

## Touching Tributes

Twenty-one years ago, November 10 fell on a Thursday. We have a vivid memory of that evening. As we presided at the Statesville Civitan Club's weekly meeting, a friend passed a note. It read:

"Congratulations! It's a boy." We had two darling young daughters, and the birth of Luther Franklin Amburn, III, brought extra joy into our life. Since Luke's tragic death in a fire of the Amburn home on July 13, there has been an outpouring of expressions of love from the Albemarle Area and a host of friends who aren't fortunate enough to meander along the Public Parade.

In the past couple of weeks we have received two touching tributes from Luke's friends. Fraser Jones, the son of Dick and Ann Harless Jones, authored an essay. Paul Britton composed a poem.

The following pieces have particular meaning for our family but can be applied generally; so we pass them along as they were received.

Last summer I received a call from an Edenton funeral home informing me of the death of Luke Amburn. I was informed that Luke, my friend and near life-long companion of 16 years, had died tragically in a fire that destroyed his family's home.

My mind reeled in utter disbelief and horror - I was to be a pallbearer. I was shocked and devastated beyond all comprehension, as was my family, and all concerned.

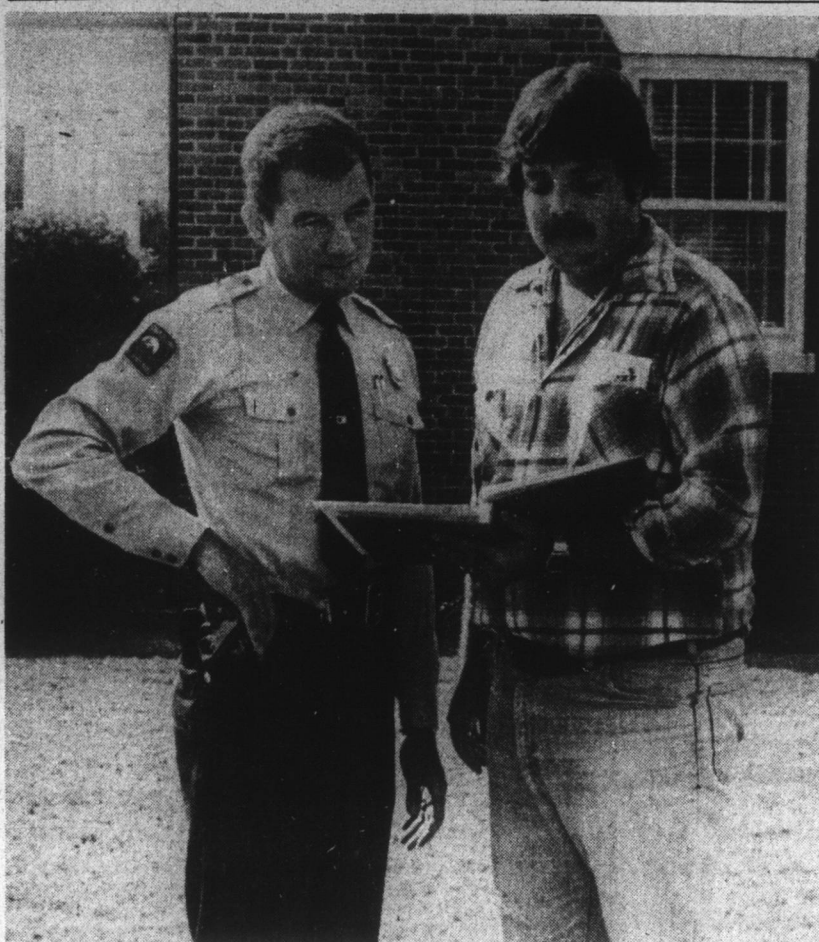
Edenton has always been a special place for me as my ties with the community are strong. Edenton is my mother's home, my grandparent's home, and the home of my first cousins and aunt and uncle. My great-grandparents are buried in Edenton. My father first met my mother in Edenton. Shortly after their marriage he was stationed overseas in the military, and it was then that Edenton became my home.

My first memories as a child in Edenton centered around Luke Amburn. We are contemporaries from the start, having been born only eight days apart in the month of November, 1960. We were preschool buddies and kindergarten pals. In those early years we would spend our afternoons climbing the huge magnolia tree in my grandparent's backyard.

Friendly neighbors often would present us with candy. We caught bees and lightning bugs in jars and watched "Dark Shadows" and "Superman" on TV. From the sidewalk we would sell cups of lemonade to passersby. I remember participating in a small carnival Luke and his family held in their small backyard playhouse. Those are but a few of the early childhood memories Luke and I shared.

