



## Town Of Surprises

Edenton is always full of surprises for us. During the good weather we have been having along the Public Parade, we decided to take a series of walks around the downtown area, varying our route each day.

Our first round went up Broad Street past the new courthouse, then out toward the Iredell House to Court Street, down Court Street to East King and back to Broad.

Our first surprise was to find that, following the windy night, pecans were plentiful down Court Street and back across King. So we stopped from time to time to fill our pockets. That day for lunch we enjoyed a fruit salad laced with pecans.

Next day we went east on Water Street, then up by the Masonic temple to King Street again. This time as we were returning along the south side of King we again noticed pecans. In fact, as we were passing 210 East King, we noticed a woman out on her lawn picking up the nuts; and, before we could decide whether to volunteer to help her, she asked us if we wanted some.

We told her yes and started to begin picking them up. But that was not what she meant. She wanted to give us those she had already picked up. She explained that she couldn't eat them, but picked them up to keep them from going to waste. In that case, we told her, we would be happy to accept them.

That, of course, brought on further talk. We wanted to know the name of such a gracious lady and she told us. After that there was an exchange of information about children and grandchildren, about a son who calls every morning and about her long years in Edenton. This is our way of saying, "Thank you, Mrs. Owens."

Another pleasant surprise came a day or two later when Mrs. Joe Thorud came into our office at the Chowan Herald. During the course of the conversation, she mentioned that her daughter married Lewis Raulston, formerly of Greensboro, and that she understood his parents had been good friends of ours.

In fact, they were our closest friends when we lived in Greensboro back before World War II. Just the mention of their names called up many happy memories. We once bought a saddle horse jointly with Lewis, Sr., which we would keep at our place in the country and lie to our wives about. If asked, Lewis would say it belonged to us and we would say it belonged to him, a charade which continued until our entry into World War II. A moment of truth came when Lewis joined the Seabees and we went into the Navy.

We, of course, didn't tell Mrs. Thorud all this. We are telling it here just to let you know how things were back then when all of us were alive and well. One of the sad things about growing old is that you outlive so many of your friends.

## Officials Attend Annual School

Civil liability for jail suicides and handling emotionally disturbed prisoners were just two of the subjects discussed when local law enforcement officers traveled to Chapel Hill January 12-14 for an annual school.

Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill, Chief Jailer Walt Linhardt and Jailer William (Bill) Manke went to the seminar, co-hosted by the N.C. Sheriff's Association and the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina.

Other subjects discussed at the seminar included training requirements for jailers, issues in personnel law, suing North Carolina jails, stress management and civil process duties of sheriffs.

The local officials were awarded certificates for participation in the school.

## Holmes Phone Threat Proves False Alarm

By JACK GROVE

Classes and other normal school activities were interrupted at John A. Holmes High School Monday morning due to one phone call. The call, a bomb threat, was received by Marcia Evans in the school's office at 9:39.

Mrs. Evans was asked by a male caller how her day was going? When she replied "fine," he reportedly said, "Well I'm going to tell you something that's going to ruin your day. There are three bombs in your school."

Principal Rob Boyce immediately notified Edenton Police Chief John Parrish and an orderly evacuation of the building began. Students and staff were initially told that the evacuation was a "drill," and some 600 students were moved to the nearby old National Guard Armory under rainy skies.

Police, firemen, EMS Coordinator Doug Belch and ALE agents, along with designated school staff began "a thorough search" of the building. When no evidence of suspicious packages was found, all personnel left the building and a perimeter was set up to await a possible explosion that the caller threatened would take place at noon.

When the deadline had safely passed, police and fire officials allowed the school to be reoccupied at 12:15 p.m.

School officials were unanimous in their praise for the orderly conduct of students and the cool efficiency of emergency personnel. At the Armory, Guidance Counselor John Santana said of the students behavior with a smile, "The worst thing we've had to worry about here is paper air-

planes," as one sailed by his head.

Even though no official announcement had yet been made, most students at the makeshift shelter had realized what had happened. Superintendent John Dunn said, "They all pretty much know that the principal would not call a drill in the rain and have them go to the Armory." Dunn said that he had called both Parrish and Fire Chief Lynn Perry to thank them "for their cooperation, their thoroughness and the fact that they were very quick to respond."

Concerning the students, Dunn commented, "I was real pleased with the way they responded. They were orderly and just as cooperative and well-mannered as you could ask."

Perry and Parrish explained that their response was kept as "low-key" as possible in order not to alarm the public and create crowd and traffic problems. They said that since many people in the town and county have scanners, they purposely did not broadcast information about the situation.

The proximity of the school to the fire station allowed equipment to be in readiness and manned without being visible to the curious.

Perry said that the immediate concern of emergency personnel is always the safety of the students and staff. "Thank goodness that this and threats in previous years have proven to be hoaxes," he declared.

Parrish said that his department was investigating. He pointed out that phone threats such as this are crimes punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine.

