

## Public Parade

### Overdoing DUI

Being against a strong effort to rid the highways of the drinking driver is about as unpopular as opposition to the American flag, motherhood and apple pie. While we think the drinking driver doesn't give the other fellow a fair chance, we are becoming somewhat concerned about the possibility of an overkill.

It has always been known that Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., doesn't like Republicans. If you listened to his TV address Monday night or read about it in the media, you quickly learned that the governor's dislike for the drunk driver is on par with his feelings about the GOP.

That was strong language he used; language probably overdue. He called on citizens to assist in the passage of a plan to give drunken drivers "swift, sure and severe punishment."

He later said: "The way our system deals with the drunk driver makes that crime almost a form of socially accepted murder."

"We should have one law for everybody—no matter who they are, no matter what they do, no matter who they know, no matter how well-off they are," he added.

Right on, Governor! The problem comes down in the fine print when drastic changes would be made in existing laws that would over simplify the way things go on in court.

Sometimes the worst thing to happen is "reform". There was state government reform back in the administration of Gov. Bob Scott which nearly bankrupted the state. There was court reform which has added a paper jungle to our court offices. And the latest item in the name of "reform" was a fair sentencing act which ties judges in knots, restricting them from the application of the doctrine of common sense and logic.

Gov. Hunt said in his address that he hoped the media would publish the names of people convicted of drunk driving. We do this along the Public Parade, not selectively, but everyone whose name appears on the court docket—irregardless of the charge—appears in the court news.

As we stated in a column here a couple of weeks ago, motor vehicles—with a nut or a drunk behind the wheel—is a deadly weapon. Our only caution here is not to get so emotional with trying to cure a problem that we don't create one just as bad, if not worse.

### The Bridge

Bridges have been pretty much on the minds lately of those who meander along the Public Parade. There is one which stands out, though, it being Albemarle Sound Bridge which connects Chowan and Washington counties.

This is a good time for bridges. The State Department of Transportation called someone's bluff in the federal bureaucracy and the Coin-jock bridge will become a reality.

A barge struck the Umstead Bridge connecting the Outer Banks and mainland in the County of Dare. Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., found emergency money to get workmen on the job and Sen. Jesse Helms and Rep. Walter B. Jones found federal dollars to aid the project. Dollars talked and since the contractor had a healthy incentive to finish ahead of schedule he worked extra crews, got the bridge open a full 30 days ahead of schedule and went back to Virginia with his pockets filled with extra bucks.

But now comes the bridge which means the most to us along the Public Parade. The Albemarle Sound Bridge is in bad need of repair. And while Sen. Helms filibustered in Washington against the five-cent gasoline tax increase which will provide some of the money to replace the old structure, he was fair. He had the entire text of a study which pointed out the horrible condition of the structure entered into the Congressional

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## ElderLodge To Construct Addition To Its Facility

A \$1.2-million addition to the ElderLodge nursing home on Paradise Road is expected to begin within the next few days, according to L. F. Amburn, Jr., spokesman for the companies involved.

The addition will include the construction of 34 intermediate care and 30 rest home beds. This will give the facility three levels of care

with a total bed capacity of 160.

J. H. Allen, Inc., of Asheboro, is general contractor of the project which will add 13,200 square feet of floor space. The addition was designed by J. J. Rose, Architect, of Fayetteville.

Construction and permanent financing for the project is being provided by Home Savings & Loan

Association of Rocky Mount.

The addition will be owned by Colonial HealthCare, Inc., and leased to Cape Colony Haven, Inc., for management. The facility is managed by South-Eastern Health Services, Inc., of Wilmington, and operates under that firm's trade name of ElderLodge.

Amburn, president of Colonial

HealthCare, Inc., is also head of Cape Colony Haven, Inc.; Outer Banks Haven, Inc., a 120-bed facility located at Nags Head; Atlantic HealthCare, Inc., an 80-bed skilled nursing leased facility in Jacksonville; and George Williams Investment Group, Inc., which has a 180-bed facility under construction at Smithfield.

Other local officers of the corporations are Jack Habit, vice president; John A. Mitchener, Jr., treasurer; and W. B. Gardner, secretary.

W.P. Rawls, president of SouthEastern, is developer of the projects for the local investors and also develops and manages other projects in North Carolina and South Carolina. Charles Andrews is administrator at ElderLodge here.

