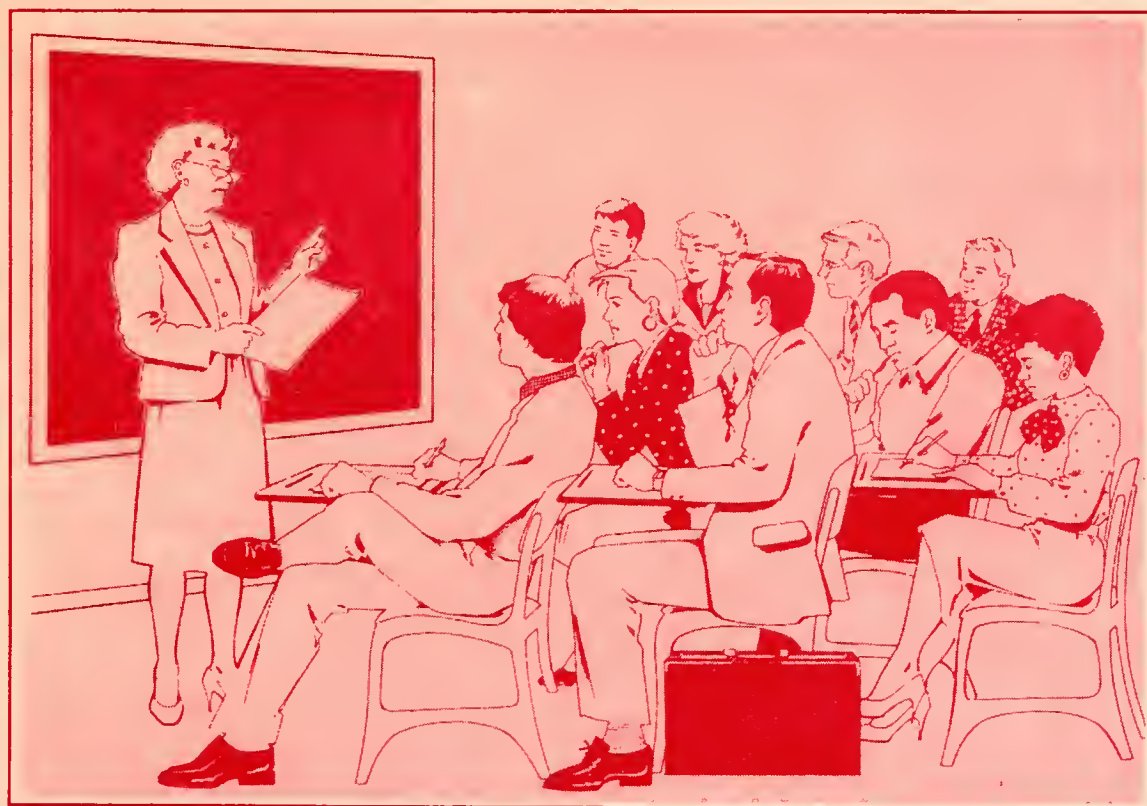


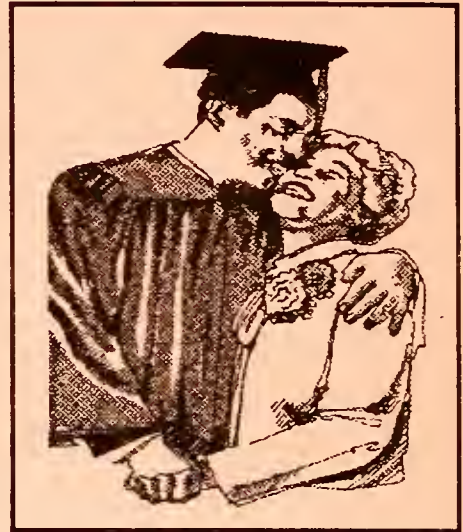


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As always, military personnel and their dependents may attend classes at COA—and at COA's new Chowan County Center—at the same tuition rate as in-state residents. In addition, North Carolina residents who are age 65 and over may take courses at College of The Albemarle at no charge.

Classes are expected to be offered for the Winter Quarter at the Chowan County Center. For further information about College of The Albemarle and all it offers Chowan County residents, call (919) 335-0821, ext. 220.



**College of
The Albemarle**

Publisher - E.N. "PETE" MANNING

Producer - HOWARD E. KOHN, II

Editor - REBECCA BUNCH

THE CHOWAN HERALD - EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA - NOVEMBER 1992



THE CHOWAN HERALD



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E. N. Manning
Publisher

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The past several years have been ones of great growth for the College of the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center and from this tiny acorn has sprouted new growth — a college institution that will mean the addition this winter of business and technical program classes housed in a new, enlarged location at the Edenton Village Shopping Center. This new facility will be known as the College of the Albemarle Chowan County Center and will also become the home of the literacy and GED programs.

Our newspaper is proud to herald the coming of the new facility with this keepsake booklet detailing the events that have led to this momentous occasion. It is dedicated with deep appreciation to Dr. Parker Chesson, former president of COA, for his tireless devotion to the project and his dedication to seeing it become a reality for the people of Edenton and Chowan County and to Howard E. Kohn II, former Director of Special Projects for The Chowan Herald, for his vision and faith in seeing a dream of accessible education for all our citizens realized. To them both we say a heartfelt "thank you."

