



Look Who's Talking

Our government was pretty quick on the draw in criticizing the French for making some concessions to Iranian terrorists in return for the release of hostages held in Beirut. It is a mistake, our State Department said, to do anything that had the appearance of rewarding the kidnapers.

What had the French done? For one thing, they had agreed to permit an Iranian embassy employee, whom the French police wanted to question as a terrorism suspect, to go home in return for two Frenchmen held hostage in Beirut. Both sides agreed to lift blockades of their respective embassies. And, finally, France agreed to resume payments on a billion-dollar loan made to them in 1974 by Iran.

Now, how do those terms compare with deals our government made trying to establish contact with "moderate" elements in the Khomeini regime in Tehran? We, unfortunately, didn't have any hostages of our own to barter, but we did sell them millions of dollars worth of plane parts, missiles and other munitions in return for the release of two hostages. And we offered to make other concessions, most of them illegal by our own standards, for the return of other Americans being held by Iranian terrorists.

In the end, we were played for suckers because the kidnappings continued and, when negotiations were broken off after exposure through a Lebanese magazine, more Americans were being held than when negotiations began.

At least, the French ended up with a two-for-one swap, which was better than the deal we made with Moscow to free a U.S. newsman by exchanging a Soviet spy. This would have been an appropriate time for us to keep our mouth shut.

The Human Element

When guests check in at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, they are handed a small printed directory outlining operating details of the hotel.

One of them is security. For their convenience and protection, the guests are informed, the locks to room doors are operated by plastic keys. When the right key is inserted in the right lock, a green light will come on and the door will open when the key is withdrawn.

Well, we took the key and went up to room No. 615 and, sure enough, the little green light beamed the assurance that we were at the right place. We opened the door and went in to a spacious layout far better than anything we could afford. We were there because, during a weak moment, we had promised Mildred a weekend in New York with our grandsons as a birthday present.

So, there we were, unpacking and waiting for our grandsons to call when we heard a small clicking in the door lock and a perfect stranger walked into the room, bag in hand and clothes thrown over his shoulder.

"What room is this?" he asked.

"Six fifteen," we said. "That's what my key says," he said, comparing numbers. "At least, they gave me the right key, to the wrong room."

With that, he apologized and left.

Well, so much for security, we thought. You can develop the best system in the world and the human element will mess it up.

Sentence Given

By JACK GROVE

A Chowan County murder trial reached a speedy conclusion Tuesday as the result of a plea bargain between the defense and prosecution.

Jury selection began Monday in the case of William O'Neal, 30, charged with first degree murder in the handgun slaying of Jeffrey Allen Newsom, 20 of Edenton. On Tuesday morning the jury was sent from the court room as the plea bargain was entered.

After Superior Court Judge Thomas Watts heard summary testimony of the crime, he sentenced O'Neal to 30 years on a plea of guilty to murder in the second degree. As the result of the plea bargain, another charge of possession of a machine gun was dismissed. Watts also recommended work release but told the defendant not to expect receiving it for "some substantial period of time."

He was also ordered to make restitution to the victim's parents for funeral expenses in excess of \$3,000. Watts indicated that the restitution would be paid when

O'Neal was placed on work release in a minimum of five years if he qualified then under the regulations of the N.C. Department of Corrections.

O'Neal's attorney, C. Christopher Bean, was asked after the trial when his client could expect to be released on parole. Bean indicated that parole depended on a number of variables such as good behavior in the prison system and was reluctant to state a period of time. However he did say, "My guess would be 11 to 15 years."

Summary testimony was given by Chowan Deputy Sheriff Victor Lamb. He said that interviews of witnesses showed that a fish cookout had taken place at the O'Neal home in Arrowhead Beach on the evening of July 19 where a quantity of beer was consumed.

Later O'Neal searched through a cabinet in his house looking for a packet of cocaine which he could not find. Saying "I know Jeff's got my stuff," O'Neal, accompanied by Derek Smith, drove around looking for Newsom. When

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Festivities Attended

They came from all over Sunday to sample a colonial Christmas in Edenton. The occasion was the annual Wassail Bowl at Cupola House and the Groaning Board at the Iredell House.

The total number of visitors was 411, the most ever, according to Linda Eure of Historic Edenton. They came from Fayetteville, the Outer Banks, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, Greenville, Sumter, S.C., Annapolis, Md. and Tidewater, Virginia. Last year, there were 295 attending the event.

Visitors were greeted at Iredell House by a doorman, in colonial garb, Don Fenner. The porch railing and interior were trimmed in traditional greenery and fruit decorations crowned with pineapples.

Just some of the food items featured at the groaning board were Christmas pudding, Washington cake, honey flummery, brown sugar glazed ham garnished with

candied grapes, coconut jumbles, marchpane conceit, cherry bounce and candied orange and lemon slices.

These 18th century dishes were prepared by Victor Eure, assisted by Amy Nixon. Eure is an outreach librarian with the Pettigrew Regional Library. Visitors viewing the culinary treats were given contemporary recipes of some of them accompanied by original recipes.

No one was allowed to sample the treats, however. Refreshments and snacks were presented in an adjoining room from silver service.

Cupola House featured two wassail bowls at opposite sides of the house which was also decorated with natural materials. One bowl featured a burgundy wine with spices such as cloves. The other was cider and lemon and pineapple juice. Both colonial refreshments were served warm. The silver serving bowls were loaned by local residents.



