



Public Parade

Is Balance Shifting?

For years eastern North Carolina has enjoyed the reputation of being the Democratic stronghold of the state, entitling it to a generous share of political spoils and something more substantial in the way of public funds.

That may have been true at one time, but no longer. Still, a curious arrangement seems to persist. While the east is no longer a majority party bastion, it still manages to garner a lion's share of public jobs and public funds.

Let's look at a little recent political history.

If just 13 eastern North Carolina counties had given Jimmy Carter the same majorities they gave Ronald Reagan, Carter would have carried North Carolina in 1980, Chowan is not one of those counties.

The record shows that these 13 counties gave Reagan 127,340 to Carter's 107,461, a difference of 19,879, or more than enough to cancel out the majority by which the Republicans carried the state in the presidential race.

Now, don't say that was just Jimmy Carter. Those same counties were showing an affinity for Republicans as far back as the 1968 election. In 1968 they all went for Nixon or Wallace. In 1972, they all went for Nixon and in 1980 they all went for Reagan.

Only in the 1976 contest, when Jimmy Carter was running against Gerald Ford and Watergate was only two years past, did those 13 counties give the Democratic candidate a majority, 10 going for Carter and three for Ford.

Nor has the record been any different with another national office, that of United States senator.

In 1972, everyone of those 13 counties voted for Jesse Helms for United States senator; and in 1978 all of them except one again went for senator Helms; and in the 1980 election John East, the Republican candidate, carried 10 of the 13 counties against Robert Morgan, the Democratic incumbent.

Yet in most of these very same counties there is only token opposition by Republicans at the local level, making it possible for the east to maintain a position of strength in local and state government.

That would appear to be the best of both worlds; and maybe that's the way the east wants it. But the situation is not the same in the west, where many counties are Republican strongholds and offer opposition to Democrats at all levels.

The result is that western Democrats can no longer count on their eastern colleagues to pull them through in statewide and national elections. But the west is learning how to raid the treasury and line up for the spoils of war.

So times may be changing. Whoever wins, there will be a westerner in the Governor's office. There is most likely to be a

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Large Audience Hears Cong. Martin

by Maru Amburn

Over 250 area supporters turned out Thursday night to meet republican candidate for governor Cong. Jim Martin.

The largely democratic audience heard Martin, speaking from the back of a pickup truck, pledge to remove intangible and inventory taxes, improve public education, heighten drug enforcement efforts and bring agriculture-related business to the northeast.

A six-term congressman from Iredell County, Martin apologized to the crowd for running about an hour behind schedule, but stayed until the last car had pulled out of the parking lot at the Rocky Hock Community Center. At the end of the evening, he spent about 30 minutes talking with members of the Rocky Hock Rebels country music band, still holding an

uneaten plate of barbeque, slaw and hushpuppies.

Martin will face the democratic candidate Attny. Gen. Rufus Edmisten in the November election.

His wife, Dottie, stood with him as he explained that additional taxes on businesses made it unattractive for new industry to locate in North Carolina, especially in the border areas.

"Many jobs are in Virginia because these special taxes make it expensive to operate a business in North Carolina," Martin said.

Martin suggested that food processing industries should be encouraged to locate in the northeast giving fishermen and farmers a stronger market.

He said, "I want to bring to state government the same kind of fiscal conservatism that Ronald Reagan has brought to Washington."

The former Mecklenburg County Commissioner charged that instead of spending a \$200 million surplus, as the state did this year, he would give any surplus back to the people in tax cuts.

A chemistry professor at Davidson before running for congress in 1972, Martin said he sees two major problems in education that have caused student test scores to

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Labor Day 'Real Quiet'

by Ron Anderson

Chowan County couldn't have had a better Labor Day weekend. During the three day holiday, skies were clear and temperatures reached into the 90s. But another factor contributed to the enjoyment of the traditional end of summer celebration: safety.

The Edenton Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and the North Carolina Highway Patrol reported few accidents over the long weekend.

Police Chief John Parrish described the weekend as "real quiet" and said, "there were just a few minor traffic accidents."

Chief Deputy Glenn Perry of the Chowan County Sheriff's Department said, "We stayed busy, but there weren't any major accidents."

Although the Highway Patrol reported two accidents during the weekend, no serious injuries resulted from the mishaps. On Saturday morning an ice truck turned over on its side on Highway 37 and Sunday afternoon a two vehicle accident occurred on Rural Paved Road 1216 when a vehicle backed out of a driveway and collided with a passing car.

"People were enjoying

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Zoning Plan Discussed

by Maru Amburn

County Commissioners Tuesday heard comments on a proposed zoning ordinance from residents of Cape Colony, Arrowhead and Chowan Beach communities.

