



Public Parade

For A Job Well Done

Farm-City Week's observance, climaxed with the banquet Tuesday evening, November 26, again served to focus attention of the community at large upon the important role played by agriculture in the economy of the state and nation.

A healthy agriculture is essential to keeping the wheels of the economy turning. In addition to work required in its production, food means jobs — in storage, processing, transportation, offices and supermarkets, not to mention eating establishments.

But because of the mechanization of agriculture, which now enables one American farm family to feed 78 people, its political clout has been reduced and its role as an employer of people minimized. For that reason we all have to be reminded every now and then of the key position occupied by agriculture.

Take those 78 people fed by one U.S. farm family. Fifty-two of them live in the United States, the other 26 abroad. To feed one family of four requires about 2.5 tons of food a year. This includes some 629 pounds of red meat, almost evenly divided between beef and pork. Chicken and turkey add another 260 pounds, dairy products 1,233 and seafood 51, probably more in this area.

In addition, the average family of four requires 88 dozen of eggs, 336 pounds of fresh fruit, 400 pounds of fresh vegetables and 598 pounds of flour and other cereal products. Add to that frozen fruits and vegetables of less than 100 pounds and you will come up with the 2.5 tons required annually.

Due to its increased efficiency, the average U.S. farm family produces about 19 times the 2.5 tons required to feed the family of four. That is more than twice the level of production in 1930 and on approximately the same acre base. What that means is that the average family can buy its food for less of its disposable income today than it could only a few years ago. Food expenditures today represent 16.6 per cent of disposable income, as against 17 per cent in 1980 and 23 per cent in 1951, thanks to increased farm efficiency and to the fact that consumer income has risen faster than food prices.

All this is not to say that farming does not have its problems, although Chowan County producers are probably more fortunate than their counterparts in the midwest. Agriculture is in serious trouble in many parts of the state and nations.

With the carcinoma nose being tightly drawn around tobacco, many North Carolina farmers appear to be fighting a losing battle. And with the financial nose being tightened by lenders everywhere, farmers in general are having to struggle to stay afloat on a sea of debt.

Responsibility for all this is pretty widely shared. Only a few years ago, farmers were encouraged by bankers and lending agencies — and even by their own

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Workshop Planned

The Museum of the Albemarle will hold its annual Children's Christmas Workshop on December 23 from 3:00 - 5:00 P.M. Children, ages five through eight, are eligible to attend. A specially selected Christmas craft will be made. In addition, there will be caroling, Christmas "Goodies", and a visit from SANTA himself!

Registration will begin on December 2nd, on a first-come, first served basis, with limited enrollment. To register your children, call Billie Buell at 335-1453 or 335-2987. This is free and open to the general public.

Hospital Loses Liability Insurance

by Jack Grove

Chowan Hospital has lost its liability insurance for Director's and Officer's it was announced Wednesday morning. As a result, nine of the hospital's Board of Directors, comprising fifteen members, have resigned in the last week according to Marvin A. (Johnny) Bryan, Hospital Director.

The announcement was made to the press in the office of County Manager Cliff Copeland with Bryan and County Commission Board Chairman Alton G. Elmore present.

A prepared statement by Bryan stated, "At midnight, November 30, 1985, Chowan Hospital's Directors' and Officers' liability insurance was not renewed by Underwriters of Lloyds."

"Chowan Hospital is not alone in being unable to renew or secure additional Directors' and Officers' liability insurance due to underwriting difficulties, as fewer companies are now providing this service."

Bryan continued, "Other hospitals that find themselves in this same situation, to my

knowledge, are Montgomery County Hospital in Troy, Onslow County Hospital in Jacksonville, Johnston Memorial Hospital in Smithfield, and Hamlet Hospital in Hamlet. All of these hospitals have worked through and are continuing to work through the North Carolina Hospital Insurance Service to secure other coverage."

The nine directors who have resigned because of this lack of coverage are Board Chairman Gillam Wood; Vice-Chairman, Earl Smith; Peggy Vaughn, Treasurer; Dr. Leibert DeVine; Arch Edwards; W.P. Jones; William O. Ticknor; William W. (Wellie) White, Jr. of Perquimans County; and John Dowd.

At press time, the remaining directors are Daisy Bemby; Emily Byrum; Alton G. Elmore; Mrs. Lucy Rhodes from Columbia; Thomas I. Sharpe; and H. Ivey Ward.

While Elmore is covered by county directors' and officers' liability, he explained Dowd's resignation by pointing out that the town's insurance wouldn't cover the hospital post.

The officials present emphasize

ed that this insurance wouldn't affect the hospital's operations. Bryan explained that this insurance loss covers only the administrative staff. The hospital's malpractice insurance is still in effect. Besides board members, the administrative staff includes that hospital's director and assistant director; the director of nurses; and the comptroller.

The D and O insurance covers such possibilities as lawsuits by employees concerning employment practices; budgetary decisions by the board such as equipment procurement and "almost any decision that the board could make" according to Elmore. He charged that loss of this type of insurance is due to large jury awards through lawsuits across the country. "It's crazy," he said.

"How are you going to get somebody to serve on the board, for nothing, if they're not covered," Elmore wanted to know.

The hospital was notified by the NC Hospital Insurance Service on November 1 that the policy would not be renewed and the hospital

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PEANUT AWARD—Mayor John Dowd, representing the Chamber of Commerce, presents the 1984 Peanut Award to a representative of Byrum Farms.

Farm-City Banquet Held

Farm folks and their town cousins got together Tuesday evening around the banquet table to celebrate Farm-City Week. The banquet at the American Legion Post brought together officials from the town and country governments as well as representatives from area civic groups and urban and rural citizens.

The theme for the week was summarized in the banquet program. "Farm people and city people cannot very well get along alone nowadays. Each is dependent on the other for products and services that are essential to modern living."

