

MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Published In The Most Beautiful Little City On The North Carolina Coast

Volume LLI - No. 52

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, December 25, 1986

Single Copies 25 Cents

The Public Parade

A Regrettable Loss

We regret, as do most people along the Public Parade, that North American Reiss Corporation has reneged on its decision to locate a new manufacturing plant in Chowan County. It was not much of a Christmas present for the community.

Just the same, we understand the position taken by Theodore J. Reiss, the company's president. He was asking little of the state. He did not come with his hands out, offering a little capital in return for a free site, tax concessions and cheap labor. He came with his own checkbook, willing to pay the going price for the land, build his own plant, purchase his own equipment and pay the going wage.

If he had been benefitting from junk bonds, free land and financial assistance provided by the taxpayers, then there would have been some obligation on his part to make concessions to the state, to guarantee the employment of certain numbers of people from given categories in the labor market.

It was the City of Edenton that was asking the State of North Carolina for help in providing much-needed utilities to land it hopes to develop into an industrial park, land that is not now on the tax books and, in fact, is unsuitable for a wide range of uses. Reiss would have been only an incidental beneficiary of these utilities, since they would be available to any other business or industry locating in the park. They are needed far more by the city than by an industrial prospect, which will always be able to go to other communities with sites already equipped to take care of them.

We do not know whether the issue of fairness is valid. If existing industries, which have signed the employment guarantees, have in no way benefitted from state and local governments in locating where they are, then fairness may be a valid position. But what would be fairer to the taxpayers of Chowan County and the City of Edenton would be a successful effort to get those idle acres out at the airport on the tax books, together with such buildings and equipment as North American Reiss would have brought.

We regret the loss of this new
Continued On Page 4



"TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS"—A little imagination could place this scene in the early hours of Christmas morning with one creature stirring. He might even be responding to Santa's friendly greeting.

Holiday Sales Average, Merchants Say

Retail merchants are calling the 1986 Christmas sales season average and most are saying it has not been as good as last year.

Contributing factors to sales less than 1985 ranged from the general economy to the weather.

At Mitchener's Pharmacy, John Mitchener III said, "It's not as good as last year, it's just not going to be there." He thought more people were inclined to shop earlier, which avoids a push at Christmas.

Alton Elmore at Edenton Furniture Co. said his season had been average. "Last year was so good, the best we ever had, that it's hard to beat. But the weather has been great," Elmore said. He could not determine if shoppers were going for smaller items, since "it's all in the expensive category in furniture."

At Revco, Floor Manger Rena Skinner said shopping was lighter, but her store had not seen a big difference. "We opened another store in Hertford this year and some of our people are not driving over here," she said. Toys and fragrances have been two of her most popular items.

John Hussong, store manager at McCrory's (formerly TG&Y) said it was hard for him to judge the season because of the changeover in the store this year. He said the local store was doing as well if not better than other TG&Y stores taken over by McCrory's. "We're pleased with the retail season so far," Hussong said.

George Byrum at Byrum Hardware said, "It has been a very

good season, I'm very pleased with the results so far." Some of his most popular items have been televisions, VCR's and microwaves.

At Ben Riddick Jewelers, Riddick said his season was close to 1985. He thought some farmers and related businesses had experienced such a bad year, it would affect sales. Riddick said,

Suspects Are Apprehended

Petitions have been drawn for three juveniles between the ages of 12- and 14-years old after awnings were slashed in Edenton's business district November 27.

Edenton Police Chief J.D. Parrish said the petitions instruct the juveniles and their parents to appear in court. Date for appearance has not been released.

Parrish said Edenton Police Officer Delvin Jethro was given enough information by a citizen to start an investigation.

The investigation resulted in having the petitions drawn.

Although the petitions were drawn in connection with awnings slashed Thanksgiving Day, when vandalism was reported at six locations, it was the third time in three months that downtown businesses were victimized.

Damage estimates for the vandalism were more than \$2,500 after some merchants were victimized more than once.

Continued On Page 4

"They (shoppers) are going less for the high-priced items and more for the medium or less expensive merchandise."

Continued On Page 4

Agency Finds System Structurally Sound

By JEANETTE WHITE

With few exceptions, a state planning agency determined that structures in the Edenton-Chowan school system are sound and good for several years' service.

A study by the state's Division of School Planning began in January after Supt. Dr. John B. Dunn requested a comprehensive study in December 1985.

