

The Public Parade

Will First Be Last?

Now before the legislature are three proposals for state assistance in financing much needed school construction across the commonwealth. As we have said before, we prefer the plan put forward by Gov. Jim Martin.

The governor's proposal would authorize the state to issue up to two billion in school construction bonds, which would be sold as needed to provide a pool from which a local administrative unit could borrow money at the state's low rate for school building, pledging its share of the half-cent sales tax revenue in repayment.

This proposal was announced early during the legislative session. Since then, two other plans have appeared. Rep. Billy Watkins has introduced a bill calling for a one-cent increase in the state sales tax for the next four years, with all the additional revenue earmarked for school construction.

And Senator Kenneth Royall, with the support of Lt. Gov. Robert Jordan, has introduced a bill calling for the establishment of a Local Agency Finance Authority which would enable local units to sell school building bonds, up to the repayment limit of their sales tax revenue, without a vote of the people. This proposal is further sweetened with a \$300 million water and sewer treatment fund from which local units could borrow at 4 per cent interest, the state picking up the tab for any additional interest.

No doubt, both the Watkins plan and the Royall proposal will meet much wider support at the local level than will that brought forward by the governor. The Watkins plan would cost the local units nothing and the Royall bill would best the governor's proposal by some \$300 million in water and sewer aid.

But that does not mean they would cost the taxpayers less. Each, in fact, would increase taxes, while the governor's plan would not. It would simply require the local units to use the half-cent local sales levy for the purpose it was supposed to serve, that is to provide capital funding for the schools.

During our last term in the

Continued On Page 4

Board Okays Teacher Bonuses

Teachers who excel in the classroom will get a tangible show of appreciation after the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education voted for bonuses Thursday night.

Using the pilot Career Ladder Program evaluation, teachers who qualify will get a 1.5 percent salary supplement in September 1988. The supplement will go to teachers who excel in the 1986-87 school year even if they leave the school system prior to September. Teachers may receive the bonus whether they are enrolled in the

voluntary Career Ladder Program or not.

The decision to recognize excellent teachers came on a split vote after two members thought the majority of educators would rather have an across-the-board bonus to all teachers.

Board members J.M. Parrish, Jr. and Frank Cox cast a negative vote in support of an idea to table the discussion until it could be determined with certainty which method most teachers want. Board members supporting the

bonus said county commissioners wanted a merit increase and did not feel most of the county teachers supported an across-the-board recognition.

A method to recognize excellence in the classroom has been considered by the board since 1982, when a \$300 bonus was given to all teachers.

During the recession of 1982, the state froze teachers' salaries and county commissioners questioned the bonus since teachers worked under a base salary plan.

That year, half of the \$40,000 budgeted for bonuses was retained and each teacher received \$150, leaving \$20,000 in the budget. The same bonuses in 1983 left a like amount in the budget.

About the same time the county commissioners cut budgeting for bonuses in half until a plan could be developed recognizing excellence. The state chose Chowan County to participate in the Career Ladder Program, which ranks teachers based on merit.

The school board saw the program as a way to kill two birds with one stone.

Each year since 1983, all teachers have received a \$150 bonus, which will continue.

Board member John Mitchener suggested that Supt. John Dunn take the supplement program to the county commissioners for their endorsement.

Dr. Dunn drew the laugh of the evening when he replied, "I need you to go with me... They sometimes shoot the messenger over there."

In other discussion the board voted to accept an \$8,100 bid from Ed Ward for property owned by the board. Ward asked for 90 days to finalize the purchase, but was granted 30. If purchase is

Continued On Page 4

Dissatisfaction Is Voiced

Many Edenton-Chowan teachers do not feel a pilot program designed to enhance their profession has been successful, according to a recent survey for the N.C. Association of Educators.

The Career Ladder Program has been underway in the state for two years to evaluate teachers on performance, establishing a standard for bonuses and adopting levels of achievement for educators.

Chowan was one of 16 counties chosen to participate in the program, which has drawn fire this school term from many uninvolved counties wanting to see the plan implemented statewide.

