

VEPCO Announces Price Hike

Virginia Electric & Power Company has alerted the Town of Edenton of an increase in the price of electricity for the next three months.

"For the next several months the fuel adjustment portion of your bills for electric service will show a significant increase," H. G. Little of Richmond, Va., wrote Mayor Roy L. Harrell.

Little noted that the main reason for increased fuel costs experienced in October, November and December "is that nuclear generation decreased in those months, causing a corresponding increase in the use of higher cost fossil fuel generation."

He noted that "One unit at the nuclear-fueled Surry Power Station had been removed from service for a scheduled refueling. The other unit was out of service for steam generator repairs. In addition, several coal fired units were out of service for scheduled maintenance. Under these circumstances, it was necessary to increase the use of higher cost oil fired generation and purchased power."

In conclusion, Little stated: "Because of the impact of the high fuel costs already experienced as considerable increase will be seen in bills for December, January and February."

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, termed the situation "unfortunate" but something the town will have to accept. The fuel adjustment portion of the VEPCO bill to the town is passed on to the local electric customers.

Mayor Roy Harrell has expressed his "great concern" over the VEPCO statement. In a letter to State Sen. J. J. (Monk) Harrington he said people in this area "are already having a terrible time making ends meet."

Sen. Harrington is a member of the Utilities Review Committee in the General Assembly.

Survey Set

The Edenton-Chowan County Recreation Commission is sponsoring a survey to find out county citizens' opinion and desires concerning recreation. A scientifically selected 5 per cent sample of county and town residents will be contacted by phone and interviewed briefly.

The objectives of the survey are to determine what programs and facilities county citizens are interested in and also to determine how county and town citizens view the current programs and facilities.

Past surveys that have been mailed to all county citizens have had a low response rate. To overcome this problem, a small cross section of the county is being selected and will be telephoned to try to get a high percentage of responses. The survey has only 11 questions and will take only a few minutes to complete.

Since the telephone survey will contact and question adults, a separate questionnaire will be given to school children at several of the local schools to determine the desires of junior high and high school age students.

Citizens that are interested in recreation will have ample opportunity.

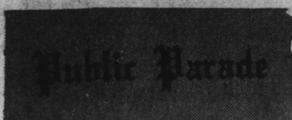
Continued On Page 4

No Cause Found In Manslaughter Case

No probable cause was found in Chowan County District Court Tuesday in the case where James Wilson, Jr., was charged with manslaughter. Judge John T. Chaffin ruled in the case.

A defense motion was allowed to dismiss charges of driving while his license was revoked, reckless driving and drunk driving. All of the charges were brought by State Trooper M. J. McArthur following a fatal automobile accident last year.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Chris Bean prosecuted the lengthy docket



An Open Letter

Dear Gov. Hunt: (That salutation is a couple of days premature but it just seemed to fit.)

As you become Chief Executive of the State of North Carolina we want to give you the best wishes of those who meander along the Public Parade. You have an awesome duty and one in which you will need the cooperation and prayers of the Tar Heels if your administration is to achieve any reasonable measure of success.

If you, from time to time, turn your ear to the least we are confident you will size right off that we are doing right. If you, by the same token, turn your ear in this direction, enough we are equally as confident the cry from the wilderness will be deafening.

You have been a "man with a plan" all of your adult life. As you pick up new challenges it is imperative that you continue to be your own man, not a pawn for any section of our great state; nor for the people who dwell therein.

In the past you have shown a great interest in the Albemarle Area. We ask that this interest be magnified, not at the expense of any other area but with a dedication to treat the whole of North Carolina.

We ask no special consideration, only just consideration. We ask no special favor, but we don't want to see other areas favored. What we ask is continued fair and equal treatment from you, something which we have taken a liking to.

The people hereabouts are familiar with many of your top level appointees. The appointments, in general, are to be lauded. There are strong individuals, like the man who appointed them. We would hope very earnestly that you won't allow any one or group of them flex their muscle to the point of tarnishing your administration.

This has been Hunt Country throughout your political career. We ask now that we not be required to hunt to long for an equal voice with other, more prosperous and populated sections of the state.

Maybe what we have been trying to say from the salutation can best be expressed in this plea: "Be a good Governor!"

"Bud"

Healthy Beginning

While we do not generally favor expansion of the bureaucracy, something has evolved along the Public Parade which we not only sanction but laud. It is the creation of Chowan County Water Department.

The first dollar-volume report handed county commissioners Monday indicates the new county-wide water system was born in a good state of financial health. This was predicted from the outset, yet some remained quite skeptical as to the threat of it being a burden on the county—financially.

Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator who has babied the establishment and construction of the system, reports that 1,767 water bills were sent out for last month. The total billing was \$13,200.45 for water or \$7.47

Continued On Page 4

First County Water Bill Sent

The Chowan County Water Department now has 1,767 customers and the list is growing daily. The first monthly billing by the department totaled \$13,200.45, or an average of \$7.47 per customer.

The county has established a \$7 minimum charge. Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator, told county commissioners Monday that the first county-wide billing by the department was made this week. Many of the bills contained the remaining \$15 of a \$25 tap charge for users who signed up prior to the deadline.

Jethro also reported that 2,070 potential users have signed up and "people are still coming in every day." The county is now searching for an additional well site north of Edenton to insure an adequate supply of water as well as for expansion. A treatment plant will also be built but no

additional storage is planned at this time.

