

Cause For Alarm

The Albemarle Sound Bridge is a vital link between Chowan and Washington counties. More than that, it is important to the social and economic welfare of North-eastern North Carolina.

At the age of 45 years, the lengthy span has become dangerous to the motoring public. The poor structural condition of the bridge is cause for alarm.

Bridges are rated on a scale of one to 100. Those passageways which are falling in are on the low end, while newly constructed ones rank at the top. Where does the Albemarle Sound Bridge rank? Four! Yes, four; and if this fact isn't cause for alarm nothing is along the Public Parade.

The State Department of Transportation has been planning to replace the 18,200-foot span for a number of years. Their efforts were increased after a hard freeze in 1977 damaged some 150 pilings. More recent surveys indicated continuing deterioration and rotting of the pilings.

In 1980 it was estimated that the remaining life of the bridge would be five years, which is two and one-half years from now. If the DOT had the \$41-million (it was \$28-million a while back) replacement cost in hand today, it is doubtful that the structure could be replaced by 1985.

The kicker lies in the fact that DOT doesn't have the money. The bridge has had a top DOT priority for federal funds for some time. But in recent years the Federal Bridge Replacement Discretionary Fund has not been replenished often enough. In fact, last year Congress appropriated only \$150-million to this fund. It would take 27 per cent of this amount to replace the Albemarle Sound Bridge alone.

Chowan County commissioners, working with DOT and Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, is launching a long overdue campaign to seek public support for the replacement project. As much documentation as possible is needed, and certainly a factual and emotional case can be made, to present to the Congressional delegation.

While leadership for the project must come from county and business officials, everyone meandering along the Public Parade has an interest in this project. We must all do our share. One way is to write, in your own words, how you feel the community depends on the bridge; how it affects your life; how it provides the vital link needed in the Albemarle. Such citizen testimony weighs heavily in Congressional quarters. The letter should be sent to Cliff Copeland, county manager, who is coordinating the efforts.

Because of the seriousness of the situation, no stone should be left unturned in garnering a successful campaign. Not the least of which is the fact that President Reagan carried Rocky Hock Precinct in 1980, which was in itself a cause for alarm.

Business Notes

Two business along the Public Parade have made good news recently. They are: Bank of North Carolina, N.A., and Food Town Stores, Inc.

The stockholders of BNC recently overwhelmingly approved a merger with N.C. National Bank, the Charlotte based financial institution which is a giant in the industry. The date of the transfer has not been set.

But something which was set recently was BNC's second quarter income. Compared with the same period of 1981, the income increase was 97 per cent. Improved earnings reflect continued progress towards attaining an earnings level consistent with other bank holding companies of its size.

At the same time, Food Town, which has a store in Edenton Village Shopping Center on North Broad Street, was ranked 44th in

Continued On Page 4

Volume XLVII - No. 27

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, July 15, 1982

Single Copies 25 Cents

Council Hears Plans For "Slum" Area Renovations

A \$748,000 renovation to take place in the "slums" located on Albemarle Street was discussed in one of two public hearings Tuesday night, highlighting the July session of the Town Council meeting.

The spokesman for H.U.D. at the meeting said "the land would be cleared then sold to a developer to construct the facilities in a proper and decent manner. He said there would be a relocation assistance for families living in

the area.

"We are going to remove all delapidated buildings and blighting and unsightly influences" he said.

Families having to relocate will receive \$2,000 and probably an

\$8,000 loan, he said. If there are inhabitants unwilling to relocate, it was said that the State could force them to do so. This is the third attempt on the Block Grant application.

Of the total cost, \$68,000 would be funded by the State, \$12,000 would come from resale of the land and they are asking the government to carry out the remaining \$688,000.

A \$7.4 million renovation at the County airport was discussed in the second hearing.

The Council accepted a proposal by Buck Kennedy of L.E. Wooten and Co. for enlarging the water pumping capacity at the County Airport, which would also call for renovations in the electrical system.

There are a couple of homes located near the renovation sight. According to Kennedy there could be minor conflicts with the home owners.

The renovation would mean a cost increase in sewer rates. The budget for sewer would also increase from \$225,000 annually to \$325,000 funded from Fiscal Year 1982 funds.

