

Feed The Sparrows, Too

In the wake of Gov. Jim Martin's address, the real question confronting our legislators — as well as people along the Public Parade — is not so much whether the state can absorb a \$435 million tax cut, but whether Reaganomics should be superimposed upon the people of North Carolina.

Like the President before him, Gov. Martin has come into office telling us that we can cut taxes and increase spending, with the resulting growth in the economy making up the difference.

Now, after four years of red ink in Washington, the President has discovered that despite what he calls solid economic recovery, the country cannot grow out of a deficit, which he is using as a lever to force Congress to cut spending on social programs while the military buildup heads for outer space.

The parallel with the Martin proposals is inescapable. Nor should we take comfort in the fact that, unlike the federal government, the state cannot constitutionally operate with an unbalanced budget. There are other ways to skin that cat.

Should the legislature, as did Congress, go along with the tax-cut proposals, fund the Martin expansion budget and go home only to discover that reduced revenues were not meeting budget requirements, our constitution requires the Governor either to balance the budget by cutting expenses or call the legislature back into session to do it for him.

What would happen, of course, is that the Governor would cut most where it hurt less, in capital expenditures, construction jobs that could be pushed into the future, salary increases and, of course, social programs. Then, when the General Assembly met again, it would be called upon to rectify the problem either by raising taxes or borrowing money, which would appear to be the lesser evil in the midst of hard times.

With its current tax structure, North Carolina has become pretty much a pay-as-we-go state. Without a major tax cut, we should be able to continue our highway program, our capital construction plans and give some assistance to local units in meeting their water and sewer needs without borrowing. But all of those things would have to be done through bond issues if the tax base is eroded at the rate of half a billion a year.

The Governor would lift the 3 per cent state sales tax from food and drugs, with a revenue loss of \$178 million a year. He would leave the 1-to-1.5 per cent local levies on food and drugs intact, despite the headache it would cause at the checkout counter.

The rich as well as the poor pay the sales tax, and we are willing to admit that it bears more heavily on the poor. But the poor are the prime beneficiaries of other taxes they don't pay; while the wealthy would be the prime beneficiaries of the \$178 million sales tax cut. We would leave it alone.

The Governor would repeal the intangibles tax at a cost of \$90 million a year and would reimburse cities and counties on a rising scale tied to sales tax collections. Thus, the \$90 million would grow to almost \$100 million by the second year. We doubt the repeal of this tax would help business, but it would certainly help wealthy, retired individuals.

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Property Tax Levy Is Passed

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners on Monday unanimously passed a resolution to implement a levy upon the sale of tangible personal property.

The levies will be used only in extreme situations where the taxpayer is making no attempt to pay his taxes or presents no justification as to why the taxes cannot be paid.

Chowan County Tax Supervisor-Collector Dallas Jethro said he feels the plan will be more effective if the execution of the levies is carried out by the Chowan County Sheriff's Department.

"I'm not going to be hard to get

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS— This year's Board of Directors for the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce are: front row (l. to r.) Charlie Shaw, John Mitchener Jr., Steve Robertson, and Beth Taylor; second row (l. to r.) Sam Noble, Jack Habit, Jerry Hendee, and J.P. Timberlake; third row (l. to r.) Marvin Shaw, Jim Blount, Bob Thomas and Gary Smith; fourth row (l. to r.) Cliff Copeland, Chuck Smith, Tom Palmer and John Dowd. Not pictured is Bruce Gillikin. In 1984 the board attracted a major industry to the county; implemented a Merchant's Alert program, established a group of retired professionals who volunteer their expertise to assist chamber members with business problems; and scheduled a series of seminars designed to help management and employees achieve a better and more productive business atmosphere. This year's Chamber President John Dowd is stressing the need for open lines of communication between chamber members, officers, and staff. "It is essential if we are to serve our membership properly, that they make their needs and ideas known to us. We are committed to a year of progress for the business and citizens of Chowan County," he said.



