



The Public Parade

Close Encounters Yet

Two recent close encounters with nature left us with a better understanding of the complex system which, somehow, continues to function within this polluted cage we all occupy.

One was with a bird, the other with a bunny.

There is a family of mockingbirds which occupies the undergrowth on the frontal dune which rises between our deck and the ocean down at Pine Knoll Shores. For years we have enjoyed watching the cycle of this little family, staking out and defending its territory, building nests and hatching out its young. We have on occasion enjoyed the opportunity of feeding the young fledglings as they came out from under the muscadines and cedars to test their wings in the world beyond.

But this spring a new element was added. A cat appeared where no cat had been for years before. We could always tell when the cat was about by the changed attitude of the mockingbirds, which became fussy and belligerent. As the days passed, their protestations became more pronounced, even a version of the old broken-wing trick being put into use in a determined effort to divert the cat's attention to other areas.

We knew the reason for this because we had heard the voices of the young trying to get attention every time the mother arrived with a new grocery order. Thus it was that we went onto the deck to check things out. Sure enough, there was the cat, a sleek, prowling predator, making his way across the lawn. Suddenly, he paused just opposite the place where the birds had located their nests. We stomped on the deck, flailed our arms and shouted at him, trying to get him to move on. But he acted just as if we weren't there.

Then, since ours is a second floor deck and there was not much more we could do at the time, we stood transfixed as the cat turned slowly and ducked under the vines and shrubs, disappearing in the direction of the nests. The mother bird continued to dart into and out of the bushes, but we couldn't see what was going on. Shortly, the cat emerged, carrying a half-grown mockingbird in its mouth, and gave us a look of contempt, and departed leisurely toward a neighboring fence.

At that point, we recalled the pellet pistol our grandsons had left after their last visit. We dug it out and brought it up on deck, together with a supply of ammunition. Next time around, we were going to be prepared.

Next time was not long in coming. The very next afternoon, the drama resumed at act one. The cat was making his way leisurely down past the nesting place in the dune, the mockingbird was again trying to distract him and he looked at us as if to say, "Well, when are you going to start your silly act?"

As he turned to crawl through the underbrush, we let him have a B-B right in the behind. He jumped and turned around a post to face us, this time with a little more respect, since most of him was protected by the post. We tried a second shot. It hit the post with a sharp crack which made it sound a lot worse than it was.

This apparently helped to make up his mind. He started a slow walk toward the fence, with the bird helping to give him the bum's rush. We let him have another pellet to help move him on his way and, by the time a third one caught him at his hole in the fence, he was moving at a respectable speed.

Then, a surprising thing happened. The mockingbird, returned from the chase and lighted atop the highest post on the deck and sang a cheerful little song. It was her way of saying, "Thank you."

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PROTEST TAX INCREASE—Walter Bond speaks to county commissioners and a crowd of concerned taxpayers at the county's tax hearing in the old Court House Tuesday morning. Bond said that he was concerned about the property tax increase and that "The town says we're going to add-on a nickle."

Proposed Tax Increase Debated

By JACK GROVE

A packed court room in the old Chowan County Court House heard County Manager Cliff Copeland and County Commissioners say that an ad valorem tax increase is inevitable. In response, taxpayers told county officials that ways should be found to cut expenses.

Copeland led off the annual tax hearing with a summary of past, present and future revenue needs of the county government. He cited three reasons that a tax increase is needed:

(1) Loss of federal revenue sharing—last year's federal funds to the county was budgeted at \$180,000 and this year's only \$29,667;

(2) A reduction in appropriated fund balance or reserves—in an effort to protect the county's meager reserves, none would be used in the projected budget;

(3) Loss of interest earned and ABC revenues—with the reduction in both interest rates and reserves, interest income in this year's budget is reduced by \$40,000.

The county manager said that, all told, the county is losing some \$465,047 in revenue.

