



**TORNADO**—Jasper Hassell's yard was littered with logs on Thursday, March 29 after a tornado touched down near his home located at the Shepard Long Beach Farm the night before. His house and his cousin's house (in the distance) were damaged when the storm pushed trees on top of them.

## Chowan County Escapes Severe Tornado Damage

By Ron Anderson

Chowan County was one of the more fortunate counties in Northeastern North Carolina last week when a series of tornadoes ripped through the area.

No injuries or deaths occurred when a twister touched down in the Nixon's Beach-Greenfield area on Wednesday, March 28. It is believed that this was the same twister

that later caused thousands of dollars of damage and took the life of Teresa Ann Miller, 28, in Snug Harbor.

In neighboring Gates County tornadoes were responsible for two deaths and over \$3 million worth of damage.

Most of the damage here was in the wooded areas near Greenfield and Nixon's Beach. But two houses

on the Shepard-Long Beach Farm near Nixon's Beach were damaged by the twister.

Jasper Hassell and his wife, Betsy, live in one of those houses and were home when the tornado touched down at approximately 10:50 P.M. on Wednesday.

"We were sitting, watching TV when the tornado struck and the current went off," said Mr. Hassell.

When the storm hit trees cracked and fell everywhere. Some of them fell on top of the Hassells' house.

"During the storm," Hassell said, "A 2'x8' board off the pier went through a wall in the house into the bedroom. Also, a pine limb was stuck in the side of the house like an arrow."

But ironically, "There was an ashtray on the screen porch that didn't even move," he said.

Understandably, the Hassells didn't get any sleep that night. And although they didn't have any electricity through the night, they did have phone service because of underground cables.

They were able to contact their friend Tom Shepard. At 6:30 A.M. on Thursday Shepard and another man walked down the road to the Hassell's house to begin removing the trees from the house and cleaning up the yard. They had to walk because the road to the Hassells' house was covered with fallen trees.

The men worked through the afternoon cleaning up the mess at Hassell's house and the house next door owned by Hassell's cousin Bobby Shepard of Raleigh.

By 4:00 P.M. Thursday Electrical workers had managed to restore electricity to the Hassell residence. "The Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation was very very efficient," said Hassell.

The Chowan County Tax Department and the County EMS have

Continued On Page 4



**DAMAGE**—A lot of damage was done to Jasper Hassell's house as a result of the tornado that touched down near his home on Wednesday, March 28. Fortunately neither he nor his wife, Betsy, were injured in the storm.

### Public Parade

#### Stormy Weather

The words "natural disaster" are inadequate to describe the magnitude of the storm that hit the East Coast on Wednesday of last week. One of the 19 tornadoes barely kissed Chowan County.

The property loss, pain and anguish of people along the Public Parade is not limited to those who experienced property and physical damage. The fallout from what is probably the worst storm to hit North Carolina in 100 years will be of long duration.

A total of the death and destruction of this storm is still being counted. The latest figures showed more than 50 deaths, thousands injured and in excess of \$100-million in property damage. Among the dead was a young mother at Snug Harbor in neighboring Perquimans County.

Those who meander along the Public Parade escaped death or critical injury. However, in the Nixon Beach area of Yeopim Township an estimated \$250,000 in property damage was reported after on the savage tornado set down along Albemarle Sound.

PTP—pressure, tension and pain—is not limited to those directly suffering from natural disaster. The people intimately involved surely suffer more than others but the hurt is felt all around.

Among the things which graphically told the story was a message on TV late Sunday. People were being asked to assist farmers in Lenoir County by helping pick up debris so that Spring planting could move forward. As tractors were seen in the field along the Public Parade this week, it drove home the fact that while things may be bad, they could be a lot worse.

So long as we are a nation of caring people, when the demands are tough we'll get tougher. Stormy weather in any form can be destructive. But as Rose Kennedy is quoted as saying, even the birds sing after a storm.

#### Special Primary

A cloud of uncertainty hangs over the 1984 primary election for State Senate along the Public Parade. This is costly in terms of money and voter interest.

Last month the N.C. General Assembly modified 1982 reapportionment measure after portions of it were thrown out by a federal court. Affected were the First and Second Senatorial Districts and

Continued On Page 4



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## Residents Express Dismay Over Proposed Sewage Treatment Site

By Maru Amburn

Residents of northwest Chowan County packed the meeting room at the Municipal Building Tuesday night to present a petition to the Town Council expressing their displeasure with the proposed location of the town's sewage treatment facility.

Although the Town of Edenton has not yet ruled out other possible sites, at their regular monthly meeting on March 13 they focused

plans for the proposed site on the C.H. Small farm on Mexico Road.

The council approved appraisal bids on the Small site Tuesday night and last month authorized representatives of L.E. Wooten Company to continue detailed soils, topographic and environmental study on the Mexico Road site.

In his letter to council members, Al Everson, Chairman of the Advance Community Concerned Citizens Coalition, asked the council to consider the petition signed by

723 citizens that would be affected should the proposed land application treatment facility be located at the Small site.

Everson emphasized that, "the citizens signing the petition are all of voting age and reside within a two-mile radius of the proposed site..."

Windsor attorney Steve Burch, representing the citizens group read a letter from Charles C. Harris, pastor of Macedonia Church,

expressing his opposition to the proposed site.

According to their April 3 letter to the council, Advance community citizens feel that individual well water and county water would be contaminated by seepage from the facility. The letter also notes that seepage would infiltrate the water of Pembroke Creek which borders the site and the Chowan River which is one-half mile from the proposed location.