Dianne Jones

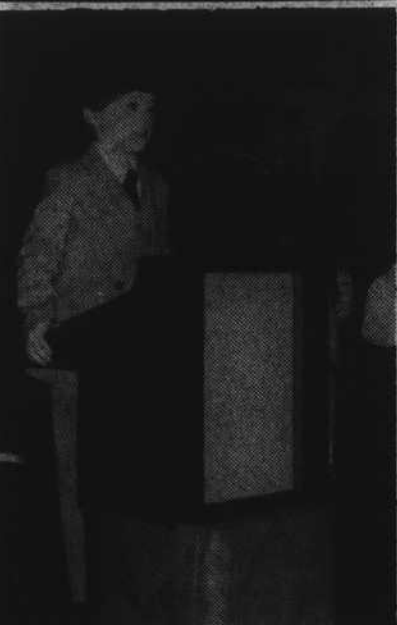
Maxway Gets New Manager

Dianne Jones became the manager of Edenton's Maxway store on February 21 replacing David Mertz who was promoted to the Lexington, Virginia store.

A native of Edenton, Jones began working at the store as a part-time salesclerk when she was still in high school. In her senior year, she was promoted to bookkeeper and remained in that position until her second child was born in December 1978.

She came back to the store in November, 1980 as a part-time Christmas salesclerk. Manager David Mertz talked her into staying on and in February 1984 she became permanent assistant at the store.

Jones and her husband, Sam, reside in Edenton with their two children, Connie, 9 and Brian, 6.



TONY JORDAN — was the master of ceremonies for one half of the Good Things presentation for the Board of Education at White Oak School this Monday.

Tyrrell Resident Appointed

Chowan Hospital's Board of Directors, along with the Chowan County Board of Commissioners, in

Board Gives Authorization

In a special meeting Monday, Edenton Town Council unanimously agreed to authorize just compensation in the amount of \$726,000 to Walter, Charlie and Minton Small for the purchase of approximately 590 acres of land off Mexico Road. The land is the site of Edenton's proposed land application treatment facility.

Project Bids Are Accepted

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education unanimously agreed to accept low bids on the D.F. Walker renovation project at a regular school board meeting Monday night.

Superintendent Dr. John Dunn said that contractors will be notified immediately and he hoped work on the project will begin sometime next week.

"We can manage the construction with kids on the campus, because the construction areas will be fenced off," said Dunn.

Those low bids were: General Contract - J.C. Edwards Construction, \$359,215; Heating and Air Conditioning - White's Heat and Sheet Metal Works, \$17,750; Plumbing - George Raper and Son, \$8,340; and Electrical - Stilley and Alexander Electrical Contractors, \$14,902.

Subscription Rates Increase

Due to increased postal rates, taxes and other costs, the Chowan Herald finds it necessary to increase subscription rates for the first time since the end of 1981.

Effective April 1, the annual rate for subscribers living within North Carolina will go to \$11.50, including sales tax. Out of state rates will rise to \$12.50. Six months rates will be \$7.50 for both in and out of state subscribers.

Because we regret the necessity of raising rates, any subscriber who renews for at least a year between now and April 1, 1985, will be allowed to renew at the old rate provided his check is accompanied by a copy of this notice.

E.N. Manning,
General Manager

Mayor Harrell Fed Up With Electric Supplier

"We are sick and tired of seeing people struggle to pay light bills just so our engineers and lawyers can make millions of dollars," Mayor Roy Harrell told those attending a regular monthly meeting of the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Company in Wilson last week.

In fact, the mayor is so fed up with NCEMPC, Edenton's electricity supplier, he wants the town of Edenton to be released from its contract with the agency.

Along with criticizing the agency for paying high salaries to management and staff members, the mayor says the contract signed between Edenton and the power agency on September 15, 1981 no longer exists. "We bought into an agency that was to have four new power plants. We've had three to cancel and one still is not complete."

"We question the intent of leadership that would make a deal to purchase 12.9% of these power plants that closed and left us with the bill only a few months later," he added.

Harrell also complained that six of the larger municipalities belonging to the agency carry more votes than twenty of the smaller member towns put together.