A like study forced closing of a school in Pasquotank County this school year, leaving students without classrooms.

The study rates schools on a scale of I to V. Schools receiving a rating of I are in excellent condition with a life expectancy of 30 years plus. A II rating is very good, with a life expectancy of 15 years plus; III is good, with a 10 year plus life span; IV is fair, five years plus; V is poor, has a three year life expectancy and phasing out should begin.

"The building we are most concerned with here is the two-story structure at Chowan Junior High," Associate Supt. James Kinion said last Thursday.

Structures at White Oak and D.F. Walker Schools rated from I

to III. At John A. Holmes, all facilities rated III. The board of education has developed a master plan for that facility which will encompass the entire block.

At Chowan Junior High, the 1936 classroom building and the 1949/72 gymnasium ranked in category IV, with the former shop, bandroom and teacherage in category V.

Kinion said the new year would see the beginning of a detailed curriculum study involving professional school staff, parents, the board of education and hopefully, the county commissioners.

Results of such studies will help the board of education determine if a new facility is built or an existing facility renovated.

Gov. James Martin has offered to lend counties state funds for capital improvements in school facilities. The loan is available at lower than normal interest rates.

Kinion said, "That's why we want the county commissioners involved in the project. We need a long range plan that the county can support and the people want."

Another source of revenue for
Continued On Page 4



DISCUSS PLACEMENT—Jimmie M. Parrish (left) and son, Frankie (right) discuss with SCS technician Stanton Harrell the placement of four flashboard risers on Parrish property. The drain pipe is 30 feet long, 42 inches in diameter and the risers are six feet high.

Farmers Adopting New Management Practices

By JACK GROVE

Soil Conservation Service (SCS) technician Stanton Harrell says that an increasing number of

Chowan County farmers are participating in government programs to protect the fragile water environment of the area.

The programs involve Best Management Practices on farms that provide the farmer up to 75 percent reimbursement for implementing them. These practices include flashboard risers, field borders, animal waste application on cropland, grassing waterways and critical area stabilization (seeding with grasses).

A prime example of protecting waterways from pollutants is the use of flashboard risers that control water levels in drainage ditches. By damming up the water flow, pollutants settle to the bot-

tom and the clean water is allowed to flow into nearby streams that connect with the Chowan River and Albemarle Sound. These water control devices also assist the farmer in maintaining the water table bordering his fields.

Four risers were installed on Parrish Farms property on Paxton Lane on Monday, Dec. 15. Harrell said that they will control runoff from some 2,500 acres of watershed that involved both point and non-point pollution. Industrial runoff (point) is from the Peanut Dr. area and non-point is from the adjacent farmland.

The cleansed water feeds into

Deadlines Announced

In observance of New Year's, The Chowan Herald will be closed all day Thursday, January 1. Accordingly, an early printing schedule has been set for next week's edition.

Classified and legal advertising for next week's issue should be submitted no later than 12 noon on Monday, Dec. 29. Display advertising should be turned in before 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29. Exceptions will be made for ads which do not require composition.

News items and photographs intended for publication in next week's edition should be turned in by 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 29.

Those who can have ads, news items or photographs brought in prior to these deadlines are encouraged to do so.

Your observance of these deadlines will be greatly appreciated.

Cable TV Sale Is Approved

In special called meetings Monday, the Chowan County Commissioners and Edenton Town Council approved the sale of Albemarle Cable TV to C-4 Media Corp.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said investigation has shown the new company, based in Arlington, Va., to be financially secure.

Scott Madison, regional engineer for C-4, said his company has an "aggressive marketing department" which would actively seek new areas to which cable can be provided. Areas being eyed now include Arrowhead, Chowan Beach and Snug Harbor. Madison said the general rule to

provide cable to new areas needed 20 houses per mile, but the rule is tempered with actual amount of saturation in the area reached.

His company normally secures about 65 per cent of customers contacted the first time it enters a new section.

The Town of Hertford and Perquimans County have already passed ordinances endorsing the sale.

In other action, the county commissioners passed a \$3,500 annual budget to help hire personnel through the Soil Conservation Service to work with farmers and lan-

Continued On Page 4



DONATE CHRISTMAS GIFTS—Shown above are some of the employees of the Cianbro-Williams Company who decided to spread Christmas cheer by donating food, furniture, toys, clothes, and other items for needy families in the community. Cianbro-Williams is currently constructing the new Albemarle Sound Bridge. (Staff photo by Gail Basnight)