

Wishing You  
A Bright And Happy New Year

# THE CHOWAN HERALD

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## Night Guard Shot In Break-In

By JACK GROVE

A break-in at United Piece Dye Works, Inc. became an armed robbery early Friday morning when thieves were surprised by a security guard. Another security guard, just coming on his shift, was shot in the robbery.

Chowan Deputy Victor Lamb was first on the scene, responding to a call received at 12:15 a.m. Christmas morning. He found that guard W.S. Clements, 64, had been shot, by what is believed

to be a .22 caliber pistol, in the back in the right shoulder area. Clements was transported by the rescue squad to Chowan Hospital and subsequently released Sunday.

Lamb said that guard John Damrose was grabbed by two black males in a back office of the main building. When Clements, a former Edenton police officer, arrived to begin his shift, he too was overpowered and he and Damrose were tied together.

The thieves broke into front

offices where they rifled a bill changing machine and went through cabinets and desks. An undetermined amount of cash was taken.

Clements and Damrose managed to free themselves, and, thinking that the intruders had left, Clements went to the area where they had entered through an unlocked back door. One of them appeared from a doorway and as Clements turned to flee, he was shot.

Lamb said that no other employees were working due to the holidays. He said that the night watchmen were unarmed and "are mainly a fire watch." He also said that,

during the incident, Damrose was robbed.

Sheriff Fred Spruill had praise for authorities of surrounding counties and towns for cooperation in the search for the robbers. He said that roadblocks were manned by the sheriff's departments of Bertie, Washington, Gates and Perquimans counties. He also said that officers from the police departments of Edenton, Hertford and Elizabeth City, as well as the Pasquotank Sheriff's Department, aided in the search for the vehicle believed involved in the robbery.

Lamb said that an investigation was continuing.



R.M. (Pete) Thompson

## Seeks Return

Representative R.M. (Pete) Thompson announced Wednesday that he will seek re-election to the North Carolina House of Representatives from the First District. The First District is comprised of Camden, Currituck, Chowan, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Washington and Tyrrell counties.

Thompson is completing his freshman term in 1988 and will be running in the Democratic primary in May for one of two House seats from the First District.

Representative Thompson serves on nine legislative committees: aging, agriculture, cultural resources, finance, health, law enforcement, marine fisheries, natural and economic resources and transportation. Each of these areas are of particular interest to the citizens of the First District. At this time, he also serves on seven study commissions dealing with agriculture, water quality and the Oregon Inlet.

Thompson is a retired agriculture extension chairman and resides in Chowan County with his wife, Carolyn P. Thompson.

The legislator said "I appreciate the support of the First District citizens in 1986 and certainly would appreciate the support of the First District voters in 1988."

## County Leads Area

Chowan County led the 10 county northeastern district in the amount of marijuana plants found and confiscated during 1987. The Chowan Sheriff's Department confiscated 278 plants in 44 plots with a street value of \$333,600 according to Sheriff Fred Spruill.

A report issued by the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation said that 89,273 plants throughout the state were eradicated with an estimated street value of \$146,168,000. Two hundred and four persons were arrested for the manufacture of marijuana.

Two white males and two white females were arrested in connection with growing marijuana in the county, with another arrest possible, Spruill said.

The campaign to rid the county of the illegal crops was conducted, in part, from the air. An SBI airplane was used in July to spot the plants and a Craven County aircraft and sheriff's deputy were utilized twice. In addition, the Coast guard lent a helicopter on one occasion.

Spruill said that tips also played a role in locating plants. Three tips called in to the new Edenton-Chowan Crime Line resulted in plants being eradicated and rewards paid.

In neighboring counties, Gates was second to Chowan with 224 plants confiscated. Others were: Bertie, 62; Camden, 117; Currituck, 8; Dare,

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## Progress Discussed

Officers with the Chowan County Law Enforcement Officers Association looked back this week at their first year as an organization and looked ahead to plans for the coming year.

The organization, formed in March, had its major undertaking for 1987, the Edenton-Chowan Crime Line. The Crime Line is published in each issue of The Chowan Herald and is broadcast weekly on local radio station WZBO. It seeks information on highlighted local crimes and offers rewards.

The organization's president, Hardy Gillam, said that callers to the Crime Line, at 482-5100, are assigned numbers when they provide information. To receive any reward, they are given a time to call back or numbers may be printed in the Crime Line column and broadcast on the

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## Filings Open For Elections

While 1988 is a presidential election year, it will also see candidates seeking election and re-election on the state and local levels.

Filings for state and local offices will open at noon on January 4 and will close at noon on February 1.

On the state level, Governor James Martin is seeking another term. Seeking to unseat him will be Lieutenant Governor Robert Jordan. A large field of candidates have announced for the office of Lt. Governor.

Other offices to be decided include judgeships, the Council of State and General Assembly seats.

In the First District, the seats of Chowan Representative R.M. (Pete) Thompson and Representative Vernon James of Pasquotank are up for grabs.

In Chowan County, three seats on the school board, two on the county commission and the position of Register of Deeds will be decided.

On the school board, the first township seats of John Mitchener, III and Alice Jones and the second township seat of Glorius Elliott will be decided. Mrs. Elliott was ap-

pointed this year to the vacated seat of Billy Nixon. Mrs. Jones was appointed two years ago.

