

Bridge Crewman Becomes First Fatality In Early Morning Accident

By JEANETTE WHITE
A workman on the new Albemarle Sound Bridge was killed Tuesday when a steel cable slipped at 9:38 a.m. and he was thrown 60 feet from the top of a concrete support piling into the water.

The body of Marvin Lewis, 22, Creswell, was recovered at 12:05 p.m. by Edenton Police Officer Bill Phillips, who was one of two divers searching for the victim.

The accident occurred when Lewis and another worker were atop a 60-foot "H-Pier", pulling cable from a crane loaded on a barge and feeding the cable through the piling. The cables are used for reinforcement in the concrete from which the bridge is made.

The two men were using a device called "Chinese Fingers", which uses increasing pressure to tighten when force is applied.

Ed Parker of Eden Street, bridge-tender on the old nearby Albemarle Sound Bridge, was watching the two men from a window in his shack when the accident occurred.

Parker said the locking device pulled loose from the cable, hit Lewis and knocked him through a steel safety guard railing around

the top of the piling. The bridge-tender said wire strands from the cable wrapped around the victim's body as he fell.

"He was rolling over when he hit the water," Parker said. He also stated that Lewis was wearing a life jacket, but it did not appear that the jacket was fastened.

According to Public Affairs Officer Lt. Tom Cullen of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Base in Elizabeth City, an HH-3F (Pelican) Sikorsky helicopter was on a training flight and was diverted to the accident site at 10:13 a.m. A swimmer using snorkeling equipment was dropped in the vicinity of the piling and conducted a preliminary search for 30 minutes.

The swimmer was recovered from the water at 11:05 a.m., when a 41-foot Coast Guard Cutter arrived from Coinjock and joined the search.

Chowan Rescue Squad, Chowan Sheriff's Department and the N.C. Highway Patrol were called to the site to search and control traffic on the old bridge, as motorists slowed to watch the helicopter and boats circling the area.

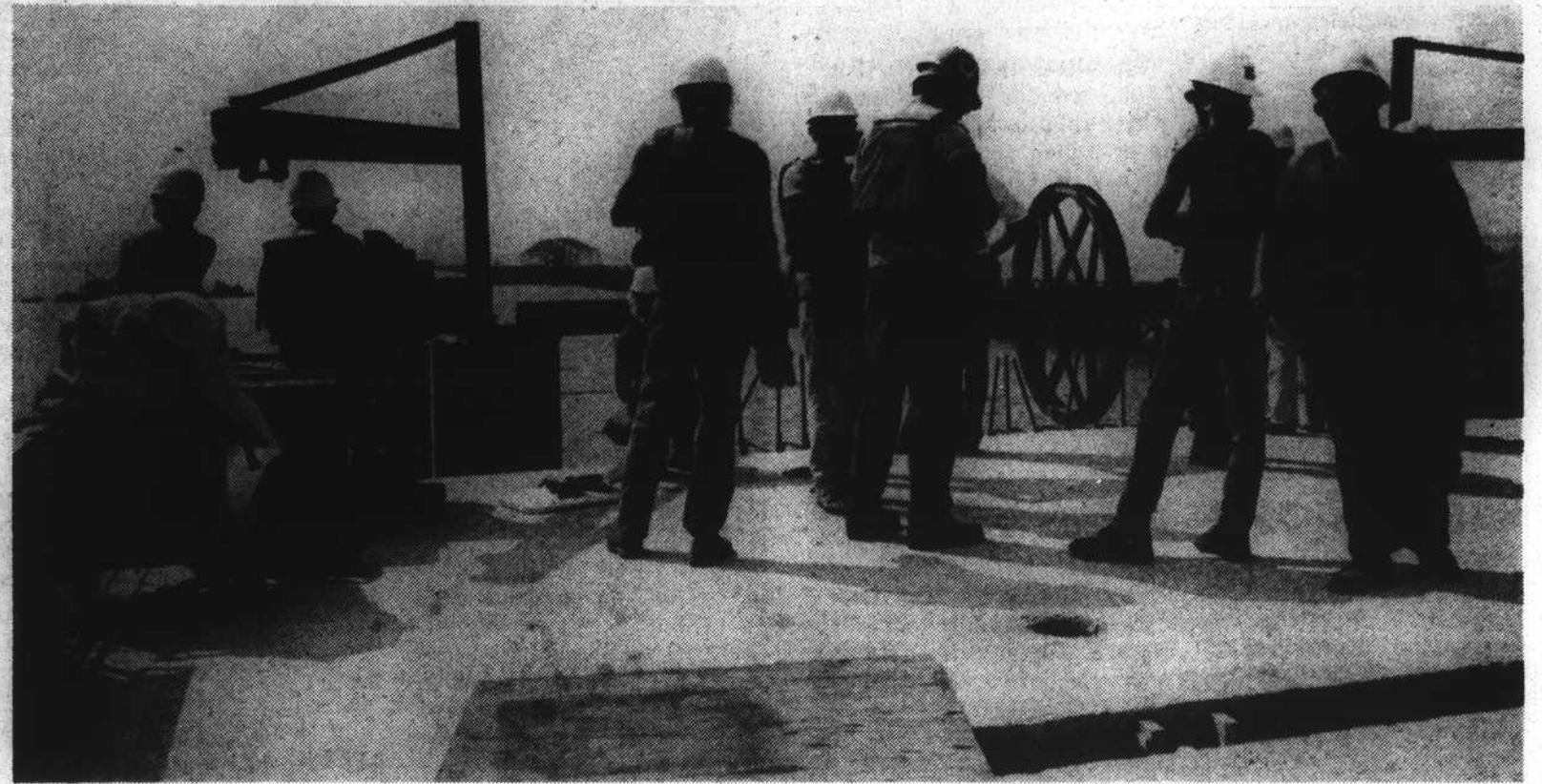
Another diver from Washington County worked in the water with Phillips until the body was found

