tarkington, a native of Warren County, first came to Edenton in 1941. She was the bus terminal manager and her husband, Raymond Tarkington, worked with Nationwide Insurance. Her husband soon received a promotion to District Manager and with it came a relocation to Henderson County. They returned to Edenton in 1949, this time to stay.

Mrs. Tarkington, a professional milliner and designer, opened a millinery shop during 1949. On Jan

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'People Have No Input'

Hornthal Resigns Council Seat Following Debate On Refund

Tuesday night's Town Council meeting can aptly be described by an old captain's saying, "Stormy weather ahead!" A recommendation made by the Utility Committee, concerning refunds for Edenton's electrical customers, began a heated discussion and played a major part in the resignation of one of the councilmen.

The meeting began quietly when called to order by Mayor Roy L. Harrell and, following the approval of the last meeting's minutes, the Administrative Report was heard.

Council members were informed that the Town has received notification that the deed to the old armory will be presented to the Council by Colonel McPhaul, Director of Facilities for the N. C.

National Guard, at the Council's meeting on March 9.

The DOT has scheduled improvement of the turning radius at the intersection of East Freemason Street and N. Broad Street.

It was also noted that the Town of Edenton has been named as a Tree City USA for 1981. In relation to this subject, Herman Terry, State Forester, will be conducting a tree grooming seminar in Edenton on March 9.

The Finance Committee Report came next. The Council passed the committee recommendation that the Town of Edenton's Audit for Fiscal Year 1980-81 be approved.

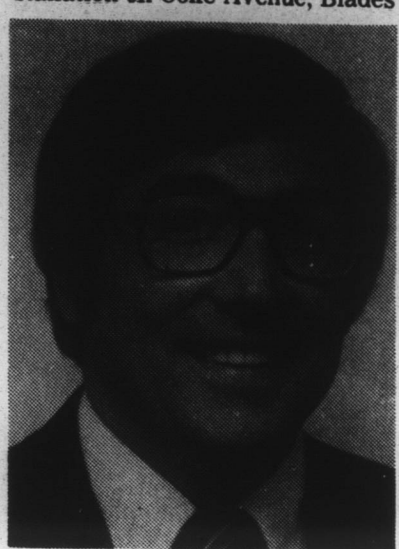
The Finance Committee's next recommendation that lighting not be installed on the Edenton directional signs located at the

U.S. 17 and N.C. 32 interchange was also approved. The rationale for this recommendation is that the N.C. Dept. of Transportation has estimated the cost of installation of the lighting at \$2,700 per sign. In addition, the signs are currently painted with reflective paint, making them visible to nighttime motorists.

The Finance Committee's final recommendation that the Council honor the bid for a new sewer rodder was also passed.

And then came the Utility Committee Report. All started quietly enough with their recommendation that the Council adopt a resolution thanking the District Health Department for its assistance to the Town in documenting to the Division of Environmental Management a

