



The Public Parade

Behind Litter Brigade

Everybody along the Public Parade should applaud Chowan County's renewed campaign to clean up litter along its highways and byways. We hope that, by the time this is in print, noticeable progress will have been made.

Littering is one of the most serious problems confronting communities all across the state. Perhaps it is a more serious problem in the south than elsewhere. If that is so, it says something about the character and sense of values of the region.

Iredell County is one of the most beautiful in the entire state. Its rolling green hills reflect an agriculture based on beef cattle and dairying. Its pastures slope back from the Interstates to neat homes and barns on the hilltops.

Yet there are places in Iredell County that could qualify as the Litter Capital of the state. We built in the country some 30 years ago, on a road that wasn't yet paved and where not many people lived. Since then two Interstates have been built, intersecting within a mile of our place, and the road by our house has been paved.

We look upon all that as progress. It has enabled thousands of people living in the county to make a better living. Shopping malls and housing developments have followed, converting our road into a heavily-traveled thoroughfare.

And with it all has come litter, persistent and pernicious. People driving by seem to take pleasure in aiming their beer bottles and drink cans at our driveway. Plastic hamburger and hotdog containers are thrown to the curb, along with the french fries and catsup and cigarettes butts which some of the more fastidious drivers have emptied from their ashtrays into the ever-handy cartons.

These people probably keep very neat lawns and grounds around their own places; but

Continued On Page 4

Possible Bus Driver Shortage Discussed

By JACK GROVE

School bus drivers, AIDS, school system accreditation, a low dropout rate and annual writing test scores were among the topics discussed at the Edenton-Chowan School Board meeting Monday night.

It was noted that the U.S. Department of Labor has given North Carolina school systems a reprieve until August, 1988 of a federal ruling that all school bus drivers must be 18 years of age or older. No 16-year-old drivers may be used.

Edenton-Chowan currently has five drivers who are seniors. Other school systems around the state are in more serious circumstances as most of their drivers are students.

Ten buses serve Chowan Jr. High School, seven for White Oak, 12 for D.F. Walker and ten for John A. Holmes High School.

Associate Superintendent Jim Kinion told the board that "the prospect is that there will be no student drivers next year." Most adults driving buses work at the schools. State law says that after delivery of students in the morning, buses must remain on the campus. The driver is allowed to keep the bus at his home after completion of the afternoon route.

Kinion pointed out that for drivers who do not work at the school, "They've got to make

some arrangement to be picked up or stay in town," (for Walker and Holmes). He added, "We could have a potential problem with Chowan and White Oak," in the

northern end of the county.

Superintendent John Dunn summarized with "I think what we're saying is that we have to find a way to deal with this situation before next

summer."

Director of instruction, Maxine Britt, presented writing test scores for sixth and eighth grade students that showed a steady improvement

over scores for previous years. The scores run from an "NS" at the low end to a 4.0 at the high end. She said that 2.5 and above was considered good.