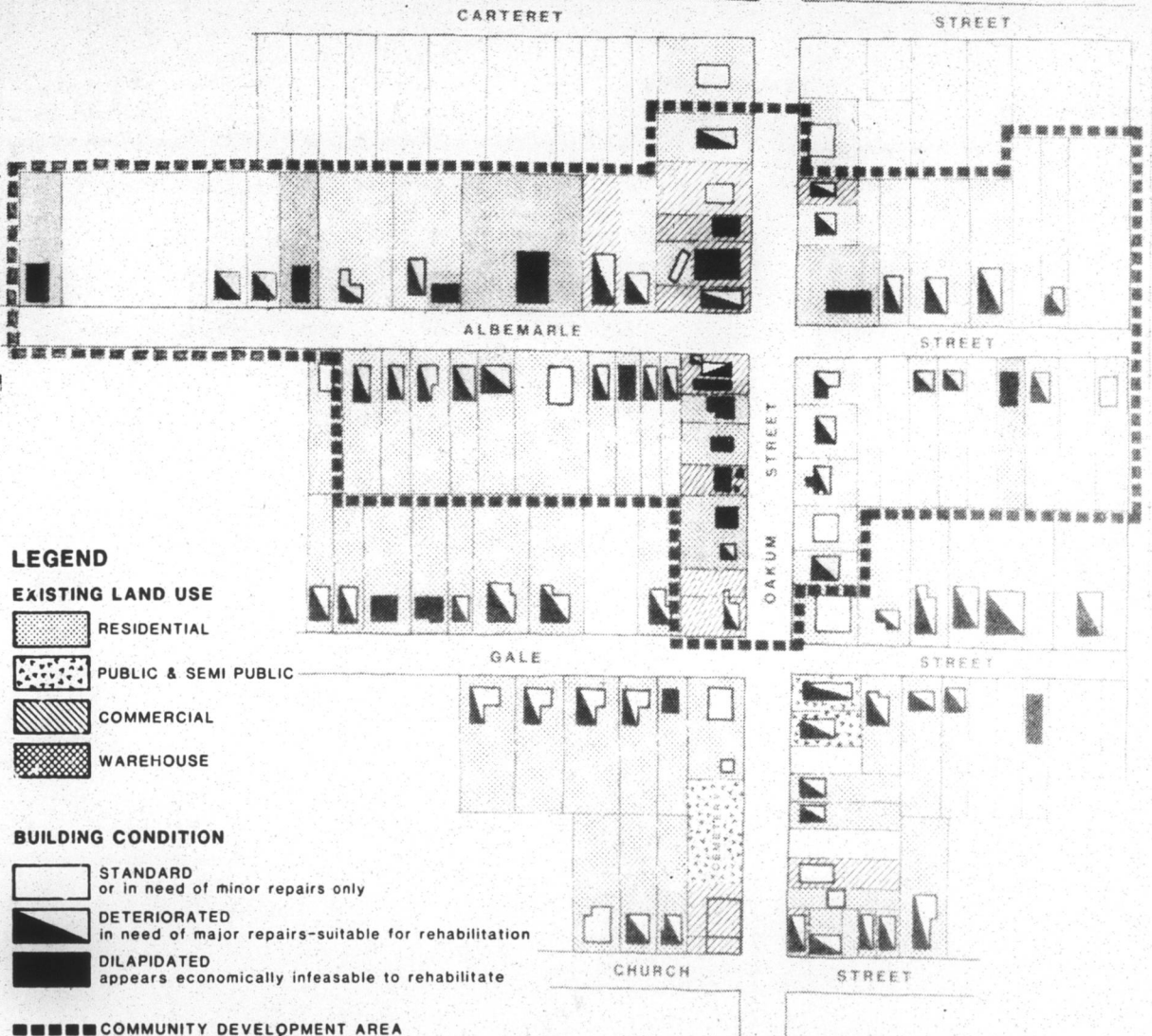
The construction would begin in 1983 and require 15 to 18 months. According to reports the Environmental Protection Agency would fund 85 per cent of the estimated cost while State and local would fund 7.5 per cent each.

