



The Public Parade

In Right Direction

We do not find much wrong with what the mayor and council are trying to do to the town charter, but we do feel they would be well advised to take the people more fully into their confidence in the future when considering such moves.

We believe it was Alexander Pope who observed that "fools over form contest, whatever is best administered is best." Thus, the form of government is not as important as the character and competence of those who administer it; and that is an area in which this community appears at the moment to be fortunate.

Edenton very probably has reached the point in size and complexity of its affairs that it can best be served by the council-manager form of government. With a competent town manager, a dedicated council and a mayor who is willing to surrender power, now would seem to be the opportune time to do it.

Under the old charter, the mayor was the chief executive officer of the town, with general supervision and control of all officers, departments and affairs, the council serving largely in an advisory capacity. This type of administration is best suited to the town which is too small to afford a city manager, where the mayor is of necessity chief cook and bottlewasher, not to mention police court judge and ribbon cutter.

But Edenton has outgrown that status. It has become a multi-million dollar operation, con-

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Alt. School Hearing Set

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday night to hold a public hearing concerning the possible closing of the Alternative School. The marathon three and a half hour meeting has "considerable discussion" on the school closing said Associate Superintendent Jim Kinion.

Chowan County Commissioners took a \$30,000 slice out of the school system budget in order to reduce an already large ad valorem tax hike. Kinion said that the school board was looking at various options on paring their budget due to the county's action.

He said that a new activities bus that had already been ordered and worth \$30,000 had been cancelled. The board, however is expecting another deficit of some \$20,000 when the General Assembly passes an expected 6.5 per cent salary increase for teachers. The board had budgeted only 5 per cent for the salary increase.

Coupled with the 6.5 per cent increase, Kinion said, was an expected legislative increase of a \$75 per month raise for non-certified school personnel (such as secretaries, custodians and maintenance workers). He said that this amounted to as much as a 10 per cent raise for some of the non-certifieds depending on where they were on the salary schedule.

Kinion said that closing the Alternative School would make up the total deficit of \$50,000. He said that the alternative would be the savings from the cancelled school bus and cuts of \$20,000 elsewhere in the board's budget.

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 at 8 p.m. at the John A. Holmes cafeteria.



TORNADO DAMAGE— Jesse Holley stands in front of his storm-damaged home in Rocky Hock Monday morning. A late afternoon tornado ripped the roof off the home while Holley was inside. He was the only occupant and was uninjured as the twister roared through his property.

Tornadoes Pass Through County

A line of severe thunderstorms across northeastern North Carolina spawned at least five tornadoes across the area Saturday afternoon, two of which touched down in Chowan County.

Other localities hit were Gatesville, Sunbury and Dare County near Colington Harbor. The Sunbury twister blew trees across U.S. 158; the Gatesville storm caused power outages; and the Dare storm caused no damage. None of the tornadoes resulted in injury.

Jessee Holley, who lives about a half-mile west of the Rocky Hock grocery, said that his home was hit by a tornado between 3

and 4 p.m. Although he didn't see a funnel shaped cloud, he said, "It was right dark."

Holley was at home alone at the time the storm hit. He said that "it sounded like a bomb struck," when it ripped the metal roof off the house. "I jumped up and ran and got in a corner," he said. Both his front and back doors were open at the time.

After the storm moved off, Holley stepped out his back door to find that the power line to his house was down and "Fire was flying across the road," from downed power lines.

Shirley Drawdy, who along with her husband George, owns the

Rocky Hock Grocery, said that she was outside and saw the storm approaching. She asked her husband, "What's that?" and his reply was, "It looks like smoke." Mrs. Drawdy went inside the store only to have her husband close on her heels—"He came flying in and said it's a tornado," she recalled Monday.

The Drawdy family took refuge in the store's walk-in meat cooler. In describing the storm, Mrs. Drawdy said, "You're talking dark, dark." She said the storm was accompanied by lightning, heavy rain and "terrific winds." She also said that fireballs were seen near the Holley home.

Holley's next door neighbor's house sustained lesser roof damage. Anthony Hayes said that he was in town with his wife and young daughter when the storm struck. The path of the twister moved from the Holley house, near the Hayes property and continued east, depositing sheets of roofing metal along the way in nearby fields.

Wilbur Bunch was working in his field about a mile further west when he saw the funnel shaped cloud. He judged the base of the funnel to be some 300-400 feet in diameter.

Lloyd Peele, whose home is also about a mile west of Holley's, said that he and his family spotted two twisters, one of which was seen to lift from the ground. He said that they were about a half mile apart and traveling east.

Tornadoes occur most frequently during the spring but can occur whenever severe thunderstorms are present.

