



Residents Invited To Tour New Town Hall

Town officials are inviting all area residents to see the results of the renovation of the old Peoples Bank building into the new Town Hall. An official opening ceremony for the building was held on February 14.

The Town of Edenton is hosting an open house on Thursday, March 30, for residents to tour the Town Hall. The open house is scheduled from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The building, located at 400 South Broad Street, was donated to the town by Peoples Bank at no cost. Officials estimated that the building was worth approximately \$300,000 prior to renovations.

The town hired the Wooten

Co., an architectural and engineering firm, to conduct a feasibility study of renovating the building for municipal offices.

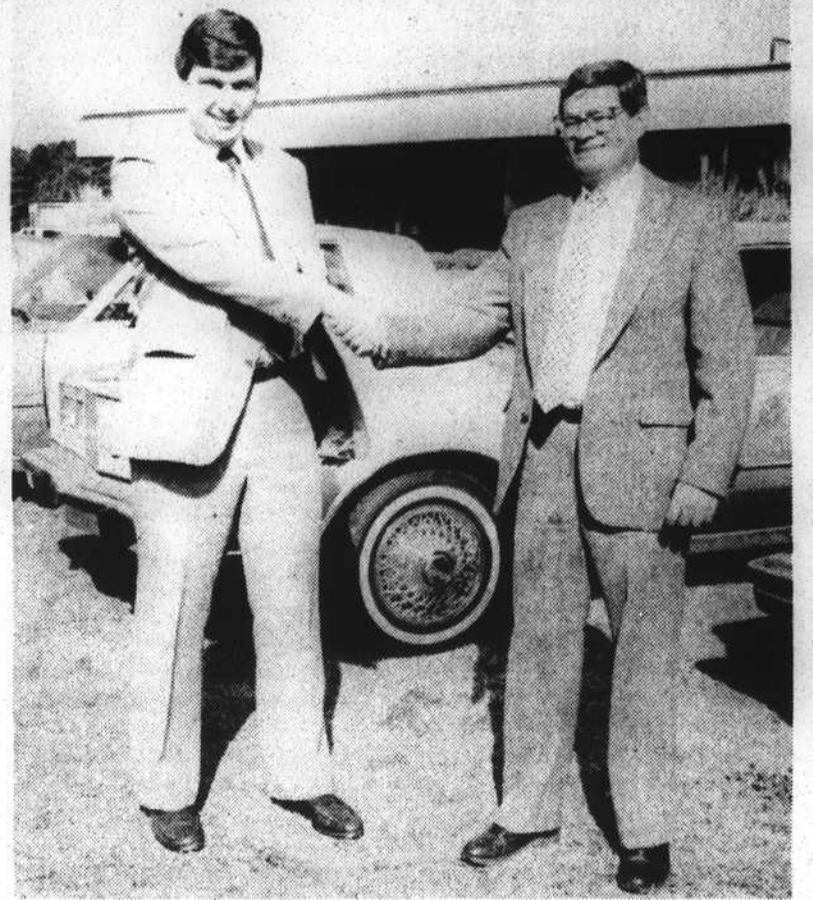
The original plan called for the town to do the renovation in phases over a period of three years. However, when additional funds were realized from savings on the construction of the peak generator project, it was decided to do the entire project at one time.

Visitors to the sparkling new offices will see a lowered ceiling, brass chandeliers, new carpeting, complementing drapes, a service desk and offices leading off the service area.

Plans call for the move of

the police department into the former municipal building after minor renovations are completed. These include partitioning, added security measures and access for the handicapped.

In February, Town Manager Ann-Marie Kelly said that when the present police building is vacated, "We have been operating around the premise that the recreation department would move in there." She said that no renovations would be required and that it would operate as a satellite facility for uses such as crafts and adult education. Recreation department offices would remain at the old armory.



SEALED WITH A SHAKE--Tommy Austin, new general manager of Edenton Motors (left) and Hoke Roberson engage in a symbolic handshake after the sale of Hoke Motor Corp. to PHH FleetAmerica last Thursday.

Coming in Out of Cold

History has a way of writing its own ironies. Back when we were being reviled along the Public Parade for our open partisanship, we were being invited by the top echelon of the Grand Old Party to come in out of the cold.

