



## On Opening Things Up

When 20 Democrats joined 46 Republicans to unseat veteran House Speaker Liston Ramsey at the convening of the General Assembly, their explanation was that they wanted to "open up" the legislative process.

What they appear to have opened up is a number of new jobs in legislative bureaucracy.

Let's look first at the house. In order to firm up the support of the 46 Republicans, Rep. Joe Mavretic, the Edgecombe Democrat, committed himself in advance of being elected speaker to open up the committee structure to the Republicans and create a staff position for the minority leadership.

As a result, Rep. Johnathan Rhyne of Lincoln, the minority leader, hired former Rep. William T. Boyd of Randolph as his assistant at \$220 a day in salary and \$405 a week for subsistence. Thus, this entirely new job is costing the taxpayers a minimum of \$1,065 a week as long as the General Assembly remains in session. Toward the end of the session, it could go up to \$1,725 a week as the work week gets longer.

Then Rep. Dennis Wicker, House majority leader, demanded the same consideration and was authorized to hire former Rep. Jim Black of Mecklenburg as staff assistant on the same terms as minority leader's assistant was employed -- \$1,065 to \$1,725 a week, depending on the number of days the house was in session.

Speaker Mavretic then, on his own behalf, kept two of Ramsey's and hired two additional staff members, not counting his legislative secretary. That gives the speaker a staff of five, with salaries ranging close to \$40,000 a year.

All these new positions were covered under a 20-year-old agreement which allows the speaker to have a staff equal in size to that of the lieutenant governor, thus creating a pot of \$340,000 from which the speaker can draw for new staff positions.

Meanwhile, over in the senate, things were opening up, too.

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**1989 WINNERS**-Jim Elliott (left) president of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce presented awards to the winners of the "Pride of Edenton and Chowan" recognition campaign. Others, (l. to r.) are Dr. Edward G. Bond, Mrs. Bertha Bunch, Town Councilman Willis Privott, Rev. Ashby Browder and County Commission Board Chairman, Alton Elmore.

## 1989 Winners Are Selected

The ballots have been tabulated, and the voters have spoken. Winners of the second annual "Pride of Edenton and Chowan County" awards, sponsored by The Chowan Herald, are: Mrs. Bertha Bunch, first place; Rev. Ashby Browder, second place; and Dr. Ed Bond, third.

Last Friday, the winners gathered for a brief ceremony at the Edenton - Chowan Chamber of Commerce office where their awards were presented to them by Jim Elliott, a local businessman who is currently serving as chamber president.

In a separate presentation made earlier in the week, Rev. George Cooke (last year's first place winner) offered his congratulations and presented the first place trophy to Mrs. Bertha Bunch who had been Chowan County Register of Deeds from 1957-76 and continues to quietly serve her fellow citizens through active community service.

Second place winner, Rev. Ashby Browder, was the first person nominated for the award this year. He has proven a source of inspiration and comfort to many during

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## Area's April Showers Turn Into Snowfall

Residents of the area woke up Tuesday morning to find a blanket of snow on green lawns and roadways.

Joe Conger, Jr. of Edenton, who has a weather station in his back yard, said that a 10

a.m. measurement of the white stuff showed a snowfall of just shy of four inches. News reports indicated that Elizabeth City received five inches and a sparse dusting in the Tidewater, Virginia

area.

Conger, his father and grandfather have all taken daily weather readings and kept records on the weather as part of a volunteer effort of the U.S. Weather Bureau.

When asked about the previous record on such a late snowfall, he relied on memory. "It seems to me that it was in 1947 on an Easter Sunday in the second week of April."

A Norfolk TV weatherman reported Tuesday evening that the last measurable snow this late in the season in

Tidewater was 1.3 inches on April 13, 1940.

The wet snow weighed down tree limbs, causing many to snap, some downing power lines while snow on roadways during the morning rush hour made driving hazardous. By afternoon the temperature reached the high 40's, leaving little trace of the morning's storm.

John Oliver of the Edenton Electric and Water Department said that power outages were experienced in the Cape Colony and Country Club

Drive areas due to several breaks in lines. He said that crews were on the job before 7 a.m. until approximately 11 a.m.

In town, the area around the Shell Station and Hardee's on No. Broad Street lost power due to a tree limb across a line behind Chicken Kitchen.

Bill Skinner, supervisor of the street department said that he had crews out cleaning up numerous tree limbs littering streets. Two streets, East and West King were totally blocked by large limbs that were removed before noon.

The Edenton Police Dept. and Chowan Sheriff's Dept. reported no serious accidents or health problems due to slick roadways or homes without power, with one exception. A weather-related head-on accident occurred at 6:45 a.m. on N.C. 32 north (see related story).

County Emergency Services Coordinator, Doug Belch, said that there were a number of cars that slid into ditches when drivers didn't take into account the slippery roads. No injuries were reported.

Many local youngsters found a benefit in the storm. The Edenton-Chowan Schools were closed for the day.

## Bed And Breakfast Permit Endorsed

There were only a few private citizens in attendance as town council conducted a short meeting Tuesday night.

