



Pork Barrels Again

Back during the campaign Gov. James Martin got a lot of mileage out of "pork barrel" money appropriated by the legislature for pet projects of its members. Recent disclosure that the governor spent \$34,000 in tax money to throw a party in Hollywood raises the question of whether the legislature put too much money in his pork barrel.

It's true, as he said, that he was attempting to induce Hollywood filmmakers to come to North Carolina to shoot more motion pictures; but that leaves unanswered the question of whether the governor was justified in putting up his staff in \$300-a-day hotel rooms and engaging in other extremely expensive things.

As we have said before, nobody in state government has a pork barrel the size of the governor's. All sorts of nice little goodies are tucked into his budget, as are all sorts of big goodies, such as "discretionary funds" in the transportation department, which is under the governor's control.

How wisely all these funds are spent becomes more and more important as revenues fall behind projections contained in the 1987 fiscal year budget. With the year now half gone, revenues are falling some \$50 million short of estimates. By next June 30, the shortage could be twice that or more.

This is important because of the impact it will have on 1987-89 budget making, which the legislature will undertake after it convenes in February. Under the current system, departments start off with their 1985-87 budgets as a base. Depending on how hard the times are, the base budget committee can usually whittle a few millions from the base budgets, but usually cuts don't overmatch small increases here and there.

All funds left after the base budgets are funded are for the expansion budget, which can vary from \$500 million down. At present, budget committee spokesmen can see only about \$250 million for

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Water Quality Discussed

By JACK GROVE

A procession of experts told lawmakers from two states on Thursday and Friday about the water quality in the Chowan River and what could be done to improve it in the future. The first meeting of the Chowan River Interstate Study Commission was held at the Edenton Municipal Building. The commission is composed of eight legislators each from the General Assemblies of Virginia and North Carolina.

An official of the N.C. Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development told the group about blue-green algae bloom, the main problem that surfaces on the river periodically. Using color slides, he pointed out that the worst recent years for the bloom were in 1972, 1978, 1979 and 1983. He said that these years had "just the right conditions—a wet spring and a dry summer."

These algal blooms, caused by nutrient runoff into the river rob the water of oxygen, produce fish kills and spoil the recreational use of the river. He said that the frequency of these blooms is every four to five years. "I don't want you to think that the problem has gone away just because we haven't seen it in the last three years."

He said that a state program has the goal of reducing phosphorous going into the river by 30 to 40 per cent. Experts from both states agreed that phosphorous was the main culprit in blue-green algae bloom. Of the phosphorous that gets into the river, 49 per cent comes from agriculture, .5 per cent from urban runoff and 18 per cent from municipalities.

The commission was told that by the end of its water control program, the state of North Carolina will have spent \$27.5 million. Some \$10 million has been spent to eliminate treated waste water from nine upstream N.C. municipalities. The only two remaining on the river to move to a land application system are Edenton and Ahoskie and their new plants will be operational in 1988.

Virginia Sen. William T. Parker asked when N.C. reaches its goal of 37 per cent reduction in phosphorus input into the river, what would be the impact on the total solution? He was reminded that N.C. comprises only 25 per cent of the total river basin. The Chowan rises in Virginia and is fed by the Nottoway, Blackwater and Meherrin Rivers.

"We've got 75 per cent of the deal? Virginia seems to be the culprit," Parker mused.

Richard Burton, Executive Director of the Virginia Water Quality Control Board, gave his state's view of the problem and what is being done about it. He said that the use of agricultural best management practices seemed to have the most promise of reduction of nutrient additives to the river.

He outlines these practices which include field borders and

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INTERSTATE COMMISSION—Legislators from Virginia and North Carolina met at the Edenton Municipal Building last Thursday and Friday as the Chowan River Interstate Study Commission. Shown are (l. to r.) Rep. Howard B. Chapin (N.C.), Rep. J. Paul Council (Va.), Rep. Vernon James (N.C.), Rep. C. Hardaway Marks (Va.), Sen. Marc Basnight (N.C.), Sen. William T. Parker (Va.), and Sen. Joseph E. Thomas (N.C.).



LEGISLATIVE DINNER—Colonial costumes lent an air of the historic to a banquet honoring Virginia and North Carolina legislators at the old court house Thursday night. Seated are (r. to l.) Rep. Vernon James (N.C.), Mrs. James, Rep. J. Paul Council, Jr. (Va.) and Mrs. Council.

Chowan Arts Council Receives Special Federal Grant

Edenton Mayor John Dowd and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathleen Miller accompanied members of the Chowan Arts Council to Raleigh last Friday to receive a special grant as part of the North Carolina Arts Council's launching of a \$600,000 program designed to strengthen local support for artists and arts organizations in seventeen counties throughout the state with a federal grant of \$150,000 announced by the National Endowment of the Arts. The funds will be matched by an additional \$450,000 in new state and local dollars over the next three years.

Anthony Turney, Deputy to the

Arts Endowment Chairman, made the announcement at a press conference outlining the program. He was joined by Patric Dorsey, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, and by many representatives of the state and local arts agencies.

The federal grant to the N.C. Arts Council is one of only twelve in the nation — and one of three to support statewide programs — to be awarded this year by the Arts Endowment's Locals Program, a highly successful effort aimed at strengthening local support for the arts through federal-local funding partnerships.

