



Time To Be Proud

We take pride in Chowan for having carried away more awards than any other county in the statewide Pride in America competition held in Raleigh. It was a big victory for a small county.

By nature, Chowan is a beautiful county and it is too bad that the necessity for a continuous effort to keep it that way comes not from nature but from our citizens.

As a nation, we have reached the point where we generate so much refuse that it is becoming a major challenge to dispose of it in a safe way. Time was when most everything we used was biodegradable. Ferrous products would rust away. Paper would decompose. Wood would rot. And copper was too valuable to be thrown away.

But then came aluminum cans, plastics of all sorts and rubber, all of which have a half life longer than the whole life of the throwaway generation that inherited them. And throw them away we do, along the highways, on the beaches, in the parks, wherever we happen to be at the time.

To a degree, life has become pretty much a cleanup brigade after the circus. Whole communities are having to organize volunteer groups to supplement efforts by public sanitation workers to keep the environment clean. Sometimes our best efforts seem inadequate.

Chowan county and the Town of Edenton have been more successful than many other communities, a condition recognized at the state level. For that we are all
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Large Crowd Gathers For Center's Opening

A large crowd was on hand Sunday afternoon for the opening of the new Chowan Community Center and Swain Apartments, crafted from an abandoned school building a block away from downtown Edenton.

The resurrection of the structure has been hailed as a unique example of cooperation between government and business.

County commission chairman Alton Elmore said that "This is truly a dream come true in Edenton and Chowan County. He said that the school, along with its 900-seat auditorium "came within a snap of being just like the hundreds of abandoned and deteriorated schools across the United States."

Elmore lauded private developer Dwayne Anderson, County Manager Cliff Copeland and Copeland's Assistant, Nancy Morgan for guiding the project to its completion. Ross Inglis, retired developer, was thanked for his advice as the project got rolling.

Applause met the introduction of E.A. Swain, seated in the audience, the school's namesake.

The classroom portion of the school was sold to Anderson for \$100,000. He then converted the building into 38 apartments for the elderly and disabled. The county used the proceeds of the sale, an N.C. Arts Council grant, a state grant, a CDBG grant transferred from the town and county funds to renovate the auditorium.

Anderson said that he calculated that ten generations of citizens had been educated at Swain and "We're reeducating this facility to continue to educate our children."

He cited the project as "An outstanding example of how the public sector and private

sector worked together to make people's lives better." He also praised the federal Farmer's Home Administration "for believing in the project and providing financing."

On hand for the celebration were Rep. R.M. (Pete) Thompson of Chowan and Rep. Vernon James of Pasquotank. Thompson, commenting on the auditorium said, "We should use it. The more we use it, the more it will mean to us."

It did see its first official use Thursday evening when

the Tommy Dorsey Band performed before an almost capacity crowd.

After speeches, a bronze plaque, commemorating the opening, was unveiled in the lobby separating the auditorium from the apartments.

Apartments were open for public inspection and a ribbon cutting on the ground floor of the auditorium officially opened Chowan Arts Council and Senior Center areas.

On hand during the festivities were entertainers throughout the complex.



SOME CLASSROOM--Mary Elliott, who taught at Swain School, looks over an apartment kitchen that was once a classroom. She remarked that the classrooms had five windows while the apartments have three. The school building was converted into 38 apartments for the elderly and disabled.

Theft Charged

The Chowan County Grand Jury handed down embezzlement indictments Monday morning charging Dorothy (Dot) McCray of taking funds entrusted to her as occupancy specialist and secretary at the Edenton Housing Authority.

Edenton Police Sergeant McCoy Parker said that the charges contain "quite a few counts" of embezzlement.

Acting Police Chief C.H. Williams said that an extensive investigation by his department began in late January. He said that Town Manager Ann-Marie Kelly and EHA Director Byron Ke-

hayes worked closely with police in the probe.

Williams and Parker said that the investigation was complete and that they expected to arrest Mrs. McCray in the near future after a warrant has been prepared. They declined to specify the amount of money taken.

"The two officers assigned to the case, Sergeant Parker and Patrolman W.D. Harris, did an excellent job," Chief Williams commented.

Kenayes said Wednesday that Mrs. McCray has been suspended from her job.

Town Absorbs 61% Of Rate Hike

Electricity customers of the Town of Edenton may soon be receiving a rate increase. At a meeting of town council's utilities committee this week, members agreed on a rate hike of 2.9 per cent. The recommendation must still be

ratified by the full council at the Tuesday night meeting.

Town Manager Ann-Marie Kelly said Wednesday that a rate increase of 7.4 per cent will go into effect April 1 by the town's supplier of electricity, N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency. She said that it is being applied to the town's demand rate. Only part of this will be passed on to customers.

"After we examined current budget and next year's projected budget, we determined there would be an approximate revenue shortfall of \$208,000.