E. N. "Pete" Manning

E.N. (Pete) Manning, Publisher

Need For Expanded College Offerings Is Identified Through Feasibility Study

By WANDA WINSLOW

Even before College of the Albemarle's Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center opened its doors in November 1989, many residents in the Chowan County area recognized the need for expanded educational offerings at a location closer to their homes.

For those who saw the need and the potential, for those whose visions were of bigger things, the College of the Albemarle Chowan County Center will soon open its doors to students pursuing curriculum studies in technical, vocational, and college transfer programs; seeking to expand their skills and interests through continuing education offerings; or wishing to learn the basic skills needed for better jobs and a better quality of life.

The center is being opened, however, based on the results of a feasibility study conducted in the spring of

1991. This feasibility study, which was funded through a grant from the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges, was conducted to determine Chowan County residents' educational needs. Dr. Gerald Bray, COA's interim president and retired dean of Administrative Services, was contracted to conduct a feasibility study.

Although the study did not document a need for a full satellite campus in Chowan County at this time, the need was identified for expanded educational offerings at a more convenient location for residents of the Chowan County area.

"The Chowan County feasibility study documented what many of

us had believed was the case for quite a while," said Dr. Parker Chesson Jr., former president of COA and now executive vice president of the N.C. Department of Community Colleges, "that Chowan County residents have more educational needs which should be met. College of the Albemarle is the educational institution to meet these needs."

Although limited funding continues to restrict the college in fully offering all the courses and programs Chowan County area residents would like to bring closer to home, the college is working hard to offer as many of the basic curriculum courses as possible for students who are enrolling in programs at COA.

According to Phyllis Haskett, interim dean of Instruction, the curriculum program of study which has been proposed for the Chowan County



Dr. Chesson Jr.

Continued On Page 3

Meet Some Of Our
PROFESSIONALS
who benefited by attending COA



WALLACE NELSON
Registered Pharmacist
Manager, Pharmacy Department
COA - 1971 - 72
UNC - 1976 - BS



BARBARA CALE
Hospital Administrator
COA - 1980 - 83
ECSU - 1985 - BS
ECU - 1988 - MPA



KAY WINSLOW
Registered Nurse
Head Nurse, Medical/Surgical
Coordinator, Diabetes Program
COA - 1974 - ADN

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Need Is Identified Through Feasibility Study

Continued From Page 1

Center is designed as a "career mobility program for college transfer, technical, and vocational students to acquire the majority of their general education and some of their related and major courses in a variety of subject areas."

Eventually courses will be offered in humanities, communications, social sciences, general computer studies, natural sciences (although lab sessions will have to be held on the main campus in Elizabeth City), mathematics, business, and developmental studies. "Students will be able to select courses for transfer to a four-year institution, for a foundation to specific curriculums in the technical or vocational fields available at the main campus, for upgrading job skills in occupations requiring mathematics and communications skills, or for general interest," said Haskett.

The Winter Quarter 1992-93 offerings will be a start toward providing an expanded course schedule at the Chowan County Center, and offerings in the course schedule should increase to some extent for the Spring Quarter and continue to increase in the number of offerings provided in the 1993-94 academic year. A table which lists the potential core of course offerings appears to the right. Course offerings categories will eventually include general education, business and computer-related courses, and developmental studies as indicated in the list.

In addition to the more general courses COA plans to offer at the new center, the college is preparing to offer, by the end of the Spring Quarter, a course in the Nurse Aide program at the Chowan County Center. The course or courses to be offered at the new facility will be based on area need identified through Nurse Aide Advisory Committee input and will be taught by Gwen Overman, who is a Chowan County resident and full-time Nurse Aid instructor with the college.

"We're excited about being able to offer a complete program of study to enable students to train for a high-

demand career in the health care field," said Haskett. Sections of the Nurse Aide certificate program run from five to six weeks, with classes usually running from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. "Those who complete sections of this program are eligible to be registered with the state as a nurse aide for the level of their training," said Haskett, "and registered nurse aides continue to be in high demand throughout northeastern North Carolina and the state."

Plans are to open the new center by December 1 — just in time for the start of the 1992-93 Winter Quarter. Curriculum classes for the winter quarter will run December 2 through March 1. Registration for the courses will take place at the main campus until the new center is fully operational.

Several continuing education offerings and basic skills training classes will also be offered at the new center when it opens this winter. Because of space limitations and special facility needs, some continuing education classes will continue to be held at other locations in Chowan County.

"We're pleased with the variety of courses we will be able to offer in Chowan County — and most in the new Chowan County Center," said Haskett. "The new facility, thanks to the support of Chowan County, will enable many students to complete some of their studies much closer to home. Students who used to have to drive to Elizabeth City five days a week may now be able to take courses at the new center two or three days a week and save time, gasoline, and effort."

