

# Mailbag

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me realize my dream." By contributing to the 1998 Annual Fund Campaign, you have enabled future students to realize their dreams as well. A minimum of \$600 will fund tuition and fees for one student for one school year; a minimum of \$300 a year will purchase books for one student; \$5,000 will provide a Small Business Lecture Series; \$2,500 will provide a state-of-the-art projector. Through your financial support, these and many other opportunities will be granted to the Chowan students. Thank you for your generous donations.

When the bold and challenging task of canvassing the community was extended, the following volunteers accepted: Richard Bunch (team captain), Jean Bunch, Wayne Goodwin, Nancy Nicholls, Dalton Furlough, Bill Miller (team captain), Huntley Allen, Angela Kemp, Don Fenner, John Pace (team captain), Bud Weagly, Sid Stickle, Alice Twiddy, Harry Rosenblatt, Harvey Binns, Morris Small, Jr. and Christopher McCoy. Their dedication and commitment has resulted in a very successful campaign.

The campaign began Oct. 19 when Anne Graham Rowe graciously opened her home, Wessington, for a COA reception in appreciation to past donors and to celebrate the 1998 Annual Fund Campaign. On behalf of COA, we thank Anne Rowe, the above-mentioned volunteers, and all of the '98 donors.

Mary F. Partin  
Chairman  
COA Chowan Fund  
Campaign

## Thanks Offered

Dear Editor:

I want to say thank you to the employees of the outpatient unit at Chowan Hospital. We have to go so often, and they are always so good and understanding. They seem to know what to do for us. Then, at Christmastime, they give us a great party.

This year, they had the young people from Rocky Hock under the direction of Mr. David Spruill, and they were great. As I sat there thanking God for those special people, and asking Him to forgive me for being so hurt because someone had stolen \$107 worth of gas out of my tank, I felt the love of two arms around my neck as one of the girls softly whispered to me, "God loves you."

As she went back to her song, I began to feel much better. I want you all to know that your kindness has given me the strength to go on.

May Garriss  
Edenton

## Color Him Love

Dear Editor:

"Color him love, color him Kwanzaa." Those are the words that come into my mind when I think of one special man who has been a blessing in my own life, and in the lives of so many others - and somehow this just seems the appropriate time to recognize someone like him.

The man to whom I refer is my cousin, Earl Wayne Cooper, who lives in Edenton. He was born in Windsor, NC and lived there through young adulthood. Earl had visions and dreams of becoming a successful man and saw the need to relocate in order to achieve these dreams and visions. He moved to Atlantic City, NJ and grew tremendously because he

listened, observed applied himself. He adapted very well there and because of his exposure to people of many racial, ethnic and educational backgrounds, Earl became the man that I wish to honor with my humble gift of words today.

I think that it is first necessary to allow Earl to introduce himself to you. If Earl was writing this, I know that he would say to you these things: "Hello, I'm Earl Cooper. I am a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and am Junior Warden and Lay Reader there. I am a member of the Civic League and the NAACP. I am 15 years into recovery and I am also an active member of AA." He would say to you that the lessons that are taught by this organization have helped his continued growth and that he is employed by the Chowan County Maintenance Department.

I really want to introduce Earl to the great citizens of Edenton because I honestly believe that even though many of you are touched by his dedicated services and presence among you, you have failed to recognize him for all that he represents within Chowan County. I have attended several annual organizational banquets with Earl and during the awards ceremonies I have waited for him to be recognized. I am still waiting. This is the reason that I say that you don't know him. It saddens me to see him continued to be overlooked after all his good works. This is the reason that I feel I must introduce Earl to you my way.

Earl is dedicated to his family, friends and community. He touches so many lives in so many positive ways. He gives to everyone of his time, his love, his advice/opinions when asked. He is always on time

with a hot meal for the sick/less fortunate, and with monetary gifts. When families are bereaved or enduring a crisis, Earl doesn't say to them, "If you need me or need anything, let me know." He instead evaluates the situation and responds according to the needs. What a guy!

Earl has shoulders that are extremely broad and surely must be carved from stone. His spine is straight and so strong that it must be a steel beam and his mind is one that I can't describe other than to say it is incredible! He shares these characteristics with all who know him as well as with those who don't know him. He is in no way selfish.

The great Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote something that reminds me a great deal of Earl. He defined the characteristics of a successful person as follows:

To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know one life has breathed easier because you have lived. That is to have succeeded. This is Earl colored LOVE.

Finally, I color him Kwanzaa. Kwanzae is a holiday recognizing and strengthening the bonds of family, community and traditional culture among people of African heritage. It is celebrated for seven days from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Earl celebrates Kwanzaa the whole year through. He promotes Unity, has Self-Determination, shares collective work and Responsibility, supports Cooperative Economics, has Faith, Purpose and Creativ-

ity. These are the seven steps that many of us put forth an effort to observe on those given seven days. Earl promotes the standards by which many of us should live. I have not said to you that he is perfect, nor have I said that he is super-human, but that he is a person who is not content with someone else's definition of him. Instead he has defined himself by his own beliefs, his own truths, his own

understanding of who he is and how he came to be.

