



## Reorganization Opens Meeting

### All Harness And No Horse

If our new lieutenant governor-elect really needs a legislative counsel, Jim Holshouser is probably the best qualified man he could find for the job. After all, he is a former governor, a former legislator and an attorney of standing in the profession.

That is not to say, however, that there is a crying need for the position, politics aside. It is true that the outgoing lieutenant governor had such an aide and it is also true that the incoming lieutenant governor will feel entitled to one.

But there is a difference. Bob Jordan, who lost a bid to step up to the governor's office, belonged to the dominant political party in the senate -- in fact, in the whole General Assembly -- and carried the full burden of the office. He appointed committees, referred bills and directed the legislative program.

On the other hand, Jim Gardner, the incoming lieutenant governor, does not belong to the controlling party and will be relieved of everything except the constitutionally-mandated duty to preside over the senate and vote in case of a tie -- two very undemanding functions.

Just the same, he will end up with an ex-governor in his corner at the going rate -- around \$200 to \$250 a day during sessions of the legislature and \$1,000 a week at other times. And that, in its small way, helps to explain why the cost of state government has doubled every four years since the early 1970s.

When we first went to the General Assembly, Pat Taylor was lieutenant governor and the total budget for his office was something like \$40,000 a year, including his salary. He presided over one of the longest and most complicated sessions of the General Assembly, which, among other things, restructured higher education in the state and beefed up the community college system, all without the benefit of a legislative counsel.

But today the \$40,000 he had to run his office for a year would hardly pay the cost of a competent secretary, not to mention other members of the staff. When we last saw the budget of the lieutenant governor's office, it was approaching \$500,000 a year.

It was along about Pat Taylor's time that the General Assembly started talking about reorganizing state government. We wanted to eliminate useless boards and commissions, reduce over-

Continued On Page 8

Chowan County Commissioners held their annual reorganizational meeting Monday night. Reorganization is mandated by state law when the board chairman, vice-chairman and meeting times are set.

Prior to the meeting, three commissioners were sworn into office. Alton Elmore, Wayne Goodwin and James C. (Pete) Dail ran unopposed in last month's election. Elmore and Goodwin will serve four years while Dail will serve the two remaining years of the late Al Phillips' term. Dail was appointed to the board upon the death of Phillips.

Also sworn into another term was Register of Deeds, Ann Spruill. Mrs. Spruill, who recently retired from the position of clerk to the commission board, was presented a plaque in recognition for her work for the board.

Elmore won a 3-2 vote to succeed Joe Hollowell as chairman while Goodwin had the same margin to replace Clara Boswell as vice-chairman. Mrs. Boswell and Hollowell nominated each other to remain in their posts.

Prior to the vote, Hollowell said of the chairmanship,

"It's been a pleasure to serve and an honor to serve. To that end, I would like to serve a second year."

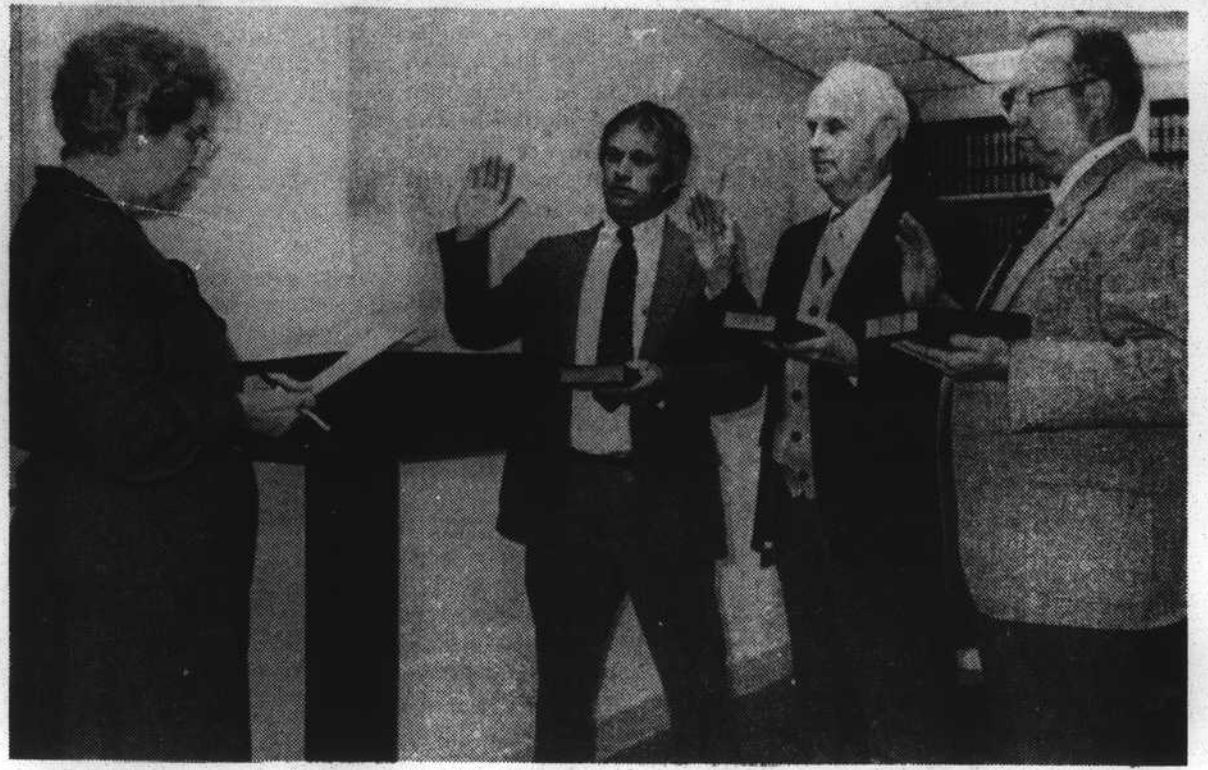
In accepting the chairmanship, Elmore stated, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve again. I think Joe Hollowell has done a good job the past year."