First Course Offerings At Center

<u>Course</u>	<u>CR</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
ART			
ART111-2	3	3	DRAWING
BUSINESS			
E BUS101-2	4	5	ELE. KEYBOARDING/TYPEWRITING
E BUS102-2	3	5	INTER. KEYBOARDING/TYPEWRITING
E BUS103-2	3	5	ADV. KEYBOARDING/TYPEWRITING
E BUS124-4	3	3	PAYROLL ACCOUNTING
E BUS211-1	5	5	MARKETING
E BUS213-2	3	4	TYPING FOR SPEED
E BUS229-2	4	5	TAXES
COMPUTER			
E EDP101-4	4	5	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS
EDP101-5	4	5	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS
E EDP206-2	3	5	ELECTRONIC WORD PROCESSING II
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION			
COE150-1	1	10	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION I
COE150-2	2	20	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION I
COE151-1	1	10	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION II
COE151-2	2	20	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION II
COE152-1	1	10	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION III
COE152-2	2	20	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION III
COE153-1	1	10	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION IV
COE153-2	2	20	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION IV
COE154-1	1	10	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION V
COE154-2	2	20	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION V
COE155-1	1	10	COOPERATIVE EDUCATION VI
ENGLISH			
E ENG101-4	3	3	ENGLISH COMPOSITION I
MATHEMATICS			
E MAT91-4	5*	5	BASIC MATHEMATICS
E DMAT101-5	5	5	BASIC ALGEBRA I
SPEECH			
E SPH201-2	3	3	PUBLIC SPEAKING



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Mary Partin Is Named Associate Dean Of COA's New Chowan County Center



Mary Partin

Mary Partin, no stranger to Chowan County and Edenton, has been named the associate dean of College of the Albemarle's new Chowan County Center.

Partin, formerly the director of Literacy Education at College of the Albemarle, has been active in the Chowan County community for many years. She is a member, past president, vice-president, and publicity chairman of the Chowan County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony; past president and vice-president of the Democratic Women of

Chowan County; chairman of the 1979 Kidney Foundation Drive in Chowan County; a past chairman of the American Cancer Society Drive in Chowan County; a member of the Chowan Arts Council, Chowan Hospital Auxiliary, Friends of Historic Edenton, and Friends of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library; and is an active member and Bible teacher at Edenton Baptist Church. She was the recipient of the 1984 Governor's Volunteer Award for Chowan County.

Her association with COA began in 1976 when she was hired as a part-time coordinator at the Edenton Learning Lab for one year. In 1979, she returned to the position until 1985 when she was named the director of the Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) Center in Elizabeth City. In 1988 she became the director of Literacy Education for the college.

In her role as associate dean,

Partin will be the administrator in charge of the center and its operations. She will also serve as the college's liaison with area citizens and with civic, business, governmental, and public school groups.

Before joining COA, Partin was a supervisor for grades K-12 in the Tyrrell County Public Schools. From 1963-71 she was an English teacher and then supervisor for grades 7-12 in the Edenton-Chowan school system. She also has teaching experience in Portsmouth, Va.; Franklin, Va.; Washington County; Nash County; and Edgecombe County.

Partin earned a B.A. in English and History from Wake Forest University and an MAT degree in English and Education at Duke University. She has had post-graduate training at East Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University.

Basic Skills Training To Move To Larger Facility

College of the Albemarle's present Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center will be moving to the Chowan County Center when the facility opens in December. Expanded space and some new services will help the college provide basic skills instruction to even more students in need of brushing up their mathematics and reading skills or preparing their GED.

"When we move to the new center, we will rename the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center portion of the center the ABLE Center," said Mary Partin, associate dean of the Chowan County Center and a resident of Edenton. "We have ABLE Centers in Elizabeth City and at our satellite campus in Manteo; and the name ABLE Center is what most people end up calling our basic skills center in Edenton" ABLE is an acronym for Adult Basic Literacy Education.

Ginny Culpepper, coordinator at the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center, is excited about the move and the other changes which will come about soon. "We will have more space in general for our students, and we will become a test site for the GED examinations," she said.

For the first time in Chowan County, students who are preparing for their GED will be able to be tested without driving to Elizabeth City to complete each of the five GED exams. "The new center will have a separate testing room for this purpose," said Culpepper. "The room will also provide a private space for students' study and other uses when exams are not being given."

Both Culpepper and Virginia Wood, an instructor at the center, have been certified as test administrators. GED testing is scheduled to begin

in January 1993 at the new Chowan County Center.

Some private office space will also be provided for Culpepper at the new center. "At the present location, we have a telephone in the room where the students are studying," said Partin, "and receiving their computer-assisted and tutor-assisted instruction."

Culpepper summed up her positive thoughts about the move to the new center by saying, "Now, with the new center and testing site, students can come in at a level where they need basic math and reading skills or brushing up on basic skills, go on to prepare for their GED, take the GED examinations, and then go on and begin their college studies all at the same site. That will be a big help for our students!"

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Facility Agreed Upon During Informal Luncheon

By WANDA WINSLOW

The College of the Albemarle Chowan County Center will soon become a reality. But just wait until you hear "the rest of the story."

