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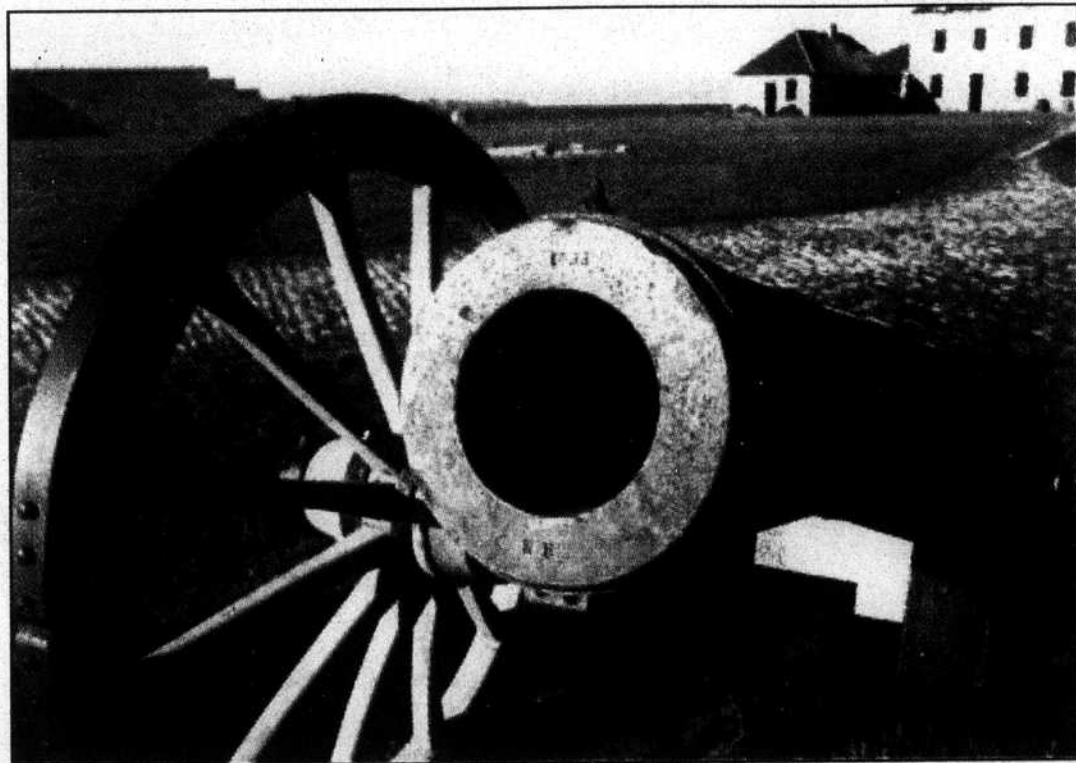
Civil War cannon returns to town

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

EDENTON- In 1862 the northern troops broke through the fragile defenses of Roanoke Island. In a frantic attempt to preserve inland defense, General P. G. T. Beauregard rallied the citizens and surrounding counties to come to the aid of the confederate cause.

So it was that the people of Edenton, Tyrell, and Washington counties responded. It was their sacrifices that were instrumental in formulating what was first known as the Albemarle Artillery. It was later to become known as the Edenton Bell Battery. These individuals sacrificed the very thing that symbolically rang out their beliefs. From their churches, courthouses, farms, and schools they dismantled the bells. The bells were subsequently melted down and made into cannons. On June 13th of 2001, after 140 years, the bells of Edenton will return home.

During the summer of 1999 Peter Rascoe, representative of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, made one of what had been many calls in search of



Edenton Bell Battery cannon returns to Edenton on permanent loan

the cannons. This time his call was to Douglas DeCroix at Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York of the Old Fort Niagara Association. Rascoe was making one more phone call in a long and arduous search for a 12 pounder Howitzer that had formed part of the armament of Company B, 3rd Battalion, North Carolina

Light Artillery during the Civil War.

