

Reviewing Some Of The Events That Shaped The Community In 1991

By MARGUERITE MCCALL

For the third consecutive year, the Little Rascals Day Care case consistently dominated local news in 1991.

Dates to begin the trial of Robert F. Kelly Jr., the first defendant to be tried, were scheduled and re-scheduled until late July when the trial, ordered by the court to be held in Farmville, N.C., started.

The prosecution rested its case in December. Defense lawyers will present their side when the trial resumes on Monday, January 6.

Meanwhile, in May, Frontline, a PBS TV program, aired a documentary on the case that generated nationwide controversy.

Elizabeth T. Kelly, another defendant in the case, was released from Central Prison in Raleigh in October when the court reduced her bond.

A sampling of other significant news that occurred during 1991 follows:

January - The Persian Gulf crisis in the Middle East took precedence over all news for several months. Concern of families having loved ones serving in "Operation Desert Storm" was revealed in news articles. Lists of military personnel with local connections were also published.

Dignitaries attended and helped break ground at the Ziegler House, site of the new Edenton Visitors Center.

February - Patti Williams, director of Chowan County Social Services, resigned. Former director Hazel Elliott agreed to serve as interim until a new director could be hired.

The Chowan County Veterans Memorial Committee initiated a campaign to raise funds to build a memorial to past and present veterans of Edenton and Chowan County.

A Town Hall Meeting, the first to be held in many years, gave citizens the opportunity to address subjects of concern.

Edenton-Chowan Schools outlined a plan between the school system and the Town of Edenton to accommodate wastewater from Chowan Middle School and White Oak School.

Black History Month was celebrated at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Public Library with a program geared to creating public awareness of Black contributions to local and national society.

March - Northeastern North Carolina political leaders appeared before the state legislative redistricting committee to discuss matters regarding the federal mandate for the state to redefine its Congressional and legislative districts.

Chowan Hospital Administrator Barbara Cale was named the BPW "Woman of the Year."

Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland and state Rep. R.M. "Pete" Thompson, D-Chowan, moved into new offices, the renovated jailer's residence behind the old courthouse.

April - Mayor John Dowd announced he would not seek reelection in the forthcoming mayoral race.

The state proposed a \$169 million cut to N.C. schools, resulting in a \$422,500 expected loss to local schools.

The Edenton Woman's Club sponsored the 21st Biennial Pilgrimage held in Edenton and Chowan County.

Many members of the community pitched in to help Mary Creecy, 77, victim of a fire which destroyed her home, to secure a new home.

May - Adhering to the requirement for five-year up-

dates, the Town Planning Board outlined plans for Edenton's future, which included a greenway/greenbelt around the town.

Owners of the "Albemarle Flyer," a passenger train, hosted a railway trip for area dignitaries from Elizabeth City to Edenton to promote weekend excursion trips between the two towns.

Phase I renovation was completed on the 1767 Chowan County Courthouse.

Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools John Dunn discussed the near completion of four major school system projects.

In lieu of a tax increase, Chowan Commissioners assessed a landfill user fee of \$25 per household. The fee is collected by its addition to monthly water bills.

June - The Chowan County Board of Social Services selected W.B. "Ben" Rose as the department's new director.

An antique car show was a hit at the annual Waters Day Celebration.

Area legislators voiced disapproval with the 1st Congressional District plan.

Chowan County Commissioners approved the county's FY 1992 budget without increasing taxes.

July - A delegation of town and county officials toured the USS Nassau during the ship's stopover in Norfolk, VA.

The Chowan County Sheriff's Department and State Bureau of Investigation confiscated over 200 marijuana plants in a flyover of Chowan County.

Candidates began filing to run for office in the November Municipal Elections.

August - Local school openings were delayed a week because of incomplete air conditioning installation.

For the first time in eleven years, the county increased water rates.

More candidates filed for the municipal offices of mayor and town councilmen.

Heavy summer rains caused flooding in sections of Edenton and in sections of the county.

The science of dendrochronology was applied at the Cupola House and the old courthouse to determine approximate ages of the buildings.

Morgan Park residents met with Edenton Police Department officers to discuss a series of break-ins in their neighborhood.

September - Dr. Jerry Downum, local optometrist, filled the commissioner seat vacated when Alton G. Elmore resigned to run for

mayor of Edenton.

A fundraising (ongoing) got underway to buy bullet proof vests for each Edenton Police Department officer.

Joe Lee (Fourth Ward) and Jerry Parks (Councilman-At-Large) were appointed to fill the town council seats vacated by Roy Harrell and Willis Privott, both of whom resigned to run for mayor of Edenton.

The new athletic complex at John A. Holmes High School was completed and used for the first time.

October - Town, county and chamber officials revealed that negotiations were in progress to locate a new business, BMI Wood Products, in the county.

