

White Oak Parents Join To Reduce Number Of Combination Classes

By JACK GROVE

A large group of parents of White Oak School children attended the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education meeting on Sept. 2 to protest the overlapping of grade level in some of the school's classes.

The group, variously estimated at 70 and 100 parents, was unhappy to find on the first day of school that five classes from kindergarten through the fifth grade had been combined. The doubling up began with a mixed kindergarten and first grade class and the doubling went up to fourth and fifth grade students.

School Superintendent John Dunn explained that a shifting school population from the town to the country had caught the system off guard with eleven more students at White Oak than had been expected.

The state allots one teaching position for each 26 students and mandates no more than 29 students per class. Dunn said that, while the projected enrollment for elementary school students was right on target, there was "just an imbalance between schools."

Working within the constraints of the state's figures, it was thought necessary to combine the

classes. Dunn said that this had to be done in "many, many school systems across the state."

The White Oak situation was helped, however, by the transfer of one teacher from D.F. Walker to the school.

That transfer allowed for the reduction of the combination classes from five to two while not affecting Walker's student population. One of the combination classes now has nine kindergarten and 18 first grade students. The other combines 17 first and 10 second grade students.

In an interview Monday, Dunn was asked if this combining of

students would degrade their education. "No matter how students are grouped, you still have students of varying abilities," he responded. The superintendent explained that a grouping method of teaching is routinely used in elementary classrooms.

He said that while a teacher is instructing one group of classroom students (in uncombined classes) another will be doing "seat work," such as coloring, writing or reading. Teacher's aides are used in all classrooms from K-3 and work with groups of students after the teacher has started them on

their daily work. Dunn said that a three-group method is traditional.

Another situation that has worried parents is school bus overcrowding. Dunn said that there were enough seats. He said that this was an annual situation but, "there may need to be some adjustments made in the first 10 days."

Dunn said of the meeting, "The parents were concerned and voiced their concerns. We would have done it differently if there was any other way. I do not feel that it's a detriment to the education of the children. It is possible that the kindergarten children could ad-

vance faster than otherwise, having role models to follow."

Not all parents are completely satisfied. When asked if she was, Shelia Sawyer said, "No, I'm not. I don't think that anyone is satisfied with combination classes. However, having two is better than five. Now we need to work on eliminating the two."

Sawyer expressed appreciation to the school board members she talked to prior to the meeting who repeated her objections in public. "I'm very well pleased in the response that I got personally from the board members that I contacted," she said.



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The Public Parade

On Sharing the Burden

We get the feeling, since the change in leadership in the University of North Carolina system, that the welfare of the taxpayer is not among the first priorities of the new administration.

One reason Bill Friday was so effective with the legislature in promoting the university was that he was so modest in the demands he made for himself. He went for years without accepting what would have been considered reasonable compensation for his work. It was not until he was ready to retire that his pay was pushed up to a reasonable level.

Then, when he did retire, the new man, C. D. Spangler, Jr., of Charlotte, did not take office at the entry level although he had no background of experience in higher education. He now makes \$112,200 a year, which is more than the two best-paid governors in the country draw.

Mr. Spangler had been in office only a few weeks when he brought in Jay M. Robinson, Then superintendent of Mecklenburg schools, as legislative liaison at \$100,000 a year, replacing a very effective \$45,000 a year man. Then Wyndham Robertson was brought aboard as acting vice president for communications at \$92,500.

Now there is a pecking order in the university system, just as there is in most organizations. To keep things in balance, the salary of Raymond H. Dawson, vice president for academic affairs, had to be raised to \$111,600 and that of Felix Joyner, vice president for finance, to \$110,500.

All these slots are in the general administration, from where the fallout will spread to the 16 campuses. Certainly if vice presidents in the general administration are averaging \$100,000 a year, chancellors and vice chancellors

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Town Council Approves Five Out Of Six Requests

With one notable exception, the Edenton Town Council was in an approving state of mind at their Tuesday night meeting. Six requests concerning real estate were brought to the council for action.

Disapproved was a request for a special use permit by Arch B. Edwards to operate a bed and breakfast inn at 307 North Broad Street. This property is across the street from three existing inns owned and operated by Edwards.

Edwards presented the request and used a plat to illustrate the present and proposed inns. He said that the new inn would provide six additional rooms for visitors and would enhance the neighborhood with a renovated structure.

Backing Edwards' request were Chuck Smith, president of the chamber of commerce, and Bob Thomas, developer of a planned Travel Host Inn at the intersection of U.S. 17 and N.C. 32.

Smith told the council that the additional inn would be helpful to the economy of the town. Thomas said that he felt that the proposal would not be in competition with his highway motel and would enhance the in-town accommodations already in place.

Council members Marina Crummey and A.B. Harless said that they had received phone calls from several less than enthusiastic neighbors of the project. They said that they didn't want any more commercialism in the neighborhood.

