

# Large Voter Turnout Elects Spruill New County Sheriff

Chowan County voters turned out in sizable numbers on Tuesday to elect a Republican sheriff and Democrats in all other races. Fred Spruill was the clear winner over Wayne Rice with a total of 2010 to Rice's 1,373. As returns came in from the precincts Tuesday night, it was evident by 9:10 p.m. that Spruill would be the next sheriff, with only two precincts as yet unreported.

Rice and a contingent from his campaign staff visited the Spruill organization at the Edenton Bake Shop to offer congratulations. The friendly gesture delighted Spruill and his wife Mary and their supporters as they broke out in enthusiastic applause for a gracious candidate.

A throng of R.M. (Pete) Thompson supporters was on hand during the evening at his head-

quarters set up at Quinn Furniture. With the election results certain, Spruill visited there.

He told one man, "I'll tell you it's been a long day." He was asked if sheriff's elections should be partisan. He responded, "While the two-party system has been proven to be alive and well, I would rather see a non-partisan election for sheriff."

Mary Spruill voiced her relief. "I'm definitely glad it's over, but we're pleased to see the way it turned out." The Spruill children have "been with us from day one. They're really excited. They're very proud of their Daddy."

The sheriff-elect summed it up with, "I'm glad it's all behind us."

Rice commented after the results were plain that, "I didn't lose, I just didn't win." He said of the campaign, "I just appreciate

everything everyone did for me from the bottom of my heart."

Although Rice has been a long-time resident of the state, his campaign manager, Rob Charlton felt that the appeal of a Chowan County native may have been the deciding factor in the race.

Charlton was asked if the sheriff's election should be partisan. "Absolutely, unequivocally, no. Law enforcement is a calling like other emergency services. It should not be controlled by partisan politics."

Rice, a Chowan Deputy Sheriff indicated that he could work with Spruill as sheriff. Spruill agreed saying, "We've worked together before and we can work together in the future." He characterized the race as "a very cordial campaign." At the age of 34, Spruill will likely be the youngest sheriff

in North Carolina.

Voters turned out in near record numbers for the election. Of 6,495 registered in the county, 3,740 went to the polls, a 57 percent turnout. The 1982 off-year election saw a 31 percent turnout, with 63.66 percent in 1980 and 67 percent in 1984, presidential election years.

In the three-way race for two seats in state House of Representatives, Thompson and incumbent Vernon James, Democrats, handily defeated Shirley Perry (R). Thompson's district-wide total was 15,555, with 15,385 for James and 8,396 for Perry.

In a telephone interview Sunday, Representative James observed, "I don't think at any time I have gotten overconfident or rested on my laurels. Shirley (Perry) is a formidable opponent

with powerful backing."

When the outcome was clear Tuesday evening, Thompson remarked, "It's been a good clean race. Everybody's worked hard and run positive campaigns. An awful lot of my friends worked hard to get the vote out for me. I'm awful proud to be a citizen of northeastern N.C." He concluded with special appreciation for family members, "And my wife Carolyn and family have really supported me."

Mrs. Perry commented Wednesday morning, "I ran a clean race. I've already had some calls suggesting that I run again. At this point, I'd say I'd consider it." Of the campaign, "I knew the odds were against me from the start. I enjoyed it and I've met a lot of wonderful people."

In the N.C. district senate race,

Democrat Marc Basnight bested Republican Timothy Hodges with 1,879 to his opponent's 579 votes.

Reached by phone Tuesday night, Basnight said, "I'm very humbled by the support throughout the district. It's not like the first time I ran. Going back this time, it's just different. The first time, I had to pinch myself. Now, it's like a mandate of the people."

Running for re-election, Cong. Walter B. Jones (D) far outdistanced his rival, Howard Moyer (R), with a 70 percent margin of victory.

Wednesday morning, election results showed former Gov. Terry Sanford with a 51 percent edge over his Republican opponent, Cong. James Broyhill.

