



Celebrate the Fabulous Fourth of July!

in Edenton with the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club!



Rep. Walter B. Jones (left) and Town of Edenton officials look over runway renovation plans at Edenton Municipal Airport. Those official studying the plans with the congressman are (from left to right) A.B. Harless, councilman; Bill Meyers, chairman, Airport Advisory Board; Rev. J.L. Fenner, councilman; Town Administrator Sam Noble; and Councilwoman Marina Crummey.

Jones Looks Over Airport Plans

Rep. Walter B. Jones (D-NC) was in town this weekend meeting with constituents Friday at the Coach House Inn and looking over renovations currently underway at the Edenton Municipal Airport on Saturday.

Jones was instrumental in obtaining a Federal Aviation grant of \$416,000 for improvements to Runway 1/19. When the work is completed, 5,300 ft. of the runway will be resurfaced and lighting will be installed allowing greater access to jets and other aircraft.

"We are fortunate to have a congressman as receptive to local government as he (Jones) is," said Edenton Town Administrator Sam Noble on Saturday. He added that the legislator has helped the town with every federal grant it has received.

During an interview at the air-

port, Jones said he was in favor of a plan to build jetties at Oregon Inlet and hoped that a bill in the U.S. Senate would pass transferring 150 acres of land located in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge from the Department of the Interior to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Passage of the bill would allow the corps to build the \$100 million jetties which Jones said would

save over 200 ft. of beach erosion in the next ten years. He said that if the bill passed in the Senate, he was sure he could "get it through the house."

"This bill purely and simply would transfer the land from one governmental department to another," he said. "My job is to convince people that there is no money involved."

Jones said that most of the opposition to the jetties is coming from outside North Carolina.

Hospital Rate Increase

Chowan County Commissioners Tuesday approved a Chowan Hospital budget which will result in a 9 percent increase in patient rates.

The 1985-86 rate increase, based on an average of 33 patients per

day, will amount to \$9.7 million in gross revenues of which \$2.7 must be written off to Medicare and Medicaid adjustments, the Hill-Burton program and bad debts.

"The budget this year is going

Continued On Page 4

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XLIX - No. 24

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, July 4, 1985

Single Copies 25 Cents

Withdrawal From Power Company Request Denied

The town of Edenton's request to withdraw from the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency was denied Wednesday, June 26, by representatives of 32 Eastern North Carolina municipalities meeting in Wilson.

Denial of the request came by a unanimous vote by agency's board of commissioners which upheld the recommendations of a committee that had been studying the issue since February. The denial was based on grounds that the agency did not have the legal authority to let Edenton out of its contract and that it would be unfair to the other municipalities to let the town go without any contractual obligation for its 1.6 percent share of the agency's \$2.5 billion in bond debt.

Months of controversy have surrounded the town's request to leave the agency. Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell charged the agency with failing to save money on power costs and has complained that many of the agency's 70 staff members are overpaid.

The agency was formed in 1981 by representatives of the 32 municipalities who had hoped to

save money by purchasing a portion CP&L's generating facilities. By buying electricity from plants owned by the agency rather than CP&L directly, agency members planned to reduce their power costs.

One of the mayor's complaints against the agency is that the price Edenton pays for electricity has not come down since the town became an agency member in September, 1981. Electric customers locally are now paying 4 percent more than North Carolina Power residential rates.

During a 35 minute presentation to the commissioners Wilson, Harrell said that the formation of the agency should have been halted when CP&L cancelled plans for two generating plants the municipalities had agreed to buy. He also asked if the agency could be managed by a utility company.

At a meeting between agency members, Harrell, the entire Edenton Town Council and State Treasurer Harlan Boyles held in Raleigh on May 31, agency officials charged that Harrell's criticisms had lowered the

Continued On Page 4

STARS AT ZOO— This graceful Gerenuk and its baby are among the star performers in the African Pavilion at the North Carolina Zoological Park near Asheboro.

You and Your Zoo

It's a long way from here to purgatory but it's worth the trip if you are thinking about Purgatory Mountain and the North Carolina state zoo near Asheboro.

With the opening of the African Pavilion, the North Carolina Zoological Park moved a step nearer its ultimate goal of bringing together on the rolling hills and plains of Randolph County loving exhibits from Africa, India, North and South America and other places around the world.

Completed in late 1984, the African Pavilion represents, within its 46,000 square feet, all the major environments of Africa — the rain forests, the watery swamps, the savannas, grasslands and semi-deserts — with pythons, monkeys, meerkats and, of course, Ramar and Hope, the zoo's lowland gorillas.

