

'No' Votes Topple Bond Referendum

Guest Editorial

Now that the School Bond Referendum is history, it is fitting that those who meander along the Public Parade take a closer look at our heritage. It just so happens that Dick Dixon has come up with a quiz which includes questions that will create conversation of a constructive nature.

Dick was thumbing through some of his father's old books over the weekend and discovered a piece of paper containing the following 26 questions. It is a history quiz that's worth taking. Have at it!

When was Edenton incorporated?

What Chief Justice lived on the plantation later called "Hayes"?

Who first called this plantation "Hayes"?

What three Edenton physicians became authors?

Who was the first Senator from North Carolina?

When did Joseph Hewes die?

How old was James Iredell, Sr., at his death?

When did the first steamboat begin trips out of Edenton?

In what year did the Railroad come into Edenton?

What material was first used in repairing our streets?

What prominent Edenton lawyer took a decided stand against woman suffrage and engaged in a newspaper debate with the Chief Justice of North Carolina?

Who was this Chief Justice who took sides with the women?

In what year was the Railroad bridge across Albemarle Sound opened for use?

Under what authority does Edenton own "Hicks' Field"?

Who were the two famous "Signers" of Edenton?

How wide was the original Edenton residence lots?

Which was earlier, the Edenton or the Boston Tea-Party?

What is a Dutch-net?

Who was the first automobile dealer in Edenton?

What year did Edenton win State Championship in football?

What Edenton merchant took over the management of the Cotton Mill and opened it successfully without previous experience?

Upon what anniversary of the Edenton Baptist Church was the present Church erected?

How many Methodist Church buildings for whites have there been in Edenton?

What was the first Corporation in North Carolina?

To whom was the "Virginia Dare" stone supposedly addressed?

The cannon of the Edenton artillery battery in the Civil War were made from what?

History Quiz

It is commendable that State Sen. Melvin Daniels has taken the lead in focusing public discontent on the latest round of rate increasing being imposed on Northeastern North Carolina by its out-of-state power company, Virginia Electric & Power Company. Unfortunately, the suggested remedy, an injunction against the increase approved September 1, does not go far enough. It does not get at the basic problem.

It is unlikely that Northeastern North Carolina will ever be appropriately served with competitive electric power rates so long as the present system remains intact. An injunction against collecting the already approved increase would be nice but is a long shot at best. Having the public staff of the Utilities Commission get back into the case and seek a reduction from the approved rates would also be nice. But even if done and a rollback is successful, it is still a temporary short run pacification to a much more fundamental problem than the present Vepco rate structure.

Continued on Page 4



Mrs. Dorothy C. Helms

Senator's Wife Schedules Visit

Mrs. Dorothy C. Helms, wife of U.S. Sen. Jesse A. Helms, will be in Edenton next Tuesday in behalf of her husband's re-election campaign.

Roland L. Vaughan, Jr., head of the Chowan County committee for the senator, said Mrs. Helms will be at the home of Dr. and Mrs. David O. Wright, Old Fish Hatchery, from 10 A.M. to 12-noon.

"We hope as many people as possible will take this opportunity to visit with Mrs. Helms while she is in Edenton," Vaughan stated.

In a recent interview she was

Continued on Page 4

	YES	NO
EAST EDENTON	322	345
WEST EDENTON	416	521
ROCKY HOCK	162	233
CENTER HILL	144	126
WARDVILLE	117	158
YEOPIM	162	186
ABSENTEE	45	16
TOTAL	1,368	1,585



Volume XLIV.—No. 38 Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, September 21, 1978. Single Copies 15 Cents.

Vepco Investigation Slated

Virginia Electric and Power Company will be the target of a wide-range investigation by the N.C. Utilities Commission. The decision was made Monday in Raleigh after Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., requested the inquiry.

State Sen. Melvin L. Daniels, Jr., of Elizabeth City sparked the investigation September 11 when he called on the Public Staff of the Utilities Commission to seek a court injunction to keep Vepco from collecting a 17.8 per cent rate

increase approved by the panel.

It has been brought out that the retail customers of Vepco in Northeastern North Carolina, more than 60,000 strong in 22 counties, pay rates far above those charged by Duke Power Company and Carolina Power and Light Company. In addition, many of the municipalities in the area who purchase electricity wholesale from Vepco and retail it, follow the utility company's retail rates. The Town of Edenton is among them.

The Town of Edenton was notified Monday that the fuel adjustment charge by Vepco for next month will be \$4.03 per 1,000 kwh. Town Administrator W.B. Gardner said this is in addition to the 17.8 per cent rate increase.