According to Richard Bunch, executive director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, he had no idea that a luncheon meeting with some newspaper staff members and COA administrators would end up with the college agreeing to make a commitment to fund a center in Chowan County which would someday lead to expanded COA offerings under one roof.

Howard E. Kohn II, then-director of special projects at The Chowan Herald; Rebecca Bunch, associate editor of the Herald; and Richard Bunch (no relation) accepted an invitation one day to tour COA's Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) Center in Elizabeth City. Richard Bunch recalls being "nervous" about the meeting. "I hadn't known Howard very long at that point and I didn't feel I knew him well enough to know what he'd say."

For her part, Rebecca Bunch felt a sense of anticipation at accompanying Kohn and Richard Bunch to the luncheon. "I knew pretty much what Howard hoped to accomplish that day," she said, "and I felt if anyone could pull it

off, he could. Howard is the kind of person who believes in approaching a difficult situation as a potential challenge, not a problem. He is a highly motivated individual, very determined...and once he has a goal in mind, he does everything in his power to achieve it."

After Mary Partin, director of Literacy Education at COA, took the three on a tour of the ABLE Center, they went out for lunch. Former COA President Parker Chesson and Norman Norfleet, now deceased, who was dean of instruction for the college, were also present for the luncheon meeting.

In the days that followed, Kohn would tell many people about how he negotiated an agreement that day "over a tuna fish sandwich" that has resulted in COA's Chowan County Center becoming a reality.

Kohn, who is now living in Charleston, South Carolina, was at that time writing a column for The Chowan Herald called "One Small Key." He was keenly interested in literacy and had called Partin one day for some information to include in a story, "A Nation at Risk," that he was doing for his column. During the course of their conversation, Partin invited Kohn to tour the Elizabeth City ABLE Center.

Partin knew that Dr. Chesson was interested in establishing an ABLE Center in Edenton to meet the needs of many residents who lacked basic education skills or their high school diploma. Partin, who is also an Edenton resident, developed a list of the personnel, equipment, furnishings, and supplies which would be needed to set up an ABLE facility in Chowan County. She carried the list with her to the luncheon meeting in case the conversation took the turn she hoped it would.

Kohn was most impressed with the Elizabeth City ABLE Center. "I thought Edenton should have an ABLE Center because people who work can't take time to go to Elizabeth City to take classes and come back," he said. "A center in Edenton would also be good so some people could walk to it."

Richard Bunch recalls that those seated around the table for lunch that day had barely exchanged pleasantries before Kohn was asking Chesson how much it would cost to run an ABLE Center. Partin took the figures out to show Kohn it would cost approximately \$50,000 in personnel and equipment to establish a basic education center in Edenton. Kohn did not even take the papers out of Partin's hand to look at them. Instead, he responded, "This is the most expensive tuna fish sandwich I've ever had. I appreciate the lunch but not the \$50,000 tab."

Richard Bunch admits to then becoming even more nervous about the situation. Chesson, however, saved the day. He reached across the table and quietly took the papers containing the cost estimates prepared by Partin. "I'll take those, Mary," he said. He then turned to Norfleet who did some quick figuring on a napkin and indicated it could be done. Chesson looked across to Kohn and said, "We'll pay the \$50,000 if you will get a suitable facility for the center. It will need air conditioning, heating, and rest rooms."

Kohn promptly responded, "If you pay the \$50,000, I'll get you the building." Later, Richard Bunch said he believed that he kicked Kohn under



Richard Bunch, Executive Director of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, and Rebecca Bunch, Associate Editor of The Chowan Herald, review a list of the first classes that will be offered when the COA Chowan County Center opens in December. Both were present at the luncheon where Howard E. Kohn II and Dr. Parker Chesson struck the deal that has led to continued expansion of the college's presence in the community. (Staff photo by Pam Virzi)

Continued On Page 9

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Facility Agreed Upon

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the table at this point — flabbergasted by Kohn's audacity in making such a promise. "I just lost it when the man basically asked for the \$50,000," Bunch said.

Rebecca Bunch, on the other hand, said Kohn's daring pledge did not shock her quite as much. "I had great faith in Howard and knew what he could accomplish when he put his mind to it. I also knew that his making this commitment was a 'leap of faith'...that he believed in this so much, he would move any obstacles that got in his way to make it come about."

She added, "I was also very impressed by Parker Chesson and his actions that day. Here we were, a group of people he didn't even know, asking him to make a commitment like that. But, he believed in this project, and believed that we were serious enough that we would do all we could to fulfill the promise that Howard had just made."

Despite Richard Bunch's "under the table" kick, Kohn reiterated that he would get the facility. Chesson reaffirmed his commitment to come up with the \$50,000 needed to make the center operational.

Kohn then asked Chesson for a letter from the college which stated what COA had pledged to do. "I feared no one would believe me when I told them COA would give the \$50,000 if Edenton gave the facility," Kohn said.

Riding back to Edenton, the three visitors to Elizabeth City began discussing possible sites for a future ABLE Center in Edenton. They were aware NCNB had a small brick building with lots of parking space that had been used for banking. Their understanding was that the building was leased for the duration of a multi-year contract even though the bank was no longer using it.