Cape Colony residents urged commissioners to expedite the process with several people saying, "I wish we'd had zoning 20 years ago."

Dale Holland, of Talbot, Cox and Associates, consultant in the zoning project, answered concerns of Rocky Hock residents who are within the proposed zoning lines.

"The zoning ordinance was drawn in order to continue existing farms and businesses and control new development," Holland said. The county planning board worked with Holland in writing the ordinance.

Because there are no time limitations placed on non-conforming uses, Holland said the land use plan would not adversely effect anyone

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SUMMERS END—Two sailors brought down their sails as they came into Edenton Bay at sunset on Labor Day. Labor Day traditionally marks the end of the summer season.

Ice Truck Skids Off Highway

by Ron Anderson

A truck hauling bags of ice ran off the road, skidded down the highway, and turned over on its side Saturday morning after its driver lost control of the vehicle's steering. The accident occurred on Highway 37 one mile north of Highway 32.

Keith Moore, 20, Rt. 1, Box 239, Roper, the driver of the 1975 Ford truck owned by the Beaco Ice Company of Plymouth, said the steering had been acting up earlier when he and Bonnie Medlin, 37, Box 310, Roper, were making deliveries in Elizabeth City.

Because the difficulties were minor, Moore thought he could make it safely back to Plymouth. But, he said, "I couldn't move the steering wheel either way," when the accident occurred at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Both Moore and Medlin were taken to Chowan Hospital by the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad after the mishap. They were treated and released.

It took two tries by a wrecker from Patrick Wrecker Service, Creswell, to get the truck right side up.

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GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN—Jim and Dottie Martin visited Rocky Hock Thursday night during their campaign swing through Northeastern North Carolina. Above Martin, republican candidate for governor, speaks from a pickup truck in the community center parking lot.

Bridge Project Will Continue Without Federal Funding

by Maru Amburn

The \$37.5 million Albemarle Sound bridge replacement project will continue with or without federal discretionary funds, the N.C. Department of Transportation confirmed last week.

In a 1980 study, DOT officials estimated the remaining life of the bridge at five years.

Transportation Secretary W.R. Roberson Jr., in an August 30 letter to County Manager Cliff Copeland, said his department had originally planned to seek construction bids this fall: now, the earliest time bids are expected is January 1985.

The county manager wrote Roberson in late August expressing concern that the project may have been delayed due to lack of funding. Copeland reminded Roberson of Gov. James B. Hunt's commitment to proceed with bridge construction regardless of the availability of federal monies.

The project involves replacing the existing NC 32 bridge across Albemarle Sound. The new expanse will extend from 2,900 feet south of the current south bridge approach northward to 3,300 feet north of the existing north bridge approach: a total length of 4.62 miles.

The existing bridge, the only highway crossing of the Albemarle Sound, is approximately 3.45 miles long. It is the longest bridge in North Carolina.

Despite the maintenance effort on the bridge, transportation officials have determined the existing bridge cannot be maintained in safe operating condition due to the poor state of the timber substructure.

DOT officials said that the 40

District Court

Chowan County District Court was in session September 4, the Honorable J. Richard Parker presiding over the criminal calendar.

Darnell Hayes was called but failed to show on a probation violation.

Neil Anthony Caruso was called but failed to show on a charge of driving 66 in a 55mph zone.

Billy Neal Peele was called but failed to show on a charge of exceeding a safe speed.

Grover Carlton Daniels was found guilty of fishing without a license. He was fined \$10 and cost of court.

Robert Bradley Dean was called but failed to show on a charge of making an unsafe movement in his motor vehicle.

Thomas William Fleming was found guilty of DWI. He was sentenced to 60 days suspended for 1 year on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and cost of court. He is to attend ADET school, perform 24 hours of community service and surrender his drivers license; he appealed.