The three largest budget items are the Sheriff's Department, Social Services and Education. In a comparison of the years 1983 and 1987, the Sheriff's Department budgeted total of \$182,618 showed only a slight increase while Social Services has increased by \$331,891 and Education has increased by \$456,701.

Copeland said that since these programs are mandated by state and federal laws the county is obliged to fund them.

Taxpayers, for the most part farmers, had strong objections to the proposed 15¢ per \$100 valuation tax increase.

J.M. Parrish, Sr. presented a petition opposing any tax increase to county commissioners. He said the petition bore the names of 1,715 town and county taxpayers. He asked why county officials were not looking for income from the proposed one-half cent sales tax increase and land transfer tax (these taxes are under consideration by the General Assembly during the current short session in Raleigh).

Parrish went on to say, "We farmers have had to tighten our belts." He cited the federal Gramm-Rudman legislation that mandated a reduction in farm commodity price supports. He said that prices were down some \$1 per bushel on corn and soybeans.

Parrish read a recent Associated Press story that dealt with FmHa Loan foreclosures on farms in North Carolina. "If the government starts taking over our farm land, will the county be able to collect taxes from government land? There has never been a budget that couldn't be trimmed," he concluded to applause from the crowd.

Farmer David Bateman told the commissioners, "I think we've got a problem that won't go away. We need to get the state to change the ways localities can raise need-

ed revenues." He said that the political action committees of the state organizations of county commission boards and school boards should pressure state legislators to broaden the tax base through means other than ad valorem taxes.

Carroll Evans suggested that

money could be saved through a consolidation of the town and county governments, a suggestion that he called, "opening up a whole new can of worms."

Bob Lepley of Arrowhead Beach said that when he bought his property, the developer used

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NEW CHIROPRACTOR—Dr. James McLellan and his wife Sally have recently moved to Edenton to set up his practice at 208 North Broad Street.

New Practice Opens Doors

Edenton's newest doctor has set up his practice at 208 No. Broad Street. Dr. James McLellan, along with his wife Sally has moved his practice of chiropractics from Long Island, N.Y. where he practiced for four years.

McLellan is a native of a small town in Illinois and graduated from Pacific University in Oregon. He took his chiropractic training at Palmer College in Davenport, Iowa. The school is named after D.D. Palmer, the founder of modern chiropractic practice in 1895.

Sally McLellan is from a small town near Pittsburgh, Penn. She has had business experience in the insurance field and will act as receptionist and handle the business aspects of the couple's practice.

Dr. McLellan said he first became familiar with North Carolina when he filled in for a friend in his practice in Gastonia. Feeling that there were better places to raise children than in New York, the couple began looking around in this state to settle.

After contacting many chambers of commerce in small towns, including talking with former Edenton-Chowan's former executive director Jerry Hendee, the McLellans felt that they had found the right place to raise a family. Selling points for them included proximity to the water; the size of the town; access to an excellent hospital; a good local professional atmosphere; and access to a major city (Norfolk).

The doctor said that the fact that John A. Holmes High School students were televised live from the White House on the day after they arrived seemed to add to the rightness of their decision. He said, "When we saw Edenton, there was nothing else that compared to it. It's the best move we've made in four years.

The practice will be called Colonial Chiropractic according to McLellan. He explained that the word chiropractic is derived from latin: chiro meaning "hands" and practice, "practice." "Chiropractic is a system of eliminating nerve pressures which can cause symptoms of pain all the way to organ dysfunction," he said. He gave as an example, stomach ulcers.

McLellan said that people with chronic headaches can be treated through chiropractic. "We often get people as a last resort and they can get relief in a relatively short period of time," he said. "Chiropractic is as much prevention as it is a curative procedure," he concluded.

The white house next to Fast
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Bill Awaits Approval

Special legislation to change Edenton's Town Charter has leaped two legislative hurdles in the General Assembly and seems ready to race to the finish line. The bill, introduced by First District Representative Charles Evans, would specify a council-manager form of government for the town rather than the present mayor-council form.