"It had enough restrooms and some large and small rooms that would be useable," said Kohn. NCNB was approached about loaning the facility to the college for "this very worthwhile project" through the end of their lease. After studying information provided by Kohn about literacy needs in Chowan County and participating in further discussions, Al Nichols, city

executive at NCNB in Edenton, was able to convince his superiors at NCNB headquarters to approve the use of the building by COA for basic education offerings.

Chesson said he believed what Kohn said when he made the commitment to find a facility for an ABLE Center. He also realized the strong support The Chowan Herald had given the college over the years and that other community leaders were very concerned about educational opportunities for the people of Chowan County.

"I had been approached a couple of times during the previous five or six years about a COA center in Edenton," Chesson said. "It was when the late Al Phillips was a county commissioner." Phillips, former president of Edenton Cotton Mills, was interested in bringing vocational and technical education programs to Edenton, and he had spoken about this with Chesson on several occasions." State Representative R.M. "Pete" Thompson (D-Chowan) and Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland, Chesson's brother-in-law, had also participated in these discussions.

"Al Phillips was worried (because) young people were leaving Chowan County for training and work and then never coming back," said Chesson. "We had talked about it and realized there was not enough demand to set up these high-cost technical and vocational programs in Edenton."

However, Chesson thought literacy and high school equivalency instruction could serve as a foundation for a center in Edenton. Since the college had established a Learning Lab 20 years earlier at the site of the Swain Elementary School, Chesson was keenly aware of the broad educational needs of Chowan County residents.

Less than one year after Kohn sat down across the table from Chesson to eat a tuna sandwich, the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center was opened with basic skills instruction, including GED preparation. NCNB provided the facility, Chowan County paid for the operation of the facility, and the college funded the equipment and personnel costs through a special grant and other college funds. Registration was held for students at the center on November 21, 1989; and

within two weeks, the center was serving 52 students. Soon, the center was serving 100 students and had over 80 volunteer tutors, a number of whom were former schoolteachers.

"The turnout (in Chowan County) has far exceeded any other literacy program opening in the state's community college system," said Partin.

At a special ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by community college officials and local dignitaries, Kohn was asked to cut the ribbon and to make a few brief remarks. "I've no speech to bore you with," he told those assembled. "I just want to make one simple statement. This literacy center is an acorn which will grow into an oak tree, and the tree will be a satellite campus in the very near future."

Before leaving Chowan County, Kohn said he was looking forward to the new expanded center that would be opening in December, 1992. "It's unbelievable, isn't it, to think that all this happened over a tuna fish sandwich," he said. "It came about because Parker and I trusted each other enough to do what we committed to do — to make the acorn that is now turning into the oak tree."

Richard Bunch said, "It took the vision of Howard Kohn and the vision of Dr. Chesson to make this center happen. A small luncheon date turned into a project of great magnitude for the people of Chowan County and the area. It was a lunch that lasted 45 minutes or less, but every minute was precious when you think about the impact it will have on our community in the years ahead."

Rebecca Bunch added, "What happened that day is something I will never forget. I will always be grateful to Howard for including me in the group that was there so I could see for myself how the events unfolded. When we left the meeting in Elizabeth City, we were all so thrilled and still in a state of disbelief. During the years we worked together, Howard always told me that things will happen when they're supposed to...well, I guess it must have been the right time and the right place because the enthusiasm and foresight of Howard and Parker Chesson certainly came together that day in a way that you had to see to believe. It was a great day for all of us, and certainly a great day for Chowan County."

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On-Site Literacy Programs Supported

By REBECCA BUNCH

The opening of the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center not only meant a chance for adults to bolster their literacy skills. It also inspired the development of three work-related remedial education programs. The center has been the site of two of those programs, one for Seabrook Blanching and another for the Edenton Cotton Mills. The third, an on-site education program, is offered to United Piece Dye Works employees in the plant's conference room.

Ginny Culpepper, director of the Adult Education Center, said that that particular initiative came about because the management at each of those three places recognized that it would be to their advantage to have the best educated employees possible and came to her asking about the establishment of programs for workers. She in turn referred them to Mary Partin, then serving as director of Literacy Education for COA, who assisted in developing a program to meet their needs.

Mrs. Culpepper noted that the companies are willing to demonstrate their interest in a better educated workforce by rewarding those who complete the program. "Each of them has offered financial incentives," she said. "For instance, Seabrook and the

Dye Plant have given employees who attended for a specified period of time, in this case 50 hours, a \$100 bonus. With the Cotton Mill, it's a little different. I call them every Friday and let them know about their employees who have been attending the center and they pay them extra. They reward their employees every week for coming."

She said that while Seabrook employees had recently completed a 50-hour cycle, another was being discussed at the present time. "Actually, Seabrook was the first business to suggest doing this," Mrs. Culpepper said. "At the Seabrook down in Georgia, they had done this kind of program and it had turned out very well. Bob Henson of Atlanta came here with Dan Hutton and talked to me about getting something going through our program. That's really how it all started.