In the state Supreme Court

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### The Public Parade

#### Hype And Hyperbole

Since this is being written before the election returns are known, we will not be able to comment on the results. But we do want to say something about the way the process has developed along the Public Parade and elsewhere in America.

In our opinion, the advent of television has so polluted the process of filling major state and national offices that it has become a matter of packaging and marketing rather than a conscious choice of qualified, competent candidates for the job to be done.

Limited access to the electronic media and soaring campaign costs have put most state and federal offices beyond the reach of the candidate with modest means, regardless of how able he is. To have any hope of success on the campaign trail, he must put his soul in hock to the moneyed interests or the political rat pack, appropriately designated as PACs.

Then he must place his future in the hands of slick Madison Avenue-type hucksters who will decide what sort of package to wrap him in, what sort of positions he should take and what statements it is safe for him to make. Well paid pollsters then will track his progress from week to week, for a fee, of course, and keep him sailing before the shifting winds of public opinion.

Straight talk and honest answers thus give way to hype and hyperbole. The 30-second spot defines the limits of the television audience's patience and thus becomes the workhorse of the campaign, the vehicle through which the candidate is trying to reach his constituency. Most of them already are convinced that all politicians are crooks. Besides, they want to get back to the ballgame or the spinning wheel of fortune.

In such a context, code words become important. "Conservative" no longer means a supporter of the status quo. A "conservative" supreme court to Ronald Reagan means a Republican supreme court; and when Jim Martin says he wants a "conservative" state supreme court, he means he wants Republicans on the high court bench. "Liberal" has lost its historic meaning of generous, unbiased, open-mindedness among those who profess to be conservatives. It has come to mean weakness, lack of conviction, soft on communism, abortion or any other evil that comes to mind. In fact, it is in such ill repute that in North Carolina Democrats are almost as reluctant to call themselves liberal as Republicans are to call

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## Edenton Police Capture Escapee

One of two escapees from the Gatesville minimum security prison unit was taken into custody by Edenton Police Sunday morning. Millard F. Roberts, 41, a white male and Michael Turner Leggett, 40, a white male, escaped from the prison unit at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1.

Police Chief John Parrish said

that his department was notified of the escapees by a message on the Division of Criminal Information (DCI) police network from the N.C. Dept. of Corrections in Raleigh.

Roberts, of Hertford, was apprehended by Patrolman W.D. Harris between 4:30 and 5 a.m. in north Edenton. He offered no

resistance and was subsequently turned over to officers of the Gatesville unit. Roberts was serving a three year sentence for larceny of firearms at the time of his escape.

A spokesman of the Gatesville unit said that Leggett is also back in custody.

## Commissioners Discuss Swain's Future

Chowan County Commissioners must soon decide whether to commit to what may be a large long-term investment in the Ernest A. Swain School auditorium or to abandon a project that would convert the school portion of the building into apartments.

At the board's regular meeting on Monday morning, with developer Dwayne Anderson of the Anderson-Benton Co. and architects hired by both the county and Anderson's company, the commissioners considered options and finally called a special meeting

for next Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. to come to a go, no-go decision.

Anderson's development of the building into apartments hinges on receiving a low-interest loan from the Farmers Home Administration. The FmHA has asked for a commitment from the county that it will follow through on the renovation of the auditorium.

The developer, in turn, has asked for some concessions from the county to improve its "affordability" position. The county is asked to fund the cost of the elevator lobbies and elevators in

the school portion which would remain public property. The county would also be responsible for the parking areas.

Due to this reduction in real estate that the company would then purchase, Anderson asked that the purchase price be reduced from \$135,000 to \$90,000.

The architects, Don Tise and Tim Winstead of CHR Associates in Chapel Hill then presented development plans for the auditorium and lobbies which one commissioner called a "cadillac" of a plan. The plan calls for bringing the old auditorium into conformance with present-day building code requirements mandated by the N.C. Dept. of Insurance.