"With the operation of our peak generators, we substantially reduce our demand load." The generators were installed and went into operation last July. She said that the town would be able to avoid 3.5 per cent of the increase because of the generators.

The manager said that \$108,000 of the shortfall would be accounted for by increasing the appropriated fund balance from reserve funds. Part of the reserve came from a savings when the generators were installed at a cost substantially below estimates.

The rate increase of 2.9 per cent accounts for the remaining \$100,000 of the shortfall.

Ms. Kelly pointed out that the last increase in rates, two per cent, came in 1985. She said that in May of this year, Edenton's rates would be comparable to the neighboring Albemarle Electric Membership Co-op's rates.

For the average electricity customer now using 1,000 kilowatts per month, the bill is \$83. With the increase, that bill moves up to \$85.40. If the increase to the town had been passed on in full to customers, the bill would have been \$89.10.
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FIRE SCENE--Not much remains of the home of the Ted Hurdle family on Wingfield Loop Rd. after a Thursday afternoon blaze. The fire took the life of three-year-old Tedrick Hurdle and seriously injured his mother and four-year-old sister.

Fire Claims Life Of Three-Year Old

By JACK GROVE

A mid-afternoon fire last Thursday took the life of a three-year-old child and badly burned his mother and older sister.

The fire, first spotted by Mrs. Emma Evans, a neighbor, was at the home of Ted and Marion Hurdle on

Wingfield Loop Rd. in the Tyner section of the county.

Mrs. Hurdle was apparently hanging out a clothes wash in the yard when the fire started. The children were inside. Ted Hurdle, who works at a meat packing plant in Smithfield, Va., was at work at the time.

In an interview Saturday, Mrs. Evans said that she was going to her mailbox at the road when she saw smoke at the Hurdle home. She said that she ran to Walter Baker's house and asked him if he thought it was just a trash fire. He looked and said that the house must be burning.

"He carried me down there in a car," she related. "The whole front of the house was afire when we got there. She (Mrs. Hurdle) was in the house trying to find the baby," her three-year-old son, Tedrick. Baker ran around to the rear and unsuccessfully tried to enter the house.

Mrs. Evans said that Michele, 4, had been rescued by her mother before re-entering the burning dwelling. Mrs. Hurdle emerged from the house "with her coat on fire and falling off of her and her slacks burned through."

The witness quoted the mother as saying, "Get my

baby out of there. I had his hand and he slipped out of it." The mother and daughter were placed in Baker's car and he returned them to his house where he called the fire department and rescue squad.

First of emergency personnel on the scene was Deputy Sheriff Victor Lamb. He said that he tried to enter the house via a back window but was driven back by flames.

Emmett Winborne, Assistant Chief of the Center Hill-Cross Roads Fire Dept. said that the house was enveloped in flames when he arrived and that the roof had

Parties Plan Meetings

The Democratic and Republican Parties in Chowan County will each hold meetings during the month of March.

Democrats will hold their precinct meetings on Thursday, March 9 (tonight) at 7:30 p.m. at the regular polling places for each precinct.

Republicans will have their annual County Convention on Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m. in the old Chowan Courthouse.

Sites for the Democratic precinct meetings are as follows:
Yeopim.....New National Guard Armory
Rocky Hock.....Rocky Hock Rescue Squad Building
East Edenton.....Old National Guard Armory
West Edenton.....New Rescue Squad Building
Wardville.....Gliden Rescue Squad Building
Center Hill.....Center Hill - Crossroads Fire Department

Injuries Sustained

Heavy rains Monday night contributed to a one car accident on N.C. 32 South at the intersection of Old Hertford Road.

Edenton Police were called to the scene at 9:10 p.m. A report filed by Patrolman W.D. Harris stated that a 1986 Oldsmobile, driven by Cornelius McCray, 32, of Route 1, Roper, was proceeding into Edenton when McCray lost control.

The car skidded around in a complete circle, struck a telephone pole and came to rest in the ditch.

McCray and passenger Samelda Belcher, 31, of Roper, were transported by the rescue squad to Chowan Hospital. Ms. Belcher was treated and released. McCray was admitted and was listed in stable condition Wednesday. Another passenger, Jeffery Simpson, 21, also of Roper, was uninjured.

Harris estimated that \$2,000 damage was done to the car and \$2,500 to the Carolina Telephone pole.

The officer charged McCray with driving too fast for existing conditions.



BEST SPEECH--Gabrielle Webster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Webster, was the county, district and division winner of the American Legion's annual oratorical contest with the U.S. Constitution as the subject. She is flanked by her teacher, Marjie Hollowell, her mother and father and George Stokes, chairman of the contest of Edenton Post 40. The state finals were held in Edenton Saturday with Brent Goff of Stantonsburg being named state winner. Miss Webster gave her speech for the benefit of Post 40 members at their meeting Tuesday night.