The bill, also endorsed by First District Representative Vernon James, was passed in the House on June 13 after three readings. It was then sent to the Senate.

A meeting of the N.C. Senate's Local Government Committee gave proponents and opponents from Edenton an opportunity to speak Tuesday. Representing the Edenton Town Council were Edenton Mayor John Dowd, Town Administrator Sam Noble and Ellis Hankins, an attorney from the N.C. League of Municipalities.

Representing Edenton citizens opposing the bill were former mayor Roy Harrell, Councilman Steve Hampton, the Rev. Ashby Browder and the Rev. James L. Fenner.

Briefly speaking on the measure, House Bill 1461, Rep. Evans told the committee that the town had requested it by a council vote of five to one. He told them that he favored passage of the legislation.

Harrell was given five minutes to state his opposition. In a phone interview Wednesday, Harrell said, "I said in the meeting yesterday that we were not there to protest the changing of the charter but that the people of Edenton had been prevented from having the opportunity for a public hearing or the chance to vote on the changing of the charter which is a right given to the citizens under state statute 160-A-103."

He continued, "However, the method chosen by the mayor and the council of going to the General Assembly to get this passed prevents the people from having their say."

During the hearing, Harrell told the committee that he had a petition in opposition to the charter change that bore over 500 signatures. He also displayed two copies of The Chowan Herald that contained headlines on stories that spoke of local opposition and read the headlines to the committee.

Following Harrell before the committee, Rep. James told the legislators that the local legislative delegation made it a practice to honor requests of local governments such as the one represented by House Bill 1461. First District Senator Marc Basnight also voiced his approval of the measure.

In a statement Wednesday, Dowd said, "Local government and state government have always had a very close working relationship. This relationship has been based on the idea that local governments know what is best for their communities and they are elected to make studied, intelligent decisions for their people."

Dowd continued, "Our council has studied the council-manager form of government and with advice from the League of Municipalities, has decided that this form of government that now serves all but six of our state's municipalities with populations over 5,000 would also serve Edenton well."

Harrell said, "I understand that it will be quickly ratified in the senate. This is very disappointing to me and I'm sure it will be to the 500 people who signed the petition."

Of this area's legislative delegation Harrell said, "I'm very disappointed that they got involved." He said that their "automatic endorsement" of this legislation should not have been made.

No presentation was made by Dowd or Noble at the committee hearing. The matter was closed when the committee unanimously approved the bill and sent it to the full senate for final consideration.

Miller Completes Program

Kathleen Miller, Executive Director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, recently completed a week's Institute for Organization Management at the University of Georgia. Over 300 voluntary organization executives from all over the country participated in this professional development program.

The Georgia Institute is one of six annual, one-week sessions sponsored by the Center for Leadership Development, a division of the National Chamber Foundation at leading universities throughout the country.

During the five-day session, participants spent 27 classroom hours in the Institute course of

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Truck Run Off Road

An accident at a sharp curve on State Road 1101 late Tuesday afternoon left a 1982 Luv truck on its top in a ditch. The occupants, driver Darren Allen, 20, of Virginia Beach, Va. and Richard Basnight, 22, of Manteo were transported to Chowan Hospital by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad. The curve is one and a half miles north of N.C. 37 in the Yeopim community of Chowan County.

A witness, Alicia Ludwig, of Snug Harbor in Perquimans County, said she was traveling north, towing another vehicle with her car when she was passed by the Allen truck, also traveling north. She said that upon approaching the curve, she was passed by a southbound "white car" that was moving at a high rate of speed.

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FOURTH OF JULY PLANNERS—These Optimist Club members met Monday night to finalize plans for Edenton's Fourth of July celebration on the waterfront. The festivities that begin at 11 a.m. will feature food and drink concessions, craft booths, games for children, a tug of war, and live music. Radio station WZBO will be on the air live from the waterfront. The celebration will be capped at 9:30 p.m. with fireworks from a barge fired by Optimist experts.