

The Chowan Herald

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

Published in the most beautiful little city on the North Carolina Coast

Vol. LXIV, No. 43 50c

Barker House Jubilation set for this weekend in Edenton

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Edenton's famed Barker House will celebrate its reopening with a "Jubilation" weekend that begins this Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. on the grounds.

Organizers said that a highlight of Friday's activities will be special recognition of local and state representatives who were instrumental in saving the Barker House and who have worked diligently with the Edenton Historical Commission to assure the architectural integrity of its restoration.

Jeff Crow, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Director of Archives, and Reid Thomas from the Greenville office of the state Division of Archives and History, are among those sched-

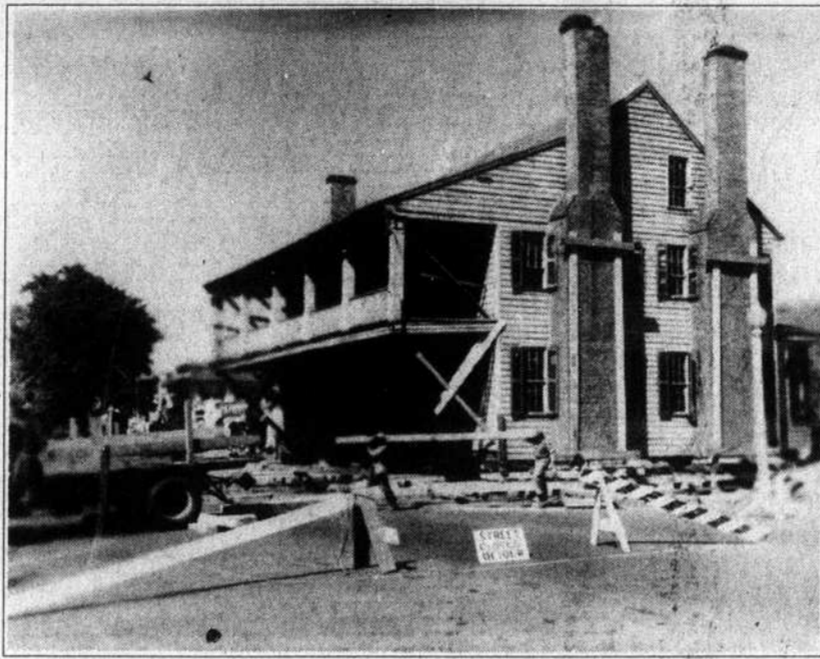
uled to be here for the celebration.

"Mr. Thomas, an authority on restoration, will have an exhibit in the Barker House showing an architectural interpretation of its growth since construction in 1782 to its present look," said Mary Rhea Gardner Jones, Jubilation spokeswoman.

Jones said that, as was traditional in the 18th century, a blessing of the house will take place. At the conclusion of the blessing, tea and refreshments will be served.

The schedule of events for Friday is as follows:

- 4 p.m. - Welcome and Opening Remarks by Murphy Moss, chairman of the Edenton Historical Commission
- Brief History - Frances Inglis
- Recognition of Special



The Barker House, shown here as it was being moved to its current location on the Edenton waterfront, in 1952. The home of Thomas and Penelope Barker was donated as a community building by Haywood Phthisic.

Guests - Marcia Crandall

• Traditional Blessing of the House - The Rev. John C. Rivers, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

• Concluding Remarks - Susan Creighton, chairman-elect of the commission

• 5 p.m. - Tea and light refreshments will be available, courtesy of the Barker House Special Events Committee.

The Jubilation will continue on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Barker House will be open for touring and Penelope Barker, as portrayed by Marguerite McCall of Edenton, will be on hand to share events in her life with guests. An interesting display of memorabilia from the Barker House "and of the times" will also be on display, according to Jones.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to share in the

Edenton Historical Commission's most recent acquisition for the Barker House.

"The latest pride and joy of the commission, which is furnished by gifts and loans from interested citizens, is a sideboard donated by a member of Elizabeth Moore's family, whose ancestors lived in the house from 1830 until 1952," Jones said.

Jones said that a gala, black tie optional, subscription buffet-dinner at the Barker House on Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. will complete the two-day special Jubilation observance.

"All of these events, with the exception of the \$50 per person Jubilation dinner-dance, are free to the public," Jones said. "All proceeds will go to the Edenton Historical Commission's continual effort to main-

See BARKER On Page 8-A

Plan back to board

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Contentious debate between real estate developers and residents marked last Tuesday night's regular meeting of the Edenton Town Council. At issue was a proposal by developers to build 136 single-family homes along Coke Avenue.

During the public hearing portion of the meeting, the plan met with fierce opposition from a handful of residents who own homes near the site. A petition signed by 32 property owners of the surrounding area, many of them from Village Creek, was presented to the council protesting the development. Rezoning the property, the petition stated, would set a precedent for piecemeal development in Edenton's future.