partially buried in the mud at the base of the piling from which Lewis fell. When found the victim was not wearing a life jacket and

none was recovered with the body. The other workman atop the piling with Lewis was shaken by the accident and was removed from

the pier with a basket attached to a crane, the same device used to place workers on the pilings. Workmen on the bridge thought

Lewis struck a concrete apron, or "footer", around the base of the piling. But Parker said he did not
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TROUBLED FACES—Workmen on the new Albemarle Sound Bridge were quiet and anxious Tuesday as they watched from the last installed slab on the road surface and looked across the water at recovery operations searching for one of their own. Workers were sent home at lunchtime and were also given a day Wednesday to recover from

the shock caused by the loss of a fellow employee. The victim was knocked from the top of the last pier (in the background), which is about 30 yards from the drawspan of the old bridge. The last slab is about one-fourth mile from the draw. (Photo by Managing Editor Jack Grove.)



THE CHOWAN HERALD



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

Volume LLIH - No. 33

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, August 20, 1987

Single Copies 25 Cents



Record Getting Worse?

Despite surveys showing that workers with two years of college earn twice as much as those with only a high school education, barely half North Carolina's 68,609 high school graduates go on to college during their first year out.

A survey of actual college going rates by the University of North Carolina's general administration for 1986 reported the following pattern for first-time freshmen:

University of North Carolina system, 16,707; community college system, 10,272; private colleges, 6,329; out of state, 2,470; trade and business schools, 2,195, for a total of 37,973, or only 55.4 per cent of the total.

But not all of those entering community college are doing college transfer work. If you exclude those going to trade and business school, the total drops to 35,778 and the percentage to 52.1. And only about 15 per cent of the 10,273 entering community college will be college transfer students.

So, if we count only those community college students doing college parallel work, the total drops to a mere 27,047, or only 39.4 per cent of those who graduated from high school in 1986.

As if that weren't bad enough, a news release from the Department of Public Instruction estimates that only about 37 per cent of the 70,000 high school graduates in 1987 plan to attend four-year schools with an additional 3,000 pursuing college transfer work in the community college system.

It is interesting to note that, of the 70,000 graduates in 1987, some 1,200 received certificates instead of diplomas because they failed the state's minimum competency test.

Job Corps Counselor Is Coming

Youth between the ages of 16 and 21-years old who are interested in job training will have an opportunity to speak with a counselor this month at the Chowan Dept. of Social Services beginning at 9 a.m. August 26.

Counselor E.J. Rascoe with the N.C. Dept. of Human Resources will be at the local office to speak

Basnight Tells Of \$150,000 Funding Approved For Local Projects

Sen. Marc Basnight said Monday that the General Assembly has approved \$150,000 for current Edenton projects.

Of that amount, \$125,000 will go toward refurbishing Swain School Auditorium and \$25,000 is earmarked for a project that will move the welcome center from Barker House to a renovated Ziegler House on North Broad Street. Sen. Basnight said Edenton's own Rep. Pete Thompson was instrumental in getting the appropriations.

Sen. Basnight's remarks came in a keynote address delivered at the Edenton-Chowan Board of

Education's "Back to School" breakfast in Holmes Cafeteria.

In his introduction of the senator, school superintendent Dr. John Dunn praised Basnight for his work toward progress in northeastern North Carolina and the state's school systems after the General Assembly approved many new innovative programs.

Dunn said Sen. Basnight's effective-

ness in the legislature has been proven in many ways, including his appointment to chair the senate's appropriation committee for the N.C. Dept. of Natural and Economic Resources, an honor for a second-term senator.