After the meeting, Hollowell charged that Elmore had violated a "gentlemen's agreement" that he said was reached several years ago. The agreement was that the board chairman would serve in that capacity for two years. "I was the last one to find out that he was not going to honor his agreement. I would like to believe that it was not anything I did."

Hollowell stated that he was "not crying sour grapes" and that he would continue to serve his constituents and the interests of the county.

Concerning the two-year chairmanship, Commissioner Boswell said, "That was my understanding." She shrugged off the loss of the position of vice-chairman which she held for three years. "I shall continue to serve as a responsible board member to represent all of the

Continued On Page 8



I SWEAR--Chowan County Clerk of Court Margaret Hollowell administered the oath of office to commissioners at their regular monthly meeting Monday night. Entering new terms are (from left) Wayne Goodwin, Alton Elmore and James C. (Pete) Dail.

## Center Nears Completion

By JACK GROVE

A unique visitor center, the only one of its kind in the United States, is nearing completion in Camden County. Regional planning for its staffing and operation are proceeding well also, officials involved with the center said Tuesday.

The center is located south of the state line and will provide information to visitors on the area's historical sites

and recreation potential.

Its uniqueness stems from the fact that it will serve boating traffic on the Dismal Swamp Canal as well as motorists entering the state on U.S. 17. The welcome center committee met at Boswell's Restaurant for a noon business luncheon.

The new director of the center, Penny Leary was introduced at the luncheon.

Ms. Leary is the Chairman of Tourism for the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce, president of the Executive Women's Network, a member of the board of the American Cancer Society, Albemarle Area Community Concerts and Elizabeth City's BPW. She is also a "Rose Buddy," an organization that greets boating visitors to the city with flowers, friendship and information.

Ground was broken late last summer for the state-funded center building which is now approximately 98 per cent completed. An agreement between the state and regional officials calls for the first year operations and staffing to be funded by area counties and municipalities.

At the first meeting of the welcome center committee

shortly after ground-breaking, a funding formula was agreed upon that calls for the counties and municipalities most directly benefitting from the center to contribute the most.

Mayor Bill Cox of Hertford agreed to coordinate the funding from the participating local governments. He said Tuesday that he had received commitments from 72 per cent of the 23 towns and counties involved as well as the Albemarle Commission and Northeastern North Carolina Tomorrow.

He said that the original budget target had been pared down since the center will only operate about nine months during the first year. It will open in the spring. The budget total is \$42,695 with \$15,000 being a one-time expenditure for such items as office equipment and furniture and carpeting.

Cox was upbeat about receiving the full funding from the local governments. "No one has turned us down. We expect to have positive answers from 100 per cent of them in January."

Don Flowers, Executive Director of the Albemarle Commission said at the

Continued On Page 8

## Store Suffers Surprise Entry

An accident late Saturday night left the store window of Parker-Evans Hardware Store shattered and a pickup truck partially inside.

Roy Randolph Gugin, 21, of Rt. 2, Colerain, has been charged with DWI by Edenton Police.

A police report indicated that Gugin had been parked on Broad St. in his truck at about 11:30 p.m. when he waved over to the curb some girls passing in a car. There were also some boys in the car and a fight ensued between them and Gugin.

When the altercation ended, Gugin reportedly drove off and then stopped in front of Tarkington's, abruptly backed up, lost control of his vehicle, backed across the sidewalk and into the store.