need for sanitary sewer installation on Coke Avenue, Blades

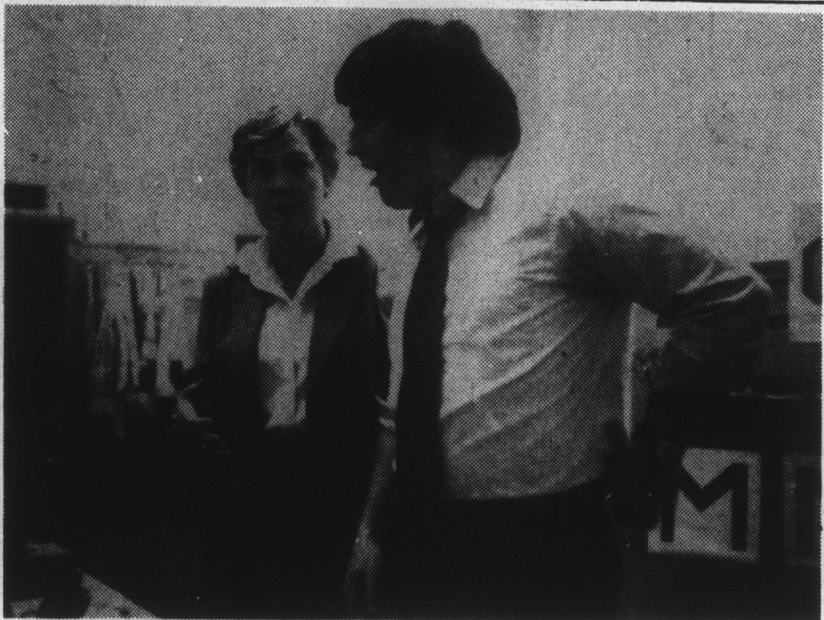


Dr. Allen Hornthal
Street, Old Hertford Road and U. S. 17 North. This was passed by

the Council unanimously.

The Utility Committee's next recommendation was not as well received. They recommended that the Council approve a refund of \$50 to each residential customer on Edenton's electrical system as of Feb. 1, 1982. With approximately 2,584 residential customers, this would result in a total refund of approximately \$129,200. This would be deducted from the refund that Edenton received from Vepco totaling \$474,492.61. This would leave \$155,000 of the refund to be utilized for implementation of a SCADA System which would provide more efficient load management. The remaining \$190,292.61 would be utilized for upgrading the Town's sewer

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SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE A HUGE SUCCESS — The Modern Music Master's reception for Conductor James Ogle and the four orchestra members who worked with band students at Holmes School, gave Mrs. Shelby Strother, left and the conductor, right, another chance to discuss the upcoming evening performance.

Symphony Is Thrilled By Enthusiasm Of Audience

Praise was lavish and multi-directional following Chowan County's recent visit by the North Carolina Symphony. The Chowan County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony, formed under the auspices of Edenton-Chowan Schools Community Education program feels that this first annual effort was successful because it totally involved the community. School students, local choral groups and residents all benefitted.

Conductor James Ogle was most enthusiastic about the response of the community and long time residents of the community were heard to say that this was the largest turn out for a performance of this sort in recent memory. One orchestra member commented that in his nine years of travelling with the North Carolina Symphony, this was only the second time, in a small town, that they had played to a full house.

The crowd of over 800 obviously enjoyed the evening, and their enjoyment was mirrored by that of the musicians. Ogle credited the sincere response of the crowd, shown by the spontaneous burst of applause upon his announcement of an encore of music from Oklahoma, with prompting the best rendition of the medley they had ever done.

The reception hosted by the Chowan Arts Council following the performance provided an opportunity for the performers and

Phone Company Requests Update

ELIZABETH CITY— How's your present listing in the telephone directory?

If you want it changed or want to add another listing for someone else in the family, you should call the telephone business office by February 19, 1982.

Terry F. Daniels, Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company manager here, says that's when preparation of the new Albemarle Area directory will be completed.

He says the new directory is now scheduled to be delivered in early May.

the audience to meet and share their enthusiasm.

Everyone who bought advance
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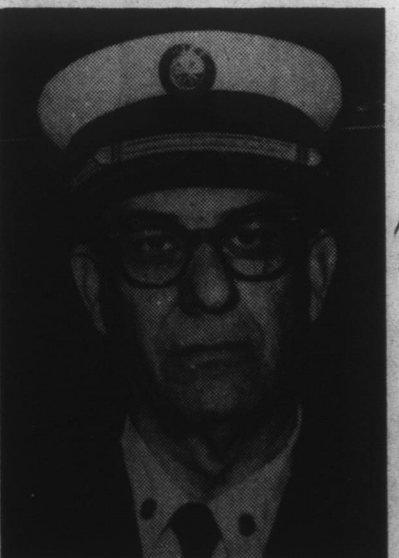
Parks Tenders His Resignation

Luther C. Parks completed 41 years Saturday as a member of Edenton Fire Department. The day before he turned in his resignation as chief, a position he has held since July 1, 1970.

Chief Parks, in a letter to Samuel W. Noble, Jr., town administrator, gave "personal reasons and for the best interest of my health" as factors in arriving at the decision. While his official resignation called for retirement on March 5, Chief Parks agreed to Noble's request that he remain with the department until the end of the fiscal year — the exact date being June 25, the last pay period of the year.