Leading the agenda was a public hearing on a request from Shamrock Marketing Group, Inc. for a special use permit to operate a bed and breakfast at 209 West Queen St. Mayor John Dowd turned the gavel over to Mayor Pro Tem Willis Privott for the hearing since Dowd has a financial interest in Shamrock.

David Twiddy, a principal in Shamrock Marketing, explained to council, "We would like to have it zoned so that a retired couple could live there and operate it as a bed and breakfast. He said that there was adequate parking in the back yard and the building could provide a maximum of three rooms for guests. He indicated that the company was not interested in retaining ownership.

When the hearing was closed, council unanimously voted for the special use permit.

All subsequent issues before the council were unanimously endorsed as well.

Town Manager Ann-Marie Kelly reminded members of the joint town-county litter pickup effort to take place next Saturday, April 15.

Also taking place on Saturday is the planting of flowers around all downtown trees in an effort called "Blooming Business." Downtown businesses are contracting to be responsible for contributing to the purchase of the flowers as well as their upkeep.

Ms. Kelly said that there were 55 trees with bordered flower beds in the downtown district. Contracts for 40 of those tree beds have already been signed by business owners.

"Saturday is really a big day for us in terms of volunteerism," she said. She also commented that the town is still accepting applications for membership on a new re-

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## Accident Occurs On Hwy. 32 North

Weather was a contributing factor in a head-on traffic accident on N.C. 32 north, about one mile from town on Tuesday morning.

Highway Patrol Trooper Clyde Adams said that the accident happened at 6:45 a.m.

A 1988 Chevrolet, driven by Carol Yvette Roberts, 26, of Rt. 1, Edenton which was traveling south, was struck by a northbound 1985 Toyota truck driven by Kenneth Aaron Sheperd, 36, of Rt. 1, Colerain. Trooper Adams said that

Sheperd's truck went out of control on the slick snow-covered surface, crossed the centerline and struck the Chevrolet at an angle.

Both drivers were believed to be wearing seat belts at the time and both received minor injuries and were treated and released at Chowan Hospital.

Damage to the Chevrolet was estimated at \$6,000 while the truck received an estimated \$3,000 in damage.

Adams charged Sheperd with exceeding a safe speed due to road conditions.

## Department Acquires Moving Radar Unit

Speeders in Edenton will more likely be facing a judge as the result of a new moving radar unit that the Edenton

Police Department has acquired. It will supplement the two stationary hand-held radar units that the department

has had since 1970.

The new compact unit is easily transferred from one police car to another and is "the most advanced radar unit available," according to Sgt. McCoy Parker. The radar was made available through a program of the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Parker said that when he first joined the Edenton Police Department in 1967, a predecessor of radar, called the "Whammy" was in use by the department. It consisted of two cables stretched across a street, 66 feet apart and a time clock. The clock started when a car's front tires crossed the first cable and the clock was stopped when the car's front tires rolled over the second.

The hand-held radar came to town in 1970. It must be operated in a stationary position as operates when an officer presses a trigger. Now police have a moving radar, received last month.

The unit has two components, an antenna that can be turned in any direction and a compact computer that displays both the speed of the officer's vehicle and the "target" vehicle.

A switch allows the officer

to have the radar in standby, in a run mode and in a lock

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## Man Sustains Serious Injury In House Fire

An elderly Edenton man is in serious condition in the burn-trauma unit of Sentara Norfolk General Hospital as

the result of a Sunday night house fire on Paradise Spur Road.

The Edenton Fire Department

was called to the scene at 8:54 p.m. and found flames coming through the roof.

While inside knocking

down flames, firemen heard the resident, Walter Hardy, 89, call from a back room, "Hey, I'm over here." Fire Chief Lynn Perry said. Firemen found Hardy on the floor of the room and quickly got him out the back door. They administered oxygen to the victim until the rescue squad arrived and took over.

Perry said that the fire started in the front room where Hardy apparently spent most of his time. It contained a bed, sofa, wood heater and kerosene heater. It was there that Hardy is believed to have received his burns. The extent of the burns was not available.

The fire chief said that Hardy must have been disoriented by the smoke and made his way to the room where he was found. Hardy also reportedly suffers from emphysema.

The fire is believed to have

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**SUNDAY NIGHT FIRE**--Smoke swirls around Fire Chief Lynn Perry and other firemen as they enter the still burning home of Walter Hardy on Paradise Spur Rd. Sunday night. Hardy was rescued by firemen from the burning dwelling and he was transferred to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital for treatment in the burn-trauma unit.

## Volunteers Recruited

Town and county officials are urging those who have not done so to sign up for litter pickup on Saturday morning. There are still areas that will remain littered without more volunteers participating.

Signups can be made by calling Linda Edmundson at Town Hall, 482-2155 or Nancy Morgan at the County Manager's office, 482-8431.

Trash bags will be available for pickup at Town Hall tomorrow (Friday). Refreshments will be provided at cleanup locations and food certificates and prizes will be awarded.

The staffs of The Chowan Herald and radio stations WBXB and WZBO are banding together to form a "media team" and challenge other groups with similar vocations to get together and take part.