WASSAIL BOWL -- Darcy Gaines serves Ruth Whichard from one of two wassail bowls at the Cupola House Sunday afternoon. The punch was served warm as in Edenton's early days. Both Cupola and Iredell Houses received guests and were festively decorated in natural materials for Christmas.



SERVICE HONORED - John Mitchener, Jr., a former Edenton mayor, presents a plaque to outgoing councilman Herbert Hollowell in recognition of his 19 years of service to the town. An enthusiastic group of citizens was on hand to lend their applause Tuesday night.

Swearing-In Ceremony Held

Two new council members took their seats and one returned, to hers along with mayor John Dowd, at the table of the Edenton Town Council Tuesday night. New members Jimmy Alligood and Livingstone Goodman and returning councilwoman Marina Crummey and Dowd were sworn in by Clerk of Court Marjorie Hollowell.

Leaving the table were Steve Hampton, who served

eight years and Herbert Hollowell who served for 19 years. Hampton told the council and spectators, "I appreciate the people that supported me and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

In a prepared statement, Hollowell said, in part, "It is a feeling of pride to think that I have been one of many to have a part in the progress of Edenton. I have always voted on issues before the council

without obligation to any individual or group of persons. I voted for what I thought was best for Edenton and would benefit the majority of its citizens.

"You have a good council and one that will be honest in its decisions." He left the council with two recommendations. First that they very carefully consider applications for rezoning for a carefully planned town. Second, that budgeting be continued each year for a reserve fund to preclude seeking future loans or raising taxes.

Hollowell was honored before the meeting with a dinner at Boswell's Restaurant by the council and was surprised by a citizens group, headed by John Mitchener, Jr., which

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Accident Claims Life

An Arrowhead Beach man was killed at 8:10 p.m. Friday. Barry Wade Wright, 24, died when his 1978 Chevrolet overturned in the Tyner area.

According to a report filed by Trooper W.F. Whitley of the N.C. Highway Patrol, Wright was traveling on rural paved route 1002 "at a greater than reasonable rate of speed." The car entered a curve, ran onto the left shoulder of the road and collided with a ditch bank and came to rest on its top.

Trooper Whitley's report indicated that the victim was wearing a lap and shoulder restraint and that there was evidence of alcohol involvement in the accident.

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New Chairman Named

In an annual reorganization, required by state law, Chowan County Commission Board members chose a new chairman, Joe Hollowell, and returned Clara Boswell to the position of vice-chairwoman. Alton Elmore stepped down as chairman.

Hollowell said at the Monday night meeting, "Mr. Elmore, I appreciate the confidence that you and Mrs. Boswell and Mr. Goodwin have shown in me." Commissioner Al Phillips arrived at the meeting late.

Edenton and the county are closer to having a 911 emergency phone number with the approval by the board of a bid for equipment submitted by Copeland Communications of Hertford and Lanier Voice Products of Greenville. The equipment includes a 20 channel communication console at a price of \$23,194, bid by Copeland, and a 20 channel tape recorder at \$17,011, bid by Lanier.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said that he had been working very closely

with Sheriff Fred Spruill and the town. The target date for the implementation of the system is April 1, 1988 and Copeland said "We're still very much in the ballpark for March."

The manager told the board of a need to hire a chief dispatcher by Jan. 1 and asked for and received authority to hire for the position in the salary range of \$16,000 to \$26,000, depending on experience of the person selected.

The board was told of receipt of notification that the county is eligible for funding for road signs which it had previously requested. Estimated cost is \$19,344 of which the state Dept. of Transportation will pay 70 per cent or \$13,540.80 and the county must match 30 per cent or \$5,803.20.

Copeland said neighboring counties such as Perquimans already have the signs which aid the dispatching of emergency vehicles as well as provide assistance to those at

Travel Host Inn Opens For Business

Edenton's newest motel the Travel Host Inn, opened its doors for business Monday after a grand opening celebration in the lobby and hospitality room Sunday afternoon.

The Sunday event was attended by town, county and chamber of commerce officials as well as many other well-wishers. Also in attendance were principals in the venture including Vann Johnson of Richmond, Va., John Dowdy of Dowdy Brothers, a motel development concern, and Bob Thomas of Edenton.

Ground was first broken for the motel on June 8. Features include 66 rooms, seven suites, a permanent hospitality suite, a swimming pool and in-house laundry facilities.

The \$1.7 million facility has a blue color scheme on first floor rooms and a rose hues on the second floor.

There will initially be a staff of 12 headed by manager Gail Davis of Edenton.

Johnson, formerly senior vice-president and city executive of Peoples Bank and Trust Co. of Edenton, is with United Leasing Corp. in Richmond. He said that while he was still in Edenton, \$3,000

was raised for the survey concerning the need for another motel here. Of the new Travel Host Inn, "I'm just real pleased to be a part of something that I think will be a real asset to Edenton."

Johnson cited Thomas as

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Break-In Delays Opening

A new Edenton business hadn't yet opened its doors for business when it was broken into on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

The Sports Racquet, located next to the former Edenton Snack Foods was broken into around 5 a.m. According to Jeff Harrell, owner, a cinder block was thrown through the glass door. He said that merchandise worth \$600 was taken including 17 sweat-shirts. The thief or thieves took the cinder block away with them.

Harrell, an Edenton na-

tive, started the business in his home in Washington County before relocating it to Edenton.

Sports Racquet features sports apparel, posters and trophies. The shop specializes in major team logos.

The break-in occurred on the scheduled day of opening and delayed the opening until the following day.

The crime was featured in last week's and also in this week's Crime Line on page 1B.