



## Old Bridge Considered For Fishing Pier

By JACK GROVE

A proposal that surfaced with the Chowan County Board of Commissioners a year ago is under active study by the county. Commissioner Alton Elmore had put forth the idea of converting a portion of the present Albemarle Sound Bridge to a fishing pier when the new bridge is open for traffic (sometime next fall).

This would give the county the first pier of its type in the state.

County Manager Cliff Copeland presented an in-depth analysis of the feasibility for such a pier to the board Monday night. The study was prepared under contract with the Regional Development Institute, affiliated with East Carolina University.

Factors studied included fishing potential, length of a pier, structural modifications and annual maintenance costs, operating costs, and additional facilities such as parking and bathrooms and

liability.

When the new bridge is completed and turned over to the state, the old bridge comes under the ownership of bridge contractors, Cianbro-Williams Co. and will be demolished. A modification to the contract would have to be negotiated with the Dept. of Transportation in order for the county to take ownership of a portion for the pier.

The study says, "it appears that the area would be considered 'productive' for pier fishing, especially during spring, summer and fall."

Dr. William Hogarth, Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, the report says, suggested a pier length of 300-500 yards beyond the 10-12 foot bottom depth contour. Copeland told commissioners that a 2,000 foot pier length would be adequate. The study says that this would place the pier in a water depth of 25 feet.

Annual costs for maintenance, structural repair and

pier operating personnel could vary from a minimum of \$24,500 to a maximum of \$51,000. Costs could be balanced against pier fishing fees.

As to ownership and liability, the study suggests that a state agency such as the Wildlife Resources Commission might take ownership but called that "unlikely." The

county intends to seek an answer from the WRC on this question.

Liability is seen as a major stumbling block for private or

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### Legislating An Election?

That compromise solution to the Robeson County judicial dilemma worked out by the Lieutenant Governor and endorsed by the Governor leaves a lot to be desired.

There is nothing wrong, as we see it, in trying to create a new judicial district where blacks or Indians, as the case may be, are in large enough numbers to elect one of their own to fill the office -- provided the new judge is needed.

In fact, that is what the legislation did during its most recent session. It created additional judicial districts in which minority races stood a reasonable chance of electing their own choice. One of those new judgeships was created for Robeson County, the new office to be filled by a vote of the people.

In due course, an Indian and a white man filed for the Democratic nomination as a candidate for the judgeship in the November general election. But before the primary could be held, the Indian candidate was slain for reasons unconnected with the campaign for the nomination.

His death produced a sense of frustration and dilemma among the Indian population. Some of them wanted the Governor to call a special session of the legislature to reopen the books and permit additional filings for the election. Others wanted an additional seat established and earmarked for an Indian.

But either of those "solutions" would have been of questionable constitutionality and would certainly have led to lengthy litigation. While the Governor was pondering a course of action, the Lieutenant Governor met with the Robeson County legislative delegation and they proposed that the legislature at its forthcoming short session create an additional judicial district for Robeson County with the tacit understanding that the Governor would fill it with a member of a minority race. The Governor has announced his willingness to do

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## CDBG Funding Being Considered

Edenton Town Council held a public hearing Tuesday night to provide citizens with information concerning North Carolina's Community Development Block Grant program. The town proposes to submit an application to the state for grant funds for a neighborhood revitalization project.

Town consultant David Holmes said that the maximum grant available was \$600,000 and a specific proposal must be submitted by May 20. "The program is very competitive," council was told and there must be low and middle income people in any given target area.

Holmes said that four neighborhoods were being looked at for the CDBG funds and, besides upgrading housing, an area should require updated sewer and water services. He pointed out that three CDBG programs have been completed in Edenton.

Concerning the West Albemarle Street area, one of four being looked at, Councilman Willis Privott commented, "I'm glad to hear that you are looking at the west side of town."

Holmes said that a 100 per cent survey of households in a targeted neighborhood had to be accomplished. The survey includes the number of people per household and household income.

Privott suggested that the council would be glad to have a special meeting, if needed, to approve a neighborhood for the grant application.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Holmes was told by Mayor John Dowd, "You've done a good job for us and we appreciate it."

Linda Eure, site manager of Historic Edenton, came before council to request added curb aprons on sidewalks along the Historic Edenton tour route. She said that 28 needed to be added for tourists in wheelchairs along the self-guided route.

Access is not provided to historic buildings on the guided tour. Mrs. Eure said that interior doorways in these buildings are only 30 inches wide and would not allow passage of a wheelchair.

She said that a wheelchair  
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## Pick-Up Scheduled

Chowan County, the Town of Edenton and the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce are joining forces in an effort to make this a better place to live. They are participating in a joint litter pickup along county roads and town streets.

Last year over 100 county citizens participated in the April cleanup and officials hope for an even bigger turnout this year. Trash bags for the cleanup can be picked up from the County Manager's office and filled bags will be picked up at roadside by the Dept. of Transportation.

Town Clerk, Linda Edmundson, said that council members are working with their wards to make sure that each street is included.