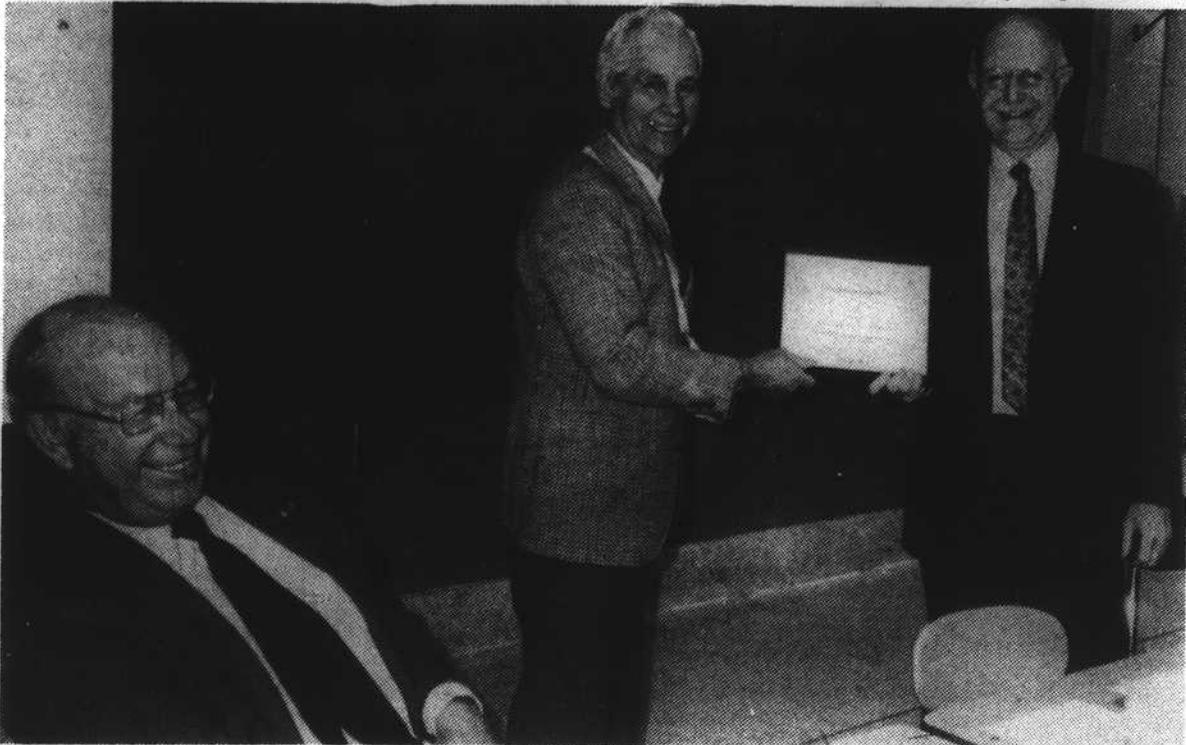
In the sixth grade, the percentage of students scoring 4.0 - 3.5 was 7.2 in 1984 and 6.1 in 1987. Students scoring 3.0 - 2.5 jumped from 26.6 in 1984 to 40.5 in 1987.

In the eighth grade, 4.0 - 3.5, 1985 percentage was 3.7 and in 1987, 7.6. Students scoring 3.0 - 2.5 jumped from 27.6 in 1985 to 51.2 in 1987.

"You will see that we have steadily increased since 1984. This is due to the teachers. We are very pleased," Mrs. Britt observed.

School board chairman Cecil Frye told the board that "We ranked eighth lowest in the state" in school dropout rates. Dunn pointed out that the school system ranked first in dropout rates "three years ago." In answer to a question from board member Frank Cox, Dunn said, "I think a lot

Continued On Page 4



PLEASED - Expressions of pleasure were evident at Monday night's school board meeting as superintendent John Dunn presented a certificate for schools accreditation to board chairman Cecil Frye. Associate superintendent Jim Kinion is at left.

Center Funding Request Endorsed

Chowan County Commissioners had one of their shortest meetings in recent memory Monday night as they disposed of a small agenda in under 45 minutes.

Jack Pruden and Linda Eure of Historic Edenton re-

quested the commission's endorsement of efforts to obtain funds for the Ziegler House renovations. The funds would come from the state Department of Cultural Resources' budget with the Ziegler project sixth on that department's

priority list.

The project would renovate Ziegler House as a visitor center for the town, moving the function from Barker House. Historic Edenton has expressed concern about the wear and tear of visitors to the older Barker House and also point out that Ziegler House is state owned.

A special appropriations bill for the Ziegler project failed to gain passage in the General Assembly last summer.

The board was told that their endorsement would move the project up on Cultural Resources priority list. A letter will be written supporting the request.

The commissioners agreed

to refer a petition to the Department of Transportation for eligibility determination of addition to the state system of a dirt lane off of SR 1230 (Green Road).

After a public hearing which saw no opposition voiced, the board adopted a final assessment roll for road improvements to Yeopim Trail. Property owners on the street will be assessed \$2.07 per foot for improvements.