"Future development in this area would come to a halt, and this would impede the future growth of Edenton, realizing that other areas around Edenton are not feasible for expansion," Everson said in his letter.

Mayor Roy Harrell encouraged the citizens to attend the April 26 public hearing where their questions and concerns could be aired before engineers and consultants who would have the answers to their questions. Harrell also invited concerned citizens to participate in a tour of the Woodville land application facility this Saturday.

Advance community leaders urged council members to take every possible location in the county into consideration and to select the site that would affect less people and still retain the potential growth and health of the citizens.

## Center Hill-Crossroads Fire Dept. Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

Over 175 people gathered at the Center-Hill-Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department on Friday, March 30 to celebrate the department's twenty-fifth anniversary.

The department was begun in 1959 when members of the Chowan Ruritan Club saw the need for a department in the area. Previously the Edenton Fire Department handled all the calls from that section of the county. Since the Center Hill department was begun, it has saved many lives and buildings.

The first meeting of record was on September 15, 1959 at the Chowan High School auditorium.

At that meeting a motion was made and carried to purchase a piece of land from John F. White and erect a building 34' by 28' with a build-up roof to house a pumper and a tank truck. Also, there was to be room enough for a desk and a chair. \$635 of the 1,885 needed to erect the building was raised at this meeting.

At an April 17, 1960 meeting the first officers were elected. They were: Garland Asbell, Chief; W.H. Hare, Ass. Chief; and Troy Toppin and Marvin Evans, Captains. Also at that meeting, the members agreed to meet on the third Monday of each month, a practice that has continued for 25 years.

The department was organized for 2 years before it got a fire truck.

The first truck used by the Department was a used Chevrolet from the Department of Transportation purchased in January, 1961. Joe Conger donated a tank to put on the truck to carry water in. A new water pump was purchased to fill out the tank and a fire or two was fought with the water carrier and pump.

From these humble beginnings

the department has worked its way up to owning two pumpers and a water carrier.

The Department now has 31 members. It started out with 22 charter members and seven of those are still members of the department including Frank V. White, who is the current Fire Chief.

## Commissioners Express Concern

By Maru Amburn

County Commissioners Monday voted to send a letter to Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell expressing their concern that all available sites be evaluated before action is taken on a sewage treatment facility location.

The commissioners added that the correspondence will suggest that the town select an appropriate area for the site that is suitable to the long-range benefit of the county. Alton Elmore, Chairman of the Commissioners, told the over 25 Advance Community Coalition members in attendance to request support from the commissioners that he had taken State Director of the Environmental Management Commission Robert Helms on a tour of the C. H. Small site earlier in the day.

Citizens Coalition Chairman Al Everson showed the commissioners a petition signed by over 700 citizens who oppose the location of the land application facility on the Small farm on Mexico Road.

The citizens urged the commissioners to support their efforts to relocate the proposed location to a less inhabited area.

Continued On Page 4



**COMMUNITY COALITION**—Over 180 citizens gathered at the Municipal Building Tuesday night to oppose the proposed sewage treatment site in Northwest Chowan County. Steve Burch, of Windsor (left), Attorney for the Advance Community Concerned Citizens group, prepares for the Town Council meeting as Al Everson (middle) and Edsell Waff (right) discuss the proposed C. H. Small site.

## Superior Court Cases Are Heard

Chowan County Superior Court was in session last week, Monday through Friday. The Honorable Elbert S. Peel, Jr. of Williamston presided over the criminal term.

Howard Holley, Jr. plead guilty to reckless driving after drinking. He was sentenced to 90 days suspended; placed on unsupervised probation for one year; fined \$50 and cost of court and is to attend Drug-Alcohol School.

Carolyn Ruth Gilliam plead guilty to misdemeanor common law forgery. She was sentenced to 8 months in The Department of Corrections suspended; is to remain on supervised probation for 3 years and is to pay cost of court and restitution.

Naomi T. Twine plead guilty to 17

counts of Employment Security Law Violation. The cases were consolidated for judgement and a prayer for judgement was entered upon payment of cost of court in 1 case. She had previously made restitution to the Employment Security Commission.

Bobby Alexander Wright, Jr. plead guilty to 2 counts of felonious breaking and entering. The two counts were consolidated for judgement and he was committed to 3 years in the NC Department of Corrections he is eligible for an immediate work release. As a condition of release he must pay restitution.

Desi Eulish Pierch was found guilty of hit and run and property damage. He was sentenced to 90

Continued On Page 4

## Unemployment Shows Decline

RALEIGH—February unemployment rates decreased in 81 percent of the state's counties. Rates increased in 15 counties and remained the same in four according to Glenn Jernigan, chairman of the N.C. Employment Security Commission (ESC). The figures released today reflect a significant drop in unemployment which was 7.6 in February, down from 8.1 percent in January.

Jernigan said, "Equally positive is the fact that employment was up 14,400 over January 1984 and up 119,400 over February 1983. More than 2.7 million North Carolinians were employed in February 1984. That was the highest level for any February during the past 15 years.

Counties with the lowest unemployment rates were Orange, 3.6 percent (1,700 unemployed); Wake, 3.7 percent (6,900 unemployed); Durham, 4.1 percent (3,820 unemployed); Montgomery, 4.3 percent (470 unemployed); Gates, 4.4 percent (150 unemployed); and Watauga, 5.1 percent (880 unemployed).

Chowan County's February unemployment rate was 7.2 percent (350 unemployed).

Double digit unemployment was recorded in only 37 counties. Highest were Swain, 26.7 percent (1,300 unemployed); Tyrell, 23.5 percent (380 unemployed);

Continued On Page 4