"DeCroix and I discussed the unit, my information, and their armament for a few minutes," says Peter Rascoe. "I told him that I had some foundry ID numbers. He told me to hang on a second as there were several cannons matching the description there and he would

take a look." Rascoe and DeCroix both were dunned to find that not only did the descriptions match, but the numbers Rascoe had and those on one of the cannons actually matched. "I could not believe it when he came back to the phone and told

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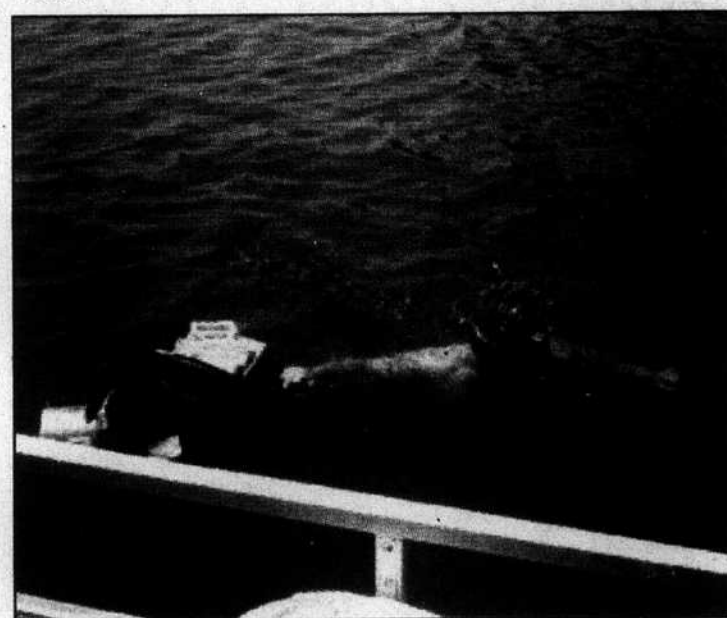
Sunken ship could be the oldest in NC

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

EDENTON- A sunken ship, discovered quite by accident, may possibly be the oldest such vessel found in North Carolina waters.

During a recent episode of very low water Gil Burroughs of Edenton was exploring an area of the bottom of Edenton Bay behind his home that was normally submerged. He dis-

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A diver carries some gear at the site of the wreckage

Commissioners okay first phase

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners have approved the first phase of construction for Edenton Plantation Golf and Retirement Community, a proposed 2,800-unit subdivision to be located on NC Highway 37.

At its meeting June 4, the board also approved sketches for all four phases of the \$328-million project. Commissioners will later approve the remaining three phases of the project, as well as give final approval to the entire subdivision.

The first phase of construction includes 240 condominium units, patio homes, townhouses and single-family homes, as well as an 18-hole golf course, community center, commercial offices, medical care facilities and a health center. Prices for the units will range from \$80,000 to \$140,000. Edenton Plantation Golf and

Retirement Community — which will increase the county's tax revenue by \$2.6 million each year once complete — is the project of Ray Perkins and Dwight Wolf, both of Wolf Contractors Inc., and partner Rick Byers, all of whom were present at the meeting.

The group chose to build in Edenton because of its appeal to retiring baby boomers, Perkins told commissioners. "Our objective here is to build a moderately priced, active adult community within a country club setting," said Perkins. "We feel like (Edenton) is going to be a draw. We feel it's a destination point."

Marketing will target retirees, but will include families as well, to create an "intergenerational community," Perkins said. Because the subdivision will include a variety of housing, developers will also market it to adult children who need to live close to and care for their elderly parents.

Music Festival this weekend

BY REBECCA BUNCH
Editor

A free Community Music Festival will be held at the downtown Edenton Waterfront Park this Saturday from 4-7 p.m. The event will appeal to a broad range of musical tastes, according to organizer Chamblee Simonsen.

"There will be many musical styles represented at the festival," she said. Each musician or group will perform anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes.

Simonsen, who has put together the concert for all three years of its existence, said she loves hearing the various types of music and having people learn what diversity exists among Chowan County musicians. She said that the festival continues to gain in popularity each year, with musicians now approaching her and asking to be involved.

The festival is sponsored by the Chowan Arts Council, Albemarle Boats, Camp



Music lovers of all ages attended last year's free Community Music Festival in the Edenton waterfront park. This year's festival will be held this Saturday from 4-7 p.m.

Younts and U S Cellular and supported by a Grassroots Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

"Chamblee does a wonderful job," said CAC Executive Director Sue Clark. "I think it's one of the most interesting events of the year."

