

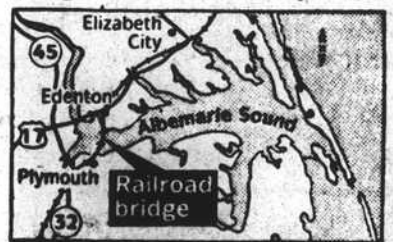
Public Parade

Bothersome Bridges

Two northeastern North Carolina railroad bridges have been in the news lately; and in both cases there is more to it than meets the eye. Of more concern along the Public Parade is the projected closing of the Norfolk Southern span across the Albemarle Sound; but the proposed use of public funds to lengthen a drawbridge on the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad at New Bern raises more eyebrows.

Norfolk Southern had originally announced its intention to abandon the Albemarle Sound bridge in June, but help came from an unexpected source. Rep. James T. Broyhill of the 10th North Carolina district, which stretches all the way to the Tennessee line, happens to be the ranking Republican member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over railroads. At his request, Norfolk Southern has agreed to keep freight rolling over the bridge until January.

This has brought a sigh of relief to farm, timber and related industries in northeastern North Carolina which use the railroad to reach the export market through Norfolk. But they realize the problem will not go away. Norfolk Southern does not want to spend \$19 million repairing the bridge, claiming the 7,500 cars of grain, pulpwood and timber crossing the bridge in three roundtrips each



BRIDGES IN THE NEWS—The Albemarle Sound and Trent River railroad bridges have been in the news lately, but for different reasons.

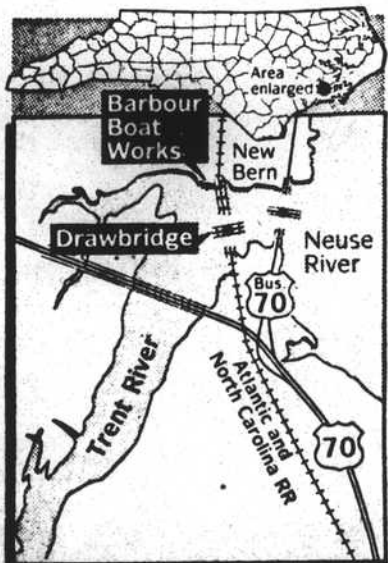
week would give a "negative return on the investment."

The railroad, however, should not be permitted to be the sole judge of that. The Interstate Commerce Commission will have to decide whether Norfolk Southern—or any other railroad, for that matter—will be allowed to abandon any facility which no longer pays its way. In our opinion, no public utility should be permitted just to skim the cream from its service area.

Quite a different sort of issue is raised by the proposal to spend state and federal tax dollars to lengthen the draw on the bridge at New Bern. The State of North Carolina is the principal stockholder in the railroad, but the tracks are leased to a Southern subsidiary, the Atlantic and North Carolina.

The A & NC trestle spans the Trent River just upstream from the US 70 highway bridge, which has a draw with a 68-foot clearance, while the railroad

Continued On Page 4



PROPOSER—Lena Leary makes a point for the proposed inn with humor at the Town Council hearing.



OPPONENT—Mary Nefedov spoke in opposition to the proposed inn at Wednesday night's hearing.

Public Hearing Brings Large Citizen Turnout

By Jack Grove

Proponents appeared to outnumber opponents Tuesday night, Feb. 25, at a public hearing on the proposed inn for Edenton's waterfront. Some 300 area residents filled the auditorium at John A. Holmes High School to hear a modified plan for visitor accommodations presented by Dwayne Anderson of the Anderson Benton Co., real estate developers.

The proposal, as originally presented on January 6, was a two-story inn with balconies facing the water on the site now occupied by the Edenton Police Department. The concept was actually two buildings connected by a breezeway.

The proposal has been assailed from various quarters in Edenton due to its location and size among other objections. Anderson's modifications would break the inn into three buildings of less bulk so as to minimize the effect of blocking off the town's waterfront.

The new plan would also give the town a stretch of waterfront from the water's edge to the inn's property line varying from 52 to 135 feet in depth. The developers would agree to extend the adjacent park and boardwalk through this area, giving residents more access to the waterfront itself.

Anderson said that an undertaking such as this requires "very important location criteria." He said that, "your assets the waterfront and history," were very important to the proposal.

He said that, "our plan is not to acquire land," and that the concept of two buildings connected by a breezeway had been changed. Anderson said that \$2 million would be spent to build an inn with 36 rooms and 30 to 50 boat slips for use by the boating public, both transient and permanent residents.

The plan would include a meeting facility that would accommodate 120 to 150 people. Anderson listed advantages to the town that would include 40 construction jobs, 20 permanent jobs at the inn and an annual ad valorem tax income to the town of \$30,000.

A parade of residents to the microphone followed the formal presentation of the plan. Opponents voiced their concerns mixed with those who favored it.

