

## Public Parade

### No Shock Intended

Here six days before the primary, we would like to let everyone along the Public Parade know that we did not intend to shock anyone with our endorsement of a Chowan County resident for one of the two First District house seats. If Mr. Frank Sellers was shocked, perhaps it was because he appears to be politically pretty highly charged himself.

We were speaking from long experience when we observed that, in multi-county districts, the legislator naturally tends to represent his home constituents more effectively than others. In that connection, Mr. Sellers used an unfortunate example when he referred to Rep. Charles Evans as "having done as much for Chowan and other counties in his district as he did for his home county of Dare."

It depends on what is meant by "having done as much." If that means that he tried to present their needs and desires to the General Assembly, we can witness that he did. But when it came to appropriations, the record will show that Dare County obtained more special funding from the 1983-84 session than all the other counties in the district put together. Of course, a lot of it was tied into the 400th anniversary celebration, but it went to Dare County just the same.

As we said in our original article, none of this is to imply that R.M. (Pete) Thompson has no other qualifications than being a resident of Chowan. People along the Public Parade know that he is

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## Many Vie For Seats At May 6th Primary

The Primary campaigns for local, state and national offices are coming to a close and citizens will take over next Tuesday when they choose both partisan and non-partisan favorites.

The non-partisan election will be for the local Board of Education. The candidates for First Township seats are Alice P. Jones (appointed to fill an unexpired term) challenged by Lois E. Jordan; J.M. Parrish, Jr. versus Thomas I. Sharpe; and James Taylor (incumbent) challenged by Frank E. Cox, Paul E. Chappell, in the Third Township, is unchallenged.

There are no contested Republican races on the local level. All of the local races for office are contested on the Democratic side except for County Commissioner C.A. (Al) Phillips who is running unopposed.

There are four contestants in the Chowan County Sheriff's race. They are Norman E. Bunch, Delvin E. Jethro, Wayne Rice, and E.C. Toppin.

Marjorie Hollowell, who now fills the position of Clerk of Superior Court for Chowan County, is being challenged by Marguerite B. McCall.

In the Chowan County Board of Commissioners race are the following candidates: for the First Township seat, Joseph B. Hollowell (incumbent) is challenged by W. Carroll Smith; and Second Township, Clara M. Boswell (incumbent) is challenged by W. David Ober.

In state races, six candidates

are vying for two seats for the First District in the N.C. House of Representatives. They are: Vernon James (incumbent); R.M. "Pete" Thompson; Winifred "Winnie" Wood; Samuel A. "Sam" Walker; Harry B. Schiffman; and Audie V. Simon.

Senator Marc Basnight is running unopposed for his second term in the N.C. Senate for the First District.

Also on Tuesday's ballot will be two referendum issues for voter consideration. The first would change the N.C. Constitution to provide for election of state and local officials on odd-numbered years. The other asks voters to decide if they want a nuclear waste disposal area in the state of North Carolina.

A sample ballot for the May 6 Primary can be found on page 6A of today's edition.

The polling places are:

