



Officials Discuss Police Weaponry

Purchasing Semi-Automatics Considered

By JACK GROVE
Edenton police officers may soon join the ranks of

area law enforcement agencies that arm their officers with a weapon that packs more

firepower.

Town officials are considering the purchase of 9mm

semi-automatic pistols to replace the six-shot .38 caliber revolvers currently issued to officers.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly, councilmen Allen Harless and E.N. (Pete) Manning, acting police chief Harvey Williams and several of his officers gathered at the Edenton office of Alcohol Law Enforcement Friday to view an FBI videotape and see a demonstration of the 9mm. A scheduled firing demonstration was cancelled due to rain.

The videotape, a re-creation of a shootout between almost a dozen FBI agents and two heavily armed and determined bank robbers in Miami, Fla. in 1986, vividly demonstrated the need for properly armed officers.

The agents were mostly armed with six-shot revolvers while one had a five-shot shotgun and one was armed with a 9mm pistol. The suspects were armed with heavy caliber pistols, a large caliber, semi-automatic, assault rifle and a shotgun.

When the smoke cleared after about four minutes, two agents lay dead, five were seriously wounded and the bank robbers were also dead.

Special Agent Ken Dover of the A.L.E. told the Friday gathering the main advantages of the 9mm: greater number of rounds in the wea-

pon (from 15 to 20, depending on the type magazine purchased); fast reloading; increased safety (will not fire if dropped - a revolver might); increased accuracy; light weight; and ease of maintenance.

Patrolman Bill Phillips, using his personal 9mm, demonstrated fast reloading and safety features that are unique to the 9mm Baretta.

Many area law enforcement agencies now arm their officers with 9mm pistols. They include the N.C. Highway Patrol, A.L.E., Elizabeth City Police Dept., and Chowan, Bertie, Dare and Perquimans County Sheriff's Departments.

The 9mm Baretta is not cheap. Unit price might be \$400 or more, depending on trade-ins to a gun dealer. Added to that would be the expense of new pistol belts.

Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill accepted delivery of his department's 9mms in November. They were not issued until last month, however, until after receipt of new pistol belts and all deputies received extensive training in their use and live firing.

At a time when major drug dealers are arming themselves with deadly, rapid-fire weapons, police agencies are seeking to at least stay on an equal footing in weapons.



OLD - NEW--The older .38 caliber revolvers of the Edenton Police Dept. contrast with the new 9mm Baretta semi-automatic pistols issued last month to Deputies of the Chowan Sheriff's Dept. The deputies each carry two 15-round magazines for the pistols, one in the weapon and one on the belt. Shown in a combat stance are (l. to r.) Sgt. McCoy Parker, Deputy Greg Whitehurst, Patrolman W.L. Forehand and Deputy Victor Lamb.

Special Permit Is Issued

Edenton Town Council held a public hearing at their meeting last week on a request for a special use permit for an automobile dealership to be located on 32 No., just beyond the U.S. 17 bypass and across from the Travel Host Inn.

David Twiddy appeared on behalf of Century 21, which is handling the land sale to Albenarle Motor Co. He said that the site comprises five acres to be used by the Ford dealership.

Dealership owner, Bruce Jones, Jr., told council, "I hope to make a bigger asset to the town."

Richard Bunch, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, said, "This certainly would be a good addition to the economy. I hope you look favorably upon this request."

And council did, passing it unanimously.

The meeting was addressed by an insurance expert with the N.C. League of Municipalities who explained

why insurance for a proposed skateboard ramp was virtually unobtainable and prohibitively expensive.

He said that he knew of only one insurance company that would write a policy. At that, the town would have to pay the first \$50,000 of any loss from a lawsuit arising from an accident on public property.

Councilman Allen Harless read from statistics showing the dangers of skateboarding. "It seems like it can be a hazardous sport," he commented.

Brenda Spruill, a member of the Recreation Department Advisory Board countered with "Recreation is not always as safe as you'd like it to be. I think it's only fair that there be a place where they can participate in this." She pointed to dangers in football, even with protective equipment.

Mayor John Dowd said, "I hope you can realize that the Town of Edenton can't put the assets of the town at risk when there's an accident."

Councilman Livy Goodman told listeners, "I would not like to have the impression left that we're anti-skateboarding."

As council dropped plans for the ramp, Councilman Willis Privott promised that council "will continue to look during the next few years at finding a way to provide a facility."

And skateboarding has become a thing of the past on the recreation department parking lot as well.

In other business, council:
• Heard that the N.C. Dept. of Transportation will perform a study on parking needs in the town in late February or early March and will provide a report to council;

• Authorized an agreement with the N.C. League of Municipalities Insurance Pool for its Public Officials and Law Enforcement Liability Insurance Policy that will save the town \$25,000 over commercial coverage and

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Back to Kennel Club?

Are we about to see The Kennel Club resurrected in the House of Representatives of the North Carolina General Assembly? It could be, for the conditions are right.

There is no exact parallel, but the situation in 1941 is similar enough to justify raising the question, especially among oldtimers who were around at the time.

Here is what happened back then.

Otis M. Mull of Cleveland had been elected speaker after a hard fight and refused to give any good committee assignments to leaders of the opposition. So complete was the banishment that they claimed he had put them all in the dog house.

So, as John R. McLaughlin of Iredell used to tell it, they got together and decided that, since they were all in the dog house, they might as well stick together. They formed The Kennel Club, with its Top Dog and a long line of underdogs, all able and willing to sniff out trends and follow trails. They named the speaker Cueball.