It all began on December 21 when Senator Robert Dole, Senate Republican leader, informed us that we had been nominated by Senator Strom Thurmond to become a member of the Republican Inner Circle and had been accepted for membership.

Then, on December 23, we received from former Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., President Ronald Reagan's chief of staff, a formal invitation to become a member of the Republican Senatorial Inner Circle and join in the gala events celebrating George Bush's inauguration as our 41st president.

We responded by thanking both Senator Dole and Senator Baker for their interest. We declined the invitation by saying, truthfully, that we did not believe our "transfer of allegiance from the Democratic to the Republican party would do much to cure the ills of either."

We assumed that would be the end of the matter. But not so.

Soon after the inauguration we received an invitation from Senator Don Nickles, chairman of the Republican Presidential Task Force, to become a part of that distinguished group, dedicated to recapturing control of the U.S. Senate in 1990.

As suggested, we have filed that interesting invitation among our personal papers.

And now comes Vice President Dan Quayle, who informed us on February 28, that we had been nominated by Senator Jesse Helms and accepted for membership in the Republican Senatorial Inner Circle. Upon acceptance, we were invited to a private cocktail party at the Vice President's residence on April 10. And we now have in hand a second invitation from Senator Baker, confirming Senator Helms' nomination and urging us to accept the Vice President's invitation.

We, of course, do not take any of these invitations lightly. They represent a serious effort by the Republican party, from the top down, to broaden its base and increase its strength from the statehouse to the White House.

If the Democratic party were making half as determined an effort to improve its image and recapture its members, we would not be in the weakened condition we now are. It is not what we stand for any more. We are usually right on the issues. It's what we look like to a constituency so easily swayed by 30-second commercials and staged media events.

We must, somehow, change that. A good place to begin would be with the upcoming U.S. Senate race. We, for one, do not want to see a replay of the old Jesse Helms - Jim Hunt "you're another" charade. We need to come up with a fresh face, preferably an independent conservative. Somebody like Lacy Thornburg, for example.

Break-Ins Investigated

Thieves were busy in Edenton on Sunday, March 12. Police were called after an employee of High's Ice Cream discovered upon coming to work at 1:15 p.m. that a forced entry had been made.

Acting Police Chief C.H. Williams said that the bottom of a rear metal door had been pried up. He said that due to the size of the opening, a small person probably entered the store.

Loose change was taken

from the cash register and the thief "probably got some ice cream too." The only damage done was to the door. At least two people are believed responsible for the break-in.

Sgt. F.M. Parker and Patrolman W.L. Forehand are investigating.

The home of Gary Swanner on Kimberly Drive was entered some time between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. on the same day. Entry was gained through a garage door and a

connecting door to the house. Williams said that a VCR and a small amount of jewelry are missing from the home.

Patrolmen Tom Palmer, Bill Phillips, Tim Hickman and Chief Williams are conducting an investigation.

Another break-in was discovered last Friday. Williams said a thief or thieves broke through a rear window at the Soil Conservation Office on West Queen Street across from S&R.

A 19 inch color TV set and a VCR were stolen. Sergeant Joe Norman and Patrolman L.C. Brothers are investigating.

Town, County Join Efforts

Cleanup Planned

Spring is now here and town and county officials are hoping that residents are thinking about spring cleaning. Of the town and county, that is.

The town and county are jointly sponsoring a 1989 Spring Cleanup Campaign. The litter cleanup effort is scheduled for Saturday, April 15.

In last year's annual cleanup, over 150 citizens participated and officials hope that more will participate this year.

Organizations, groups and individuals can all participate in communities across the county. Trash bags and roadside pickup of filled bags is again being provided by the state.

Incentives are being offered for all those helping to clean up the roadsides and streets. McDonald's and Hardee's are providing food certificates and refreshments are offered by Chowan Hospital and will be delivered at the work sites by the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department. Prizes are being donated by town and county businesses and will be awarded by a drawing from the names of all participants.

Church and civic groups, and others are asked to contact Linda Edmundson at the Town Hall (482-2155) or Nancy Morgan at the county manager's office (482-8431) giving the name of the group or individual, planned work area and the approximate number of participants.

Jail Terms Received

Five young men faced Superior Court Judge Thomas S. Watts in Edenton during the March session and several received active prison sentences.

