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Pilgrimage draws almost 2,000 visitors here

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

The 2001 Historic Edenton Pilgrimage drew close to 2,000 visitors to the community last weekend, delighting organizers.

"We were so blessed with the good weather, and very pleased with the turnout," said Barbara King, who co-chaired the event with Marty Badger.

King said that visitors came from as far away as Canada and California for the weekend's tour of historic homes, sites, and related events. Other tour-goers arrived from a little closer to home, with Wilson, NC and the Hampton Roads, VA area drawing top numbers, according to an informal poll by the Edenton Woman's Club, which co-sponsors the event.

She added that their research showed a great many of those who came to the tour said they learned about it

through reading newspapers, followed by hearing about it on the radio or watching television.

King noted that the 1,830 visitors seemed delighted with

ence.

"The homeowners we spoke with seemed very pleased with the way everything went," she said. "We didn't hear one negative comment from either the visitors or the homeowners. Everyone seems to have had a wonderful time."

King said that the key to the success of the event, she believed, was plenty of advance preparation - combined with lots of support and cooperation on the part of local business owners and community residents.

"I just loved seeing the way people got involved," she said. "From people like Linda and Steve Lane, who brought the carriage drivers into their home and fed them on Saturday, to all the businesses and homeowners who went out of their way to beautify their homes and offices. We were

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One of the visitors' most unusual greeters was no doubt this lovely porcelain doll dressed in period costume, gracing the porch at the O.C. Byrum house. The porch was filled with lovely flowers that enhanced the colors in the doll's costume. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)



Visitors gather to engage in some small talk on the porch at the Homestead, home of Ross and Frances Inglis, during the weekend's Historic Edenton Pilgrimage. The tour drew visitors from as far away as Canada and California. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

Gunman robs local business

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

According to Chief of Police Greg Bonner, at approximately 11:36 a.m. Monday morning his department received a call stating that Time Finance of 703 N Broad car Street in Edenton had been robbed.

Upon investigation officers were informed that a white male had entered the business, slammed his hand on the counter, began spraying OC (a pepper spray) and yelling "Cash!" The suspect then went around the counter, grabbed a money bag and removed money from it, then placed the bag back on the counter.

The suspect left the Time Finance parking lot in a car. Witnesses were able to get a description of the suspect and a license plate number. The car was described as a big, older model faded blue car. A check on the license number revealed the tags were fictitious for that car and registered to a Nissan Truck belonging to one James Tomlin of Hertford.

Area departments including Chowan and Perquimans County Sheriff's Offices were

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Dale Elks, Rotary district governor, presents a plaque to NC Rep. Bill Culpepper, D-Chowan, in honor of his being named a Paul Harris Fellow. The award was presented during the Edenton Rotary Club's 75th anniversary celebration Thursday night. Culpepper represents the 86th House District in the NC House of Representatives. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

Edenton Rotarians gather to mark 75th anniversary

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Area Rotarians, guests, and friends gathered at the American Legion on Thursday evening to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Edenton Rotary Club. District Governor Dale Elks was on hand for the

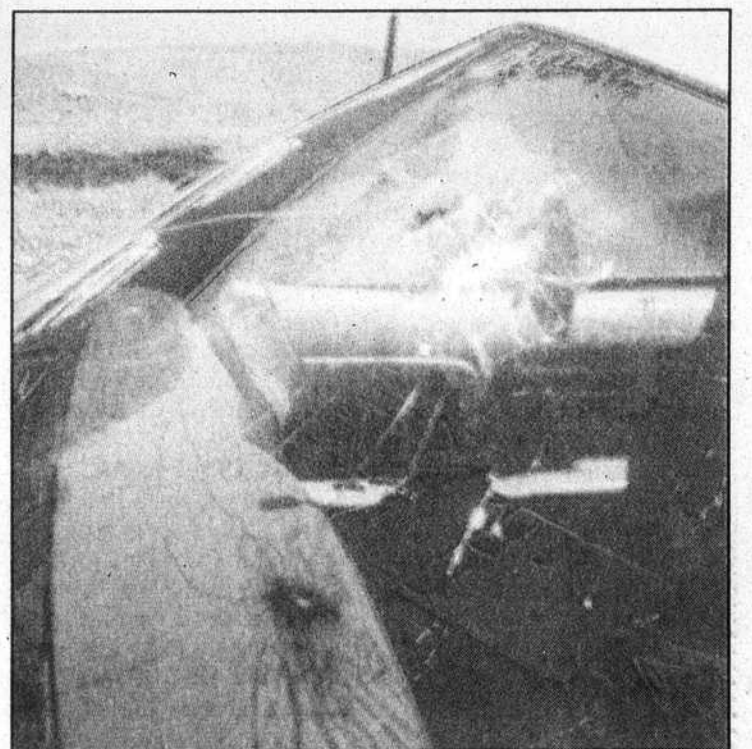
celebration and to present Representative William T. Culpepper of the 86th District with the Paul Harris Fellows Award for his service to the Edenton Rotary.

District Governor Elks spoke highly of the Edenton Rotary recalling some of its distinguished history. "On

February 19, 1926 Charles Wood was the Organizational Chairman and here's where the story brings us today in the Rotary Foundation. On May 3rd, a decedent of Wood, Ben Wood, of the Elizabeth City, but has roots right here in Edenton will

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Domestic violence call ends in death of Chowan man



This photo shows the bullet hole that creases the front window of a patrol car damaged during a shootout with local law enforcement officers that left a Chowan County man dead. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

Justice Department statistics agree that a domestic violence situation is potentially the most dangerous call to which a law enforcement officer can respond. Violence has already begun. Someone is already hurt. Emotions are out of control. More than likely there is some type of weapon involved.

Yellow crime scene tape hangs from the driveway post of a home on Davenport Lane as a stark reminder of a worst case scenario that ended in a death in Edenton Saturday afternoon. All these factors were present as Chowan County deputies responded to frantic calls from neighbors. When deputies arrived they found Joseph Sawyer's wife, Barbara, lying in the front yard of the couple's home, wounded. As the deputies were pulling the woman to safety more gunshots rang out.

A report from the Chowan

County Sheriff's Office tells what happened next:

"At this time, officers heard a shot discharged from the residence. Officers ordered the occupant of the mobile home to put the gun down and come out. The suspect refused to do so and fired another shot at the officers. The bullet went through the windshield of the patrol car and lodged in the rear section of the patrol car."

Records indicate this was not Joseph Sawyer's first encounter with law enforcement. The majority of calls, over time, to that neighborhood had been in response to activities in the Sawyer home, law enforcement officials said. Joseph Sawyer, they noted, had been charged with assault on a government official in the past.

This encounter would prove to be a fatal one for Sawyer. As he continued to fire at the officers, the official report says, "Sheriff Spruill fired through the front door of the mobile

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May Play Day is set for May 5

The 21st annual May Play Day, a community festival that has become a tradition in Chowan County, will be held Saturday, May 5, at the Rocky Hock Community Center. Activities will get underway at 10 a.m. and will continue until 10 p.m.

"May Play Day is designed to be a family fun day that will focus on games, activities and entertainment for children,

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A pie eating contest is just one of the fun events at May Play Day, set for May 5 this year