The general opinion of the counties chosen for the study is that the program cannot be utilized effectively until the study is completed in two more years.

Survey answers given in Chowan parallel those from other involved counties, with local support slightly higher than answers from other counties.

Sixty-six percent of Chowan's teachers said the program has not encouraged recognition and retention of high-quality teachers.

Seventy-three percent said the plan has not increased attrac-

tiveness of teaching and 85 percent said the program has increased job stress.

Professional relationships in Chowan's schools have not been affected by the plan, according to 49 percent of the teachers.

Fifty-four percent said quality of classroom instruction has not improved and 53 percent said they would discontinue the project if given an opportunity to vote.

Although fifty percent said the appeals process for decisions made in the project is fair, 45 percent said morale in their school is low. No Chowan teachers said school morale is very high, but 13 percent said morale is high.

Fifty-eight percent of the county's teachers said they did not have meaningful participation in making the decision to implement the program.

The teachers responded that 61 percent understood what is expected to qualify for higher levels of rating and 59 percent are working toward the higher level.

Chowan School Supt. John Dunn said he expected the pilot project to be beneficial to school systems.

"There are still some things we

Continued On Page 4

Advisory Committee Goals Explained

By JACK GROVE

County commissioners got an in-depth look at activities of the county's Nursing Home Advisory Committee Monday night.

Ann Touchstone is the Regional Ombudsman for the program in Region R. She told the board, "I feel that Chowan County has one of the best Nursing Home Advisory Committees in my ten-county area."

She continued, "I have a real strong commitment to the program. It's our desire to

promote the interest and well-being of the elderly in nursing homes."

The ombudsman works through local committees and trains committee members. "The committees work to maintain the rights of the residents," she explained. She said that North Carolina is considered to have a model program.

Chairman of the local committee is Mrs. Ruby Jernigan. She told commissioners, "I'm there to help the people". She said that

during the past year, the seven-member committee has held four official meetings and visits nursing homes regularly.

Chowan County has three nursing homes and a home for the developmentally disabled. Britt Haven has 160 residents, Chowan Hospital's facility has 60, Prime Time, 60, and Oak Leaf Home for the Developmentally Disabled, 10.

During visits, committee

Continued On Page 4

Democrats Elect Officers

Chowan Democrats met at the new courthouse Saturday to elect officers. Chosen to lead the local party as chairman was William T. Culpepper. Also elected were Frances Hollowell, first vice-chairwoman; Thomas Sharpe, second vice-chairman; Anne Leary Parrish, third vice-chairwoman; Ralph Cole, secretary; and Allen B. Harless, treasurer.

On a motion passed by the county convention, the county chairman was selected to represent the county on the state executive committee of the party.

Keynote speaker was state Representative R.M. (Pete) Thompson, D-Chowan. The first legislator elected from Chowan in some twenty years, Thompson gave his audience an overview of general assembly business. Noting that farmers are in trouble, he said that they are receiving little help from a Republican administration in Washington. The convention also was given an update on pending legislation in Raleigh.

The convention passed a resolution commending Congressman Walter B. Jones for supporting the congressional resolution calling for a comprehensive test ban on

Continued On Page 4



GROUNDBREAKING—Gilliam Wood (left), chairman of the hospital board of directors, and Alton Elmore, chairman of Chowan County Commissioners, turned the first earth at the site of a proposed skilled nursing wing.

Hospital Groundbreaking Ceremony Draws Crowd

By JEANETTE WHITE

Cool weather, threatening skies and a smattering of raindrops failed to dampen the enthusiasm of a crowd gathered Sunday to see groundbreaking ceremonies for a skilled nursing wing at Chowan Hospital.

The planned 40-bed nursing wing will provide all private rooms with baths and will replace the existing 56-bed skilled facility. The old building will revert to the county when the new wing opens.

In conjunction with the groundbreaking, the hospital also celebrated 40 years of health care services to the area.