The veteran chief's decision caused shock waves throughout the community. He was not saying anything beyond his written comments for public consumption, while privately he said the departure would be like a "divorce" for him. However, he admitted to his years of serving providing the "honor (he) will cherish for the remainder of (his) life."

Chief Parks said he agonized over the decision for weeks. He is, therefore, confident the decision is the best one for this time and indicated it is final.



Chief Luther C. Parks

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Change Of Direction For Schools Is Approved

The School Board went on record Monday night as approving the change in the future direction of a high school building. Previously on record as working to build a new high school, the Board has found that its purposes could better be served by new construction, renovation and improvements at John A. Holmes High School. This decision has resulted from an extensive long range plan study which the Board and teachers have been conducting over the past year.

Fourth through eighth grade students in Edenton-Chowan Schools will enjoy the services of a visual artist for the remaining eighteen weeks in the school year. Beginning February 15 services will be made available through a grant approved by the North Carolina Arts Council's Artist-In-The Schools Program, supported by the National Endowment for

the arts.

Prior to their acceptance of the program and the artist to be employed, Maxine Britt, Director of Instruction, explained to School Board members at Monday night's meeting the basics of the project, which will require \$3,600.00 matching local funds.

Tom Bradford, a recognized artist and veteran in the Artist-in-Schools and Visiting Artist field, will work side-by-side with students at Chowan Junior High, Swain and White Oak Schools. With Chowan as the base school, Bradford will work with small and large groups of students three days each week. One and one half days will be spent at Swain and a half day each week will be devoted to White Oak students.

Since art instruction for this age student was discontinued due to lack of funds this fall, Mrs. Britt felt the school system fortunate at being able to provide additional

art exposure to students with such little expenditure of local funds.

The Board also moved to receive a \$9,000.00 ESEA Title IV-C Adaptor Grant approved for the system by the State Board of Education. The thrust of the social studies instruction project will be to increase student knowledge and involvement in the political process at local, state and national levels. Students in social studies classes in grades seven through

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Funds Contributed For Buying Gifts

Funds were recently contributed by the Edenton Jaycettes to the Chowan Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility for use in purchasing departure gifts when patients are discharged from the facility.

The suggestion of this gift originated with the Resident's Council, which is composed of patient representatives from Units B and C. The Council is a function of the SNF Social Services Department with Keith Renner, Social Worker, and April Lane, Social Work Consultant, serving as advisors to the group. Functions of the Council include promotion of better relations between staff and residents, expression of grievances, and suggestions in the overall program for residents.

The Council has set the criteria that a gift be presented to patients who have been in the facility for a minimum of six months and are being discharged to go home or being transferred to another facility.

Purchase of the departure gifts is handled by Jacqueline Ricks, Activity Director at the Skilled Nursing Facility.

Fearing Enters Guilty Plea

Charles S. Fearing convicted in 1979 for hit and run and death by motor vehicle of an 87-year-old man pleaded guilty to hit and run resulting in personal injury in a retrial Monday at Chowan County Superior Court.

The former Dare County Democratic Party Chairman was to be retried on a ruling by the N.C. Supreme Court on hit and run. The higher courts upheld the jury's ruling on death by motor vehicle.

Fearing agreed to candidly discuss the events of this crime with the district attorney and investigating officers in exchange for a lighter sentence.

Fearing admitted to charges of hit and run and death by motor

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EDENTON JAYCETTES CONTRIBUTE FUNDS — The Chowan Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility recently received funds from the Edenton Jaycettes for purchasing departure gifts for patients discharged from the facility. Claire Mills, left, President of the Edenton Jaycettes, presents a check to Jacqueline Ricks, the Activity Director at Chowan Hospital's SNF.

Balloon Day Set

Balloon Day sales, sponsored by the Chowan County Heart Association, will begin this Saturday at 10 A.M. Bruce League and the Edenton Baptist youth will be in charge of the sales. They will be selling balloons at TG&Y, downtown Edenton, and other different areas throughout the day. All proceeds will go to the Heart Fund.