

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Habitat continues tradition of service to Chowan, Perquimans

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

"There's no place like home; there's no place like home." All Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz had to do was tap her heels together and she went home. Unfortunately, for millions of people world wide there is no home to which they can go. Statistics indicate that never in history have so many been so well housed, and ironically, never have so many been homeless.

Habitat for Humanity has been the answer to prayers by many of these individuals around the world. In 2001 Habitat for Humanity will be celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Millard Fuller and his wife Linda founded habitat in 1976. Millard Fuller, a graduate of Auburn University, is a self-made millionaire. By the age of 29 Fuller was a rich man but his integrity, health, and marriage were suffering.



Area Habitat co-founder Jim Robison, right, talks with board chairman Stan Smith. (Staff photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

Fuller reevaluated his values and direction, reconciled with his wife, and recommitted himself as a Christian.

While residing in Koinonia Farm, a Christian Community in Georgia, Fuller determined that the principles of home ownership for families of Koinonia could be applied around the world. His theory proved correct.

Habitat for Humanity became an international organization helping millions to have a home of their own. Millard

Fuller philosophy is, "I see life as both a fight and a responsibility. My responsibility is to use what God has given me to help His people."

Habitat is nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization. Habitat has built more than 100,000 houses in more than 60 countries, including some 30 thousand houses across the United States.

In 1996 Jim Robison found that he needed to something more in his life as well. Robison, a former contractor,

did a little research and found that Habitat not only met his need to contribute, but, more important, met the needs of those less fortunate. "I called the organization and discovered that Jane Love (minister for the First Presbyterian Church in Edenton) had recently contacted them as well," says Robison.

Together the two set about building the foundation for a local Habitat for Humanity. "It took about a year and a half to get organized," adds Robison.

Habitat for Chowan and Perquimans began work on its first home in July of the following year. "It was 105 degrees when we broke ground," Robison says. "We had the first family in the home by the following March."

In order for Habitat to succeed it must have the support of volunteers, the potential residents of the home, and funding. Habitat is a

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Confiscated property will be tower site

BY HELEN KERR OUTLAND
Staff Writer

United States Attorney John S. Bruce and United States Marshal Mark R. Tucker announced today that the Federal Government would deed two tracts of federally forfeited land to Chowan County. The land will be used for a location on which to place a radio tower for use by Emergency Services of Chowan County.

In a presentation at the Chowan County Courthouse on Wednesday, Aug. 8, United States Marshal, Mark Tucker presented Chowan County with a deed to the property. The properties were forfeited as results of an investigation of the drug trafficking activities of the Arthur William Privotte family. The Privotts, Arthur, Janis, Jennifer, and Katina were indicted on multiple drug trafficking charges on May 26, 1998.

Pursuant to guilty pleas Privott and the others were

sentenced beginning April 12, 1999. Janis Privott was sentenced February 17, 1999; Jennifer Privott was sentenced Jan. 13, 1999; Katina Privott was sentenced Jan. 11th of the same year.

A Final Order of Forfeiture was entered in respect to the real property on Jan. 19, 2000, based on a finding that the property had been used by the Privotts as a location from which to store and sell drugs. The property consists of two tracts of rural residential land at 350 and 352 Coffield Road, with a total acreage of approximately 2 acres. Assistant United States Attorney Michael G. James prosecuted the criminal case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, and the Chowan County Sheriff's Department supplied investigative support.

In exchange for the transfer

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Chowan County Commissioners to consider rate hike

BY MARIEL BETANCOURT
Cox NC Publications

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners will consider an increase in water rates at its Sept. 10 meeting.

If approved, the increase would affect only those who use more than 2,000 gallons of water a month, raising their monthly bills by roughly 20 cents.

Customers who consume 10,000 gallons a month or more would pay the same flat rate of \$9 for the first 2,000 gallons, and \$3.25 per additional 1,000

gallons, instead of \$1.95 per additional 1,000 gallons.

The increase - the first in eight years - is needed to pay for water system upgrades, County Manager Cliff Copeland said. Since 1996, with the exception of two years, the county has spent more on its water system than it has collected from its 4,045 customers.