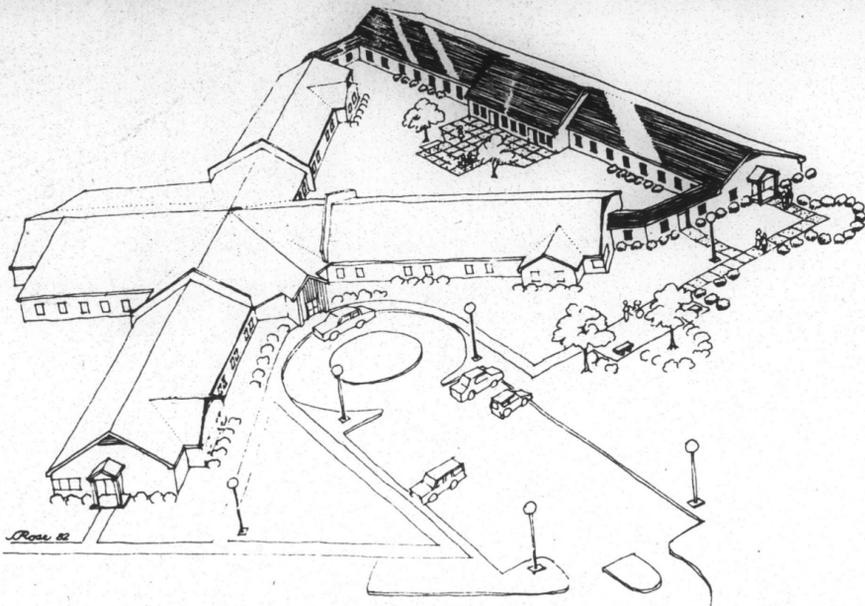
While the new addition to ElderLodge will have rest home beds, the entire facility is being built to nursing home standards, according to Rawls. He said the new structure will cover more than an acre of land and connect two existing wings, thereby providing a resident courtyard.

Rawls said the addition will include another nursing station, along with additional dining and recreation facilities.

It is anticipated that it will take approximately seven to eight months to complete the addition.

The nursing home opened in February, 1977, and currently has 96 beds. Occupancy has remained near 100 per cent since shortly after it was opened.

Amburn pointed out that there was stiff competition for new beds once Colonial HealthCare, Inc., petitioned the State of North Carolina to expand the State Health Plan to provide the much needed additional beds. He credited strong public support with giving valuable assistance during the process which resulted in the beds being allocated to the local firm.



Architect's rendering showing new addition to ElderLodge on Paradise Road.

## Fire Department Knocks-Out Fire

By Clay Roberts

At 10:06 P.M. on January 19th, the alarm went off on all of Edenton firefighter's pagers, telling them of their first house fire this winter. "You can see it from the road!" the dispatcher said over their pagers.

And sure enough, when the Edenton Fire department arrived near the scene, it could definitely be seen from the road.

Upon arrival, the house, which was on the property of Claude E. Small just off of Wildcat Road, was already gutted by the flames.

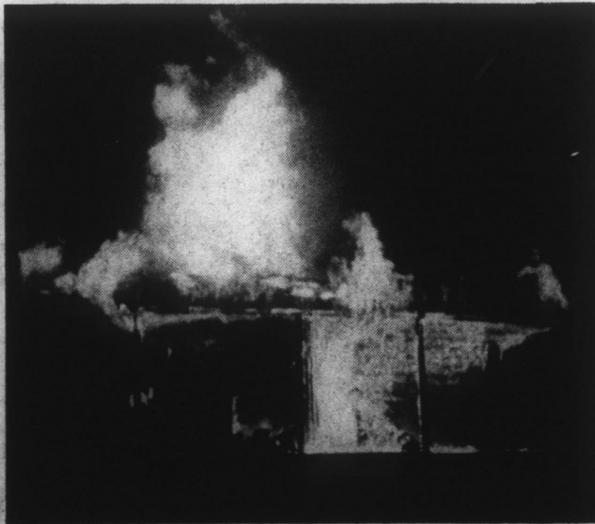
Lee Gaylord, an employee of Small, lived in the house and was awakened by the fire and thereupon, fled to safety, according to Chief Lynn Perry.

The Edenton Fire Department fought in the bitter cold, but quickly extinguished the flames that were "woodheater related" said Perry.

The next morning at 10:49 A.M., the Edenton Fire Department responded to a fire down Mexico Road at Dick Lowe's barn. The barn had a hogpen attached.

The fire, which started from a heating lamp used to keep the pigs warm, resulted in the death of several pigs and a \$1,000 damage to the barn itself. The flames were confined to the pigpen area, according to Perry.

The Edenton Fire Department did an excellent job at extinguishing both blazes. "Both fires were a quick knock-out," said Perry.



GUTTED BY FLAMES—This house was destroyed by flames Wednesday night. Lee Gaylord, an employee of Claude Small, lived in the house on Small's property. (Photo by Clay Roberts)

## Parker Presides Over District Court

The Chowan County District Court was in session Tuesday with the Honorable J. Richard Parker presiding.

Joseph Keith Byrum's charge of violation of probation was revoked.

Roy Thomas was found guilty of a 2nd offense DUI. He was given 90 days, suspended for two years, a \$250 fine and cost of court. He must surrender his driver's license, and report to Albemarle Mental Health. He appealed.

Lester F. Lewis' charge of injury to personal property was dismissed.