Earl, I respect and love you for all that you represent.

Peace, my cousin, as you celebrate Christmas and Kwanzaa in your very special way. May you be blessed during the new year with excellent health, prosperity and happiness.

With love and admiration,  
Vivian Clarke  
Newport News, VA

## Martin

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ketball."

It was all a puzzle. All so confusing. I liked the ventriloquist's dummy, but I sure wanted the basketball, too. And I had seen it in the attic.

Later that morning, when we were opening the family presents, my dad reached under

the tree and handed me a wrapped-up, square package. "From Mom and Dad" the card said. When I opened it - well, you know what was inside.

I had my basketball - from my parents.

"Of course," I thought. "That is why it had been in our attic."

I had my ventriloquist's dummy from...from Santa. Yes, from Santa. Who else?

And I had another gift. It was, I think, the best gift of all.

One more year of believing.

## Committee of 1000 hears from some satisfied clients

EDENTON - At the December meeting of the Committee of 1000, a satisfied client who located in northeast North Carolina this summer related some of the factors that lead the company to decide in favor of the area. In another action, Wachovia Bank presented its second check for \$10,000 to the group that is dedicated to economic development of northeast North Carolina.

Wachovia, one of the earliest supporters of the Committee of 1000, had presented a check for \$10,000 to the group last year.

Committee of 1000 Chairman Bryant Brooks of North Carolina Power said, "The Committee of 1000 is very appreciative of this most generous contribution by Wachovia. It is certainly concrete evidence of their faith in the region and its potential." Richard Jones of Wachovia made the presentation.

Other membership contributions have also recently been made to the Committee of 1000. The TAF Group of Virginia

Beach, represented by Bob Farris, contributed \$1,000. Shallowbag Bay Development Company of Manteo, represented by Ray Hollowell, contributed \$1,000; and the new Gateway Bank and Trust Company of Elizabeth City, represented by Ben Berry, also contributed \$1,000.

Jim Hammerschmidt of Amilite Corporation made favorable comments about northeast North Carolina. Based in Ohio, Amilite, an automotive glass manufacturer, decided to consolidate its operations in Chocowinity in Beaufort County.

In making the final decision to locate in northeast North Carolina, Hammerschmidt noted how helpful North Carolina's Department of Commerce was in providing information, and how North Carolina's Northeast Partnership, among other things, facilitated a visit to the region for 25 of Amilite's associates who were considering relocation. This visit afforded them the opportunity to see firsthand the amenities and quality of life in northeast North Carolina.

Rocky Lane, executive director of the Halifax Development Commission, also commended the Partnership for its role as a helpmate to the county developers. He said, "The Partnership encourages regional teamwork, and provides support and resources to help its counties compete at the level necessary for success."

Lane also emphasized that private funding from the Committee of 1000 is crucial in economic development undertakings. He thanked the Committee of 1000 members for their support of the counties' economic development efforts.

The next meeting of the Committee of 1000 is scheduled for Jan. 22 at the Partnership's office in Edenton. Businesses or industries interested in membership should contact the Partnership at (252) 482-4333 or toll-free at 888-872-8562.

Chowan is one of the 16 counties that make up the regional Partnership.

Lordy, Lordy

Don-Don is

40!

Happy Birthday

Love Mom, Dad, Lynette, Connie



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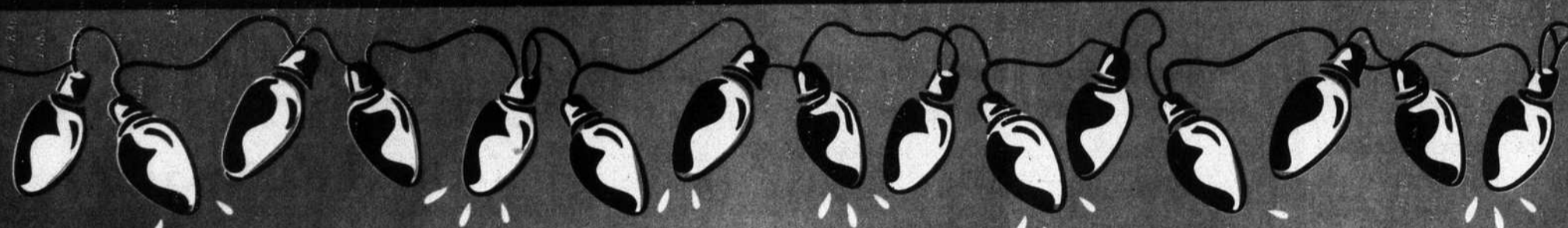
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Cecil Willis Harrell

God saw you getting tired, a cure was not to be, so he put his arms around you and whispered come with me.

With tearful eyes we watched you go.

We love you dearly but, we could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands put to rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us ...

He only takes the Best!

~ In Loving Memory  
Connie H. Harrell