The school board election is uncertain at this time. The county is awaiting a ruling from the U.S. Dept of Justice as to whether the current makeup of voting districts and method of selecting candidates at-large is in accord with the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

Counties in North Carolina, including Chowan, were sued by the federal government this year for not requesting clearance when voting procedures were changed in the 1970's. It was during that period that the Edenton and Chowan school systems were consolidated.

Board member John Mitchener, III said Wednesday that he had "an interest in seeing that subject placed on the agenda" for the school board meeting to be held next Tuesday. The meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the conference room of the County Office Building.

An election will be held for register of deeds, a post currently held by Ann Spruill.

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## On A Strange New Year

Here we stand on the eve of a new year in the twilight of a century, wondering as a nation what the morrow will bring. We have come to measure distances in light years and debts in trillions, but seem unable to know what our next step should be.

Our debt-plagued trading partners can survive only if they can obtain decreased interest rates and increased exports. But we are the greatest debtor of all, desperately needing to increase our own exports.

Our political partners can survive -- or so they tell us -- only if we expand our defense umbrella over them as nuclear weapons are diminished, leaving them free to loan us money and continue to steal our markets.

Our economic partners in the middle east will be sorely tested unless the Stars and Stripes continue to fly over their oil transports in the Persian Gulf, an operation which pushes the cost of every barrel we import through the Straits of Hormuz to \$418.

And here at home, stagflation triggered by the stock market debacle continues to fog the future. What will the new year bring? Will it be recession, with millions more walking our streets, homeless and hungry? Or will it be a return to inflation as the Fed feeds crisp, newly-printed money into the economy?

Has the federal deficit really gotten out of hand, set to increase whatever happens? It will go up if a recession cuts into revenues; or, which is just as bad, it will go up if inflation boosts interest rates on the national debt, now the third largest item in the federal budget.

In our time, we have seen many new years come and go; but we do not recall a time, in peace or war, when we felt less certain about the future of

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CHOWAN FIRST - District Court Judge Grafton C. Beaman congratulates Elizabeth Stevens upon her entry to the N.C. Bar. Looking on are her parents and attorney William Culpepper (right), who presented her to the court. Ms. Stevens is the first lady attorney to be licensed in the state from Chowan County.

## Lady Lawyer Makes Local History

History was made Tuesday morning when Elizabeth Stevens was sworn in to the North Carolina Bar in the courtroom of Judge Grafton G. Beaman. Ms. Stevens became the first lady lawyer from Chowan County.

She is the daughter of Chester and Gahl Stevens of 1010 W. Queen St., Edenton. She was salutatorian for her 1978 graduating class at John A. Holmes High School and winner of the Rotary Cup, awarded to outstanding seniors.

Ms. Stevens graduated from

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a degree in political science. During her undergraduate days there, she was a member of the fencing team.

She undertook law school at N.C. Central University where she graduated in May summa cum laude with a 3.699 grade point average. While there, she was the winner of the "moot court." She graduated first in her class.

Passing her state bar exam in July, she received her license to practice law on August 22. Tuesday's ceremony

marked her official entry to the state bar.

The new attorney was presented to the court by attorney William Culpepper who outlined her accomplishments. Judge Beaman, prior to the swearing-in told her, "Miss Stevens, your credentials are certainly impressive to the court."

She is currently employed as a law clerk for the federal district court judge for the District of Columbia in Washington, D.C.

## Two-Car Collision Nets One Injury

A two-car collision Sunday at the intersection of U.S. 17 Business South and U.S. 17 Bypass resulted in both cars being demolished and left the driver of one hospitalized.

George Allan Nelms, 78, of Kinston, was driving his 1978 Ford Thunderbird on U.S. 17 Business when he ran the stop signal at the intersection and struck a southbound 1978 Ford on U.S. 17 Bypass driven by Mary Bowen White, 75, of Plymouth.

The impact knocked the White vehicle into a ditch on the west shoulder of route 1204 on the opposite side of the intersection. The Nelms car spun around after impact and collided with a stop sign on the west shoulder of 1204 and came to rest.

The accident, which occurred at 2:15 p.m. in the rain, sent Nelms to the hospital. Not requiring hospitalization was his wife, Jeanne Cowper Nelms, 67. Mrs. White and her husband, Joseph Elton White Sr., 75. All were reportedly wearing

seatbelts. Investigating trooper, Michael J. McArthur, cited Nelms for failure to stop at the stop sign.

Responding to the accident, in addition to McArthur, were troopers W.F. Whitley, W.M. Long III, sheriff Fred Spruill, deputies Greg Whitehurst and Victor Lamb, EMS Coordina-

tor Doug Belch, three rescue squad ambulances and one crash truck. The DOT sanded the road due to an oil and gas spill.

A Chowan Hospital spokesman said Wednesday that Nelms was still a patient and was listed in good condition.



DEMOLISHED - This 1978 Ford Thunderbird was involved in an accident Sunday that injured the driver, George Allan Nelms of Kinston. This car and another were demolished when they collided at the intersection of U.S. 17 Business South and U.S. 17 Bypass.