Hospital Director Marvin A. (Johnny) Bryan estimated 150 people braved blustering, chilly wind to hear remarks from Ashe Gale of the Duke Endowment, Burt Dodson, vice-president of SunHealth, Inc., and W.P. (Spec) Jones, lone original hospital trustee.

Rep. R.M. (Pete) Thompson placed various items in a time capsule for the cornerstone of the new wing, including photographs, service directories, names of hospital employees, crafts from the nursing home patients and birth certificates of the first children born at the hospital.

In his remarks, Gale commended the hospital for efforts at the county level to provide health care. He said hospital officials first came to the Duke Endowment in 1945 after all but \$30,000 of the \$200,000 needed to construct the first hospital had been raised at the county level.

Jones gave a history of Chowan Hospital.

In 1947 Edenton Air Station closed, leaving a 30-bed equipped

New Housing Director Named

Byron P. Kehayes, 53, has been hired as the new Housing Authority Director in Edenton.

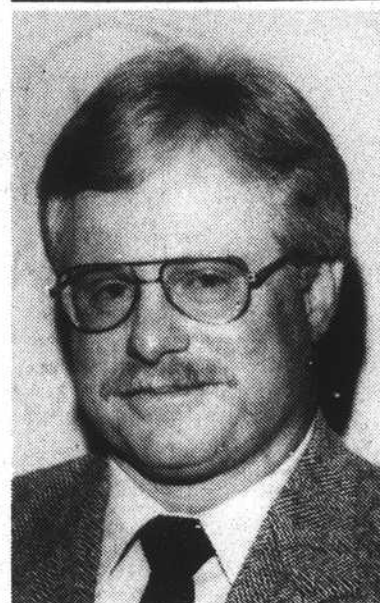
Kehayes, who has been an Edenton resident for more than 30 years, began his new duties Monday.

The new director is a graduate of Edenton High School and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for two years.

He has been self-employed since 1985, when he worked for Applied Fiberglass Inc. Previous employment included Tanzer Yachts, P & Q Supermarket and Hobby's Transfer and Storage of Raleigh.

Kehayes is a U.S. Navy veteran, serving from 1961 until 1964.

The Housing Authority provides 100 units geared toward low income families.



Joseph Ward

Ward Receives Top Honors

Joseph Ward of Route 1, Tyner, was named 1986 North Carolina Peanut Production Champion by the Extension Service of North Carolina State University. Ward produced 5,166 pounds of peanuts per acre on 101 acres.

Ward, a Chowan County native, is the son of Foy A. Ward and is married to the former Peggy Bunch.

Ward was honored at a special awards banquet April 4, at the Omni International Hotel in Norfolk, co-sponsored by United States Gypsum Company and Fermenta Plant Protection Company to recognize the top peanut producers from Virginia and North Carolina.

Ward won a trip for two to the Bahamas from the sponsors, as well as an engraved silver wine cooler from the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association.

The awards banquet culminated an afternoon of educational seminars featuring speakers from United States Gypsum Company, Fermenta Plant Protection Company and the Extension Specialists from each of the two

Continued On Page 4



ILLEGAL LITTERING—This dishwasher, surrounded by litter, was discarded near a dumpster on Mexico Road. Dumping large items at a dumpster is illegal and can carry a fine up to \$200. Chowan County will be conducting a clean-up campaign Saturday. Volunteers interested in helping may sign up at the county manager's office.

Community Joins Statewide Cleanup Effort

Chowan County is joining a state effort to clean up roadsides and keep North Carolina beautiful. The state-wide effort was proclaimed by Gov. James Martin for the month of April.

The county cleanup is set for Saturday, April 11 according to

Alton Elmore, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. "Our big emphasis is from 9 a.m. to noon," he said.

Civic groups, church groups, Cab Seats, school groups and individuals have already enlisted in the cleanup but many more

volunteers are needed according to County Manager Cliff Copeland.

Trash bags and sign-up lists are available in the manager's office and Copeland asked that groups and individuals specify what

Continued On Page 4