



Old Chowan Courthouse Is Focus Of Research Project

By JACK GROVE

Chowan's old courthouse was a beehive of activity last week as historic researchers and an architect took part in a facility study and research project.

Former Rep. Charles Evans introduced successful legislation in Raleigh two years ago that provided \$115,000 to the county for a facility study and renovation. The study is to identify and catalog problem areas at the building that was completed in 1768. Ac-

cumulated interest has provided an additional \$5,000 for the study and first phase structural stabilization, according to County Manager Cliff Copeland.

Peering into areas that haven't seen daylight in many years were three representatives of the State Historic Preservation Office, two researchers from Colonial Williamsburg, historic architect Don Yelberton and paint researcher George Fore.

Carl Lounsbury of the

Williamsburg team explained their interest was in researching historic courthouses in preparation for the restoration of one at Williamsburg. That one, built in 1770, burned in 1913 with only the brick walls surviving.

The researcher has investigated other 18th century courthouses in Virginia, North Carolina, up and down the eastern seaboard and in England. "I've been here periodically over the past four

years," he said. Of the local historic structure he stated that "this is the only one that has so many 18th century courthouse fittings."

In England he looked at "well over 100, a good number of which could compare with this one." Some had "far more details" intact.

Fittings of the Chowan courthouse that particularly interested the scholars were the central chief

magistrate's chair, curved wall around the judicial area, original wainscoting and evidence brought to light of the original construction of the courtroom.

A stone floor runs from the front door to the front row of the present day raised seating. Mortice holes found in the original floor showed that stairs to the judicial rostrum were on both sides instead of the present central steps.

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HISTORICAL DETECTIVE—A physical survey of Chowan's 1768 courthouse allowed a research team from Colonial Williamsburg to get a close look at the structure's construction. A researcher is shown taking measurements beneath the judge's rostrum. A team member pointed out the uniqueness of the Edenton landmark as "a working building and not just a museum."

Basnight Says Martin's Policies Rob Northeast

By JEANETTE WHITE

Sen. Marc Basnight of Dare County verbally blasted Gov. Jim Martin at a Democratic luncheon in Edenton Tuesday for taking money from northeastern North Carolina taxpayers and sending it to the Piedmont area of the state.

Senator Basnight was here to speak in behalf of Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan for governor in the next election.

The senator opened his criticism of Governor Martin by saying when he came into office, he took credit for programs started by former Gov. Jim Hunt.

Speaking of the new Albemarle Sound Bridge, Senator Basnight said, "Martin showed up to break ground for something he had nothing to do with."

He said if Chowan County looked at the proposed nine-year highway package, it would show no local construction, after the Governor sent 20 percent of the entire funding package to his home county, Mecklenburg.

"It's a little foggy sometimes where he's at. Two years ago he said the Basic Education Plan was a socialist program. This year he said it was good," Basnight said. "In your mind, you can't think of anything he's done."

Basnight said the Governor took a sailing trip during the just-ended legislative session and one week before his election promised Jimmy Greene a \$140,000 annual salary for a job in the present administration. The senator said Martin paid Greene the salary

from taxpayers' money.

He added that the Governor promised Charlie Knox \$57,000 annually and Knox took the salary and went on back to his private law practice.

"And when he was caught, he didn't pay it back. He just said 'I won't take any more,'" Basnight said.

The Senator said Martin paid his son's father-in-law \$60,000 for an administration job for which he was unqualified, but the job was abolished after public outrage.

"And when the General Assembly left town, he promoted him into a \$55,000 a year job," Basnight said.

He added that Martin hired seven new people in the highway department in \$50-\$60,000 per year jobs, gave them pretty secretaries, offices, cars, keys and credit cards and told them to go work on his campaign.

"I don't think he deserves to go back," Basnight said.

Speaking of what Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan accomplished, the Senator said he stepped in to outline an educational program that will provide \$50,000 for vocational programs, \$250,000 up-front construction money and \$300,000 from one-half cent sales tax extensions to benefit Chowan County in the near future.

Over the next 10 years, the program will funnel \$7.5 million to the county and \$175 million statewide to meet critical construction needs.