In other business the Council: -placed a Ford bus and a Ford car up for auction.

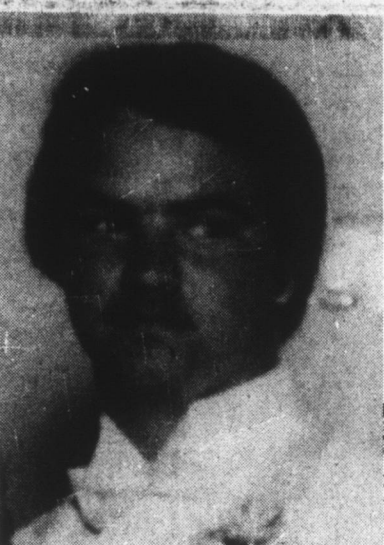
-adopted a resolution in support of the Chowan County River Bridge.

-granted Rowson Funeral Home permission to make a 16 x 16 foot addition to his building.

-adopted a resolution of appreciation for L.C. Parks who retired as Fire Chief.



HOUSING DEVELOPMENT—Shown above is the concentrated area that could undergo renovation in Edenton if a Housing Development Block Grant application is accepted. The plans were presented by a spokesman for HUD at the Town Council meeting Tuesday night. According to the spokesman about 60 to 70 applications will be accepted out of more than hundreds submitted.



Charles Scott Williams

Hertford Man Accident Victim

Tragedy reared its ugly head in the small town of Hertford, N.C. last Saturday when a 19 year old Hertford resident was struck by a Norfolk Southern Railway train.

Charles Scott Williams, an honor student at College of The Albemarle, was fatally injured at 3:45 P.M. when he attempted to cross the train tracks at West Railroad and Grubb streets in the path of an oncoming freight train.

Lindell Allan Harris, engineer on the Norfolk bound train, said he saw Williams driving parallel to the tracks on Railroad St. toward the intersection and attempted to cross in front of the locomotive. Harris sounded a warning blast and said the car seemingly stalled. The train was going approximately 20 MPH at the time of the collision.

According to Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, who investigated the accident, the train pushed the car about a half mile down the railroad tracks over the Perquimans River. The Hertford Volunteer Rescue Squad had to use a small boat to receive the victim's body once it was taken

Continued On Page 4

Symphony Chapter Is Conducting Fund Drive

The Chowan County chapter of the North Carolina Symphony is currently conducting its annual membership drive, and has announced some exciting differences from last year's drive. In 1981, membership was automatic with the purchase of a symphony concert ticket. For the 1982-1983 season, the two are separate and the benefits are greatly increased.

Bloodmobile To Visit Tues.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Edenton next Tuesday (July 20) at the Chowan Hospital. Sponsored by the Edenton Jaycees, the Bloodmobile's goal is 150 pints.

According to Bruce Wackelin, Chairman of the Bloodmobile, "Blood collection is down this summer. We need everyone to come out and donate. In order to get our goal of 150 pints of blood, we need around 175-180 possible donors."

In the summer months, blood collections are down while the blood usage is up. Many hospitals have to postpone elective surgery because of the lack of certain types of blood. Especially needed are type O and type B blood.

Town and County employees also have a reason to donate. Their respective employers are doing battle to see who has the most donors. The one with the highest donation rate receives a traveling trophy until the next Bloodmobile. The Town and County are currently tied with a score of two.

The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary will be providing the canteen for the Bloodmobile. Appointments for donations can be made by calling Bruce Wackelin at 482-2792 or 482-7435.

The Edenton Jaycees goal is to put back in the hospital all the blood that is taken out. Let's help make the goal successful.

This year, in a joint effort with the gift solicitations committee, the symphony is offering the opportunity to support their work and reap the benefits thereof to local businesses and organizations. This week, letters were sent to key businesses in the area asking them to support the resolution to bring live symphony music to the school children of Chowan County. By making a pledge of \$20 or more, any interested individual, family, business or organization will receive these exclusive benefits:

Individual (\$20 - Family (\$35); Statewide schedule including programs. Newsletter. Invitation to Annual Meeting. Advance notice of special events. Listing in annual "Honor Roll of Contributors."