Outside, from the four overlook areas, is a panoramic view of the plains, 40 acres of open space, with antelope, greater kudu, Cape hartebeest, red lechwe, impalas and other animals living in compatible herds.

Whether the visitor walks the two miles of marked pathways or rides the tram, he will be touring a natural-habitat zoo equal to the best in America. He will see giraffes and zebras, crocodiles and touracos, a pride of lions and playful chimps, as well as some of the world's largest land animals. There are no bars or cages to separate the viewer from the outdoor animals. Only open land, naturalized moats and islands to separate here from the real habitat of each species.

And then, when you begin to tire of Africa, there is the R.J. Reynolds forest aviary, the glass-domed expanse within which 140 rare and brilliantly-colored birds wing their way freely through a lush tropical world of some 2,400 plants.

The idea of a North Carolina zoo was born with the Raleigh Jaycees in 1967, when they sponsored a professional football exhibition game, with the \$18,000 in

Continued On Page 4



Magic, a five-piece band that emphasizes old music standards as well as keeping up-to-date with the top 40 songs on both the Pop and Country charts will be performing from 7 - 9:30 p.m. as part of the 6th Annual Fabulous Fourth of July Celebration. The yearly Independence Day festivities are sponsored by the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club.

East Church Street Redevelopment Project

Forty-five houses located on Gale and Church Streets and sections of Oakum Street will be rehabilitated as part of the East Church Street Redevelopment Project, according to Lorenzo Carmon, Community Development Director.

The Church Street project is similar to the recently completed Oakum Street project except that houses cited for rehabilitation in the new target area are listed with the National Register of Historic Places. Before any work is begun on the buildings, it must be approved by the NC Division of Archives and History.

"Having to go through the division is slowing us down somewhat, but we will still hope to get started in two weeks," said Carmon.

The purpose of the \$750,000 project is "to give people a decent, sanitary place to live," explained Carmon. He said most of the houses to be rehabilitated have faulty plumbing facilities and obsolete wiring. Also, 95 percent of the buildings have no insulation whatsoever.

Carmon and Town of Edenton Building Inspector Chuck Nance decide what work is to be done. Bids are solicited for the work and awarded to the lowest bidder.

Money for the project has been earmarked for three types of homeowners: 1) those in the low to moderate income range, 2) those with above average incomes and 3) those who own rental property.

Homeowners who meet the low to moderate income guidelines are

eligible for a \$12,500 rehabilitation grant. If the property is not sold within a three-year period, the money will be considered paid-in-full.

A homeowner with an above

average income is eligible for a grant to cover 80 percent of the total rehabilitation costs, not to exceed \$10,000, and owners of rental property are eligible for a

Continued On Page 4

Holiday Fatalities: Excessive Speed Contributing Factor

Approximately 16 persons may lose their lives in North Carolina traffic accidents during the long Fourth of July holiday period, according to the N.C. State Motor Club.

The state will count its toll over a 102-hour period from 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 3, to midnight Sunday, July 7. Last year the holiday fell in the middle of the week and was observed over a 30-hour period in which 4 persons lost their lives in traffic accidents. In 1983, over a 78-hour period, 11 fatalities were recorded.

Excessive speed continues to be the leading contributing factor to traffic fatalities. "As speed increases, so does the number of fatalities," Dr. John G. Frazier, III, president of the statewide motor club said. "Lower speed limit has a pronounced effect upon reducing highway accidents and as a driver you have the responsibility to obey all speed laws and be constantly aware of the power you command when you are behind the wheel of any vehicle." Dr. Frazier continued.

The Fourth of July holiday week-end occurs near the start of the summer vacation season and,

according to Frazier, vacation driving is more dangerous than business or normal everyday driving. Unfamiliar roads, fatigue, and the tendency to celebrate before reaching the vacation spot contribute.

The N.C. State Motor Club continued to emphasize the importance of seat belts and child restraints as a major protection against fatalities in vehicle accidents.

Frazier reminds every motorist that as of July 1, 1985, the new Child Restraint law requires that children less than 3-years of age must be in a properly installed and used safety seat. Children 3-years and up to 6-years may be secured by a seat belt. The law applies to any driver who is transporting a child under the age of 6 years. Violators are subject to a fine of \$25.00 (plus court costs).

This new law is viewed as a safety measure for the child riding in your car. Children are the most precious cargo you can carry and they should be protected. The new law will save lives and reduce injuries.

The death toll now stands at 650-42 more than at this same time last year.



An American flag attached to a yellow ribbon tied around a tree was displayed in front of the Dixon residence on West King Street during the recent hostage crisis. The flag and ribbon were removed when 39 American hijacking hostages were freed on Sunday, June 30.