Marvin Holley, Marvin Ford, Michael Knight, Herbert Ford and Leroy Beasley were charged with common law robbery and assault with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious bodily injury. In addition, Holley was charged with breaking and entering and larceny and possession of stolen property.

The common charges of the five involved the injury and

robbery of William Craig Marshall on Saturday evening, October 1, 1988. Marshall was delivering pizzas for Icaro's Restaurant when he stopped his car to ask directions from one of the defendants.

Marvin Holley allegedly stepped behind the vehicle as it was backing up to turn around and depart. Claiming that Marshall was trying to run over him, one of the defendants reportedly grabbed Marshall around the neck and Holley climbed into the passenger seat. Roughing him up, the group demanded the pizzas and his money. Marshall then turned over to them the pizzas and a little over \$11.

Several of the group also banged on the car with a brick, doing over \$1,000 in damage. None of the defendants told the same story, so it was difficult to determine exactly who did what during the incident.

In another incident, Holley

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FOG VICTIM--Heavy fog last week may have contributed to an accident on N.C. 32 North that toppled this tractor-trailer truck early on Wednesday morning. The driver received only minor injuries but the truck sustained \$10,000 in damage.

Heavy Fog Contributes To Accident

Heavy fog on Wednesday morning, March 15, may have been a contributing factor in a truck accident that occurred on N.C. 32 North near Virginia Fork.

A report filed by investigating Trooper Y.Z. Newberry of the N.C. Highway Patrol indicated that the 1981 Kenworth tractor-trailer was

heading north at 6:45 a.m. in heavy fog when it met an unknown vehicle heading south and partially in the northbound lane.

The driver and owner of the truck, Thomas James, Jr., 47, of Portsmouth, Va., drove off on the right shoulder in a sharp curve, went into the ditch and overturned on its

right side, hitting a utility pole and coming to rest.

Newberry estimated damage to the truck at \$10,000 and \$1,000 to the utility pole, owned by the Town of Edenton.

James, wearing a lap belt, received only minor injuries. No charges have been filed in the incident.

Auto Dealership Changes Hands

By JACK GROVE

Ownership of a major Edenton business changed hands last Thursday when Hoke Motor Corp. on North Broad Street Extended was sold to PHH FleetAmerica of Baltimore, Maryland. The purchase price was not disclosed.

The auto dealership will continue to operate much as before under the local management of General Manager

Tommy Austin. Now known as Edenton Motors, the dealership will continue to offer new Chryslers, Dodges, Plymouths, Dodge trucks, Pontiacs, Oldsmobiles, Buicks and GMC trucks. There will also be a full line of used cars and trucks.

Edenton Motors will discontinue sale of outboard motors. Hoke Roberson said that the Evinrude outboard motors line will be transferred to R&W Chevrolet in Windsor, a family business where Roberson will be manager.

Hoke Motor Corp. bought the dealership from Colonial Motors in April, 1971 when it was located on the site of the present new courthouse on North Broad St. Prior to Colonial Motors, the business was known as the Charles H. Jenkins Co.

Hoke Motor Corp. moved the dealership into a new building at the present site on 18 acres of land in 1977. Roberson said that PHH FleetAmerica signed a long-term lease of the buildings and land from Hoke and Nancy Roberson.

Austin said the same staff will handle sales and repairs. "We're pleased to say that all the employees stayed with us."

Charles Davis, a company official said that PHH FleetAmerica is a multi-faceted corporation and is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. He said that the company has several car dealerships in Virginia.

On coming to Edenton, Davis said, "We're just as delighted as we can be to be here. It's a beautiful little town."

Closings Announced

This Easter Holiday will see a mixed bag of closings in the town and county.

Town and county offices will be closed Friday, March 24, in accordance with the state declared holiday. However the Parks and Recreation Department will be open Friday. There will be no garbage collection on Friday.

Other closures Friday include the Court Clerk's office and local banks.

Businesses in the town and county will vary their closings with some being closed Friday and some closed Monday.

Edenton-Chowan schools will remain open Friday as a snow make-up day. Schools will be closed all of next week.

Local Post Offices will not close Friday or Monday.

The Shepard Pruden Library will be closed Friday and Saturday while the Edenton-Chowan Food Pantry and the Chowan Senior Citizens Center will be closed Monday.

The Chowan Herald will be closed Friday. The management and staff of the Herald would like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a happy and safe Easter.