Gardner is particularly puzzled by the rapid increase in the fuel adjustment factor. The rate has gone from 36 cents last month, to \$2.17 for the current month and up to \$4.03 for next month.

The administrator said it is the town's policy to track Vepco's retail rate and pass on to the customer the exact amount of the fuel adjustment charge.

"All of us hope something helpful to the consumer will come out of the study prompted by Sen. Melvin Daniels," he added.

"We are certainly going to respond to the governor's request and ask other state agencies to assist us," Robert K. Koger, chairman of the commission, said.

Citing extraordinarily high rates as the reason for his requesting the investigation, the first of its kind in this state's history, the governor also said that "residents of Northeastern North Carolina have expressed

Continued on Page 4

Chamber Banquet

The annual membership banquet of Edenton Chamber of Commerce has been scheduled for 6:30 P.M. September 28. It will be held at the Jaycee Community Building.

W.L. Norvell, president, said the event will begin with a social hour and dinner will follow at 7:30 o'clock. Tickets may be obtained at the chamber office on east King street.

At the same time, Robert Moore, executive vice president, announced that six new directors had been elected through mail balloting by the membership. New directors are: Wesley Chesson, Wallace Evans, James Darnell, Warren Hibbard, Terry Jones and Bud Perry.

AADA By-Laws Change Pushes County Leadership

COLUMBIA — The by-laws of the Albemarle Area Development Association have been changed for the first time to produce a pyramid structure which places emphasis on county leadership and support from the 10-county organization.

Members meeting here last Thursday night unanimously accepted recommendations of a Blue Ribbon Study Committee, headed by L.F. Amburn, Jr., of Edenton, a past AADA president. The committee was appointed in September, 1977, and in addition to Amburn consisted of Larry Davenport of Washington County; Minnie B. Taylor of Perquimans County; Raleigh Carver of Pasquotank County; Philip Quideley of Dare County and G.W. O'Neal of Hyde County.

Amburn told the group that the new structure places new emphasis on county organizations by

mended three sites and the board took an option on 48 acres of the Ober property, located just off Highway 32, about five miles north of Edenton.

Busing of town students to the new site soon became the center of controversy three weeks ago when opponents organized. Those pushing the referendum said the site was in the geographical center of the county and would best serve the entire population.

When Tuesday's returns were tallied, only Center Hill Precinct voted in favor, 144 to 126. Absentee ballots were 45 in favor and 16 against.

Both Edenton boxes voted "no" with West Edenton having a 95-vote majority against the bonds.

Mrs. Corinne F. Thorud, supervisor of elections, said a total of 5,407 residents were eligible to vote. Of that number, 2,953, or 54.6 per cent, cast ballots in the referendum.

There was heavy voting in the early part of the day after the polls opened at 6:30 A.M., and apparently equally as heavy voting in the past last three hours. At 4 P.M. a canvass showed that 1,940 votes (35 per cent) had been cast.

"We'll just have to the best we can," was the statement of Eugene Jordan, chairman of Edenton-Chowan Board of Education after the final tally was announced.

Jordan indicated that no time would be wasted in moving ahead with plans to consolidate the schools, hopefully as early as next year. He said a board meeting would be called within the next week with consolidation the principal topic on the agenda.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, said the voters have made their

Continued on Page 4

Conditions Cause Early Harvest

With no relief from the high temperature and humid weather in sight, some farmers are going ahead with digging peanuts although they are not mature. R.M. (Pete) Thompson, county extension chairman, confirmed that the recent activity in the peanut fields was because of the dry weather, not because the crop is ready.

Also, Thompson said soybeans are hurting and farmers can't get their cover crop in.

Sweet potatoes aren't doing anything either, Thompson added, but farmers are digging some.

"The only thing this type of weather is good on is the corn harvest," he noted. There are some 14,000 acres of corn in Chowan County and Thompson foresees an "average crop".

Peanuts are from 10 days to two week late, therefore, those being dug now are green and very premature, from 6 per cent to 40 per cent mature, according to Thompson. "We do have some peanuts that a good rain and cooler temperatures would help," he added. Some soybeans are in the same category.



FIELD WORK — Crop yields are important to farmers, so companies go to considerable expense to develop new types of seed which are tailored for certain soils in particular localities. Such is the case here where Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., put a self-contained yield comparison scale to work at test plots this year. The top left photo shows the combine at work while James A. Hopf, district sales manager for Pioneer, adjusts the scale. The center picture illustrates the procedure: combine, scale and market truck. Below left, Hopf weighs a sample and at right conducts a moisture test. From 12 test plots on Highway 32, south of Edenton, he determined which hi-bred is best suited for the area.