

**PARKING DILEMMA** - Edenton's downtown business area lacks sufficient parking according to merchants. Only one available space can be seen in this view from the roof of Byrum's Hardware Tuesday afternoon. Byrum's manager, Jack Evans said, "We've had lots of customers come in and say they'd like to not found a parking place."

## Parking Solution Sought

By JACK GROVE

Edenton businessmen have been concerned for years about an apparent lack of parking downtown for shoppers. This concern surfaced at a town council meeting on January 26 when Ollin Sykes, a CPA, said the relocation of municipal offices to the old Peoples Bank building would eliminate customer parking.

The Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce collected signatures of downtown business persons last week seeking support for a proposal to increase parking.

The chamber's Merchants Committee has proposed that Jackson's Radio and T.V., located on Eden Street, "be purchased to solve the problem. The building could be demolished and a parking lot constructed. This lot would tie

in to an existing parking lot," according to a letter requesting the signatures.

John Cuthrell, chamber president said that the town's Finance Committee would be approached about the purchase with an additional suggestion that the town and county jointly develop the site for parking.

Current plans are for the radio and T.V. business to relocate. Thomas Jackson, owner of the property, has it listed with Century 21, Dowd Real Estate for a sale price of \$99,500.

The Chowan Herald did a physical count of parking spaces in the downtown area. There are a total of 575 spaces in on and off-street parking from the new courthouse to the municipal building. Of those ten are reserved spaces and 108 are special purpose parking for Peoples Bank, the courthouse, Home Federal Savings and Loan and the ABC store.

The chamber's executive director, Richard Bunch, tabulated the number of persons working in the downtown area and arrived at a total of 507. This (if each drove a car to work) subtracted from the total of parking places, leaves 68 parking slots for shoppers.

Some merchants have complained about on-street parking being taken up by employers or employees. They feel that business is lost when shoppers can't park in front of their stores.

Russell Davis of Davis Jewelers feels that many shoppers from out of town do not know about parking lots behind the stores. He said that some of his customers have had to circle the business area "two or three times" to find a parking space.

He said that a new lot "is absolutely needed." Many of his customers are from Columbia and Creswell and "they come in and say there's nowhere to park."

Cuthrell said Tuesday, "This parking situation has gotten worse for the last several years. I can see where people haven't come in on a particular day because they couldn't find a parking place." He said it was especially acute for the elderly who can't walk very far.

The town has an ordinance that has a time limit of two hours for on-street parking in the business district. Violation brings a citation requiring the payment of a \$5 penalty.

Police Chief John Parrish said that when his officers issue citations, an average of 8-10 employees and employers are ticketed. He believes that many more move their cars after seeing their tires chalked.

Other "red-line" spaces behind the county office building and Belk Department Store are two-hour limit spaces and will draw citations.

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## Rose's Plans Opening Store Here

Confirmation was obtained Wednesday that a new Rose's store will be coming to Edenton.

Lois Williams of Rose's

real estate department in Henderson, N.C. said in a telephone interview that a lease with Westminster Corp. of Jacksonville, N.C. had been signed "about a month ago."

The shopping center is being developed on property behind McDonald's on Virginia Road which is owned by Judy Earnhardt Adams of Greenville and formerly from Edenton. The developer, Westminster, is a subsidiary of the Weyerhouser group.

Mrs. Williams said that the Rose's store will have 45,495 square feet and will carry the full Rose's line including automotive and toy departments. She said it will be in the smaller of three categories of company stores. Concerning Edenton, she commented, "We like that

little town."

While unsure when ground would be broken, she said that opening was planned for the fall.

No one from the Westminster company was available Wednesday to talk about other stores planned for the shopping center.

Kelvin Anderson of Lat Purser and Associates of Charlotte was also reached Wednesday by telephone. His company owns and leases the Edenton Village Shopping Center where an Ames store might locate.

He said that no lease had been signed and "Ames will review that site along with several others during a meeting in March." He said that he did not know if the Rose's decision would affect location of Ames here.

Lat Purser is currently building a new store at the center for Food Lion. Anderson confirmed that the cost of that construction would approach \$1 million. McDevitt and Street Company of Charlotte is the general contractor for that job.

## Complaints Received

Some local postal authorities have begun receiving complaints due to curtailed window hours at their facilities. The U.S. Postal Service has been forced to institute deep budget cuts due to federal budget deficit cutbacks mandated by Congress.

While the majority of cutbacks have been internal for the postal service, area post offices have been forced to reduce retail window service hours an average of ten percent in low-usage periods.

Post offices in Tyner and Hobbsville have eliminated window service on Saturdays with no change to weekday hours.

Window service at Tyner through the week is 7:15 - 11 a.m. and 1 - 4:45 p.m.

Hobbsville daily hours are from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m.

An article in last week's edition of the Chowan Herald incorrectly listed Saturday hours at the Edenton Post Office as 9-11 a.m. The correct Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to noon.

Window service hours only are affected.

## Deadline Is Nearing

Nominations are still coming in for The Chowan Herald's "Pride of Edenton and Chowan County" promotion to recognize local people who have made outstanding contributions in the community. Response so far has been good, but there are still many deserving people whose names have not yet been placed in nomination.

If you know of someone whose actions and good deeds

have really made a difference and would like to see them honored for it, simply bring a clear, good quality photograph of the person, along with a brief explanation of what they have done to merit receiving this recognition, to the Herald office on South Broad Street prior to February 29.

For further information, call Chowan Herald Associate Editor Rebecca Bunch at 482-4418.

## Offices Receive Water Damage

It was raining outside Monday evening when it seemed to begin raining inside on the first floor of the county office building. The source of the building's "rain" was discovered by Keith Renner in the Social Service conference room. A capped pipe had ruptured at the fitting.