Town Insurance Transferred

Edenton Town Council turned its attention to liability insurance after the tax hearing last Wednesday evening. A decision had to be made concerning the possible transfer of the town's coverage from Traveler's Insurance Co. to a new "Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of N.C.," sponsored by the N.C. League of Municipalities.

Edenton, along with most other cities and towns of the state belong to the League. The IRFFNC was formed in answer to the spiraling costs associated with commercial firms. Edenton experienced a jump of from \$36,000 last year to \$98,000 this year in premium costs.

Mayor John Dowd and Councilman A.B. Harless, both in the insurance business, were asked for their advice by other council members. Harless said that he had made comparisons based on \$2 million in coverage. He said that the Travelers Co. "took us out

of hot water last year," when other firms wouldn't accept coverage for the town or were much higher.

Dowd commented that the Traveler Co. offered "the experience of 100 years," versus that of the League of about a year.

Dowd continued, "The League has been good to Edenton. The League is predicting dividends of almost 50 per cent in about five years."

Councilman Hollowell, referring to the League, offered, "I think that as far as dependability, you can rely on them. The first year is the highest." Marina Crummeysaid, "If we don't stand behind the League, what's going to happen then?"

Action was deferred until a noon meeting Friday at which the council decided to move the town's insurance business to the IRFFNC. It was determined that, by this decision, a savings of \$2,000 will be made the first year.

Legislators Push Through Local Bills

State legislators from the First District have taken the lead in ensuring passage of bills this week in the General Assembly that are of importance to Edenton and Chowan County.

Representatives Charles Evans of Dare, Vernon James of Pasquotank and Senator Marc Basnight of Dare have shepherded through to passage a bill revising Edenton's Town Charter and a bill changing the hunting law for Chowan County.

The charter bill, ratified Friday, provides for a change from the mayor-council to the council-manager form of government. It also provides for a term of four

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Herald Office Holiday Deadlines

The Chowan Herald will be closed Friday, July 4, in order to allow employees to spend the holiday with their families.

Accordingly, the Herald's classified ad deadline, which normally is 4 p.m. on Monday afternoon, has been extended to 12 noon on Tuesday, July 8. All remaining deadlines, both for ads and news items, will stay the same.

The Chowan Herald staff wishes everyone a happy and safe July 4 holiday. The Herald will re-open at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, July 7.

Property Tax Raised

By JACK GROVE

Ad valorem taxes will rise for property owners in both Edenton and Chowan County as a result of votes taken last week by the respective governments. The town tax will go up 5 cents per hundred valuation for a total tax of 56 cents per hundred. The county's tax is going up by another 12 cents, three cents short of the budget proposal originally submitted by the county's finance committee for a total of 79 cents per hundred.

The recent county tax hearing in the old court house was attended by protesting farmers who said that the proposed increase, along with other financial woes of the farmer, might put some out of business. After the hearing, County Manager Cliff Copeland said that the county would apply sharpened pencils to the budget, hoping to come up with a smaller increase.

County Commissioners passed the smaller increase at a meeting late Thursday afternoon. The school system came in for the brunt of the cut, losing \$30,000 to its budget, or a one cent reduction in the tax.

Another penny of tax was dropped by cutting other county departments including two new

cars for the Sheriff's Department.

The final cent was lopped off with a sharper look at the tax base, according to Copeland. He said that the proposed budget was based on estimated income and that more accurate figures were available by Thursday.

The town's hearing on the budget was held last Wednesday evening and was attended by only a few people. Council was asked at the hearing if the increase would be later reduced if the one-half cent sales tax before the General Assembly were adopted?

Town Administrator Sam Noble pointed out that the increase was necessary due to federal cutbacks and the need for two additional firemen that added \$14,000 in salary expenses. He said that the goal of the administration has been to decrease the transfer of electric utility funds to the general fund and that any additional sales tax revenue would go to repay the electric fund.

Councilman Herbert Hollowell observed, "You could never set a tax rate and then change it in the middle of the year."

The tax increase was then passed unanimously. Councilman Steve Hampton was absent from the meeting.

Restaurant Founder Dies

Mrs. Beulah Boswell, 76, a resident of the Prime Time Retirement Home, Edenton, died June 30 in Norfolk General Hospital. She was the founder and former owner of Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant (now known as Boswell's Restaurant) in Edenton. The restaurant was begun as a ten seat lunch counter along a side wall of Beulah Boswell's grocery store on July 4, 1947. Following her retirement, she had sold the business to her son, Jim Boswell.

A native of Pasquotank County, Mrs. Boswell was the daughter of the late Mary Elizabeth Reid Palmer and Henry Clay Palmer. She was the widow of the late William Louis Boswell.