Scheduled performers this year include: Wes Lassiter,

Bluegrass; Edenton Men's Chorus, Gospel; Andy Faircloth, Pop/Folk; RJ Gospel Singers, A Capella Gospel; Fred Hill, Blues; Mike Malloy, Pop/Contemporary; Foundation, Contemporary Christian Rock; the Rockin' Willie Band, Rhythm and Blues; and Chamblee Simonsen, original music.

Deputy's quick thinking helps authorities apprehend suspects

Some savvy observations on the part of Deputy Harry Ward of the Chowan County Sheriff's Office ended a rash of thefts that had plagued two counties in recent weeks.

Along with Evans Self-Service on Rocky Hock Road, which had been broken into twice, a number of similar businesses in Ahoskie and Winton were also targets. Deputy Ward was instrumental in apprehending three suspects June 6 following a high-speed chase through southern Chowan County.

The three were arrested after their attempt to flee came to an end behind the Edenton Police Department. "There was nowhere for them to go once they got to the waterfront," said Sheriff Fred Spruill, obviously very pleased with his officer's work.

According to a Chowan Sheriff's Office report, Deputy Ward discovered the three suspects in the process of breaking

into Evans Self-Service located at 3403 Rocky Hock Road, Edenton. The suspects attempted to escape in a medium-sized blue vehicle.

What followed was a 16-mile, high-speed chase, with speeds exceeding 90 miles an hour at times. Reports indicate that the chase continued onto Highway 32 and south into Edenton. It ended when the suspects pulled into the waterfront area behind the Edenton Police Department.

Further investigation indicates that the suspects had been involved in a series of other break-ins. A search of their vehicle uncovered burglary tools, \$240 in cigarettes, and over \$1,200 in quarters and one-dollar bills.

All three suspects were charged with breaking, entering and larceny of Evans Self-Service in Edenton, Kenil's Corner Grocery and Fen/Nic Car Wash of Winton, NC and

Jernigan's Oil Company of Ahoskie, NC. They were also charged with two counts of breaking, entering and larceny at the Wash House in Ahoskie.

The suspects — Tabitha Pauline Baker, 20, Michael Damion Swisher, 17, and Brandon Scott Stephens, 18 — all are from Portsmouth, VA.

Swisher and Stephens also face charges on a second count of breaking, entering and larceny at Evans Self-Service on May 9. Swisher, driver of the car, was charged with feloniously speeding to elude arrest and assault with a deadly weapon.

The Chowan County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Edenton Police Department, the Winton Police Department and the North Carolina Highway Patrol for their assistance. Sheriff Fred Spruill said it was "a job well done" by all of the officers involved.

Edenton loses 1st planner

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

After months of searching for the right candidate, Perquimans County found its first-ever planner right next door.

Martha Daniel Hobbs, currently planner for Chowan County and the Town of Edenton, accepted the position starts work in Hertford July 2. Hobbs is the daughter-in-law of Perquimans Commissioner Ben Hobbs.

Finding someone with a planning degree took months, according to Perquimans County Manager Paul Gregory. County officials advertised the position three times before finding Hobbs, who is working on her thesis for a master's degree in urban affairs and public policy at the University of Delaware.

"I'm impressed with her — I was the day I met her — and excited about bring her on board," said Gregory.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said she is sorry to lose Hobbs, whose last day of work in Chowan County will be June 19.

"Chowan's loss is Perquimans' gain," Knighton said. "Martha was a terrific employee. She was very, very productive and did really well dealing with the public... We wish her all the best."

Ironically, Hobbs also was Edenton-Chowan's first planner, holding the position for 18 months.

Hobbs said she's looking forward to the challenge of creating a zoning plan, and also the opportunity to focus on one task.

"(The zoning ordinance) is a really important project," said Hobbs, adding that she enjoyed her work in Chowan County. "The job I had has been really interesting. I've been involved in a lot of different projects."



Wings over Edenton

Edenton resident Peter Nizborski, right, talks with a visitor to the Wings Over Edenton air show held Saturday at the Northeast Regional Airport. The event featured sky diving demonstrations, static displays of various aircraft and flights for children, a remote control aircraft show and vintage car show. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)