In 2000, the county spent \$1.03 million and collected \$939,803, a difference of \$99,887.

"We've been reducing the amount of reserves we have in our water system to the point

that they are now in a negative situation," Copeland said. "We want to cover the cost of producing the water, with some reserves for major needs."

Copeland called the water system a "dynamic, not static operation," adding, "If you don't maintain it or don't invest in it, it loses its value."

The county will soon invest in several major upgrades, Copeland said. The county must upgrade its wastewater treatment, as requested by the state. Currently, wastewater produced after the removal of

calcium and magnesium from county water - sits in a holding pond until evaporation, but the state has asked for it to be treated instead.

Also, engineers have recommended the county increase the amount of water in elevated storage. Chowan has both elevated and ground-level storage but can use only elevated water during a power outage.

With a little more than 1 million gallons of water in elevated storage, the county would have enough reserves for one day. An additional

250,000 gallons in elevated storage would provide water for two days during emergencies.

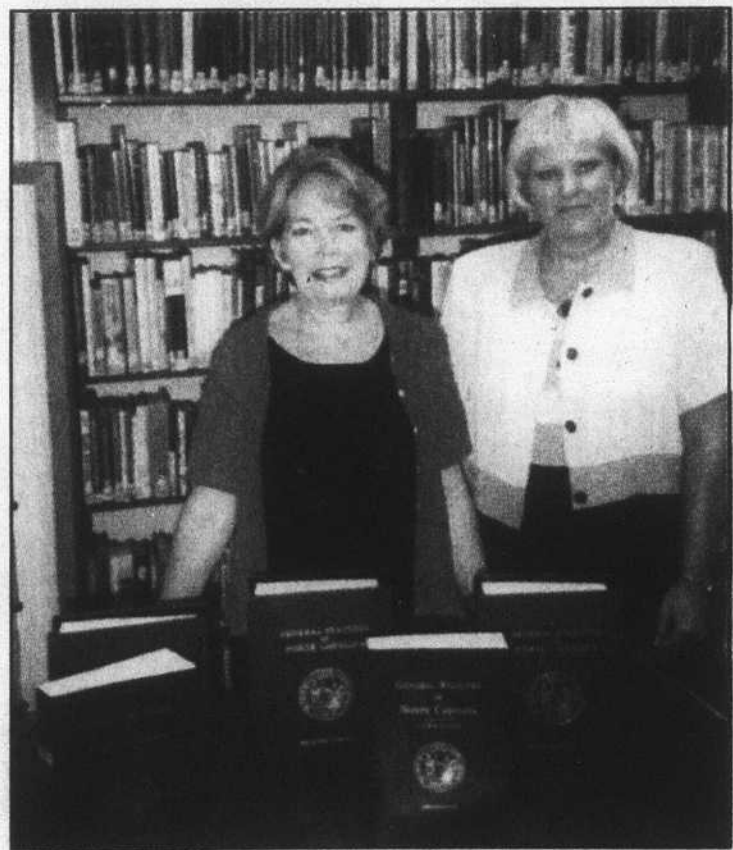
Eventually, the county also will need a new pipe system, since its 10-inch main is overburdened, Copeland said.

The proposed increase would generate an additional \$208,855 each year, but would keep Chowan's water rates below those of neighboring counties. Pasquotank County charges \$10 for those who use less than 2,000 gallons a month, adding \$4.50 for each additional 1,000 gallons.

The increase would affect heavy consumers - such as businesses - more than families, who use an average 8,000 gallons a month, Copeland said.

"It's a very minimal increase," Copeland said. "In terms of what it would produce, it would be enough to cover operating costs and enough to start setting aside \$100,000 a year for system improvements."

If approved, the new water rate would take effect Oct. 1.



Generous donation

Chowan Hospital recently donated 60 volumes of the General Statutes of North Carolina to the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Public Library in Edenton. Terri Evans (right), credentialing specialist in Chowan Hospital's Quality Management Department, represented the hospital with the presentation to Rosalie Boyd, head librarian. "We are very appreciative to Chowan Hospital for donating the volumes. We get patrons who ask for this information, and now we can offer it," said Boyd.