The commission approved the reappointment of five Planning Board members. They are Jack Evans, Anthony Hathaway, Jr., James D. Ward, Emily Amburn and Richard Bunch. A sixth, Tony

Continued On Page 4

Zoning Questions Answered

Editor's Note: In advance of the Town Council meeting on Feb. 9 at which a public hearing will be held to consider revising of the Historic Zoning District, we present the following questions and answers about the proposed amendments, provided by Mayor John Dowd and Edenton Historic Commission.

Q. What will the amendments do?

A. One makes the boundaries of the Edenton Historic District under the Town Zoning Ordinance include all the area now designated by the Secretary of the Interior as the Edenton Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The area is, roughly, Edenton between Granville and Oakum Streets from the waterfront to Gale Street, with an extension along Broad Street.

Much of the area is already in the town's district.

Significant elements of the town, however, are not.

The second set of amendments will make the terms of office of the members of the Historic District Commission begin after a new Town Council is elected and appoints the members. At present, there is no timetable for the appointment of members.

At present, the Commission is required to meet ten days after an application for a certificate is received. Under the proposed amendment, the Commission will consider applications at its regular meetings on the first Monday of each month. The applications must be made ten days before those meetings.

Of course, the Commission can meet on call of the chairman if an application is urgent.

Filing Complete For Area Offices

Filings for elective office closed Monday at noon with all local positions having at least one candidate. Races have developed for one county commissioner seat and one seat on the school board.

Alton Elmore was the first office-seeker to file on January 4 for reelection to the county board of commissioners. No one has filed to oppose him.

Register of deeds, Anne Spruill filed for reelection on the same day and she too is unopposed.

School board incumbents Alice Jones and John Mitchener, III of the first township have no competition in their bids for reelection to the two seats available.

The one school board seat in the second township will see competition, however, Glorious Elliott, incumbent, and challenger Emmett E. Winborne both filed last week.

A race has also developed in the third township slot for the county commission board. R. Wayne Goodwin and Gilbert R. Hare both declared

for that seat last week.

Goodwin, seeking reelection for a second term, issued a statement outlining his reasons for running again. He urged more community involvement in governmental decisions and stated his support for the new 911 emergency communications system and fire, rescue and law enforcement agencies.

The bulk of the statement, however, dealt with "one of my primary concerns," the school system. Goodwin said that a "common sense" approach was needed on that subject.

"As county commissioner, I will focus my attention towards what I believe to be careless and reckless spending of the taxpayers' money by the school administration and Board of Education of Chowan County."

He continued, "I believe the money should be concentrated more at the teachers level where education is really derived from, rather than at the administrative level where it never reaches the students. I believe it to be ridiculous to

have created positions that have assistants to the assistants."

On the system's physical plant, "I too, would like to have new school buildings for our children. However, as reasonable people, we have to live within our means of affordability." Goodwin said that as a commissioner, "I would not put the taxpayers in a tax-burden situation in order to build more buildings when true education is derived from the teachers and not new buildings."

Schools superintendent, Dr. John Dunn, pointed out at a recent school board meeting that, while the school board was responsible for identifying building needs, the county board of commissioners was responsible for identifying funding.

Election to school board seats is on a non-partisan basis. The other offices this year are in partisan elections with only Democrats filing at the deadline Monday according to Election Board Supervisor Marie Akins.

Drivers Cause Safety Concern

A problem with vehicle traffic on the Albemarle Sound Bridge has attracted the attention of the N.C. Highway Patrol. The problem stems from work being done on the new span over the sound.

Bridge safety supervisor, A.J. Holts, of Cianbro-Williams, bridge contractors, said that company employees have come close to being struck by impatient drivers who refused to stop during concrete pouring operations.

Concrete trucks bring the mix onto the old bridge to be transferred by bucket and crane to the new bridge pouring operation. Some drivers,

during operations several weeks ago, pulled out around flagmen at both ends of one-lane traffic, causing traffic tieups and hazardous conditions for workers.