As chairman of the committee, Sen. Basnight is involved in the budget process for the transporta-

tion department, commerce department, agriculture department, labor department, wildlife commission and natural and economic resources.

Basnight's attention is the same if he is "talking with a custodian or talking with the lieutenant governor," Dunn said.

Sen. Basnight told the large audience, "I am humbled by having been appointed to be your political servant. I am there to serve you."

The senator spoke of sweeping changes in the legislature, after more than 300 bills pertaining to education were passed.

Third and fourth year funding for the Basic Education Plan, (\$800 million earmarked for education improvements) means 1,657 new teachers will be hired this school year with 100 additional support persons, full state funding for vocational teachers, 69 in-school suspension teachers, 123 new assistant principals, 854 new

clerical positions, remedial summer school programs, additional textbook and equipment supplements and a five percent pay raise for teachers, totaling 47.7 percent raise since 1983.

Sen. Basnight said \$3.2 billion committed to education in the next 10 years would meet critical school needs, determined by a 10 member committee. The only area member serving on the committee is W.C. (Billy) Owens Jr. of Elizabeth City, chairman of Pasquotank County Commissioners.

The General Assembly also approved \$48 million to continue 16 pilot career ladder programs in the state including the one in Edenton's school system. The legislature opposed Gov. James Martin's proposal to extend the program statewide until evaluation of its effectiveness is completed.

New programs have begun to
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SENATOR VISITS—Sen. Marc Basnight, D-Dare, was guest speaker Monday when employees of Edenton-Chowan schools met for breakfast to kick-off the new school term. Listening to Basnight tell of major education funding approved by the General Assembly is school board member John Mitchener.

Theft Investigations Continuing

Chowan Sheriff's Department is investigating a series of breaking and entering and larceny, most involving motor vehicles.

The first investigation resulted in two arrests for Dare County after a car belonging to Linda Brickhouse of Route 2, Edenton, was entered in Kill Devil Hills Friday.

Monday John Andrew Mark, 37, and Wanda Kay Leary, 21, both of Kill Devil Hills, were arrested in the Yeopim area and charged with felonious breaking and entering of a motor vehicle and misdemeanor larceny from a vehicle.

The two prisoners were picked up by Dare County officers Monday afternoon.

Sunday afternoon a 1973 Ford pickup owned by Mark Byrum, Route 3, Edenton, was left in the

park area of Arrowhead Beach with windows open.

Fifty-seven cassette tapes were stolen from the truck and investigation by the sheriff's department is continuing.

A stereo booster equalizer was stolen from a 1976 Chevrolet truck belonging to Tony Byrum of Tyner Monday morning and investigation is also continuing in that case.

An illegal entry was made at Albemarle Mini-Warehouse on Davenport Lane between July 1 and 5, but was not reported to the sheriff's department until August 16.

Sheriff Fred Spruill said his department is investigating the theft of a shotgun, rifle, television and miscellaneous items stolen from space leased by William L. Turner Sr. of Danville, Ark.

Additional Attempt Made

By JACK GROVE

A Greenville woman and former Edenton resident is making another attempt to utilize a portion of her property on Virginia Road for development.

In February, Mrs. Judy Earnings Adams was granted a rezoning from residential to CS (shopping center) of 20 acres which lie behind McDonald's and the Golden Corral.

Another request to rezone from residential (R-20) to highway commercial of 20 acres adjacent to the Edenton United Methodist Church was denied.

Both actions were taken at a February 24 meeting by town council after hearing over an hour of public comment at a February 10 meeting. The issue at the earlier hearing was continued due to council's concern that adequate notice by mail had not been given to neighbors bordering the Adams property.

One speaker at the first February meeting expressed concern that any possible subsequent purchaser of the property near the church might not follow Mrs. Adams' stated aim of developing a professional park.

Highway commercial would allow such other businesses as auto repair, shops, mobile home parks and service stations.

Some members of the church spoke in favor of the rezoning.

After the decision was rendered by council, Mrs. Adams said that she would submit a revised rezoning request for the property adjacent to the church.

At an August 3 meeting of the town planning board, Mrs. Adams submitted a highway commercial rezoning request for 10 of the 40 acres she owns at the intersection of Luke Street and N.C. 32 North.

She submitted a detailed plan for development that would include a motel and swimming pool, a professional building that would house doctors' offices and a restaurant. The board sent a recommendation to the town council that it approved the rezoning. The 10 acres front on Virginia Road directly adjacent to the church, separated by Luke Street.

The town is required to publish, twice, notice of a hearing for rezoning. One notice was published for a hearing on this matter in The Chowan Herald with a date of August 11, the correct date. A subsequently published notice carried the erroneous date of August 10. Due to this error, the hearing could not be held this month.

Town manager Phillip Whitaker said Monday that the hearing "will probably be September 8". He said that published notice would be given to the public.