County commissioners will meet behind the County  
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CONGRATULATIONS!-Chuck Chinchette congratulates Marsha Meekins, a bridge engineer on the 100,000 hours of safe work done on the new Albemarle Sound bridge. Miss Meekins is the only lady engineer on the project. Chinchette is president of the Cianbro Corp. At right are Jim Hamilton, bridge superintendent and A.J. Holts, safety superintendent. All bridge employees received certificates, commemorative T-shirts and prime rib dinners at the special recognition.

## Company Celebrates Safety

A bevy of high company officials from Cianbro Corp. of Pittsfield, Maine were on hand Friday night at the American Legion Building to honor employees working on the new Albemarle Sound

bridge.

The occasion was the attainment of 100,000 man-hours of work with no lost-time injuries. In the heavy construction industry, this is considered a major milestone and one seldom attained. This comes after loss of one worker's life in the early stages of construction.

In opening remarks, bridge safety superintendent, A.J. Holts told workers,

"When I came down here in October, I had a lot of apprehensions. What I found was a lot of people that want to work safely." He said that the 100,000 hour milestone had been surpassed by 24,000 safe hours. "I don't say, let's work for 200,000, let's go to the end of the job without a lost-time injury."

Company officials at the celebration included presi-  
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Stephen Bennett

## Bennett Takes Post

Edenton has a new postmaster. Stephen Bennett, 36, a native of Greensboro, assumed the position on March 15. He took over the reins from interim officer in charge, Roy Ferrell, who moved on to a postmaster position in Four Oaks, near Raleigh.

Bennett started with the postal service in Greensboro in 1973 as a general clerk. He has worked his way up through the ranks, serving as a letter sorting machine operator, officer in charge of three different post offices in the state and as superintendent of mails and delivery and superintendent of postal operations (assistant postmaster) at Ashboro.

While in the latter Ashboro position, Bennett visited here to get a look at the town prior to applying for the local position. Visiting with his wife, he said, "We fell in love with Edenton then."

The new postmaster served on active duty in the U.S. Navy and has been in the U.S. Naval Reserve for 16 years with the current rank of Yeoman Second Class. He is  
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## Original Paintings Offered For Sale

The Cupola House Association plans to offer area residents the unique opportunity to purchase original paintings of Edenton and Chowan County scenes -- homes, landscapes and waterscapes. The artist is widely acclaimed water colorist, Paul Crumrine of Winter Park, Florida.

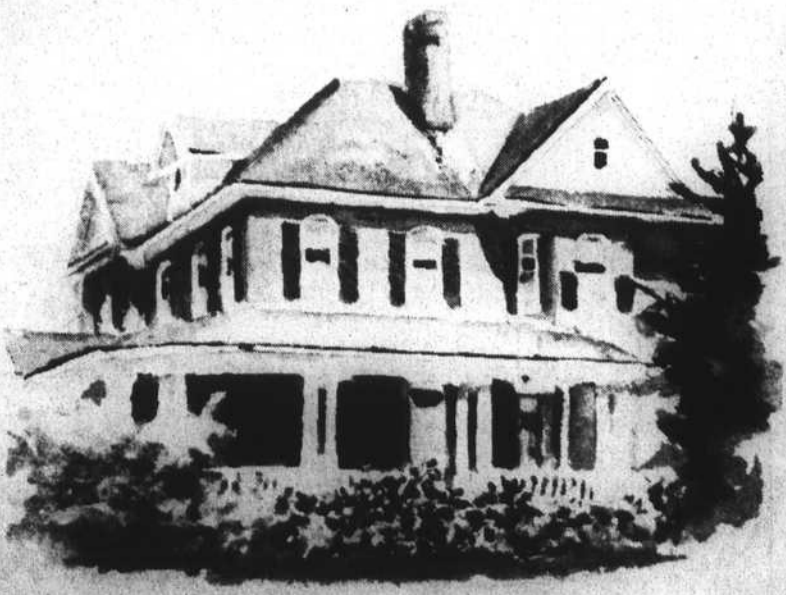
Crumrine will paint about seventy Edenton scenes that will be sold by the Cupola House Association at a show planned for September 24-25. Prices for the paintings will be in the range of \$80 to \$200 and one-half of the proceeds will go to benefit the Cupola House Association.

The show will be in conjunction with the association's traditional Summer's End Party to be held at an area

home. The art show itself will be held at The Lords Proprietors' Inn.

One art critic, writing about Crumrine's work, said: "As the months pass and you are exposed to the fine examples of Paul's work, you will recognize his extraordinary ability to create strong images with soft colors. The scenes depicted are familiar to all of us, but somehow they seem different - more beautiful."

Crumrine has visited Edenton a number of times and will do his work both from direct observation and photographs. Anyone wishing to commission a particular Edenton scene to be set aside for him or her at the show should contact Mrs. Peggy Smith at 221-8629.



EDENTON ART - Water color artist Paul Crumrine rendered this painting of the White-Bond House at the intersection of Albemarle and Broad Street. In coming months, he will be painting other Edenton scenes.



NEW CO-CHAIRWOMEN-Kim Goodwin (left) and Fran Cuthrell have been named by the Edenton Woman's Club as co-chairwomen for the 1989 Pilgrimage of Historical Edenton and Chowan County. Proceeds from the event have gone toward continuous historic preservation of Edenton and Chowan County as well as funding for the architectural survey of the town and county.