The mayor wants NCEMPC to buy out the town's 1.6 percent interest in the agency. At the meeting

in Wilson, he said, "We want out clean and not with any contractual agreements." If the town is not released from its contract, Harrell said Edenton is ready to fight the agency by obtaining legal counsel.

Although Harrell did not ask any agency member towns to join in Edenton's cause, he did say he would accept invitations from civic organizations to discuss Edenton's reasons for wanting to leave the agency. "We're going to need the peoples' support," he said.

Edenton signed on with NCEMPC in 1981 with hopes of obtaining electricity at rates lower than were being offered by its former supplier, The Virginia Electric and Power Company at the present time, VEPCO's retail rates are 4 percent lower than rates charged by NCEMPC.

Because of the higher rates from NCEMPC and the strain it is putting on Edenton's electrical customers, the mayor is ready for a fight if the town is not released from its contract. "When I took this job as mayor, I understood I would be fighting for the people when they need help," Harrell said. "There has never been a time when people needed help before. I don't know of a single person who can afford the pressure they are under with their light bills."

Hertford Man Arrested

Issac Nelson Jones, 24, of Hertford, was arrested Wednesday, February 27 after he attempted to buy a watch at the Revco Drug Store in the Edenton Village Shopping Center. Jones wanted to pay for the watch with a check made payable to Ray Winslow and signed by Johnny Corprew.

According to Edenton Police Officer Linard Bonner, Jones attempted to purchase the watch from clerk Debbie Elliott at approximately 12:30 p.m. But when Elliott saw the check, she became suspicious and took it back to the store's manager to have it approved.

When Elliott was gone, Jones got nervous and left the store.

The Revco manager then approached off-duty police officer Fred Spruill, who happened to be at the shopping center, and told him what was going on. While the manager called the police station, Spruill followed Jones and watched him lie down in the back seat of a car in the parking lot.

Soon Officer Bonner arrived and he and Spruill approached the car and asked Jones to go into the store with them. As the three men were walking toward the store, Jones took off in a southerly direction and headed for the swamps behind the shopping center.

The Sheriff's Department was called to assist the two police officers and soon officers from the department arrived along with additional officers from the police department, an SBI agent, and a state trooper who had heard the call for assistance over their scanners.

The law enforcement officers then proceeded to chase Jones across the Parrish Farm, into the woods, across another farm and into a swamp.

State Trooper Bill Long finally caught up with Jones in a swamp near the Creek Bridge on Highway 32 South.

Jones was arrested and charged with breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods, forgery, uttering, obtaining property on false pretenses, and delaying and obstructing a police officer. He was placed in Chowan County jail without bond.

On Tuesday, Jones stood trial in Chowan County District Court. Probable cause was found in four charges and the cases were bound over to Superior Court. Jones was found guilty on the charge of resisting arrest. He was sentenced to 90 days suspended for 2 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and cost of court. Jones chose to serve his 90 days.



AWARD WINNER— The 1984 County and State Peanut Production winner was Byrum Farms, Inc. Pictured from left to right are: Joe Carroll Byrum; Fahey Byrum; John Anthony Gosser; and Carroll Byrum. Not pictured is Fahey (Butch) Byrum Jr.

Byrum Farms Recipient Of Production Awards

Byrum Farms, Inc. was the recipient of both the county and state peanut production awards for 1984 for growing 4,975 lbs. of peanuts on 85.7 acres of land. The awards were presented at the Chowan County Peanut Production meeting held on Tuesday, February 5.

The Chowan County second place production award went to Joe Ward

for growing 4,801 lbs. of peanuts per acre on 113.4 acres; and the third place went to David Bateman with 4,613 lbs. per acre on 64.3 acres.

Also at the meeting, Certificates of Appreciation from the Agricultural Extension Service were presented to farmers who cooperated with last year's peanut on-farm tests and demonstrations.

The tests and the farmers were: No Till Peanuts, John Wood; Kylar on Peanuts, James Carroll Brabble; Southern Corn Rootworm Control, James Carroll Brabble; Thrips Test, Marvin Evans; Line-land plaster, Billy Nixon; Variety, Mike and George Jordan; and Nut Sedge Control, Ray and Willis Ray Byrum.