New book pictorial history of county

Photographs depict life here from 1890 on

"Edenton and Chowan County, North Carolina," a new pictorial history book published by Arcadia Publishing of Charleston, SC has just been released. Assembled and written by Washington, NC writer Louis Van Camp, this 128-page book depicts the lifestyle of Chowan County people from around 1890 to 1980. Shown are the early railroads, seine fishing, steamboats, colonial homes, neighborhoods, churches and schools and many of the old plantation houses.

Much attention has been given to the subjects of churches and schools - both white and black - as well as many notable events.

"I tried to produce a book that would be of interest to visitors, former Chowan County residents, and relations of present day Chowan County families," said the author.

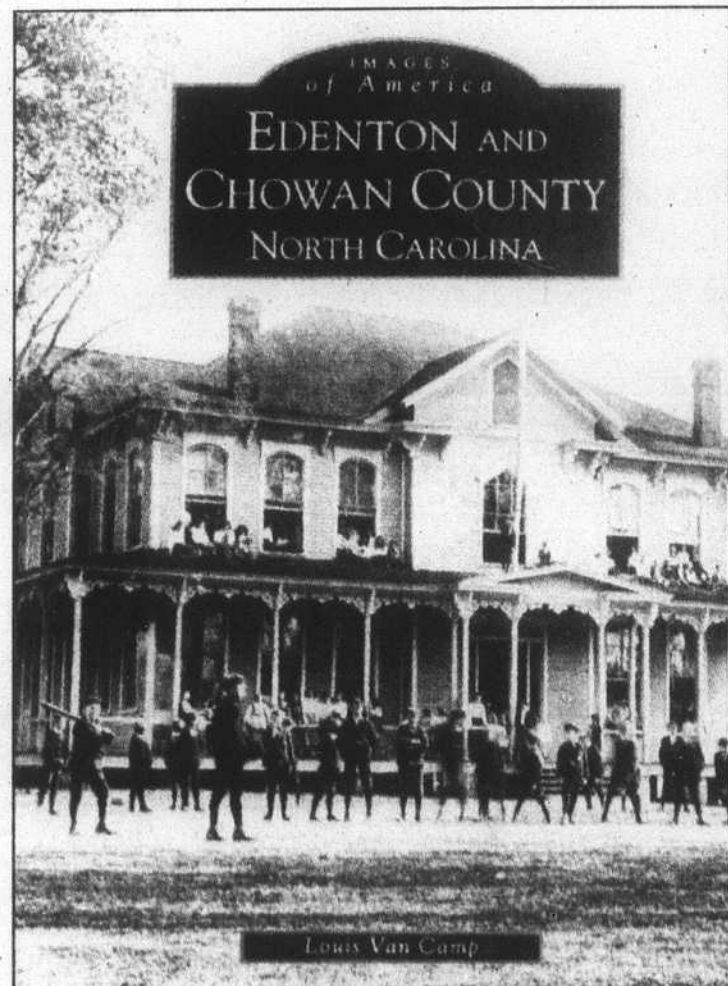
"Edenton is an architectural icon of Colonial history. However, my book illustrates much more than just the architectural gems. It contains dozens of family photos from the 19th and 20th centuries," he said.

Concerning his eastern North Carolina family roots, Van Camp said, "My mother was one of five daughters and two sons of George C. Batts and Sallie Bridgers Batts of Wilson. They moved to Cary around 1922. I enjoy recalling my childhood summers on their ninety-nine acre Cary farm."

Of the local history featured in the book, he said, "I feel that local pictorial history is much easier to understand and remember than standard textbook history, especially when it shows the families of the region being written about."

Louis and Vera Van Camp came to eastern North Carolina in 1985, from Long Island, NY, where they maintained an advertising photography studio for over 30 years. Louis has written dozens of articles for business chronicles, and he and his wife Vera have written

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New book provides a look at community's past



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