**East Edenton:** Old National Guard Armory - parking is at the rear of the building;

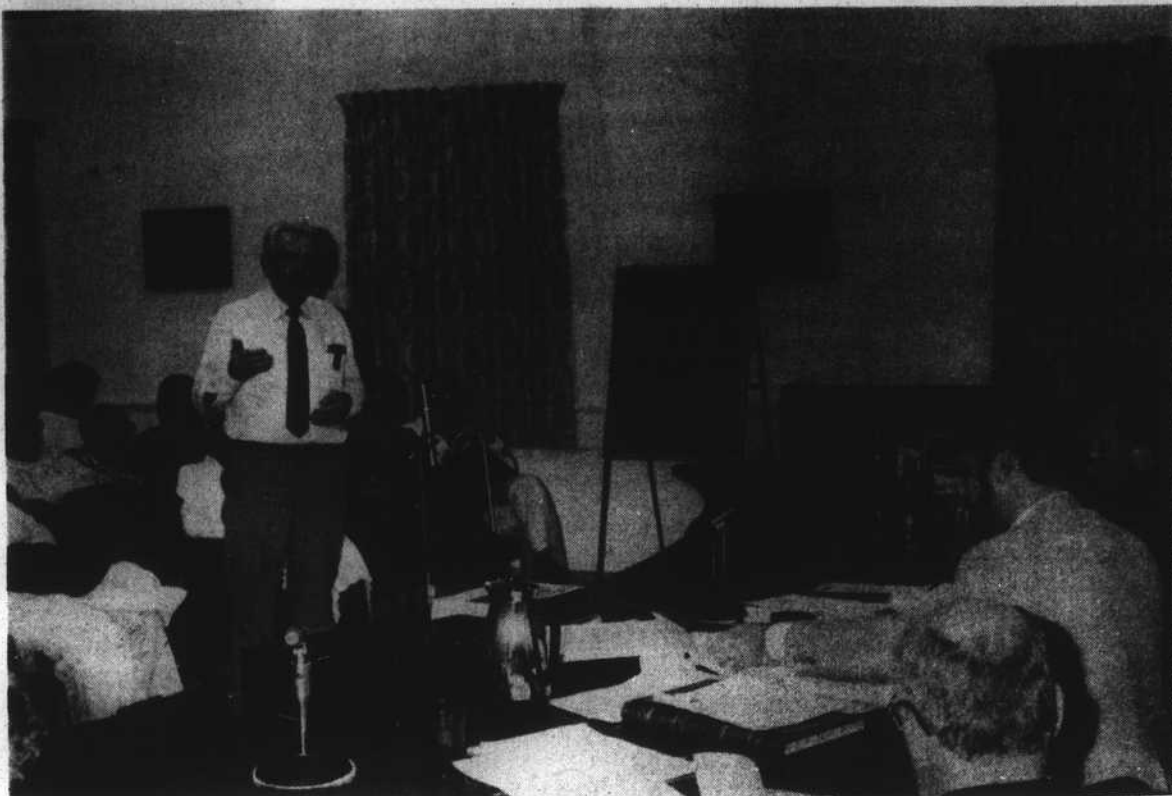
**West Edenton:** New Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad Building - parking at the front and side of the building;

**Rocky Hock:** Rocky Hock Rescue Squad Building - parking in front and side of building;

**Center Hill:** Crossroads Fire Department - parking in front of building;

**Wardville:** Gliden Rescue Squad Building - parking in front of building;

**Yeopim:** New National Guard Armory - parking at front and side of building.



**HEATED EXCHANGE**—Former Edenton Mayor Roy Harrell addresses the Edenton Town Council and assembled citizens in an impassioned attempt to foil council's action in revising the town's charter at a special meeting Tuesday evening.

## Opposition Voiced Over Revisions

By JACK GROVE

The Edenton Town Council sailed through a relatively serene meeting Tuesday evening until

the end of the meeting when comments were heard from residents in a packed Council chamber.

Dealing with the agenda, the council approved bids for construction of the electric line project to serve the town's proposed land application system and for renovation of the overhead water storage tank located on Park Avenue; set May 13 as a hearing date for a proposed annexation of land into the town upon which a motel would be built; and gave David Etheridge an additional 60 day extension to complete renovation at Oakum Street property.

The last agenda item sparked acrimony. Council gave approval of a final draft revision of the Town's Charter and approved a resolution requesting that the General Assembly ratify it as special legislation.

Councilman Steve Hampton's was the dissenting vote on both votes regarding the charter. Concerning the draft revision, Hampton said, "I wish council would take a lot of thought on this. I wish council would listen to the people on this."

Councilman Herbert Hollowell said that the existing

charter was "in conflict with the law." He said that presently, the Mayor and Town Administrator both have authority to administer town departments.

Hampton said of the resolution requesting General Assembly action, "I was under the impression that the Legislature would not touch it if it was not a unanimous vote of the council. I feel it's taking away the effectiveness of the council."

The revision to the Town Charter has two primary changes: a four-year term for the office of Mayor rather than the present two-year term; and a change from a Mayor-Council form of town administration to a Council-Town Manager form, giving the manager total hiring and firing authority.

Upon the conclusion of regular business, former Mayor Roy Harrell rose to again challenge the council's actions. He said, "This is about the lowest spot that I've seen the Town Council in in a long time." He charged that Councilman Hollowell tried to get the same measure passed in 1979

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## DOT Plans Area Meet

Facing critical funding shortfalls, members of the state Transportation Board will begin the five-month process of deciding how to set statewide highway construction priorities during a series of 15 public meetings to start this week.

The lead meeting will be held today at the Albemarle Commission building in Hertford at 512 So. Church Street. The session is due to begin at 2 p.m. with registration of speakers beginning at 1 p.m. The purpose of the meetings is to give local residents, businesses, and government leaders an opportunity to discuss various highway construction projects to be included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The four-laning of U.S. 17 is expected to be of paramount interest to local citizens. Other area highways that are expected to be discussed concerning widening are U.S. 158 and U.S. 168. This area's main corridor to the west, U.S. 64 is another main concern. Four-laned west of Rocky Mount, it narrows to two lanes from there to Williamston.

