



Albemarle Sound Bridge Dedication Held

By MARGUERITE MCCALL and JACK GROVE

Governor James G. Martin, Transportation Secretary James Harrington and other state dignitaries along with local officials from across the Albemarle area attended Monday's Dedication Ceremony for the new Albemarle Sound Bridge.

Acting as master of ceremonies, Harrington told a crowd of between 200 and 300, "This is a rare and wonderful occasion." He said that it was rare because it was "started and finished in one administration." Looking around him on the speaker's rostrum he said, "As this great bridge unites Chowan and Washington Counties, I want to welcome officials from those counties."

Providing the official welcome, Chowan Commission Board Chairman Alton Elmore observed with a smile, "There's perhaps not 15,000 here," for the opening as was reported to have been at the old bridge's opening in 1938. He commented that it was the longest bridge in the state "and perhaps the largest contract let by the Dept. of Transportation." Gov. Martin confirmed both statistics later during his remarks.

C.W. Stokes, Commission Board Chairman of Washington County presented greetings and said, "We are pleased as I think people of other areas are pleased with the new bridge."

He told the audience that on the old bridge, 18 wheelers made a practice of straddling the yellow line, forcing oncoming cars "to try to reduce

their width." He expressed pleasure with the wider new bridge.

Upon receiving standing applause when introduced, Governor Martin, in shirt-sleeves, commented wryly, "Thank you for the warmest welcome that I've ever received in Chowan County or northeastern North Carolina."

The governor pointed to the importance of the highway link across the sound, particularly in light of the demolished rail link over the water. He pointed out that logs from the north shore were transported by truck to the pulp mill on the south side. As he spoke, a log truck rumbled past across the new bridge.

He mentioned construction of other bridges and roads in the northeast, a total of \$130 million in projects. He told the crowd that another \$80 million was in the Transportation Improvement Plan for this area.

Using this stepping stone, Governor Martin made a special plea for the \$8.6 billion intrastate roads bill currently in the General Assembly. The bill was passed in its entirety by the House of Representatives but has been altered in the Senate. The Senate proposes to transfer some of the road user tax funding of the bill to finance state salary increases.

He said that "a lot of help is needed" to get the legislature to pass the highway trust fund bill in its original form. He outlined the benefits of the bill to this area in widened roads and paved secondary roads. "We've come a long way in

these 51 years," since opening of the original bridge. Now, "we're in danger of losing

these highway needs."

With this district's legislative delegation seated be-

hind him, the governor urged his listeners to contact area
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On Bridge Dedication

We join in the general applause along the Public Parade and elsewhere at the completion and formal opening of the Albemarle Sound bridge -- a modern high-rise structure linking communities north and south of the sound and, by extension, further east and west.

In a way, we are fortunate the replacement of the old bridge came when it did. If it had come after the adoption of the state's massive \$8.6 billion road program now working its way through the General Assembly, it would have been difficult to justify.

Times have changed greatly since the old bridge was thrown across the sound back in 1938. Then it was one of the principal links between the Atlantic coast and the rest of North Carolina.

Travelers from the west going to the beach around Nags Head or to the Lost Colony at Manteo had, if going by land, only two choices. They could go through Edenton and over the Albemarle Sound bridge to Manteo via ferry over Croatan sound. Or they could veer north at Edenton and cross to the Outer Banks via a much shorter bridge over Currituck sound at Point Harbor.

This made Edenton, in effect, a hub city for travel to the state's northern beaches. But this began to change when Terry Sanford built a bridge over the Roanoke river just north of Plymouth, thus opening up territory west of the Chowan river to a more direct route to the beach via US 64.

And now, with the new \$8.6 billion highway program calling for two four-lane highways into Whalebone, the traffic picture will change radically for this area. The plans call for four-laning US 64 from Lexington through Manteo to Whalebone on the beach and NC 158 from Winston-Salem to Whalebone via a high rise bridge over Currituck sound.

With such a system in place, the demand for a bridge
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RIBBON CUT (IN MANY PIECES)--DOT Secretary James Harrington, (left) Gov. James G. Martin and Phillip McMullen join children from Chowan and Washington Counties at the new Albemarle Sound Bridge ribbon-cutting Monday morning. Chowan children were Matthew Bunch, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bunch; Gerri Lynn Cole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cole; Kert Layton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Layton; and Tamara Little, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thurlis Little. Washington children were William Morgan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Morgan; Taylor Pruden, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Pruden; Karen Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson; and Jenise Sawyer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sawyer.

Police Dept. Relocates

The Edenton Police Department has moved into new quarters at the former town municipal building. The move began Friday morning and was completed Monday afternoon. The department began working out of its new quarters over the weekend, however.

Police Chief C.H. Williams expressed his satisfaction with the change. He said that while the floor area was about the same, there was more office space. "It's arranged a lot better and a lot nicer."

Renovations to the former town offices included a security partition, safety locks on doors, an added bathroom and fresh paint in the some of the rooms.