The expensive remodeling would include new wiring, fire exits, a new roof, and an entirely new heating system (the present system is coal-fired).

The architects plan would take shape in three phases over a three-year period. In the first year, the elevator lobbies and parking lots would be established at a cost of \$180,000. This would allow the apartments to be built and in operation. Temporary walls would block off the auditorium from the apartment building.

During the second year, the ground floor of the auditorium, housing dressing rooms, meeting

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**PRACTICE BLAZE**—Edenton firemen direct a stream of water on a house set ablaze four times Thursday night. The house, property of A.J. Smith and Sons, was located on Green Hall Rd. in the county. The fourth torching of the house was its last and firemen allowed it to burn to the ground after an hour's practice session.

## Missing Fishermen Found

A search of the Chowan River was begun Sunday night for two missing fishermen from Virginia.

The search, which began at 11:30 p.m. was for William Hoggard, Jr., 21, and Randy Taylor, 26, according to Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad spokeswoman Patricia Madry.

The fishermen had launched their bass boat at the Dockside Marina in Virginia, near the state line. Participating in the search were a boat from the local rescue squad, a boat from the Winton Rescue Squad, two boats of the N.C. Wildlife Commission from Hertford County, a Coast Guard helicopter, and private boats belonging to family members and friends. The Chowan Sheriff's Dept. stood by to render possible assistance from the shore.

The pair was found safe in their

boat in the Meherrin River near Winton. They were spotted by the helicopter at 9:15 Monday morning. They were reportedly overdue because of an engine problem.

The Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad spent over ten hours in the search effort.

## EMT Classes Scheduled

The Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad will hold Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes starting Tuesday, November 18. The classes will be held at the new rescue squad building in Edenton on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 to 10 p.m.

The course is taught through the

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**GOODWIN HONORED**—Mrs. Louise Goodwin (right) was recently named Clubwoman of the Year by the Edenton Business and Professional Woman's Club. She is joined here, admiring her award, by Mrs. Maggie Dale, BPW publicity chairman. Mrs. Goodwin is a Chowan County native and a former home economics teacher.

## Goodwin Named Clubwoman

By REBECCA BUNCH

Mrs. Louise Goodwin, a former home economics teacher, has been named BPW Clubwoman of the Year. She was honored at a recent awards dinner by members of the Edenton Business and Professional Woman's Club for her many years of community service.

Mrs. Goodwin, a native of Chowan County, graduated from Guilford College in Greensboro. She taught for many years in both North Carolina and Florida.

She has been a member of the local BPW Club since 1976 and has served on most, if not all, of the club's committees in one capacity or another.

Despite recent ill health, she has remained active in the organization and, during the past year, has served as Young Careerist Committee Chairman.

Mrs. Goodwin is much admired for her devotion to others, according to Chow County Deputy Sheriff Linwood Terry, who presented her with the award.

Terry was the outgoing BPW Clubwoman of the Year.

## Bloodmobile Planned

The Edenton Jaycees will hold a Bloodmobile at Chowan Hospital on Tuesday, November 11 from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The goal for this Bloodmobile visit will be to collect 125 units of blood, according to Jaycee spokesman Bruce Wackelin. He offered a reminder to everyone that giving blood is very important. A donation to the Bloodmobile, he said, may help to save the life of a friend or loved one.

Chowan County residents are urged to make every possible effort to come out next Tuesday and support this locally-sponsored blood drive.



**SAFETY PLAQUE AWARDED**—A traffic safety award was presented to Edenton by the N.C. State Motor Club for no traffic fatalities during 1985. At the presentation were (l. to r.) Sheriff Glen Perry, club division manager Dan Vaughan, Police Chief J.D. Parrish and district manager Hiram Weeks. Edenton was one of only 24 cities with a population of 5,000 or more receiving the award this year.