## Speed Limit Is Changed

Travelers crossing the Albemarle Sound Bridge are finding the going slow. The speed limit, formerly 55 mph was changed to 35 mph by the N.C. Dept. of Transportation on Monday, January 12 apparently without any notice to local law enforcement officers or the media.

In addition to the new speed limit, double solid yellow lines were painted from shore to shore last fall, making it unlawful to pass on the bridge.

DOT District Traffic Engineer Don Conners in Ahoskie said that his office does not give notice to

the highway patrol or local sheriff departments of such changes. "We used to send them locally. I was under the impression that was handled out of the Raleigh office," he said.

A check with the local highway patrol office and with Sheriff Fred Spruill of Chowan and Sheriff Jim Whitehurst of Washington County indicated that they received no advance notice of the speed limit change. Both sheriffs said this week that they were unaware that the bridge limit had changed.

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## Group Discusses Plans For Improving Edenton's Waterfront Park

A group of Edentonians was determined to "Save Our Waterfront" last year when town council was set to sell waterfront property to a developer for construction of an inn. They were successful in stopping the proposal dead in its tracks and convincing the council that local citizens

could convert the property, located adjacent to the Municipal Building, into an attractive park with recreation amenities.

Many of the original group met at the Municipal Building Tuesday night to form a structured organization and to get a fund-raising drive underway to realize

their goals for the new park.

Gil Burroughs made a presentation for the gathering, summarizing what has already been done to spruce up the approximately 1.06 acre site, to outline the development plan and to discuss financial needs.

The park would feature



**PARK PROPOSED**—Gil Burroughs points out recreational features of a proposed new park on town property on the waterfront. The meeting Tuesday evening was held to formalize an organization that would raise funds and promote the park idea.



**TEMPORARY REFUGE**—Students were given temporary shelter in the old National Guard Armory building while emergency personnel searched Holmes High School as the result of a bomb threat Monday. The threat turned out to be a hoax. Emergency personnel were praised by school officials for their efficiency and students were lauded for their cooperation and good behavior during the incident.

## Brickhouse Convicted In Wife's Slaying

By JEANETTE WHITE

"She quit living" was the way a Chowan County man described the murder of his wife after his arrest in October. Isiah [Ike] Brickhouse was sentenced to 15 years in prison in criminal court Tuesday for the murder.

In a plea arrangement worked out between the prosecutor and defense attorney, Brickhouse was allowed to enter a plea of guilty to second degree murder on the first degree charge.

Wayne Rice, who was a deputy sheriff in Chowan County in October, testified that he was called to the Brickhouse mobile home around 1:30 a.m. October 17, where he found the nude body of Deborah Lynn Modlin Brickhouse face-up in a bathtub of water. An autopsy later revealed that the wife had died of asphyxia by manual strangulation.

According to trial testimony, Brickhouse has a history of alcohol abuse and had been drinking heavily the night of the murder.

Rice said the couple had separated several times and was separated then. Rice said Brickhouse went to their mobile home around midnight and asked his wife for a reconciliation. When she refused, an argument erupted. After Brickhouse struck his wife, she went into the bathroom. He followed, ripped off her gown and started to hit his wife again, knocking her onto the

floor. "He said she quit living and he picked her up one end at a time and put her in the tub and was going to bathe her," Rice said Brickhouse told him.

After Rice was called to the house, he talked with the couple's 12-year-old son. The boy said he heard his father come to the home around 1 a.m. and began beating

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**BICENTENNIAL PLANNING**—Dr. John Dunn speaks to a group interested in forming a county Bicentennial Committee. This year marks the beginning of a three-year celebration of the U.S. Constitution.

## Bicentennial Group Meets

Schools Superintendent John Dunn, acting as convener, conducted a preliminary meeting of the county Bicentennial Committee that will localize the three-

year celebration of the U.S. Constitution. Local plans will complement state and national plans for the celebration. Dunn was asked by the state committee to form a local committee.

A nominating committee was formed, composed of Nell Hyatt, chairman, Winston Dail and Phil Evans.

A meeting on February 19 was set to receive reports on symposium ideas, Linda Eure; exhibits, Phil Evans; a book fair, Anne Jones; and publicity, Winston Dail.

Mrs. Eure, of Historic Edenton, said that a series of programs will be presented this year as part of the bicentennial. The programs, organized by Duke University, will run from February 17 to March 31. Lecture and discussions topics in the series will include The Philadelphia Constitutional

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## Area Break-In Investigated

The Chowan County Sheriff's Dept. is investigating a break-in on January 11 at Murray Nixon's Fishery in the Rocky Hock area.

According to Sheriff Fred Spruill, his department was called just before 11 a.m. and found that entry was made after a window had been broken in the rear of the office.

Offices were ransacked and an undetermined amount of money was taken.

Deputy David Jethro is investigating officer.

Two lists were passed around for signature. One was an "Organizations" list and people were asked to give their names and organizations that they belonged to where they could press the case for the park. A "Subscriptions" list was for volunteers to sign up as canvassers for donations from individual citizens. Several ideas were offered from individuals for fund-raising activities.

Grant money was mentioned as

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