They ran as a pack and soon became the balance of power in the house. "Pretty soon," as Rep. McLaughlin told it, "Cueball couldn't get anything done without coming to us."

We don't yet know what newly-elected Speaker Joe Mavretic will do, but it is very likely that there will be a pretty large dog house in the current assembly. It is apparent that he has promised 40 per cent of the committee chairmanships to Republicans and will find enough prospects among his 20 Democratic supporters to head the remaining committees, since he says he plans to reduce them to a total of 13.

That will leave ex-Speaker Liston Ramsey and his 54 supporters with adequate resources to form a very strong Kennel Club, whether they want to call it by that name or not. We realize the retiring speaker has said he would help his successor any way he could; but there are many kinds of "help" going around in the General Assembly, such as helping the new

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Need For Education Stressed At Banquet

"Unless you've got a good education, it's very tough out there," John A. Holmes athletes were told at the annual Fall Sports Awards Banquet Thursday night.

The speaker was Holmes graduate and current pro with the Green Bay Packers,

Robert Brown.

Brown spoke out against drugs, including steroids. "I've seen professional athletes ruin their careers with steroids." He also listed dedication as a valuable asset. "I just started working harder and harder."

Among his goals are playing in the Pro Bowl, Super Bowl "and to win in the Super Bowl."

After graduating from Holmes, Brown attended Chowan College and then went on to Virginia Tech. He was a fourth round draft choice of

the Packers and has played in 104 consecutive pro football games.

Brown concluded by thanking the town, Coach Tom Bass, his family, "And I want to thank the Man Upstairs."

The Girls Tennis team finished second in the conference with a 9-3 record. Gabrielle Webster went all the way to the state finals before being eliminated.

Tennis awards went to: Gina Swanner, Most Dedicated; Sarah Singh, Most Improved; and Gabrielle Webster, Most Valuable Player.

"Cheerleaders are athletes," declared Coach Penny Powell. She cited early morning and late evening practice during the summer and said "That takes a lot of dedication."

Cheerleaders receiving awards were: Laura Wilson, Most Spirited; and Renee Butler, Most Dedicated.

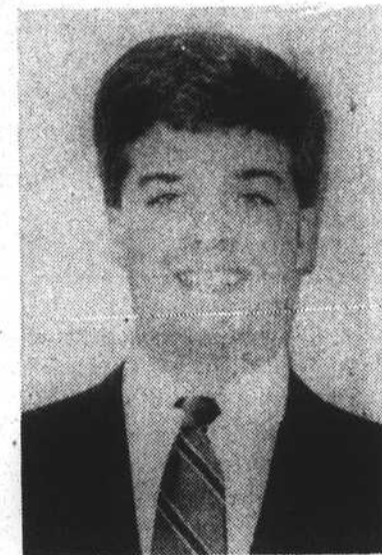
Varsity Football Head Coach Jay Swicgood gave credit to the coaching staff for a good season. He thanked those that helped on the sidelines, in the press box and scouting teams.

He singled out for special

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Youth To Attend '89 Inauguration

Harris Vaughan, son of Roland and Peggy Anne Vaughan of Edenton, has joined approximately five hundred outstanding high school students from across the United States for a rare opportunity.



Harris Vaughan

Vaughan will attend the Presidential inauguration of Vice President George Bush on Friday, January 20 as a member of the 1989 Youth Inaugural Conference, sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

Vaughan, a junior at John A. Holmes High School, was selected by Principal Rob Boyce, based on demonstrated academic achievement, leadership and citizenship. He will serve as a representative of his school and community while in the nation's capital.

Vaughan will meet with Members of Congress, executive officials, historians, academicians, and leading journalists to gain a deeper understanding of the history, tradition and significance of the American electoral process and the inauguration.

In addition to the swearing-in ceremony of the 41st President of the United States, program highlights will include a congressional inaugural breakfast with Members of Congress, a black tie dinner and performance at

the Kennedy Center, and participation in the Youth Inaugural Ball.

"While our planning efforts began in early 1987, the Youth Inaugural Conference would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance of the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, the Presidential Inaugural Committee, and the Members of Congress who graciously provided inaugural ceremony tickets to ensure a special and lasting educational experience for these young people," stated Conference Director Lawrence Guillemette.

This is the second Youth Inaugural Conference sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council.

The goals of the Council are to recognize outstanding youth and to provide them with a unique "hands-on" civics learning experience in the nation's capital.

Man's Body Discovered

The Pasquotank Sheriff's Dept. answered a call to a residence at Lot 77, Hickory Village Trailer Park on Weeksville Rd. on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 12:15 p.m.

There, they found the body of Alvin Leander Twine, 28, of Tyner. Sheriff Davis Sawyer last week said that Twine died "as the result of a pistol" shot.

The Weeksville Rd. residence is the home of Willie Twine, brother of the deceased.

Sawyer said that while an investigation is continuing, under the direction of Chief Deputy A.B. Twiford, it was "undetermined at this time" whether Alvin Twine's death was a suicide or homicide.

The body was sent to Pitt Memorial Hospital for an autopsy.



RETIRED--Robert Brown looks on as John A. Holmes Athletic Director Tom Bass (left) and Coach Jay Swicgood hold aloft a jersey, bearing No. 73, Brown's Aces number. The number was retired to honor the pro, now playing for the Green Bay Packers.