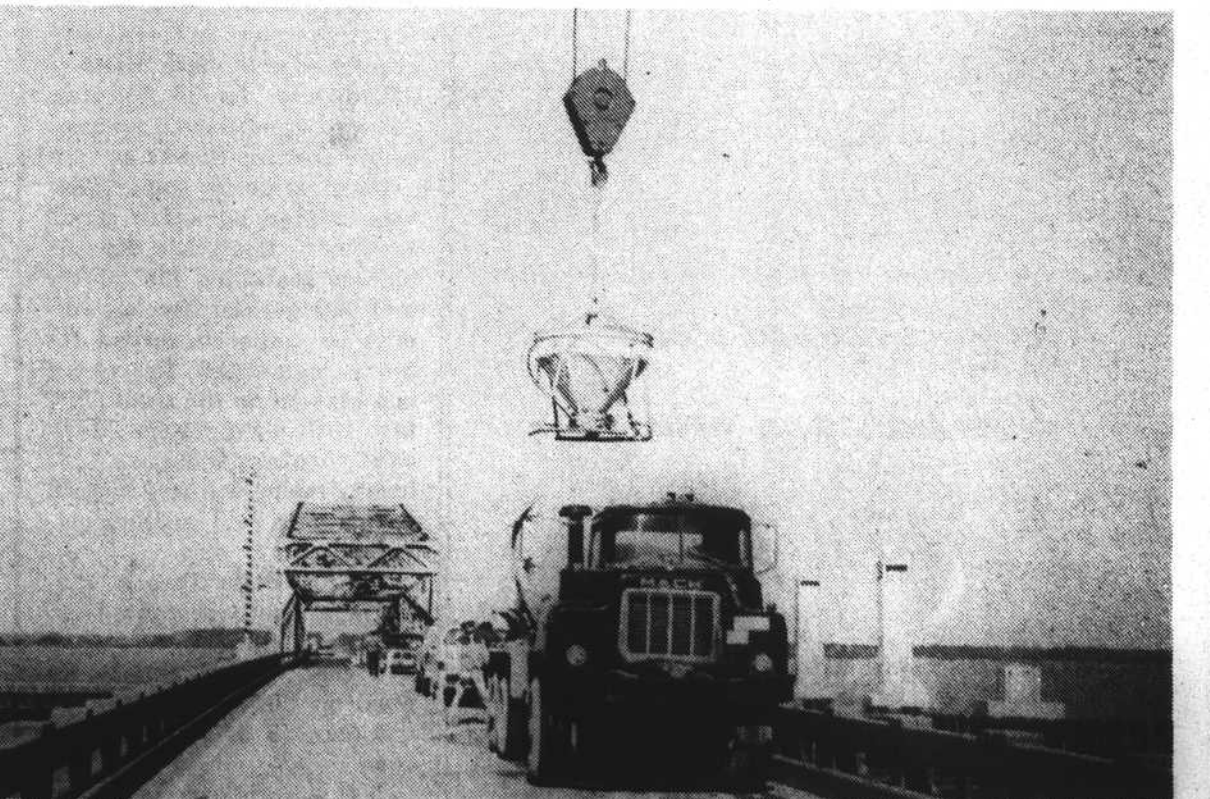
During pour operations Saturday, Holts said that troopers transited the bridge "at least five times," prompting both truck and private vehicle drivers to slow down and cooperate with flagmen.

The company has had to call a halt to the cement pour during the recent span of cold weather and rain and high winds. The concrete is being poured in molds for "low-water caps" that will support the

bridge columns near the draw of the present bridge. The new bridge will have a high-rise center instead of a draw.

Roadway for the bridge now extends from the Chowan shore out to where the rise will begin and some 1,500 feet out from the Washington shore.

Holts asked that the public continue to exercise patience and cooperation with flagmen. For the public's driving safety, officials recommended that the new bridge not be inspected by the driver while his vehicle is moving. And the Highway Patrol will be keeping an eye on the situation.



TAKE 'ER UP - Cement is transferred from a truck on the Albemarle Sound bridge by crane to the work site on the new bridge, part of which can be seen in the background. Impatient drivers using the bridge have caused hazardous conditions for construction workers.