



Delays Plague System

By JACK GROVE

The Town of Edenton's new wastewater treatment land application system has experienced delays in completion and could run afoul of state regulations if not completed prior to July 1 of this year.

The system was originally scheduled for completion at the end of January. The contractor blamed bad weather for delays and said the work would be completed in June. The completion date now has been moved forward to July.

Ford Chambliss, engineer with the town's consultant, L.E. Wooten Co., explained a procedure to avoid state action to town council at a specially called meeting at noon on Tuesday.

Strict state guidelines for effluent go into effect July 1 and Edenton would have no problem with compliance if

the land application system was in operation by then, Chambliss said.

Council heard that they could avoid action if they passed a resolution of intent to apply for a judicial order of consent. Implicit in this order would be a schedule showing when the system would be in final compliance. Council quickly approved the resolution.

Chambliss told council that a modification was needed in slope protection for a dyke around a holding lagoon for the system. The lagoon will have 28 water surface acres. The engineer said that wave action breached a dyke of a similar lagoon at Garner.

He said a 4 inch thick concrete slab was needed from the bottom of the lagoon to two feet from the top of the dyke for insurance against wave damage. The concrete work would add from \$300,000

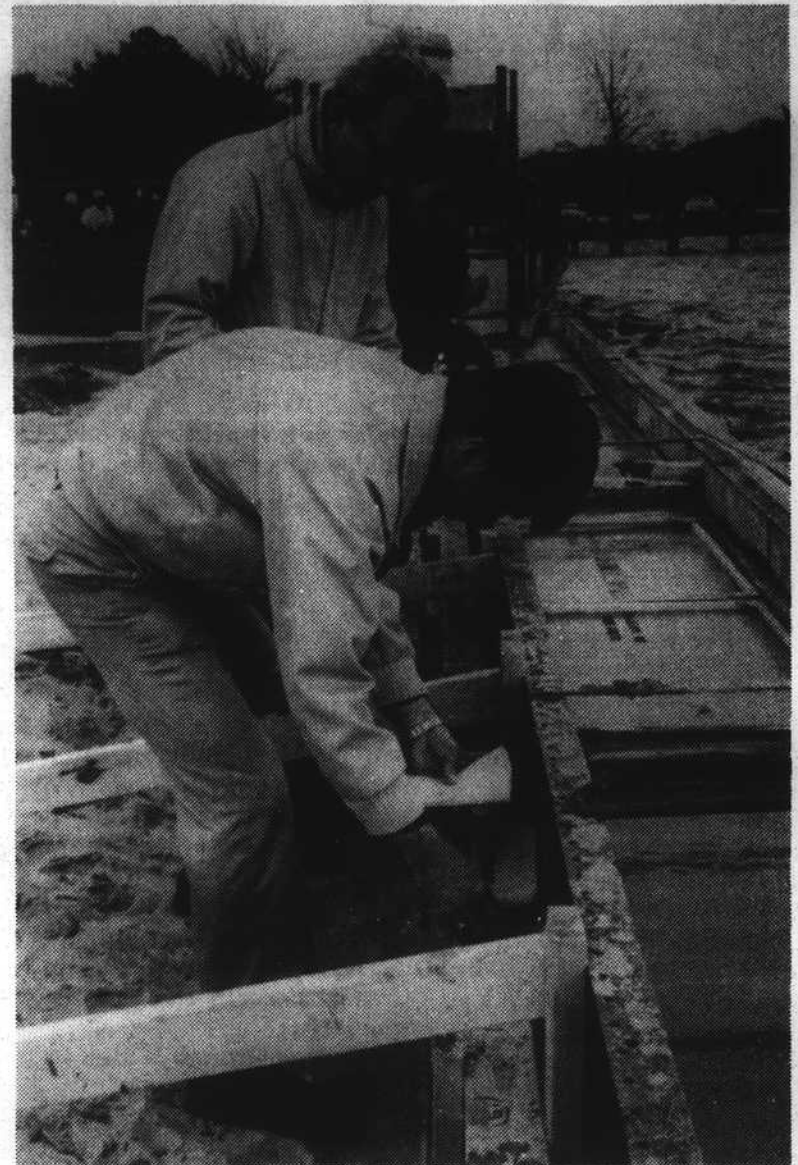
to \$400,000 to the cost of the system and might be funded with up to a 75 per cent grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

He said that his company would negotiate the cost with the contractor and the grant with state and federal officials.

Bucky Moore, also with the Wooten Co., presented bids for council approval. On bids for maintenance equipment for the land application site, Riddick International of Ahsokie was the lowest of four bidders at \$23,475 but provided a personal check instead of a certified check for the bid bond in violation of bid specifications. The bid was awarded to the next lowest bidder, Hobbs Implement Co. of Edenton, a bid of \$23,756.57.

Seven bids were received for the connection of the Albemarle Regional Health Center on W. Hicks Street to the sewer system. George Raper & Son Plumbing Co. of Elizabeth City received the contract with a low bid of \$10,920.

In another matter, Ray Cohn, engineer with Southeastern Consulting Engineers came before council to present a peaking



NAMES CAP BULKHEAD-Arch Edwards prepares a name to be placed in fresh concrete atop the just-completed bulkhead at the new waterfront park as volunteers look on. Edwards is publicity chairman for the Build The Park Committee. Those donating \$100, can have their name on a foot of the bulkhead. Edwards said that there were about fifteen feet of bulkhead yet to be sponsored.

Time To Reconsider

Selection of a new chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a long, arduous process now about to come to an end, has occasioned some soul searching among alumni and other supporters over the issue of image erosion.