Taking this objection one step further, some council members felt that allowing the inn on the east side of Broad Street would open the door in the future to other types of businesses in an otherwise residential neighborhood.

Another objection to the plan was that guests would have to cross the busy thoroughfare to the main inn for meals.

The request was denied on a 3-2 vote.

Approved were:

- Issuance by the town of \$40,000

in revenue bonds for a loan to John T. and Linda L. Dowd. The proceeds will be used to the renovation of the second floor of the Dowd Insurance Co. building at 214 So. Broad Street.

- A special use permit to allow Claude Small to operate a coin laundry at his warehouse on Badham Road.

- The purchase by Alice Marie Taylor of town property at 308 No. Oakum Street for \$3,525 for the construction of a home.

- The purchase of town property by Emily Edwards located at 300 No. Oakum for \$4,000 for the construction of a home.

- Authorization for the town to demolish a dwelling on the west side of the old Double Cola plant was held in abeyance. The building is in disrepair and located directly over a sewer main and is owned by Kathleen Skiles and Celia Goodwin.

Social Services Plans Commodity Distribution

The Chowan County Department of Social Services will be distributing cheese, butter, flour, corn meal, dry milk, rice and honey to the residents of Chowan County at two locations on Tuesday, September 16. Applications will be processed and commodities distributed at the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Building on West Hicks Street in Edenton from 9:00 to 12:00 Noon; and at the Center Hill-Cross Roads Fire Department Building at Cross Roads from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on the same day.

The commodities will be available (as long as the supply holds out) to all households receiving food stamps in Chowan County and other households meeting certain income levels. The food stamp households will be notified previous to this day to bring in

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LOOK TO FESTIVAL—These people have special reason to look forward to the annual Peanut Festival which benefits that high school band program. Otis Strother, J.A. Holmes Band Director, is flanked by Sue Rountree, President of the Band Parents Assoc. and Ronnie Sawyer, Peanut Festival Chairman.

Peanut Festival Parade Set For October 4th

The countdown has begun for the eleventh annual Peanut Festival which will be held in Edenton, October 4-5. The members of the Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Association will once again host this weekend of family entertainment.

Although Chowan County is the smallest in the state, Chowan count grows 6,300 acres of peanuts which gives a gross income of approximately \$6 million. In addition, there are several major peanut processing plants here which employ approximately 350 persons. It is to this vital industry that the annual Peanut Festival gives tribute.

The two day event begins Saturday morning, October 4, at 10:00 with one of the largest parades anywhere in the Albemarle area. Anyone interested in participating should contact Shelton Stryker or Waldo Winslow for more information.

Also at 10:00, the sailboat regatta will be casting off from Edenton Marina. They will be following a course set from Edenton Bay. Trophies will be awarded for this event at 5:30 at Edenton Marina. Following the parade, spec-

tators may want to enjoy delicious Carolina bar-be-que which will be for sale at the Scout Hut from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Take your lunch to Hicks Field and enjoy it while watching bands from throughout North Carolina and Virginia compete for honors with their exceptional shows. Once again this year, Fisher Nut Co. of Edenton will present trophies to the winning bands at 4:00 p.m.

Be sure to take a leisurely stroll through the arts and crafts booths

that will be set up in front of John A. Holmes High School. Local Craftsmen will be displaying many items made with skill and illustrating their talents.

Hicks Field will be the setting for two exciting raffle drawings to be held at 3:00 p.m. Home Federal Savings and Loan has donated a \$100.00 savings account which will be awarded to a lucky person. Be sure and go by and register at the local branch located at 101 West

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FAIR TIME—Some 20 rides will be featured on the midway at the Chowan County Fair to be held Sept. 15-20. The annual event is sponsored by American Legion Post 40 at the fairgrounds adjacent to the Post 40 building on U.S. 17 Business south of Edenton. Rides, games, agricultural exhibits and refreshments will be found in abundance during fair week.

Mayor John Dowd

Recuperating

Edenton Mayor John Dowd is recuperating from surgery performed at Pitt Memorial Hospital in Greenville last week.

Dowd, who had been troubled with back pain, was referred there Thursday and surgery to remove a herniated spinal disk was performed Friday.

The mayor was visited by Town Council members and the Town Manager Sunday evening. They reportedly found him in good spirits and ready to return to Edenton. He was released from the hospital Tuesday and will continue to recuperate at his home.

The regular Town Council meeting Tuesday night was chaired by Mayor Pro Tem Willis Privott.



SHRINERS FISH FRY SUCCESSFUL—Marvin Barham (l.) and Tom Byrum, at cash register, were some of the Shriners contributing to a successful fish fry Saturday. \$6,200 in sales netted some \$3,500 that will benefit the crippled children's hospital in South Carolina.