Turney said, "Endowment Chairman Frank Hodsell and Program Director Robert Canon join me in congratulating the N.C. Arts Council for its efforts to develop strong local arts agencies. We commend the Governor and State Legislature for their commitment to the arts, demonstrated by the dramatic increase in arts funding in recent years.

"Through this effort, the Arts Council and the Dept. of Cultural Resources are making an important investment in the quality of life in North Carolina. Such an investment has a ripple effect that is particularly noteworthy in a

time of budget constraints. The arts serve to bring people together, and people like to work in and visit places that are exciting and vibrant. Thus the arts enhance livability, encouraging local businesses and tourism. In addition, they attract new people, new industry and new improvements to the area, all of

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Chowan Man's Body Discovered

The body of a Chowan County man, was found in Albemarle Sound Monday. Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill said that Clarence Dorsey (Chuck) Ward, Jr., 18, son of Clarence Dorsey and Mary (Betsy) Ward of Rt. 1 Tyner, was reported missing Saturday.

In an investigation conducted Monday and Tuesday by the sheriff and SBI Special Agent David Barrington of Plymouth, the events leading to the death were pieced together. Spruill said that Ward, a senior at John A. Holmes High School, had apparently at-

tended a party with a group of other young people Friday night at a site known as the "sand pits" in the Cowpen Neck area.

He left the party later in the evening with two companions, ages 15 and 17, who reportedly urged him to go home. He refused and they took him to his car in Edenton and escorted him to a isolated area just outside the Union Camp log compound on the Base Road. Spruill said that he was left with a sleeping bag to "sleep it off."

On Saturday morning, Union Camp officials reported that their chain link fence had been torn down. On Monday morning an employee spotted an oil slick on the water and then saw the outline of a submerged car.

Authorities were called and the body was recovered from the bottom by diver Bill Phillips, an Edenton Police Officer. Sheriff Spruill said that the car may have been driven toward the water, turned parallel to the bulkhead at the last moment and then tipped over sideways into the water. The 1981 Dodge Omni was found resting on its top on the sound bottom next to the bulkhead. It was salvaged Monday.

The sheriff is listing the death

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Reiss Corporation Decides Against Edenton Location

A manufacturing company that had announced that it would relocate its operation to Edenton has backed out and informed town officials that it will instead relocate to a town in Virginia.

The company, North American Reiss Corp. produces molded plastic products, such as typewriter cases at its New Jersey plant. The company president, Theodore J. Reiss had agreed to purchase 154 acres of town property at the airport for \$750 per acre.

As an inducement for the relocation, town officials agreed to install water and sewer utilities to the proposed site at a cost of \$858,500. The major portion of this, some \$750,000 would have come from a Community Development Block Grant from the state. The state required a firm commitment from Reiss in return for grant approval.

The state requirement was for detailed financial data on the company and a written commitment that the corporation would provide no less than 150 low and moderate income jobs and \$5 to \$6 million in capital investment including land, buildings, and equipment within 24 months.

At a closed meeting on Nov. 17 attended by town council members, Reiss, county and Chamber of Commerce officials as well as consultants from the

State Dept. of Commerce, Reiss was told that an existing industry had provided required financial information and a letter of commitment to Chowan County enabling the county to secure \$750,000 in CDBG funding for a new raw water well. Reiss then told the council that he would not provide a written commitment.

Information received from Town Manager Sam Noble indicates that the possibility of proceeding without a written commitment and consequently without the CDBG grant was discussed by town, county and chamber officials. The result of this discussion was a determination that it would

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Sam Noble

Town Manager Resigns Post

Edenton Town Manager Sam Noble has announced his resignation that will be effective Jan. 9, 1987. In making the announcement to council members in executive session Tuesday night, Noble said that he had accepted a position as Town Manager of Tarboro effective Jan. 19.

Noble became Edenton's Town Manager on October 1, 1981. In an interview Tuesday he said, "I have mixed emotions about leaving. I've had extremely good relations with the council and department heads. By working together as a team, we've accomplished quite a few objectives over the last five years."

Noble said that he felt that the most notable of these accomplishments were the construction of a land-application waste water treatment plant; receipt of two Community Development Block Grants for the redevelopment of Oakum and Albemarle Streets; and the receipt of federal funding for resurfacing of a runway and installation of new runway lighting at the Edenton Municipal Airport.

"The move to Tarboro is a career move upward for me and an opportunity I just couldn't refuse," he concluded.



ACCEPT ARTS GRANT—Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathleen Miller (left) and Edenton Mayor John Dowd (far right) traveled to Raleigh last Friday with Chowan Arts Council President Mary Ann Thomas (second from left) and Board member Bruce Wackelin (back, right) to accept one of only 17 special grants awarded statewide. Also pictured are (center) Patric Dorsey, Secretary of the N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources and (second from right, back) Anthony Turney, Deputy to the Arts Endowment Chairman. (Staff photo by Gail Basnight)

Christmas Concert Set

The Edenton Choral Society, under the direction of Shelby Strother, will present its 13th annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the Edenton Baptist Church.

Selections will cover a broad spectrum of musical styles, ranging from classical to more contemporary renditions of familiar carols.

A brass choir composed of high school students will assist the 43 member Choral Society during the finale.