Some have said that the problem has become so serious that the university is about to lose standing among its peers across the country and have suggested that, somehow, the Chapel Hill campus ought to be removed from the 16-campus system established by the General Assembly in the early 1970s.

They say the chancellorship of the Chapel Hill unit has become a shadowy office that no longer carries the clout and respect it once did among the great research universities.

Others feel that the University at Chapel Hill, conceived as the apex of the 16-campus system, has actually suffered as a result of the restructuring, that the process, instead of pushing the apex higher, has actually served to level everything toward an average.

We do not believe the situation is all that critical, although the search committee's decision to go outside the state for a new chancellor would tend to lend credence to some of those claims.

We believe such problems as exist have resulted from the decision, during the early days of the restructuring process, to locate the administrative office of the 16-campus system at Chapel Hill. That has the effect of putting the President of the 16-campus system, together with his staff, on the same campus as the Chancellor of the Chapel Hill unit and his staff.

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Roads Named

Road signs will soon be springing up around the county bearing familiar names to many and perhaps some not so familiar.

Four committees, one for each township, completed work this month in recommending official names for each county road. If attendance at two hearings was an indicator, public interest in the names was small. Four people attended the hearing at Chowan Jr. High School and 13 attended the hearing at the old courthouse.

Some divergence of opinion developed where some roads will change names beyond natural features such as stop signs or bridges. One example is Mexico Road from N.C. 32 to Bolton's Bridge. Beyond the bridge, the name proposal is Bolton's Bridge Road.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said that all comments on the subject, in writing, over the telephone and at the public hearings are currently under review by the commissioners. He said that

the focus has been to use names known to most residents.

However, in some cases, the historic name of a road has overridden the current common name. A case in

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New Voting Plan Under Negotiation

Negotiations are continuing on a new voting district plan for Chowan County. County officials are working with a minority advisory committee to come up with the new plan that may be announced within the next two months.

The initiative was begun quietly by the County Board of Commissioners last year as a result of voting rights lawsuits by minorities in various parts of the state. The commissioners had "a genuine concern over the lack of black representation" on the board according to County Manager Cliff Copeland.

Copeland said that after the announcement of an agreed upon plan, the process will include public hearings, adoption by commissioners, submission to the U.S. Department of Justice, Voting

Rights Division and adoption of enabling legislation by the North Carolina General Assembly.

"Hopefully the new system

will be in place by the 1990 elections," Copeland said in reference to the lengthy process. He said that while negotiations were still in progress,

no details could be released to the public.

There has been no black representation on the county board in this century.



APPRECIATED-Certificates of appreciation were awarded last week by the Edenton office of the Employment Security Commission to employers having the most older workers. From left are Charles Skinner, ESC older worker specialist, Marvin Shaw of Fisher Nut (category II, 26-75 employees), Anita Tarkington of Tarkington's Dress Shop (category I, 1-25 employees), Maggie Griffin and Gil Johnson of EIC (category III, 75+ employees) and ESC manager Kathy Keefe. Mrs. Tarkington commented, "My youngest employee is 68." The awards were in observance of the annual Older Worker Week.

ABC Plans Underway

Plans are underway for a new ABC store in Edenton. The store will be located just north of the Pizza Hut on U.S. 17 Business North.

West W. Byrum, chairman of the Chowan County ABC Board said that the board is currently working with an architect on plans. Construction of the new store will cost between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

Byrum said that the board had considered construction of a store in the northern end of the county but decided that "it would not be feasible at this time."

Of the new facility he said, "We started talking about this a couple of years ago. We've tried to be sure that we've looked at all angles."

The present store across from the courthouse has 2,700 square feet and the new one will have 3,000 square feet. It will be a self-serve operation in an "up-to-date building." Byrum said the store will include "the latest security technology."

Easter Holiday Closings Are Noted

This year's Easter holiday may be confusing to some who may have business in Edenton on Friday or Monday. Banks will be closed on Friday and open on Monday this year.

Since the early 1920's, North Carolina has observed the Monday after Easter as a holiday. The Monday observance was set by the legislature in the 20's to allow people to attend the Wake Forest, N.C. State baseball game.

That was changed last year by the General Assembly for a Friday observance to bring the state into conformance with the rest of the country. Financial institutions, in particular, had complained that they lost two business days in dealings with other states.

Town and county offices will be open Friday and closed on Monday. The Clerk of Court's office (state juris-

diction) will be closed Friday and open Monday while the opposite is true for the Register of Deeds office.

According to the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, local business closings will vary with some closed Friday, some Monday and some staying open through the holiday. The Post Office will be open as usual.

All state offices will be

closed Friday. Schools will be closed all next week for the holiday while the central office of the school system will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

The town has announced a holiday trash collection schedule for next week: east side, Tuesday and Thursday and west side, Wednesday and Friday with no pickup of tree limbs.

Conversion To Begin

Work will begin next week in the conversion of Swain School into 38 apartment units. Developer, Anderson Benton Co., has awarded the job to general contractor, Weaver Construction Co. of Greensboro.

Sale of the school building to Anderson Benton was set to be finalized Wednesday (yesterday). Sale price is

\$100,000.

County Manager Cliff Copeland said that bids were opened earlier in the week for general contracting, electrical and plumbing for renovation of the Swain Auditorium that will remain in county ownership.

State law requires a

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"WHOLL MAKE IT THIRTY?"One of the many items auctioned last weekend to benefit the Heart Fund is on the block. A Chowan County Heart Assoc. official said that the auction brought in some \$5,400 that will go toward research on heart disease. A week's stay at a vacation house in the Bahamas went for \$750.