The well and treatment plant, along with additional lines on Paradise Road and in other sections are being paid for from money saved during the general construction of the system, Jethro has said. No additional local money will be involved.

The county's newest department has four men in the field and a secretary in the billing department.

Jethro reported that problems in the system east of Edenton has been isolated around the tank at Cape Colony which was purchased by the county. "We were pumping 300,000 gallons per day in the area but when he cut off the tank we dropped to 120,000 gallons, so we think we know there is a problem with a valve or something of that nature," he said.



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NEW YEAR BABY—Mrs. William S. Phelps is shown with her son, William Martin, who was the first baby born in 1977 at Chowan Hospital. He arrived at 10:14 A.M. on January 1.

New Year Baby Is Honored

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Phelps of Windsor are the proud parents of a seven pound eight ounce baby boy. Their firstborn after nine and one-half years of marriage, William Martin, arrived at 10:14 A.M., January 1 in Chowan Hospital, the first baby born there in 1977.

Thomas M. Surratt, president, congratulated the Bertie County couple and reported that various Edenton businesses in cooperation with the hospital have joined in

celebrating the baby's arrival.

Mr. and Mrs. Phelps will be treated to a steak dinner by the hospital, be given a \$25 Savings Bond from Hollowell-Blount Rexall Drugs; a \$25 gift certificate from Mitchener's Pharmacy; flowers from Pate's Florist; and a gift from Ross Jewelers.

Shillito To Speak

Leo Shillito of Hickory will be keynote speaker at the Distinguished Service Award banquet being sponsored by Edenton Jaycees on January 13. The banquet begins at 7:30 P.M. at the Jaycee Community Building on Base Road.

This is the 23rd annual DSA banquet, at which time past recipients of the award are honored as well as the winner for 1976. W. T. Culpepper, III, was cited for outstanding service to the community in 1975.

Alton Clark, club president will preside and the award will be presented by Mayor Roy L. Harrell.

Woody Copeland will introduce Shillito

to kill.

Larry Wayne Lyle, speeding, \$25 fine and costs.

Vickie Marquinez, damage to personal property and assault, 90 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs and pay damages. Notice of appeal entered.

Finley Donnell Norfleet, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

James McKennley Arnold, Queen Howell Myers, Charles Fredrick Bacon, Norman Leroy

Property Question Termed 'Moot'

A Broad Street resident who was once satisfied with the option he gave Chowan County for the purchase of his property is now asking for reconsideration. But commissioners Monday termed the question "moot" at the present time since the county has apparently been denied a federal grant for construction of a courthouse-jail complex.

Chairman C. A. Phillips told Walter Bond the county has "no basis for acquiring anything at this time" and that he felt it was a "moot question".

However, Bond said while he cooperated with the county's negotiator for options—Commissioner Alton G. Elmore—and was satisfied with the price

written into the option, after seeing the prices offered other property owners in the area he wants the option to be reconsidered.

Bond said he would protest, as a private citizen, the county's purchase of the block between Broad and Court streets and Church and Queen streets.

Commissioners did not discuss the purchase of property since they have not been notified officially of denial of their grant application.

Dr. C. Clement Lucas, Jr., was appointed to the Health Services Agency board to replace Thomas M. Surratt. Surratt, president of Chowan Hospital, Inc., recently resigned to take a position in Morehead City.

At the same time the board re-appointed Dr. David O. Wright to the District Health Department board. He will serve another three-year term.

Richard Baker, executive director of Alliance For Progress, appeared to discuss programs of the six-county consortium. Afterwards, Dallas Jethro, Jr., county coordinator, was appointed to the board.

Community development was discussed when Thomas Paul Griffin presented the county with the Albemarle Area Development Association's first place trophy

Continued On Page 4

Office Moves

The general office of Cape Colony Haven, Inc., was moved from The Chowan Herald Building on South Broad Street Wednesday morning to the nursing facility off Paradise Road.

James E. Lewis, administrator-secretary, said construction of the 96-bed intermediate care facility is rapidly nearing completion. An open house is being planned prior to the admission of patients in order to give everyone in the area an opportunity to inspect the attractive facility.

Grant Received

The Town of Edenton has received a \$32,500 grant for improvements at Edenton Municipal Airport.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, was notified of the grant by Sec. G. Perry Greene, of the State Department of Transportation.

Sec. Greene said the grant is from state airport aid funds. It will be used to pay for a new asphalt surface on the main terminal apron and correction of drainage deficiencies.

Project Expands

The Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission has expanded its Title VII—Nutrition Project for the Elderly to include two additional counties beginning January 6.

The two new participating counties are Chowan and Tyrrell.

Persons in these two counties aged 60 years and over, wishing to register for the meals program should visit the following locations beginning Thursday, between the hours of 11:30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

Chowan—Providence Baptist Church, 214 West Church Street.

Tyrrell—Salem Baptist Church Annex, Scotsville Street, Columbia.

The Nutrition Project which operates in three other counties, is designed to improve the health of participants through a nutritious hot foods service while providing other beneficial supportive services.



DECORATIONS COME DOWN—Those attractive Christmas decorations that gave downtown Edenton a "winter wonderland" sort of quality have been taken down and put in storage for another year. The Electric and Water Department unbolted the ornaments Monday morning, removing the last signs of the holiday season that just ended.

Bloodmobile Monday At Edenton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

12:00 Noon Til 6: P. M. Quota 130 Pints