Survivors include: five daughters - Hazel Habit of Portsmouth, Va., Nancy Ingman of Corona Del-Mar, Ca., Helen Lockhart of Winterhaven, Fla., Edna Romine of Ridgefield, Conn., and Rebecca Boswell of Fayetteville, N.C.; two sons - Joseph Lynn Boswell and James H. (Jim) Boswell, both of Edenton; two sisters - Edna Thompson of Walnut Island, N.C., and Margaret Hayman of Elizabeth City; 21 grandchildren; and six

great-grandchildren.

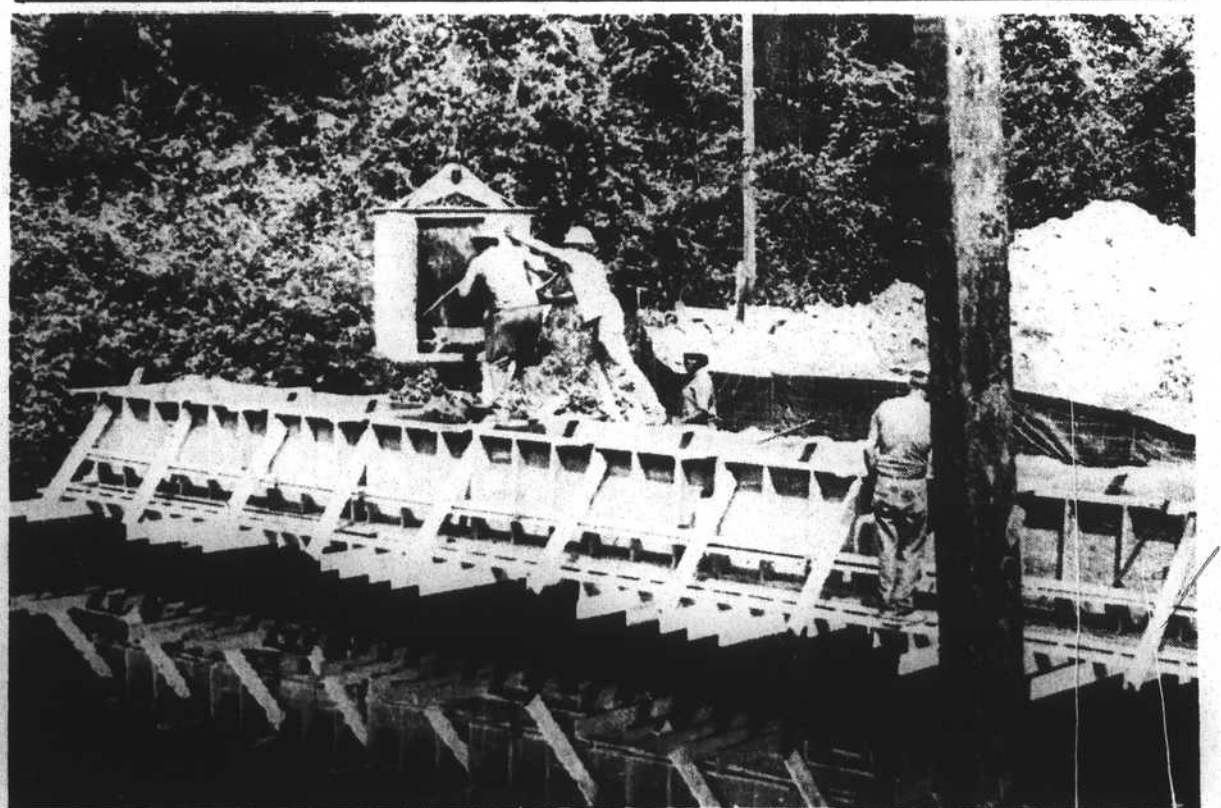
Mrs. Boswell was for many years active in civic and community organizations. She was a charter member of the Edenton Business and Professional Woman's Club, of which she served as President from 1969-70. In 1968, she was chosen BPW Clubwoman of the Year and in 1978, she was named BPW Woman of the Year. In addition, she had served with the Ocean Highway Association, and was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. Thursday (today) in St. Paul's Episcopal Church with Rev. Charles E. Dove officiating. Burial will follow in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

The family will gather at the home of Jim Boswell in Edenton.

Pallbearers will be Mrs. Boswell's grandsons—Elton Boswell, Jr., Jay Habit, David Romine, Billy Lockhart, Steven Lockhart, and Brad Boswell.

Williford-Barham Funeral Home of Edenton is in charge of arrangements.



BRIDGE UNDERPINNING POURED— Workmen pour concrete from a crane bucket into bridge forms at the Bagley Swamp Bridge Monday morning. NC 32 north traffic is detoured around the construction on a temporary bridge pending completion of the new structure.

Enjoy the July Fourth Festivities at Historic Edenton's Waterfront Park Sponsored By The Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club

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