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News Clipping - Horace Easom

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Easom Helped Save Chowan

Horace Easom, Shelby's widely known fund-raiser, inadvertently helped to save Chowan College.

In a recent interview, Easom recalled the time he visited Ahoskie on a fund-raising mission for Wake Forest College. He asked a vice president of the State Baptist Convention to accompany him. The man also was on a committee to find a site for an old folks home. On the way to

Ahoskie, Easom and the vice president went to nearby Murreboro to look at the campus of Chowan College which had been closed.

During the Ahoskie meeting, Easom outlined that section's part of the Wake Forest campaign. After he spoke, Easom introduced the vice president who made a few remarks which included the fact that he and his committee were considering the possibilities of turning the Chowan College Campus into an old folks home.

Easom recalls, "It was like he had thrown a bolt of lightning into the audience. Everybody in there sat up, shocked. They already had made their pledge to the Wake Forest campaign but after the meeting you could see everybody gathering in tight little groups and talking heatedly.

"Finally, one of the local men came up to me and said,

'Mr. Easom, we'd like to help Wake Forest but we just realized that if we can raise \$100,000 for Wake Forest, then we could do the same for Chowan College. We want to open Chowan. We don't want it turned into an old folks home.'

Easom now laughs and says, "I lost a \$100,000 pledge but those folks pitched in and raised the money to keep Chowan College going and today it's a fine school. I hated to lose that pledge but I guess it was the providence of God."