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FTE Rule Tightened

Almost every time the legislature meets, one or more of the 58 institutions making up the community college system is caught padding its class rolls to enhance its Full Time Equivalent attendance record so as to be entitled to more state money.

While this practice is not widespread, it ranges from such abuses as the flagrant practices recently uncovered at Cape Fear Tech's Pender campus down to the simultaneous registration of students for two or more classes meeting at the same time. And it serves to give the other institutions in the system a black eye they do not deserve.

For that reason, the State Community College Board at its recent meeting in Raleigh decided to toughen up its policy governing the counting of students for Full Time Equivalent purposes. It passed a resolution clarifying the purpose and intent of its policy, which is "to provide for the equitable distribution of state dollars through a uniform student enrollment policy. This purpose is circumvented if an institution enrolls and reports students in classes which are scheduled in conflict. The enrollment and reporting of students which involve scheduling conflicts is not an acceptable practice because it would adversely affect the equitable distribution of state dollars and, as a result, adversely affect the accountability and credibility of the system. The state board hereby directs all institutions to ensure that students are not registered and reported in classes which are in conflict."

The state board tries to develop policies which allow for good management practices and institutional flexibility; but when the plain intent of a policy is circumvented, the board is forced to take more restrictive measures.

To its credit, one institution, Mitchell Community College in Statesville, caught one instructor on a satellite campus padding class rolls and immediately reported the case to the district attorney. On the other hand, some other institutions, caught either by the system's internal auditors or the state auditor, have demur-

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Observance Is Set For September 17

One activity planned as part of the Chowan County Bicentennial Celebration September 17 calls for church bells to peal 200 times, followed by 200 seconds of silence, for participation in "Bells Across America".

The 4 p.m. observance is a project of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was just one idea discussed when the Chowan County Bicentennial Committee met Monday night.

DAR members Peggy Leeper and Marguerite Burch brought the idea to the committee and said other towns in the nation will be working toward the same goal.

Other activities planned for the September 17 observance, 200 years after the signing of the Constitution, include exhibits in the old courthouse with copies of an

October 1787 newspaper and a copy of the resolution asking the N.C. General Assembly to ratify the document November 8, 1787. The request from the Chowan Grand Jury, meeting in the old courthouse, was the first in the state.

Mrs. Anne Jones, librarian at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, will have exhibits and videos for viewing, Winston Dail will announce two \$100 winners in the newspaper contest carried by The Chowan Herald and teachers in the county will be emphasizing to students citizenship, leadership and patriotism this year.

Teacher Lynn Whitehurst will ask her drama students at Holmes High School to use historical data and create a script reenacting the

grand jury meeting 200 years ago at the same site for presentation Sunday, November 8.

The committee is planning an afternoon of colonial entertainment for that Sunday and has invited Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan as guest speaker. Jordan is chairman of the state Bicentennial Committee. Hopefully, a band and choral concert will be presented Sunday afternoon.

Edenton attorneys are footing the bill for each county student to receive a pocket-size copy of the Constitution and the arts council is looking at the possibility of sponsoring a speech contest in the schools.

Various civic clubs have expressed interest in sponsoring events for the celebration.

New Film Features Town Of Edenton

A new film, "Edenton Is A Special Place," has been developed and will be viewed by visitors to the Barker House.

The innovative audio-visual was developed by David Latham of the N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History and incorporates old photographs from the turn of the century into colonial and present-day Edenton.

Voices of eight Edentonians are used throughout the film, telling of the town's special features and what it means to them. Speaking in the audio-visual are Cornelia Privott, Sadie Hoskins, Don Fenner, Frances Ingles, Ralph Cole, Tom Sharpe, Novella Wilson and Marguerite McCall.

The film calls attention to Edenton's history, architecture and scenic beauty in an effort to prolong the time visitors spend in the area as tourism becomes increasingly important to the town's economy.

It highlights important events from 1663 through the present day, speaking often of leaders from this area who helped shape the nation, including Gov. Charles Eden, Sen. Samuel Johnson, U.S. Supreme Court Justice James Iredell, Joseph Hewes, who signed the Declaration of Independence and Hugh William-

son, signer of the Constitution.