Albert Maroon, Sr. was called but

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Rufus Edmisten

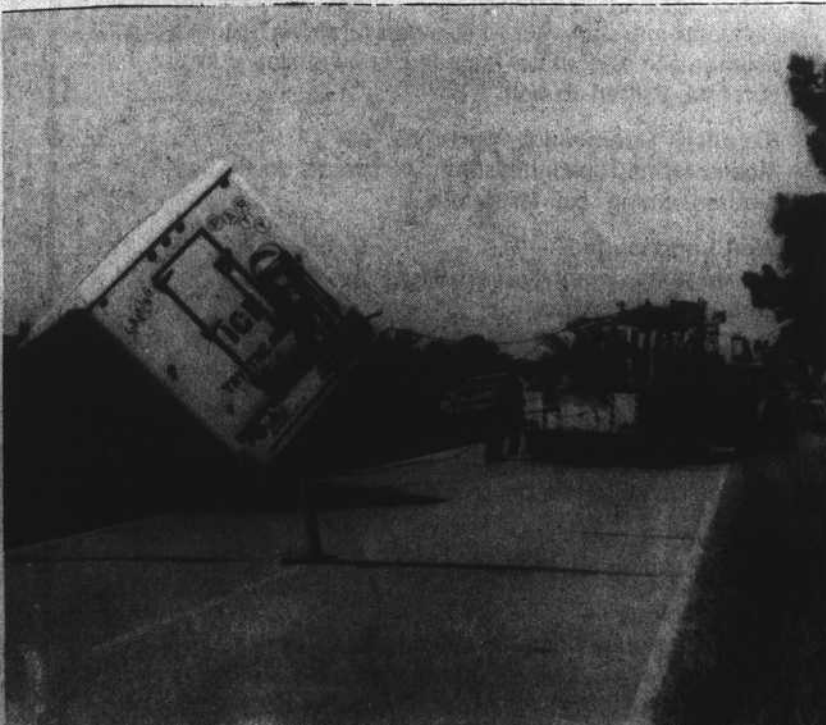
Democrat's Special Guest

Attny. Gen. Rufus Edmisten, Democratic candidate for governor, will be the featured candidate at Chowan County Democratic Party "Meet the Candidates" Saturday, September 8 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the front lawn of John A. Holmes High School. Edmisten, a Mason, will also be a special guest at the Shriner's Fish Fry at the Boy Scout Hut that afternoon.

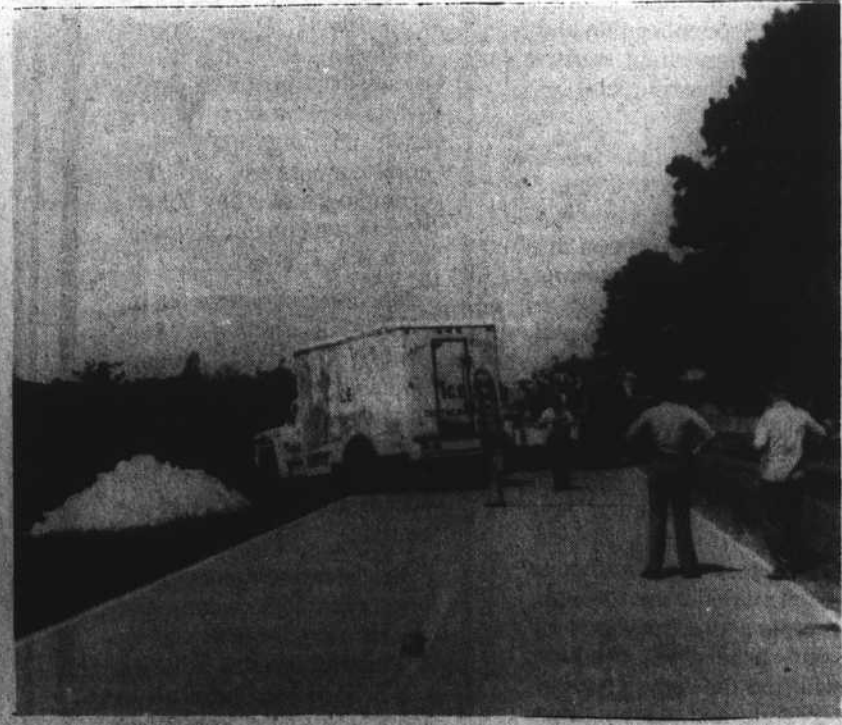
According to Lueta Sellers, Chair of Chowan County Democratic Party, "This is an excellent opportunity for our citizens to meet and talk with the next Governor of North Carolina as well as other Democratic candidates. We encourage every person concerned with an issue, or with the future of Chowan County and our state to come, meet the candidates, express their concerns and enjoy free refreshments and entertainment." Sellers added, "We are not charging an admission fee. We feel strongly that our candidates should be accessible to all citizens in our county and area."

Other candidates, who party officials are hoping will be attending, are Congressman Walter B. Jones, Representatives Vernon James and Charles Evans, Mark Basnight, candidate for N.C. Senate-First District.

Interested persons wanting further information may call Democratic Party Headquarters at 482-7250 between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



RIGHT SIDE UP—It took a wrecker two tries to get a Beaco Ice Company truck upright on Saturday.



ICY SHOULDER—The bags of ice from the truck were left on the shoulder of Highway 37. Later the ice truck joined the ice when it was pulled off the road.