"Then, Ron Daniels from the Cotton Mill also called and said they wanted to try to help their employees acquire better skills. Our program here at the center that serves businesses has been going on for about a year now," Mrs. Culpepper said. "Seabrook and the Cotton Mill wanted to do theirs here because they didn't have space to do one on-site." Some of the adults we've worked with in this program have been very highly moti-

vated and have really benefitted from it."

In fact, Mrs. Culpepper said that Seabrook was so committed to it that the company even extended the 50-hour deadline for workers to complete their training because an overload of work had meant longer hours for them at the plant. "They were doing a lot of overtime then, which meant that they had to put in a very long day and then come to the center. Seabrook recognized this and encouraged their employees not to drop out of the program by giving them a longer period of time to complete their studies and still qualify for a bonus," she said.

Mrs. Culpepper said that not all of the adult students they worked with through this program lacked a high school diploma. "Some of those who participated had finished high school," she said. "They used this time as a sort of 'remedial period' to brush up on their skills for college classes they're taking."

She added, "The skills we have worked on with these people mainly dealt with expanding their basic math, reading and comprehension abilities. While none of it directly related to the work they do, it allowed them to develop skills that will enable them to become better and more productive employees."



Rusty Favorite (standing, at left), Director of Human Resources for United Piece Dye Works, is joined by Anne Perry, COA instructor (standing, far right) in congratulating student-employees in the continuing education program. They are (standing, l. to r.) Clint Peele, Walter Bell, John Doughy; (sit-ting, l. to r.) Catherine Brothers, Irene Privott and Bertha Doughy. UPDW offers its on-site classes in the plant's conference room. (Staff photo by Debbie Collins)



Seabrook Enterprises honors employees for their completion of education courses through the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center. They included: Charlie Brinn, Theodore Cofield, Janet Dillard, Marilyn Elliott, Russell Foreman, Linwood Godfrey, Mary Jordan, Roxanna White, Lois Coltrain, Vicky Martin and Michael Skinner. Dan Hutton, plant manager, and Ginny Culpepper, coordinator of the center, were also on hand. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

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HOWARD E. KOHN II

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A Nation Still At Risk

Without a better-educated America — without a literate and skilled workforce — the future of our nation is in jeopardy. To remain competitive and maintain our economic security and prosperity, the United States will need better education and training for young and old alike.

The many experiences we've had throughout our lives make us uniquely qualified to help. Older Americans can offer the patience, the talent and the time that are needed to help prepare today's young people through education.

Let us at once recognize that we are all losers when statistics show that in the seven counties of the Albemarle area with a combined population of approximately 90,000 persons — 49 per cent of them are 25 years or older and they all have less than a high school education.

In Chowan County, with a population of approximately 13,000 persons, 54 per cent are in the category of having less than a high school education.

Forty-seven per cent of that group in Chowan County are adults who are functionally illiterate and cannot fill out a job application!

The following government information explains why we are all losers together in this tragic situation.

(1) An illiterate adult earns 42 per cent less than a high school graduate. That adds up to \$8 billion a year in lost tax revenues. And \$5 billion of your taxes support welfare recipients who are unemployable due to illiteracy.

(2) American industry can't find enough employees with basic literacy skills to fill empty positions. And countries like Japan, with a better educated work force, outstrip American productivity rates.

(3) Twenty per cent of America's adults can't make informed decisions because they can't read. They can't understand a contract or shop for a bargain. And illiteracy among blacks and Hispanics is two and three times greater than the national average, insuring racial inequities in employment and income.

(4) Most crimes are committed out of economic need. Since illiteracy guarantees economic need, it translates into billions of dollars of crime-related destruction.

(5) National defense depends on sophisticated weaponry, but 27 per cent of Army enlistees can't read training manuals written at the seventh grade level. President Bush stated recently that the military is now resorting to using drawings and simple diagrams to overcome this problem. This puts the security of our nation in grave

danger.

(6) Illiterate parents can't read life-saving instructions on poison labels or use the telephone book to summon help. And industrial accidents result when workers can't read safety instructions.

(7) Adults are wage earners, consumers, voters, policy makers, parents. They run the nation. And while one-fifth of the American population is functionally illiterate, they can't run this country very well.

(8) The number of illiterate Americans is swelled by nearly one million school dropouts each year. The U.S. News forecasts that the decline in reading skills will find us in two decades with a literate class of no more than 30 per cent of the American population.

Secretary of Education Bennett years ago stated that "we are a nation at risk" and this year that warning is repeated daily in newspapers, magazines and on nationally televised forums on education.

These unfortunate people who cannot read or write live in a world apart and it is a world filled with fear.

With all their dreams shattered and their hopes gone, they tread water in a futile effort to survive in uncharted seas that will never lead them to shore.

Now that this is being recognized, some positive action has to take place.

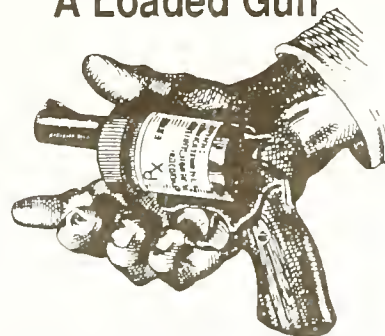
With a large proportion of North Carolina's workforce poor and uneducated, the task clearly requires reaching out to that segment and upgrading skills to include reading, writing, computation, communication and critical thinking.