The town was a thriving seaport in the 1730s, with 50 buildings and around 100 ships annually trading here, taking out shingles, tar, fish and tobacco and bringing in cloth, spices, tea, etc.

The town continued to thrive through the Revolutionary War, but by 1825 the opening of the Dismal Swamp Canal diverted

water traffic away from Edenton.

Photographs and commentary show the town as it was at the turn of the century, with horses and carts tied to hitching posts in front of wooden buildings on what is now Broad Street.

The documentary ends with information and visual aids on the restoration of some of the town's old homes and buildings.

Trawler Ban Is Supported

There were no surprises when sports and commercial fishermen, meeting with the Division of Marine Fisheries Tuesday night, overwhelmingly supported a ban on trawlers in Albemarle Sound.

At a public hearing in Holmes Auditorium, each fisherman spoke of the losing battle to earn a living as pollution and a decline in marine life have made it harder for the watermen to support families.

Rep. Pete Thompson, Chowan Manager Cliff Copeland, Chowan Commissioner Joe Hollowell and Richard Bunch of the chamber of commerce all threw official support behind the fishermen and urged DMF to place a permanent ban on the big trawlers.

Sections of the sound have been open to trawlers for years, but an uproar sounded when the big boats came into local waters for the first time this spring after poor catches made harvest in the Pamlico Sound unprofitable.

Local legislators and fishermen requested and received a temporary proclamation closing the water to trawlers.

Each speaker told of damage to natural fish hatchery habitat caused by the trawlers, as well as depletion of an already low fish population.

Copeland, presenting a resolution adopted by the commissioners, said restrictions placed on striped bass made fishermen dependent on other resident species. "Trawlers do irreparable damage and the fishing industry cannot tolerate more damage," he said. He asked DMF to continue the temporary ban for 1987 and next year adopt a permanent guideline against the trawlers.

Charlton Nixon, representing Rocky Hock Ruritan Club, said many farmers were supplementing income by fishing part-time and wanted to know if DMF was monitoring the sound to tabulate destruction. He said the Ruritans

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Rape Charged To Local Man

An Edenton man was charged with second degree rape Friday afternoon after an alleged attack on a 17-year-old Chowan Beach female.

George Wayne Sawyer, 33, River Road, Route 1, was released on \$3,000 bond Monday morning and had a first appearance in court Tuesday.

According to Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill, his department received a call at 1:25 a.m. Friday that the attack had occurred.

The victim reported that she was walking and accepted a ride from Sawyer, who took her to Otis Beach, where the attack allegedly occurred.

Spruill said he took the victim to Chowan Hospital, where she was treated and released.

Sawyer is a self employed carpenter.

Council Fails To Act On Request

Edenton Town Council took no action Tuesday night on a requested amendment to the town's existing sign ordinance.

Bob Thomas, one of the developers of the new Travel Host Inn, requested the amendment so his corporation could erect a 208 square foot sign at the motel on N.C. 32 North just off U.S. 17.

The old ordinance says each face of a double-faced sign shall not exceed 18 square feet in area. A designated shopping center sign allows 300 square feet.

The proposed amendment said signs would be based on land area. A sign of 50 square feet would be allowed on less than one-half acre, a 100 square foot sign would be allowed on more than one-half but

less than one acre and a 200 square foot sign would be allowed when land area is greater than one but less than two and one-half acres.

For comparison, McDonald's sign is 155 square feet excluding the "Golden Arches", Golden Corral's sign is 105 square feet for the top section and 40 square feet for the bottom section and Hardee's sign is 144 square feet. These signs were allowed on ordinance variances.

After more than an hour of discussion, town council sent the request back to the planning board and suggested that Thomas seek a variance instead of an amendment.



BICENTENNIAL PLANNING—The Chowan County Bicentennial Committee met Monday night and talked about activities planned for Sept. 17 and Nov. 8. Some of the committee members working on the plans included secretary Phyllis Copeland, Laverna Copeland, Ann Jones, Jackie Shackelford and chairman Dr. John Dunn.