Frank Benjamin Miller, III, was found guilty of failure to report an

accident. He was given 30 days, suspended for 1 year, a \$50 fine and cost of court.

Blake Steven Harmon was found guilty of reckless driving after drinking. He was given 60 days, suspended for 1 year, a \$100 fine and cost of court. He must also attend and complete drug-alcohol

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## Council Holds Special Session

The Edenton Town Council met in a special session Monday night to interview three men who have been nominated to represent the Third Ward.

The men interviewed were Terry Williams, Allen Harless, and Tom Reid.

Williams stated that he has a strong desire to serve the town.

Harless simply said "I care." Reid said, "I want to do what I can for the town to give it what it gave my family."

The council asked questions to each of the men.

The decision will be made on a later date.

## Jaycees To Hold Banquet Tonight

The Edenton Jaycees will hold the 29th Annual Distinguished Service Award Banquet tonight (Thursday), at the Edenton Jaycee Building on the Base Road.

Social Hour starts at 6:30 with a steak supper to follow at 7:30.

The price is \$6.00 per person.

The guest speaker for the occasion will be Jim Cole, president of the North Carolina Jaycees.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the 29th Distinguished Service Award by Alton G. Elmore, Chairman of Chowan County Commissioners.

The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For additional information call Bill Culppepper at 482-2175 or Bruce Wacklin at 482-7434.

## World Missions Conference Starts

Forty-two Southern Baptist churches of the Chowan Association are participating this week in a four-day session of a World Missions Conference.

A banquet will be held Saturday (Jan. 29) at Corinth Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, to kick off the conference and honor 42 missionaries who will be speaking in the participating churches. The special speakers represent ministers in 16 foreign countries and 26 ethnic and cultural groups within our nation.

The program, sponsored by the Chowan Baptist Association, is designed to acquaint the people with the mission effort in a

cooperative program of ministries at home and abroad. It challenges the church to become more actively involved in their support of the more than 3,000 missionaries serving 95 countries and the 3,000 engaged in meeting physical and spiritual needs of people in all 50 states of our nation.

Conferences will begin with the morning worship on January 30 and continue successive evenings through Wednesday, February 2, at each of the following churches in Chowan County: Edenton, Warwick, Ballard's Bridge, Center Hill and Great Hope, Chappell Hill, Macedonia and Rocky Hock.

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## Helms Continues His Fight For Prayer

By Clay Roberts

United States Senator, Jesse Helms, talked about prayer in school, interest rates, and social security, during his visit to Chowan County, Wednesday, at the Albemarle Area Development Association Banquet, which was held at the new National Guard Armory.

The program was called to order by C.B. Smith, who is president of the AADA.

After a delicious meal, there was a slide presentation, which featured Economic Award winners of the Albemarle's ten counties.

Chowan County's Community Award winners were Mitchener's Pharmacy and the Elder Lodge Nursing Home. These awards were presented by Hobie Truesdell, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee. Chowan's recipients for the Community Award were the Edenton Baptist Church 'Girls in Action', and the Edenton Herring Run.

L. F. (Bud) Amburn, Chairman of the National Extension Advisory Council, introduced Senator Helms with an interesting speech and several good jokes. He talked about Helms' being elected to the Senate and him (Amburn) being incoming President of the AADA in 1972 and Senator Helms' visit to Chowan

County several years ago.

During his speech, Senator Helms talked about the nation, and the fact that interest rates must come down. He stated there would be no decrease in interest rates until wasteful government spending is ceased and the budget is balanced.

Helms also stated that he had offered an amendment to cut Federal spending by 6 per cent, that would

be a savings of 103-billion dollars a year. "It's something that can't be tinkered around with," said Helms.

"If something isn't done with Social Security, young people will have nothing," Helms said.

Helms also talked of his fight for prayer in public schools. He asked people to "pray and pray hard for the recovery of America." He

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Lorenzo Carmon

## Carmon Takes CDHS Position

The Town of Edenton has employed Lorenzo Carmon to fill the recently established position of Community Development Housing Specialist.

Mr. Carmon comes to Edenton as a graduate of Appalachian State University at Boone, North Carolina. He will have his B.S. degree in Political Science with a minor in Parks and Recreation conferred to him in May of this year.

The goal of Mr. Carmon's employment, at present, is to oversee the operation of the Town's Community Development program with regards to the Block Grant project. Mr. Carmon seems to have an optimistic attitude toward the program as is reflected in his comment, "I feel the program will be very successful and it will help a lot of people to improve their living conditions..."

In addition to feeling good about the Community Development program itself, he feels that the program will benefit the entire Town by making it a better place to live.

Mr. Carmon, who has lived a lot of places both in and out of the State, said Edenton was "a nice town with potential for growth."

Mr. Carmon in addition to his employment, hopes to continue his



HELMS GIVES A POINT—United States Senator, Jesse Helms, maintained his strong fight for prayer in public schools. (Photo by Clay Roberts)