One vital need filled by COA is the teaching of English as a second language so that written and conversational skills are developed for international adults 18 years and older. There is no charge to participants.

Centers must be created in local areas off campus so that students and teachers can be brought together conveniently and very quickly.

Tomorrow can bring an end to yesterday's problems if we waste no time today and start establishing the necessary educational centers.

For 27 Million Americans This Is A Loaded Gun



"Harpoons"

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created by Howard E. Kohn II

Imagine being unable to read the directions on a simple prescription bottle. It's not hard to picture how a miscalculation could have some very serious consequences.

What is hard to imagine is that 27 million adult Americans are totally illiterate.

For these people, everyday living becomes a game of roulette and the odds for improvement are pretty grim.

If you're concerned about this growing problem, find out about the programs. You really can make a difference.

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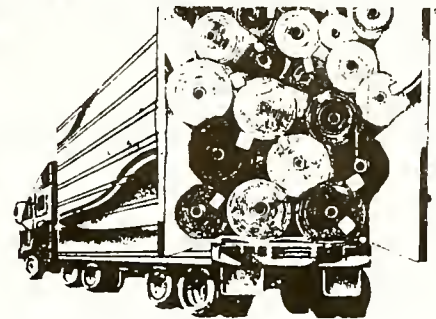
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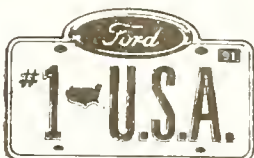
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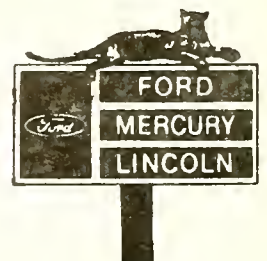
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Chowan County Fundraising Committee Appointed

By REBECCA BUNCH

This year, for the first time in the history of COA, a committee of civic and business leaders from Chowan County has been appointed to lead fundraising efforts for the COA Foundation, the branch of the college that funds scholarships for students.

Businessman Alton Elmore and Al Nichols, city executive for NationsBank (formerly NCNB) are acting as co-chairmen for the drive. Nichols, many will recall, was instrumental in helping Chowan County acquire the building that became the home of



Al Nichols

the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center and the cornerstone of the satellite campus that Chowan County residents hope to see here one day. Elmore, owner of Edenton Furniture Company and Chowan Realty, also has a long history of public service highlighted by several terms as chairman of the Chowan County Commissioners.

Elmore's team of fundraisers will include Jim Elliott, Gayle Gieseke, Ken Stalls and John Thomas. Nichols will be assisted by John Dowd, Caswell Edmundson, Ben Rinehart and Morris Small, Jr.

A planning meeting to plot strategy was held at the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce on Monday, November 9. Committee members were met there by Dr. Gerald Bray, interim president of COA; Wallace Nelson, COA board chairman; and

Lynne Bunch, executive director of the COA Foundation. Elmore noted that the Chowan committee was meeting separately, and a day earlier, than other COA fundraising committees in the counties served by the college. "We chose to have ours earlier in order to have these people (Bray, Nelson and Bunch) with us," he said, "since this is the first time funds will be solicited across our community."



Alton Elmore

Dr. Bray said that officials of the college share the enthusiasm of local residents about the soon-to-open COA Chowan County Center and said he felt it was the beginning of some very good things for those interested in furthering their education at a conveniently located facility. "We are excited about being here," he told the group. "Your building is excellent and we're looking forward to a great relationship with Edenton."

Nelson said he hoped the opening of the new center would serve as an encouragement to those who might otherwise abandon the dream of a college education. "I hope this will open lots of doors," he said. "Hopefully, we're providing an opportunity for lots of people in Chowan County."

Dr. Bray also reassured members of the Chowan fundraising team that efforts are now underway to open a seat on the college's board of directors for a representative of Chowan County. At the present time, language contained in COA's original charter excludes representatives of any county that is not directly adjacent to Pasquotank County, where COA is headquartered, from serving. He said that the board is already taking steps to change that.

Elmore said he felt good about the fact that work on getting a change in the charter to allow for Chowan County representation on the COA board had already begun. "We're beginning to fit into the puzzle," he said. "We think that's very important."

Special Thanks Is Expressed

Over the years, College of the Albemarle has offered curriculum courses and continuing education classes at numerous sites throughout Chowan County. Without the support and cooperation received from those who have allowed the college to teach at their sites, educational opportunities of the county would have been severely limited for area residents.

COA's administrators, faculty, and staff would like to express their thanks to the Edenton-Chowan Schools for allowing John A. Holmes High School to be used as a location for curriculum and continuing education course offerings over the years. Thanks are also expressed to the churches, businesses, and other locations which have also been used as sites for COA courses.