One opponent, directing her comments to Councilman Steve Hampton, said, "We are all faced with budget cuts. There are bound to be better ways than giving away access to our public waterfront."

Town Administrator Sam Noble mentioned the projected loss of federal funds due to the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act passed by Congress. While acknowledging that taxes from the inn wouldn't make a big dent in town expenses,

he said it would help.

Noble said that the town had applied for funds for bulkheading and other projects that had been denied. Of the disputed site, he said, "This is the only feasible way that it's ever going to be developed."

Marcia Crandall felt that the town should not "trade off better

income for quality of life." She said that the town should get young people involved through better utilization of the site for a park area with a boat ramp and other attractions. She said that the council was not utilizing the downtown area as it could be. "The downtown is in dire trouble," she said. Apparently refer-

ring to the boat ramp. Councilman Willis Privott told Crandall, "All the things that you have mentioned are for rich kids."

Gil Burroughs thought that the council should "not charge into a long-range plan. There will be no decrease in the need for public access waterfront property. I think

Continued On Page 4



DISCUSS INN CONCEPT—Town Councilman Willis Privott points out a detail on the artist's rendering of a proposed inn for Edenton's waterfront.

Court Calendar Heard

Chowan District Court was in session February 25, the Honorable Grafton G. Beaman presiding over the criminal calendar.

Jerry Lee Grissom pleaded guilty to a hunting violation. He received a fine of \$35 and cost of court.

Robert Erdis Mims pleaded guilty to speeding 69 in a 55 mph

zone. He received a fine of \$35 and cost of court. In a second case, Mims pleaded guilty to speeding 45 in a 35 mph zone and received a fine of \$35 and cost of court.

Phyllis Ann Basnight pleaded not guilty, but was found guilty of larceny. She was sentenced to a 90 day commitment in the N.C. Department of Corrections

Continued On Page 4



N.C. HEART PRESIDENT—Dr. Frederic Kahl, Cardiologist and President of the N.C. Affiliate, Inc. of the American Heart Association (left) talks with Bruce Gillikin, President of the local Association.

Heart Volunteers Honored

Dr. Frederic Kahl, President of the North Carolina Affiliate, Inc., of the American Heart Association, was the guest speaker last Wednesday evening for the Chowan Co. Heart Association meeting.

Following dinner, Dr. Kahl spoke of the outstanding job being done by the Chowan Co. Chapter and the importance of volunteers, such as those present, for the continued research so necessary against our nation's Number One Killer.

He pointed out the importance of programming in our schools

through Heart Health Education in the Young, sponsored by the American Heart Assoc. as well as Blood Pressure Screenings and other public awareness programming. Also discussed was the importance of fund-raising to continue the research and programming.

A discussion period followed Dr. Kahl's presentation. He is a Professor of Cardiology at Bowman-Gray School of Medicine, has a private practice in cardiology in Winston-Salem and is a volunteer for the American Heart Association.

Omitted

Editor's Note: Due to the unavailability of political candidates for interviews for this edition, the series will continue next week.

Aces Playing State Playoffs Tonight

The John A. Holmes varsity boys basketball team will play in the first round of the State Basketball playoffs on Thursday, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. The tournament is being held in Bethel at North Pitt High School.

The Aces, posting a 20-4 record, will face a tough challenge from the Farmville Jaguars with a 12-10 record.

Edenton finished second in the Northeastern 2-A Conference with a 10-2 conference mark after being picked to finish third by the conference coaches. The Jaguars finished with a 7-5 conference record and a third place finish in the Eastern Plains Conference.

Many of their early losses came as a result of basketball players being involved in the state football playoffs.

Both Edenton and Farmville have had several days to prepare for what looks to be a very evenly matched game.

Players that will see lots of action for the Aces are: Charles Holley, Darryl Overton, John Goodwin, Milton Johnson, Keith Bartlett, Aaron Rollins, Deronne Felton, J.J. White, Mike Riddick, Dwayne Bryant, Andre Wilder, Brad Hendricks and Robert Rankins.

The Jaguars that will see action are: Dennis Tripp, Kenneth

Williams, Bernard Taylor, Don May, Tony Days, Mel Williams, Reggie Mitchell and Bill Blount.

The winner will advance to the second round on Monday, March 3 to play the winner of the Ayden-Grifton and Ahoskie game which was played Tuesday.

Class Begins

Beginning March 11, "Introduction to Archaeology," a classroom study of the field of Social Sciences and its various disciplines—Anthropology, Sociology, Archaeology, Folklore, Political Science, Economics, and

Continued On Page 4



STRATEGY—Aces Coach, Robert Woodley, sends instructions into a recent game as players look on.

Saturday, March 1st
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tyner Jaycees Bloodmobile
Give the Gift of Life — Give a Unit of Blood

Tyner Jaycees Building
on Hwy. 32 North