

Juveniles Desecrate Grave

Juvenile petitions have been filed by the Chowan Sheriff's Dept. against three teenagers and an arrest warrant is pending for a fourth as the result of a grave desecration in the Arrowhead Beach community recently.

The grave, said to be part of a small-slave cemetery on the former Bandon Plantation and now part of Arrowhead, was opened several weeks ago by the boys, one who is 16, two of whom are 15 and one who is 14. A plywood covering had

been placed over the hole in a secluded section of the community.

Chowan Deputy Sheriff Harry Ward said that a resident made the discovery and reported it. Under the plywood was a seven foot hole through the grave. At the bottom, Ward found that a five foot tunnel led to a small room hollowed out of the clay subsoil. No shoring had been used in the excavation and Ward said that a cave-in could have occurred.

The room had a plywood sheet for flooring and a small throw rug. On a short wooden stool stood a beer bottle used as a candle holder and a roll of paper towels.

Investigation led to the four teenagers who live in the community. Ward said that fragments of two human arm or leg bones were found in the bedroom of the 16-year-old.

A teacher at Holmes High School and Ward both said that a rumor had spread at the school that the boys were involved in satanic worship. Ward said that the boys denied this and had a different story. Their version was that one Friday night they had nothing to do and decided to dig up the grave.

They face a charge of grave desecration, a felony. The underground room, tunnel and grave were filled in by the suspects under the supervision of a sheriff's deputy.

The grave was that of Harry Maben whose tombstone indicates that he died in 1892.

While the three youngest boys face a juvenile hearing, the 16-year-old could be tried as an adult.

UNDERGROUND DIGS--This underground room was hollowed out of clay seven feet under the site of a slave cemetery at Arrowhead Beach recently. The bottle on the stool was used as a candle holder. (Photo by Chowan County Sheriff's Dept.)

National Coverage Causes Concern

By JACK GROVE

A recent two-hour special on network television concerning satanic rites, hosted by Geraldo Rivera, has fueled speculation and rumors in the Albemarle area about the existence of satanic cults locally.

The situation has not been

helped by a grave desecration in Chowan (see accompanying story) and vandalism of a grave a month ago in Gates.

Gates County Sheriff Elmo Benton said Tuesday that an above ground brick-lined crypt had been broken into. He said that at least two teenage boys are believed to be involved. He said that charges wouldn't be filed however unless relatives of the deceased, who he declined to name, swore out a warrant.

The motive is not believed by Gates authorities to be grave robbing but simply vandalism.

Sheriff Benton said that he hadn't heard of any cults operating in Gates and that he saw no connection between the Chowan and Gates incidents. "I think it's a bunch of boys with nothing to do," he commented.

A check with Perquimans Sheriff Joe Lothian about a reported cult operating in the New Hope area led to a call to Pasquotank Sheriff Davis Sawyer. Lothian said that he had heard of a reputed satanic cult from Pasquotank that had held some rites in Perqui-

Continued On Page 10

On Dopes And Addicts

Substance abuse is too obtuse a term to apply to the drug problem in Chowan County. That apparently may account for the public apathy toward this growing evil in our midst.

When we talk about substance abuse, it covers everything from using too much sugar in your coffee to mainlining morphine. What we need to do is to begin calling things what they really are.

When we were a youngster coming up in a rural mountain community, our next door neighbor, a civil war veteran, was a paregoric addict. He used every cent of his union veteran's pension to buy the stuff by the case at the country store.

He was called a dopehead, not a substance abuser. And from that nice distinction young people of the community got the idea that this foolish man was not a good role model to follow.

The same thing was true of the fellow who, during a tour of duty in Jamaica, let rum get the better of him. He was called a "jakeleg," which was a couple of levels below a rumhead.

So we need to start calling things what they are. Howard Kohn is coming close to the idea when he describes a marijuana user as a pothead who, unless he changes his way, will soon be planted for keeps. The same goes for the coke blokes, the crack jacks and powder sniffers who think they are too smart ever to let the stuff get a hold on them. They are not substance abusers, they are dope addicts in the making.

This, then, is what has moved into our community and from which all too many of us are looking the other way. Law enforcement officers, who must confront the ugly side of the drug traffic, are alarmed at what they see and discouraged at the communitywide apathy toward the problem.

We can no longer as a community stand aside, like the Pharisee of old, and thank God we are not as other communities, for alcohol and narcotics recognize no boundaries, neither social, geographic nor legal. We need to confront this evil in our clubs, in our churches, in our schools and in our homes, particularly our homes. We must learn to recognize the signs of early drug abuse and deal with each case as the exigencies of the moment require.

Encourage our children to say no. One of the best ways to do this is the positive approach. We are reminded of a family in which there was a commitment to each child that he or she as the case might be would receive a new car on his 16th birthday if he had remained clean of alcohol, nicotine and narcotics. And if this record continued through high school graduation, he could attend the college or university of his choice.