Donor (\$50 - \$99): All of the above, plus: Invitation to special

regional reception to meet conductor and/or guest soloist. Listing in local concert program. Invitation to dress-rehearsal of "Nutcracker."

Supporter (\$100 - \$249): All of the above, plus: Invitation to open rehearsals of the N.C. Symphony.

Sponsor (\$250 - \$499): All of the above, plus: Invitation to travel once a year as a group to a special North Carolina Symphony concert and reception.

Patron (\$500 - \$999): All of the above, plus: A special full symphony educational concert and demonstration for Patrons, Benefactors, and all North Carolina State Legislators.

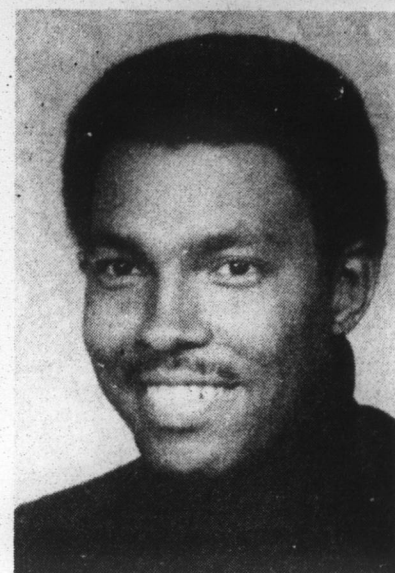
Benefactor (\$1,000 plus): All of the above, plus: Listing in all programs statewide.

Several local organizations have already pledged financial support

Continued On Page 4



CHOWAN ARTS COUNCIL MAKES DONATION—Tom Phillips, past president of the Chowan Arts Council, hands Mary Rhea Gardner, president of the Edenton Chapter of the N.C. Symphony, a check in the amount of \$1,000. The donation to the symphony organization from the Arts Council will greatly help out.



Donald G. Pierce
...first officer of
ill-fated jet

First Officer Is Crash Victim

By Richard Williams

It has been almost a week since a Pan American World Airways jetliner crashed in New Orleans, killing 153 people. But the mourning of Wilbur and Christine Pierce continues.

Their son, Donald Gerard Pierce, was a first officer on the Boeing 727 plane that plunged to the ground in a residential area Friday shortly after takeoff from the New Orleans International Airport.

Pierce, 32, who was flying the airplane, was listed among the 153 killed; all 145 people aboard the jet and at least eight on the ground.

It was the second-worst U.S. Airline disaster.

The Pan-Am jet plunged into the suburban Kenner neighborhood less than two minutes after it lifted off in a thunderstorm. They were on their way to Las Vegas, Nev., and then to San Diego.

After watching the crash on T.V.

Continued On Page 4

\$40-Million Funds Get Approval

FONTANA DAM—The N.C. Board of Transportation, at its monthly meeting here, approved \$40-million on a county-by-county basis for secondary road construction improvements. This appropriation was allocated by the 1982 General Assembly.

In February the board approved \$10-million from 1977 bond funds for secondary road improvements. That allocation represented the last of the bond monies designated for secondary roads. Total funding for improvements to secondary roads statewide for this calendar year (1982) is approximately \$50-million.

According to State Transportation Secretary William R. Roberson Jr., "Without the 1981 General Assembly's passage of Governor Jim Hunt's 'Good Roads' program, the \$40-million in funding to improve our secondary roads system would not have been available. We are, indeed, appreciative of the General Assembly's decision, enabling us to improve and maintain an all-weather secondary road network."

The amount of funding for each county is determined by a formula established by the state legislature. According to the formula, every county receives a percentage of the total funds based on the unpaved secondary roads in the county in relationship to the total mileage of unpaved secondary roads in the state.

Board members have been meeting with the 100 county boards of commissioners in public meetings across the state to review and approve projects to utilize these funds.

According to Secretary Roberson as of January 1, 1982,

Continued On Page 4

Bloodmobile To Visit - Tuesday From Noon To 6 P.M., Chowan Hospital. Goal: 150 Pints