At stake was the council's option to approve an application from Chowan County resi-

See PLAN On Page 8-A



PUMPKINS AND GOURDS GALORE

Chowan County's countryside is ablaze with the beauty of fall colors -- from the bright orange of pumpkins to the reds, greens and golds of gourds and Indian corn. As the cooler weather signals winter's approach, now's the perfect time to enjoy a last look at fall's glory.

Officials hope to keep trolley rolling in town

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Through September, more than 21,000 visitors have officially toured historic sites in Edenton and Chowan County, leading members of the board of directors for the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority to predict 1997 will be a record year for tourism here.

With record numbers of tourists expected to be travelling through the town's historic district, using a trolley car to transport them will continue to be a way to showcase Edenton in a unique manner. Just how long the trolley will be available is a matter of concern to tourism officials. Long-range plans to keep the trolley in Edenton—to provide public transportation for the community as well as tourists—are now centered around economic factors.

Will Chowan and Edenton

find enough revenues to support year-round routes? With operating costs estimated to be \$66,000, a steering committee is looking at ways to generate enough money to make keeping the trolley here a feasible idea. Several ideas to keep the trolley in Edenton in the future were presented at the Oct. 21 meeting of the Tourism Development Authority (TDA).

The committee, said Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, hopes to receive an extension on the six-month lease grant it received from the state earlier this year by asking for an additional six months. A 12-month period, Knighton said, would allow officials to gauge the trolley's success through the entire tourism season, which peaks from the months of March through July. The trolley was not fully up-and-running until May but

See TROLLEY On Page 11-A



FARMERS' DAY RESCHEDULED

The Albemarle Recreation Center's second annual Old-Time Farmers' Day Celebration has been rescheduled for this Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The event, postponed from last weekend because of inclement weather, will be held at the ARC six miles north of Edenton on Hwy. 32. The first five people to call ARC director Bob Harrell at 482-5769 or 482-8833 (evenings) and correctly identify the piece of farm machinery shown here will be admitted free.

Aces stop Manteo, 27-8

From Cox NC Publications
staff reports

John A. Holmes' Mitchell Stanley shone on offense and defense as the Edenton Aces stopped visiting Manteo 27-8 Friday night to remain undefeated in the Northeastern-Albemarle Conference.

The senior tailback/line-

backer rushed for 209 yards on 21 carries, including scoring runs of 49, 37 and 2 yards.

Edenton coach Jay Swicegood said Stanley was part of a strong defensive showing which held the Redskins' George Carver to 53 yards on 19 carries. Stanley finished with 10 tackles.

See ACES On Page 3-A

Police Chief's service to community draws praise

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

Edenton Police Chief C.H. Williams was honored by many colleagues and friends as he and his family joined a large group of well-wishers for a retirement dinner at the American Legion building last Wednesday night.

Capt. Gregory Bonner, currently serving as acting chief, observed that the evening was "a very special occasion." And it was.

Among those who spoke in appreciation of Williams' service to the town was Mayor Roland Vaughan, who said he was proud to have the opportunity to honor Williams "at the end of a very distinguished career...thank you for your service, and thank you to your family...I know it's been tough on them."

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton praised Williams as one of those who had made her job a lot easier when she first took over her job. She said she was a little apprehensive about being the boss of a police chief who had joined the force the same year she was born, 1961. But, she said, Williams was every inch a professional and had always treated her with the utmost respect.

She said she was also proud to see the chief be able to achieve several goals that were very important to him, such as

attracting more women to the police force and establishing a community policing program. That was typical of his approach to running the department, Knighton said.

"The chief was always willing and ready to try new things," she said. "That innovative spirit has helped the department and of that I'm very

proud."

Teacher Rae Burroughs Knox spoke on behalf of her husband, Jeff, who was unable to attend the dinner. She said that Chief Williams hired her husband as a very young man and that the police department would always be his first love.

"He has the highest respect for Chief Williams, somebody

he's always looked up to as a mentor," she said. "I appreciate all the support you've given Jeff and our family in the years he's worked under you."

Captain Bonner said he had come to respect Chief Williams not only in his professional capacity, but because of the many

See WILLIAMS On Page 11-A



Outgoing Edenton Police Chief C.H. Williams (at left) listens as Capt. Greg Bonner explains what a difference the chief has made in his life and countless others, during a retirement dinner. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

ROCKY HOCK
COMMUNITY
BUILDING

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

COSTUME PARADE & CONTEST • GAMES • PRIZES • FOOD • FUN • AUCTION • SENIOR CITIZENS TALENT SHOW

SATURDAY
OCT. 25
5 P.M. UNTIL