The building, a former hotel, is honeycombed with piping behind the walls that serviced bathrooms. When the building was occupied by the county in 1967, the plumbing fixtures were removed and the pipes sealed.

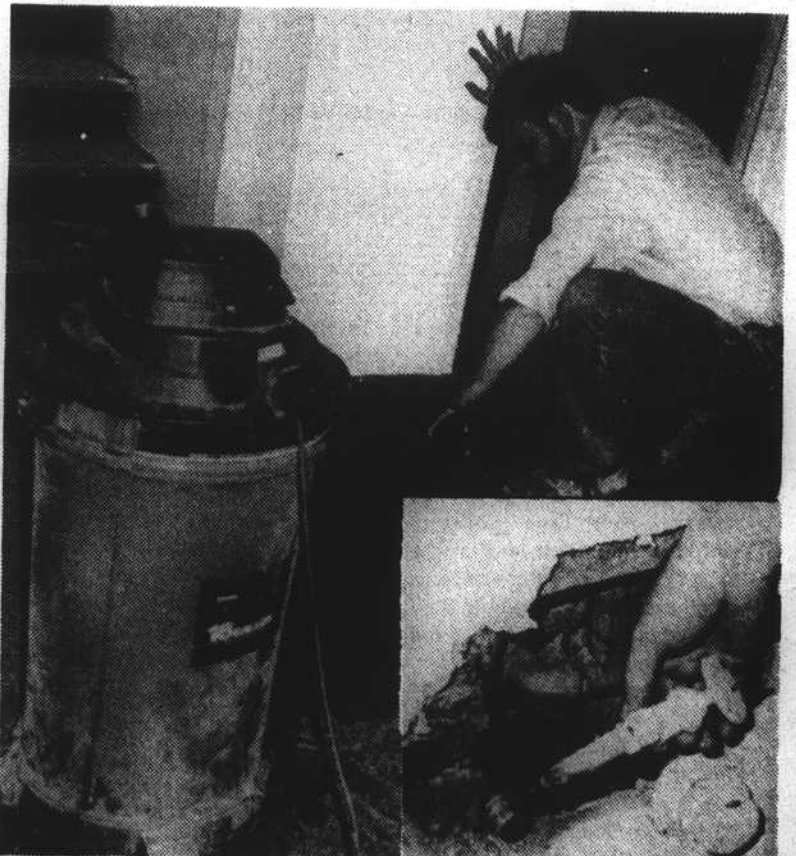
After the water was shut off at the street, a cleanup effort got underway with power vacs to suck up moisture from soaked carpeting. Edenton fireman Paul Stallings, Melvin Lane of Sentry Services, Allen Worrell, county maintenance supervisor and building inspector John Bunch worked on the cleanup.

In addition to floors, ceiling tiles in a hallway, a restroom and Bunch's office were damaged. A damage estimate was not available Wednesday afternoon.

Nancy Morgan in the

county manager's office said that this was not the first time that pipes had burst in the building. Worrell said that

all the remaining piping was under water pressure and that "it's possible" that the problem could reoccur.



**SOAKED** - Allen Worrell uses a power vac to remove water from soaked rugs after a water pipe burst at the county office building Monday evening. The location of the pipe failure (inset) was in a second floor conference room.



**PARK BULKHEADING** - Steel bulkheading is driven into place for the town's new park. The work is being done by Waff Brothers Construction Co., reportedly at an unusually good price.

## Town Park Gets Help

Construction contractors have been lending their support to building a new park for Edenton.

Edenton Construction provided equipment and personnel at no charge last fall to clear large chunks of concrete, pilings and other refuse from the site behind the police station.

The company has also made arrangements for other companies to help. McDevitt and Street Company of Charlotte donated some 30 truckloads of good topsoil to the park several weeks ago. McDevitt and Street is the prime contractor for the new Food Lion store at

the Edenton Village Shopping Center.

Waff Brothers Construction Co. has donated 150 cubic yards of sand to backfill the steel bulkhead it is placing at the park. The sand was dredged by Waff from the site of the new Albemarle Sound bridge.

Outerbanks Construction Co. has donated trucks to move the sand to the bulkheading operation.

With this kind of help, as well as volunteer labor from others and contributions to the "Build the Park" drive, the park is nearing reality.

Politically, things seem to be going about as expected at the national level. Senator Bob Dole and Rep. Dick Gephardt came out on top in the Iowa caucuses and, by the time this is in print, have made a good enough showing in New Hampshire to enable both of them to hit the ground running for Super Tuesday.

Iowa was a big disappointment on the Republican side for Vice President George Bush, who was pushed into third place by Pat Robertson, the televangelist. But New Hampshire turned the tables, pushing Bush into first place, with Dole dropping to second. Jack Kemp was a distant third, Pierre DuPont, fourth and Robertson, fifth.

But among the Democrats, Senator Paul Simon and Gov. Mike Dukakis made good enough showings in Iowa to enable them to go for broke in New Hampshire. And that's what Dukakis did, taking first place with 16 percentage points over Gephardt. Simon held on to third, and all three are thus positioned to continue to test the waters in other states. The other four Democrats trailed with eight percentage points or less.

Meanwhile, Senator Albert Gore, who alone among the Democrats chose to forgo the Iowa freeze-out, where only 46 delegates were at stake, continued to campaign in the south, where more than 1,000 delegates are to be named in the March Super Tuesday primaries.

We met Senator Gore for the first time last Thursday when he took his southern campaign to Iredell County, where on a day's notice he was met by a crowd of more than 500 at a cattle farm west of Statesville. And, although the television crews consumed most of his time shooting scenes of the candidate with the cattle and a stray donkey led into the scene,

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The Public Parade

Toward Super Tuesday