The purpose of farm-city activities "is to promote widespread working understanding of the interdependence of the two groups and to narrow the gap that sometimes divides the rural and urban segments of our population."

County Commissioner Alton Elmore provided the welcome followed by remarks by Edenton Mayor John Dowd and recognition of guests by president-elect of the Chamber of Commerce, Chuck Smith.

Mike Williams, County Extension Chairman, introduced the guest speaker, Chowan County Hospital Administrator M.A. "Johnny" Bryan. Bryan presented the history of the hospital and a look at its future for the county.

Farm awards were presented for outstanding achievement in several categories.

Chuck Smith, president of the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club presented the award for Best 4-H Livestock Record Books to first place winner, Crystal Stallings.

second place, Kent Howell; and third place to Robin Lichtenwalner.

The Chamber of Commerce awarded the 1984 Peanut Award to Byrum Farms. It was noted that Byrum Farms was the high producer in North and South Carolina as well as Virginia.

The president of the Extension Homemaker Council, Eula Jordan presented Mrs. Margie Eure with the Chowan County Woman in Agriculture Award.

The Youth in Agriculture Award went to Michael Neal Bass, presented by Teresa Jordan.

Capping off the awards was the presentation to C.Y. Parrish, III of the Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher Award by the Edenton Jaycees.

Businesses Recognized

The Albemarle Area Development Association Awards dinner will take place at the Elizabeth City State University Kermit E. White Graduate Center, on December 12 at 7:00 P.M. Marc Basnight will be the featured speaker this year.

One of the highlights of the annual event is the recognition of an outstanding business or industry from each of the ten participating counties. An award will be presented to a Chowan County industry followed by a short sound slide presentation recognizing their accomplishments.

Tickets at \$10.00 per person are available at the county Agricultural Extension Office, 482-8431 or at the Chamber of Commerce, 482-3490.



FLOAT WINNER—Macedonia Baptist Church created the float which took the first place position in Edenton's annual Christmas parade which was held last Sunday.

Annual Christmas Parade Floats Judged

Heavily overcast skies and a light mist did not deter throngs of people from viewing Edenton's annual Christmas parade Sunday, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. Many waited in their cars along the parade route while others sought shelter in downtown drug stores.

Thirty-eight units took part in the parade which was broadcast by radio station WBXB with Pat Flanagan announcing. Judging the floats at their stand in front of the courthouse were John Smith of Edenton Floral; Mona Wolf,

secretary to attorney John Morehead; and Frank Cox of People's Bank.

This year's first place winner was the entry of the Macedonia Baptist Church. Second place went to the Chowan County Shrine Club and third was captured by the Edenton BPW. Santa Claus was given a lift courtesy of the Edenton Fire Department.

Christmas caroles rang out in front of the courthouse prior to the parade, presented by WBXB and Jackson's Radio.

Music (to the ears of mer-

chants) also rang out from cash registers both before and after the parade as it heralded another Christmas shopping season.

Jaycees' Sales Proceeds Bring Holiday Cheer

By Rebecca Bunch
Christmas will be especially memorable this year for twenty Chowan County children, thanks to the hard work and caring of the Edenton Jaycees.

Beginning this week, Jaycee members will be going door to door, selling Christmas wreaths and garlands. The proceeds of this sales effort will be used to fund their annual Children's Christmas Party, and to buy clothes and toys as gifts for the kids who will be attending.

Small wreaths will be selling for \$12.00, and large ones for \$15.00. Garlands will be selling for 50 cents per foot.

Committee chairman Morris Small noted earlier this week that 1984 sales figures were very good, and that the Jaycees hope to do even better this year. He also said that a number of advance sales have already been made, and inquiries have been received from several persons who purchased wreaths and/or garlands last year.

Small also commented that the Jaycees are pleased to be able to host this Christmas party for Chowan County children, and are proud of the high level of support they have been receiving in the community.

For more information, or to arrange purchase of a wreath or garland, please call Morris Small at Tarheel Bank (482-7466) or Kel Elmore at Broad Street Texaco (482-8173).

Historic Homes Open Doors

Historic Edenton will host its annual Christmas Open House Sunday, December 8, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Visitors can enjoy the beauty and elegance of an eighteenth-century Christmas at the c. 1725 Cupola House and the c. 1773 James Iredell House.

Both homes will feature eighteenth-century style Christmas decorations made of fruit and natural materials such as boxwood, juniper, pine, rose hips, and china berries. The James Iredell House will also feature foods typical of the colonial period.

The Cupola House, built circa 1725, is an outstanding example of Jacobean architecture. The rare Jacobean characteristics are the large chimneys, decorative finials, and second story overhang. Inside, the house is paneled with elaborate Georgian woodwork. The Cupola House is a National Historic Landmark.

The Iredell House, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, was both the home of

James Iredell and the birthplace of James Iredell, Jr., governor of North Carolina (1827-28). Iredell came to America in 1768, at the age of seventeen, and studied law under his future brother-in-law, Samuel Johnston. He became Attorney General of North Carolina at age 28 and at age 39 was ap-

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COA Courses Scheduled

College of the Albemarle Continuing Education will offer the following courses beginning Thursday, Dec. 5th at Holmes High School from 7-10 p.m.

- Heating/Air Conditioning
- Notary Public (will only meet 1 night)
- Real Estate Brokerage
- Real Estate Law
- Sewing

For more information, call 482-8426 on Tuesday or Thursday night 7-10 p.m.



PROUDLY DISPLAYED—Pictured above are Morris Small (left) and Kel Elmore with the beautiful wreaths and garland that may be purchased from them or any Jaycee member. Proceeds go to the Christmas party for children in Chowan County. (Staff photo by Gail Mize)