Kenneth Roberson and Earl Rountree, members of the Transportation Board for this area will be in attendance, along with DOT staff members. Rountree is said to favor the recently proposed "Roads to the Future" program of Governor James G. Martin.

Martin's program will be anchored by the implementation of savings efforts within the department; the creation of a trust fund to provide a new source of funding; the generation of additional revenue with a 2.75 cent per gallon motor fuel tax increase; and the transfer of the state Highway Patrol and the Drivers Education Program away from the Highway Fund. This program is expected to generate an additional \$200 million for state roads.

The TIP is the department's basic planning document which sets highway construction priorities for the next 10 years. It is updated annually at a series of meetings state-wide.

In light of the DOT's budget shortfalls this year, there will be concern on how to hold on to many projects that are scheduled but threatened by a shortage of funds. Typically, discussions at TIP meetings center on adding new projects to the program, according to the DOT.



**CANDIDATES MEET AND GREET**—Representative Vernon James (seated) exchanges a handshake with Democratic candidate R.M. "Pete" Thompson at the Bake Shop in Gas Light Square Monday morning. Others (l. to r.) are West Byrum, C.A. "Al" Phillips, Chowan County Commissioner; and Jim Darnell. Serving the coffee is Pearl Faircloth.

## Incumbent Continues Active Campaign

Representative Vernon James of the First District is taking nothing for granted in his bid for a tenth term in the N.C. General Assembly. There are six candidates in the Democratic Primary race for two available seats from the First District. James was in Edenton Monday, greeting voters, when he was interviewed.

James, a native of Pasquotank County, is a retired farmer and is President and Manager of James Bros., Inc., a produce supply business.

Honors garnered during his career include: Outstanding contributions to the N.C. Soybean Assoc. Award and N.C. Farm Bureau Federation Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture, both in 1983; Award from the N.C. Assoc. of County Commissioners for Distinguished Service to County Government and N.C. Citizens, 1984; and N.C. Assoc. of County Agents Award for 1985.

James spoke of his early days of earning a living. "I've plowed a mule; drove a truck; and bought and sold produce. I started off with nothing," he said. He said that he had worked in a sawmill for 10 cents an hour. In 1942, he bought his first farm.

The incumbent was asked what he felt were the main concerns of citizens of the First District. He cited education (both buildings and programs), roads, health care and clean water as high on most people's list of priorities.

He said that local citizens were worried about funding of school buildings and lunch room programs for poor children due to projected federal reductions for education.

James said that "perhaps some of the present programs do not have to be replaced." Concerning replacement funding on the state level, he said, "My answer is to increase the sales tax by one-half cent which would bring in \$178 million. My proposal would be to

distribute the funds to each county based on its population to go in the county's general fund." He

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## TV Forum

Democratic candidates for the N.C. House of Representatives, First District, will be featured on WITN-TV, Channel 7, Monday evening at 7 p.m. The idea for the program originated with Harry Brinkley Schiffman, candidate from Manteo and reported by the Chowan Herald in the April 17 edition.

According to WITN-TV news director, Greg Albrecht, the half-hour program will air live from the Washington County Court House in Plymouth. He said each of the six candidates would be given 3½ to 4 minutes to state their positions, followed by a brief analysis by news personnel.



**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**—The Chowan County Democratic Women's organization has elected Lueta Sellers, left as their new President. With her is outgoing President, Pansy Elliott.

## Defendants Dropped From Suit

Chowan County's long-standing litigation passed another milestone on April 14, when Judge Bradford Tillery signed an order in Superior Court dismissing all defendants in the Emmett H. Wiggins case except the county tax supervisor.

In an action which dates back to the late 1940's, Mr. Wiggins is seeking to have a cloud removed from his title to property in the Rocky Hock community and had named the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina State Board of Education, the North Carolina Real Property Office, the office of Attorney General, the Chowan register of deeds, the board of county commissioners, the county tax supervisor and other officers and individual's as

defendants.

Judge Tillery's ruling, however, drops all the parties defendant except Dallas Jethro, the county tax supervisor, who has now been invited, in a letter dated April 7, to meet with Mr. Wiggins in an effort to work out a mutually agreeable settlement.

"I'd appreciate you arranging, at your earliest convenience, a meeting with me in your office on the subject of my three pieces of property and their proper registry, boundaries, acreage, and source of titles thereto," Mr. Wiggins says in his letter. "It is, as you have said, time these matters were resolved once and for all."



Let Your Voice Be Heard . . .

Primary Day — May 6

. . . Vote For The Candidates Of Your Choice