"As much as possible, depending on availability of classrooms in the Chowan County Center, we will be offering our courses at the new facility," said Dr. Gerald Bray, interim president. "We know, however, that we will probably need to continue to offer some courses in other locations, but only on a very limited basis."

Dr. Parker Chesson, former presi-

dent of COA who is now executive vice president of the N.C. Department of Community Colleges, said providing a dedicated site for COA's Chowan County offerings will help area residents and free up some other facilities used over the years.

"I always appreciated the cooperation and support we received from so many people in Chowan County, especially the Chowan County Public Schools. My hope is that Chowan County residents will realize education is a life-long process to stay current in today's job market. With the different offerings being made available at one location, students can progress to higher levels of learning when they are ready or when they realize a need for additional studies."

Whether the cooperative relationships concerning facilities are ones which continue for the college during the coming years or which may soon no longer be necessary because of the new Chowan County Center, the college appreciates the support many have given COA to make courses available closer to home for residents of the Chowan County area.

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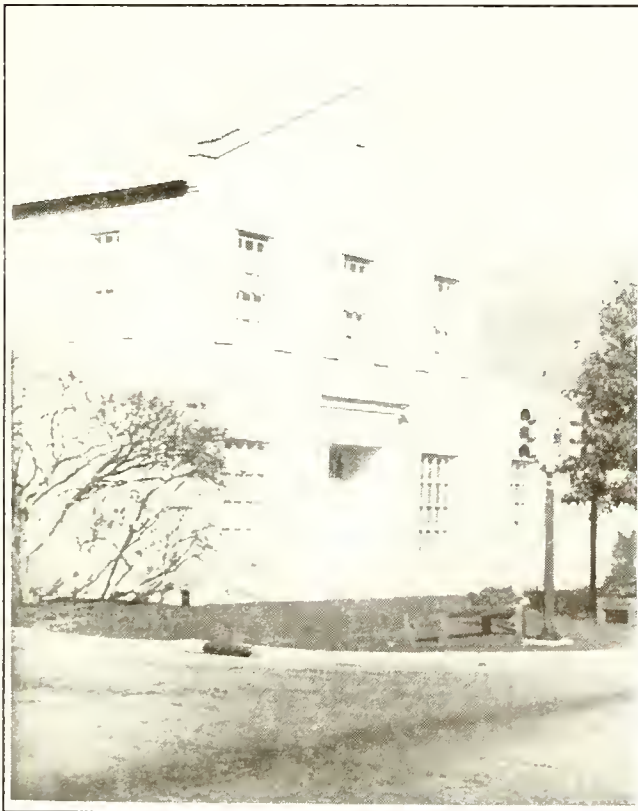
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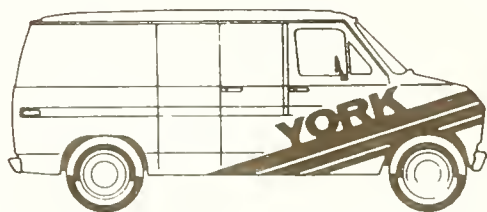
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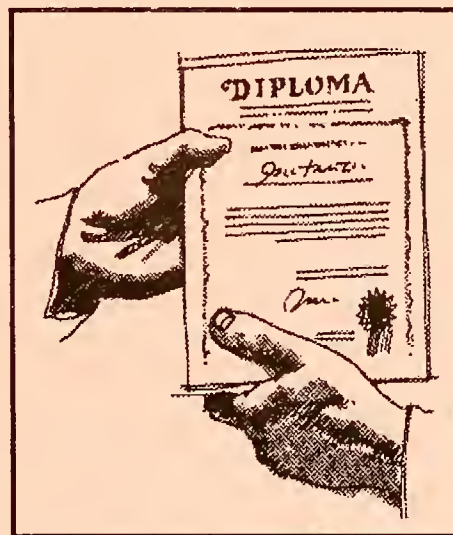


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EXPANDING BASIC SKILLS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN CHOWAN COUNTY



For almost two years, College of The Albemarle has offered basic skills training opportunities at the Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center. Soon, with its relocation and change to COA's Chowan County Center, the college will expand the basic skills training opportunities available to Chowan County residents. As in the past, basic skills instruction in reading, mathematics, GED preparation, and English as a Second Language will be offered free to North Carolina residents.

Through a cooperative effort with Chowan County, the town of Edenton, and NCNB Bank, COA has helped more than 35 students earn their high school equivalency or high school diploma by attending COA's Edenton-Chowan Adult Education Center—all without traveling too far from home. And Chowan County residents have proved they care about helping their neighbors prepare for better jobs or enjoy a higher quality of life through education, with approximately 100 volunteers who have given of their time and energy to provide one-on-one instruction to students attending the center.

In addition to more room for more students and volunteers at the new Chowan County Center, curriculum courses and a variety of continuing education offerings will be available through College of The Albemarle. This means more Chowan County residents will be able to advance further in their educational goals—all while staying a little closer to home.

Classes are expected to be offered during the Winter Quarter at the Chowan County Center. For further information about College of The Albemarle and all it offers Chowan County residents, call (919) 335-0821, ext. 220.



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