Williams is occupying the former office of the town manager, Officer Brenda Toppin has the former office of the finance director and sergeants occupy desks in the larger office area downstairs.

Upstairs are desks for officers in one room while another, larger, room will be

used for a conference area.

The mayor's former office is now vacant but will be utilized by a captain when one is appointed. Chief Williams could not say this week when the selection process for that position will be completed.

A breathalyzer room is located in the former office of the building inspector.

"Right here in this spot, where this building is now, is where I started with the police department in 1961," he commented. He said that building was torn down to make way for the present building.

The department is now lo-

cated right next to the 911 communications center. Asked if that made a difference, he said, "It helps a great deal. It's a lot more convenient." He said the close proximity aided in getting reports and in quick access to the police information network terminal located in the center.

The department's nine patrol cars will be parked directly behind the building.

Williams said that the designated public access to the department is through the front door of the building. Access will not be given through the 911 area.

July 4th Celebrated

Closings Planned

The Fourth of July falls on Tuesday this year which precludes a long holiday week-end for many.

All of the following will be closed Tuesday but open for business as usual on Monday: banks, town and county offices, Chowan Senior Center, Clerk of Court and Register of Deeds offices and Shepard-Pruden Library. Local businesses will have varied closings.

The Chowan Herald will be

open for business as usual on Tuesday.

The schedule for town trash pickups is:

- July 3 - East Side
- July 4 - No pickup
- July 5 - West Side
- July 6 - East Side
- July 7 - West Side

The staff of The Chowan Herald would like to take this opportunity to wish our readers a safe and happy Fourth of July.

Storm Contributes To Head-On Collision

A driving rain during a late afternoon thunderstorm contributed to a head-on collision of two vehicles on N.C. 32 south Saturday. Six people were injured, although none seriously.

The accident which occurred at 3:45 p.m. was on a curve near the Pelikan manufacturing plant.

A report filed by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Y.Z. Newberry said that a 1979 Ford driven by Thomas Pate, 17, of 105 S. Oakum Street, was traveling north at the time. He lost control of his car in the curve, swerved onto the east shoulder of the road and back across into the southbound lane striking a 1984 Ford station wagon driven by Josephine Cahoon, 56, of Rt. 4, Edenton.

Another car, not listed on the accident report, went over a road bank and onto the lawn in front of Pelikan. The driver, Bo Davenport, said that he was trying to avoid the accident in front of him.

Pate, Mrs. Cahoon and her

passengers, Kinzie Cahoon, 65, Mary Smithy, 21, Wallace Miller, 36 and Milburn Miller, 9, were treated and released at Chowan Hospital.

A witness, Dail Dekker, 18, of Virginia Beach, was about 500 yards from the scene and heard the accident. He said that the rain was so heavy he

could not see the vehicles. He was standing on his grandmother's porch at Strawberry Hill at the time.

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ASSISTANCE RENDERED--Lynn Whitehurst applies first aid to Thomas Pate who received a cut on his forehead when his car struck a southbound station wagon head-on Saturday on N.C. 32 South. A total of six people were hurt in the collision, none seriously.

Man Arrested For 9mm Pistol Theft

A gun stolen from Bert's Gun Shop at Edenton Hardware has been recovered by Edenton Police and the alleged thief arrested.

A police report indicates that five black males went to the store between 4:30 and 5 p.m. on Monday, June 19 and asked to look at several guns. While four of them continued to look, the fifth is alleged to have slipped out of the store with the pistol while shop owner Bert Bicknell waited on another customer. The group remained at the store for a few minutes and then left. The reports indicates that the other man was picked up

by the group at the Food Lion store.

Lessel Bond, 18, of 22 Chowan Court Apartments, was arrested for the theft. He was released from custody under a \$2,000 secured bond.

The stolen weapon, a Smith and Wesson 9mm semi-automatic, fourteen shot pistol, valued at \$526.50, was turned in to police later that night by a resident at Edenton Manor Apartments.

Aiding in the quick resolution of the theft was the license number of the group's vehicle taken by Tom Dail, co-owner of Edenton Hardware.

Filings To Open July 7

The Chowan County Board of Elections has announced that filings will begin for the November 7 municipal elections at noon on July 7. Candidates may file for offices until noon on August 4.

The notice of candidacy must be signed in the presence of the chairman or secretary of the board of elections or the supervisor of elections of the county or anyone authorized to take acknowledgments who must certify the notice under seal. The acknowledgment, properly certified, may be mailed to the board of elections.

Of the filing fee, Beverly Schroeder, supervisor of elec-

tions said Wednesday, "It's been \$5 in the past."

Town council seats up for grabs in November are the third ward (Allen B. Harless); fourth ward (Willis M. Privott); and at-large (E.N. Manning).

Only one of the three incumbents, Privott, is expected to run for reelection. While Harless was not available for comment Wednesday, he has been heard to say that he will not run again. Manning said this week, "At the present, I'm not planning on seeking reelection."

Voter registration for the fall elections is open until October 9.