The hardware business was in the process of moving to a location next door, the former Pope's discount store. Business owner Wallace Evans said that Edenton Construction Co. sent workmen in the middle of the night to board up the opening.

In the aftermath of the accident, Evans wryly termed his store a "drive-in."

Gugin was jailed and re-

leased on bond. No other arrests were made in the incident. Investigating officers

are Patrolman Thomas Palmer and Sgt. G.K. Bonner.



FOR A MERRIER CHRISTMAS--Postal employees Buddy White (left) and Max Hale add the first presents under the tree in the Post Office lobby Monday. Postal customers are being encouraged to bring gifts for less fortunate children in the new "Empty Stocking" program.

## Postal Employees Collect Toys For Less Fortunate

Edenton Postal employees have adopted two families for Christmas. "The employees of this office wanted to get involved," Postmaster Steve Bennett commented.

Chowan County Social Services provided the family names, ages and clothing sizes. Employees will provide clothing, food and toys for these less fortunate families.

In addition, an "Empty Stocking" program has begun at the Post Office. The public is invited to drop off toys for children in the lobby.

Wrapped gifts for needy children may be left under the lobby Christmas tree. Unwrapped toys may be left with clerks at the windows or brought to the postmaster's office.

New or like-new toys only are requested. "We're going to be just like a Christmas clearinghouse," Bennett said.

The idea came from the "Toys for Tots" campaign of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Since there is no Marine unit in the local area, postal officials decided to have their own program so that there will be fewer "empty stockings" for county youngsters.

Donations will be accepted until close of business Wednesday, Dec. 21.

The postmaster said that cash or checks would also be accepted as well as new children's clothing of various sizes. Checks should be made out to Chowan County Dept. of Social Services.

## New Road Signs Missing

### Signs Vandalized

After spending much time and effort in marking county roads with signs for the benefit of the public, officials are not happy to see vandalism rear its ugly head.

County Water Supervisor Graham Farless said that since the new road signs were installed four months ago, at least nine have been stolen or damaged. One instance was on Shannon House Road where a sign and pole were found about 100 feet from where it had been installed. One of the two signs was missing. Several instances of sign vandalism have also occurred in the Riverton subdivision.

Farless said that at many sites, poles are erected with four sign blades. Replacement cost to the taxpayer is \$125 for the pole and blades.

Vandalism of this nature is a misdemeanor under the law and conviction carries up to \$200 in fines and or a 30 day jail sentence.

The county is fighting back with a \$150 reward offer for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone tampering with signs.

Farless said that missing road signs should be reported to the sheriff's dept. at 482-8485 or to the water dept. at 482-7477.

He also said that if anyone

is holding any of the missing signs, they may want to anonymously leave them at the county maintenance building on Base Rd. behind the Jaycee Building.

## Man Shot At Home

Edenton Police were called to 1000 No. Oakum Street early Saturday morning after a man was shot during a domestic disturbance.

Capt. C.H. Williams said that Edward Rankins, Jr., 38, of the same address, was shot in the hip with a .22 caliber rifle. Williams indicated that the wound was not serious.

The incident occurred as the result of an argument between Rankins and Rosa Mae Perry in an upstairs room. One of Mrs. Perry's sons, Haywood, reportedly went upstairs to investigate and was shoved by Rankins. He then called to his brother, Reginald, who came up with the rifle and shot Rankins.

Williams said that an investigation is continuing and charges are pending.

Investigating officers are Sgt. G.K. Bonner and Patrolman W.D. Harris.

## Suicide Victim Found

The Chowan Sheriff's Department is investigating an apparent suicide discovered Saturday afternoon.

The body of a migrant farm laborer, identified as C. Armando Andrade Ramirez was found by fellow workers who had been looking for him for a week. The body was found hanging from a tree in a wooded area some 200 yards from a field in the Rocky Hock area. The work crew has been in the area cutting collards, Dep. Sheriff Harry Ward, investigating officer, said.

Ward said he was told that Ramirez had been acting withdrawn several days before his disappearance. He had been awaiting the arrival from Mexico of his birth certificate in order to apply for American citizenship. Without this documentation he

would have been required to return to Mexico which acquaintances said he didn't want to do.

Among the man's personal effects was an envelope, postmarked Durango, Mexico. The envelope contained a birth certificate form which was blank. No personal identification was found that would indicate his permanent address, relatives or his age. The age was estimated to be 40. A pay slip was found that showed that he had worked in Florida.

Deputy Ward said that personal jewelry was still on the body as well as his billfold. "We're saying right now it was a suicide," he said.

Medical Examiner, Dr. Leibert DeVine, who responded to the scene, sent the body to Pitt Memorial Hospital for an autopsy.