CHALLENGES--Guest speaker Billy Ray Hall told those in attendance at the annual AADA awards banquet of the challenges that lie ahead for rural areas. Listening attentively at right is AADA president, Samuel Cox.

Local Co-Op Honored At Annual Banquet

Albemarle Cotton Growers Cooperative was honored as Chowan County's selection for outstanding business of the year at the annual Albemarle Area Development Association's annual banquet at the American Legion Building in Edenton Tuesday night.

The cooperative, operator of two cotton gins, was among businesses from each county in the ten county area to receive the award. It was announced that the cooperative will do a potential \$1.4 million business this year.

The AADA, begun in 1961, is an association of business and community leaders to promote a climate in which economic development will occur. In addition to Chowan, participating counties include Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington.

The annual awards program and banquet recognizes organizations conducting community improvement and industrial activities. Tues-

day's awards were for accomplishments and activities conducted during 1988.

In addition to the business category, awards were presented in Youth, Civic and Rural Community areas.

The Pembroke 4-H Clover Buds of Chowan County received recognition in the Youth category. The club was honored for its work for the "Keep America Clean and Beautiful" program.

Guest speaker for the evening was Billy Ray Hall of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, Inc., based in Raleigh.

Hall cited the many volunteer efforts of individuals, groups and businesses that are the hallmark of rural communities. "In a lot of large cities in North Carolina, volunteers don't exist that you've seen here," he told the large crowd.

The speaker pointed to the nation's large trade deficit and stated that "Small businesses are the future employers in this country." He said

Continued On Page 10

The Spirit Of The Season

Gift Giving Urged

Where is the spirit of Christmas? Even the commercialized frenzy of gift buying that has come to symbolize the holiday for many pales in comparison to the joy shining in the eyes of a small child on Christmas morning.

However, for some children in our community, a family's financial difficulties may dictate that there be no gifts for them on Christmas morning. No gifts at all, unless outside help can be found.

With this in mind, the Chowan County Department of Social Services has issued an appeal to church and civic organizations that would like to bring the thrill of Christmas morning back for boys and girls from needy families in our community.

In addition to gifts for children, the department will also be accepting presents to be given to disabled and elderly persons who may have no one else to share the spirit of Christmas with them.

David McCall, speaking for the department, said, "The Spirit of Christmas is giving

and the spirit of giving is unconditional, whether the gift goes to a needy child, or an elderly or disabled person who lives in our community."

He added, "It is our sincere hope that everyone in Chowan County will open their hearts during the Christmas season and share what they have with others who are less fortunate. The true meaning of Christmas is love for others, not being mean-spirited and selfish because you feel someone else doesn't deserve your help."

Anyone wishing to participate in this program may contact McCall or Grenda Coston, 482-7441, who are coordinating the project for the department.

Publisher's Statement

Elsewhere in today's Chowan Herald is the response by Alex K. Brock, director of the State Board of Elections, to Gwendolyn DeBerry Hendrix's letter of November 17 complaining about the design of the Pres-

idential ballot in the November 8 General Election.

Mr. Brock explains the position of the state board, denying any ulterior motives in the design of the ballot. This is to respond to the accusation in the letter that the Chowan Herald was delinquent in failing to publish a sample ballot prior to the election.

Normally the Chowan Herald has been willing to donate a full page in order to publish a sample ballot as a public service; but this time the ballot had become so large that it would have required a double-page spread in order for the type to be large enough to be readable. We offered to share this cost with the county board of elections, but were informed that there was not enough money available to the board to do that.

We admit that the comment about the "apparent repudiation of the national Democratic party" by the voters of Chowan County was editorial in nature and had no place in the news story. But to draw from that that, somehow, we were a party to subverting the will of the voters is ridiculous. This paper had a clear track record prior to the national election. We supported the Democratic party.

J. P. Huskins

House Is Lost In Fire

The Edenton Fire Dept. responded to an early morning structure fire at the Chowan Golf and Country Club Wednesday (yesterday).

Edenton Fire Chief Lynn Perry said that the fire was reported at 12:50 a.m. by a neighbor, Tom Holland. Perry said that after calling 911, Holland walked to the burning house in time to see the roof collapse in flames.

The house on West Sound Shore Drive, near the clubhouse, was the residence of Jim Merritt, golf pro for the club. Merritt, who is single, was in Myrtle Beach at a turf convention on behalf of the club at the time of the fire, a club spokesman said.

Perry said the house was a total loss. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire. "It's been a long, long time since we've had anything like that," he commented.

The fire department answered another call yesterday at 8 a.m. to the residence of Mrs. Christine Revell at 203 West Albemarle Street. Perry said the fire was in an LP gas stove and no structural damage was incurred.



Decorations were placed on lamp posts along Broad Street in Edenton. The decorations will add a festive touch for yesterday's annual Christmas celebration. Photos of the event will appear in next week's issue. (Photo by Jim Merritt and Jimmy Patterson.)