The annual Peanut Festival took place.

Chowan Hospital was selected to receive an Essential Access Community Hospital (EACH) grant.

County commissioners approved placing a mixed drink referendum on the (preferably) May 5, 1992 election ballot.

Chad Perry, Phil Evans and Bill Potts informed the town council the Civil War cannon the "Edenton" had been located at Shiloh National Battleground in Tennessee.

Six shot houses were raided by local law enforcement agencies.

November - Roy L. Harrell defeated Elmore, Privott and Robert Rossman to win the mayor's race. Livingstone T. Goodman Jr., incumbent Second Ward councilman, defeated challenger Donald Latham.

Harrell was charged by Rossman and Rossman's campaign manager, Mark Brickhouse, with "vote-buying" and with violating the election poll off-limits area to candidates. A local election board hearing cleared Harrell of the alleged charges.

The Chowan County Veterans Memorial was dedicated.

A school bus overturned on E. Queen St. after being hit by a car driven by Ruth S. Adams of Merry Hill, who was traveling north on Court St. No serious injuries were sustained.

December - The State Board

of Elections upheld the local board's decision in dismissing complaints against Harrell made to their offices in a follow-up appeal by Rossman and Brickhouse.

U.S. Senator Terry Sanford met with local residents in a "citizens conference."

The Chamber of Commerce sponsored Christmas Parade drew the largest crowd in recent years.

Historic Edenton sold the most tickets for The Christmas Candlelight Tour since the event's beginning in the early 1980s.

A crackdown on drug dealers by the Chowan-Edenton Narcotics Task Force resulted in several arrests and the confiscation of drugs, money and automobiles.

Local officials announced BMI Wood Products, which hopes to eventually employ about 180 people, will locate in Chowan County in the old Bayliner Marine Corporation building.

Chowan County Clerk of Superior Court Marjorie Hollowell administered the oath of office to Mayor Roy Harrell.



PROUD DADDY -- Former Mayor John Dowd received assistance from his four-year-old daughter, Mary Catherine, as he presided at his last Town Council meeting as mayor Monday evening, December 23. The young lady banged the gavel on the council desk to open the proceedings. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

Suspects Apprehended

Continued From Page 1-A breaking, entering and larceny.

According to Spruill, a shotgun, a rifle and costume jewelry were stolen. He said the shotgun has been recovered.

Lee said he has since installed iron bars across the door and windows of his business. He said he also has a person staying all night in the store two nights a week.

George S. Anders of Rt. 2 (Shannonhouse Rd.), Edenton, reported the larceny of an automobile and a 22 caliber rifle on Monday, December 23.

On the same day, Frank

Miller of Rt 2 (Shannonhouse Rd.), Edenton, reported the theft of a Gerrelli Moped.

A suspect, Michael Anders of Rt. 4, Edenton, was arrested on several traffic charges and two charges of larceny, after leading officers of the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department and the Hertford Police Department in a chase following a robbery at Hardrees in Hertford.

Spruill said Chowan officers went to Hertford where Anders assisted them in the recovery of the moped and rifle.

Anders is in Albemarle District Jail under a \$6,700 bond.

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- JANUARY 11, 1992 - WHITEHURST FARM SALE - Gates Co., NC
Massey Ferguson Tractors - Farm Equipment
- JANUARY 18, 1992 - WINSLOW AUCTION BARN - Edenton, NC
Antiques - Furniture - Bric-a-Brac
- JANUARY 25, 1992 - BLANCHARD ESTATE (Deceased)
Highway 32 Between Sunbury and Smalls X Roads
Farm Equipment - Antiques
- FEBRUARY 1, 1992 - WINSLOW AUCTION BARN - Edenton, NC
Antiques - Furniture - Bric-a-Brac
- FEBRUARY 8, 1992 - LOWRY ESTATE (Deceased) - Weeksville, NC
Farm Machinery - Cabbage Equipment
- FEBRUARY 15, 1992 - WINSLOW AUCTION BARN - Edenton, NC
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New Officers

Continued From Page 1-A week-old son, Caleb. They live in Rocky Hock.

"I've always thought a lot of Edenton," Boyce said, "the fact it is sitting on the sound and has all these historical houses."

He said he was "pretty impressed" with the cooperation between the various law enforcement agencies here.

"I have ridden with law enforcement officers in other areas," he said. "Believe me, you don't find the same cooperation you see displayed in Edenton."

Mejorado said when he was stationed at Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, he found local law enforcement worked well with the Military Police.

"Just the same as here," he said.

Chief Williams said including Boyce, Mejorado and one more new officer, Kevin Jones, a veteran of five years with the Greenville Police Department who will be starting work Monday, his staff is now back to a full complement of seventeen sworn officers and two office staff members.

"We feel like the new men will be a real asset to the department," he said. "We're glad to have them on board."

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