We were as happy and content as any five-year-olds. Every person that has had a decent upbringing holds their childhood years in a special light. Luke and I shared such a childhood - the

Continued On Page 4



HERE COME THE CIRCUS, BOSS! — The Chowan - Edenton Optimist Club will sponsor "The International All - Star Circus" beginning Nov. 9. Mike McArthur, left president of the Optimist Club, and Blake Harmon, the coordinator for the circus, invite you to come experience the thrill of a lifetime.

## House Is Stalled On Redistricting

Members of the State House of Representatives made another stab at coming up with an acceptable redistricting plan last week and the Senate merely spent two days doing nothing but passing the measure sent from across the hall.

It took quite a fight but the First House District remained in tact. Rep. Charles Evans of Nags Head, a member of the House Redistricting Committee, was successful in keeping Tyrrell County in the First District on the floor after the committee had moved the state's smallest county in population into another district in an attempt to reach a certain percentage.

Sen. Melvin R. Daniels, Jr., of Pasquotank County, and Sen. J. J. (Monk) Harrington of Bertie County remain in the two-member First Senate District. Sen. Daniels earlier sought to get the 14-county district separated into two districts with one senator in each. Sen. Harrington opposed the measure.

Although there is an outside chance that neither the Senate or House plans can survive a court test the Senate voted not to modify the earlier enacted districting law.

The Thursday and Friday meeting last week was the third session for the General Assembly in 1981, something never recorded before in North Carolina history. The regular session was recessed until early October in order to gain more accurate information about federal budget figures. Then when the House redistricting plan challenged in court the third session was assembled.

## Town Gets \$474,000 Refund Check From Vepco

Virginia Electric & Power Company has distributed interim refunds totaling \$13.7-million to eight wholesale municipal customers in Virginia and 13 in North Carolina.

Clayton Gentry, Vepco official in Elizabeth City, turned over to the Town of Edenton a check totaling \$474,000.

Operation Overcharge, a group with representatives from Tar Heel chambers of commerce in the Vepco service area, considered the refunds as a victory for their cause. Stan Hege of Arrowhead, a member of the executive committee of Operation Overcharge, was delighted with the news. "This shows how effective a lay group can be and we are extremely pleased to see this refund by Vepco," he said.

The 12 wholesale municipal customers in North Carolina other than Edenton receiving refunds are the towns of Belhaven (\$114,000), Enfield (\$149,000), Hamilton (\$20,000), Hertford (\$119,000), Hobgood (\$23,000), Robersonville (\$137,000), Scotland Neck (\$183,000) and Windsor (\$209,000) and the cities of Elizabeth City (\$1,279,000), Greenville (\$4,722,000), Tarboro (\$1,364,000), and Washington (\$1,545,000).

The interim refunds are the result of decisions on a rate increase request filed with the federal energy regulatory commission (FERC) more than three years ago. Vepco had originally filed the request with FERC on July 31, 1978, seeking an annual rate increase totaling \$10.7-

## Harrell Defends Financial Status Of Chowan Hospital

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met on Nov. 2 in a regular session.

Jesse Harrell took the opportunity at this time to respond to and rebutt the editorial in an earlier edition of the Chowan Herald, in which statements were made about the financial health of the Chowan Hospital statement he said are untrue.

"The hospital is in the best financial shape ever. The hospital is not intended to be a money-making operation, but we have been able to pay our own way and update our equipment without any subsidiary from the taxpayer," said Harrell.

In further business, Johnny

## Townwide Sale Begins Today

A townwide Harvest Festival of Values sale is being conducted in Edenton today (Thursday) through Saturday. The event is designed to attract customers from throughout the Albemarle Area through competitive prices, courteous sales personnel and adequate parking.

The Chowan Herald, in cooperation with the merchants Committee of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, has printed more than 14,500 copies of a tabloid sales edition.

Participating merchants include:

Carpet & Appliance Plaza, Rose's, Edenton Furniture Company, Belk-Tyler, Winn-Dixie, Western Gas Service, Parker-Evans Hardware Company, Davis Jewelers, The Betty Shoppe, Cuthrell's, Quinn Furniture, Montgomery Ward, Jay's Clothing, BB Furniture Outlet, Inc., Jackson's Radio and TV Service, A&P, Courtney's, Ben Riddick Jewelers, Elliott Company, Macks and Byrum Hardware Co.

## Fenner, Griffin Are Elected

The voting is finished! Edenton will still have Roy Harrell, who was unopposed, as its Mayor, and Willis Privott, also unopposed, as Councilman Fourth Ward, but there will be new faces in the Councilman-at-Large and Councilman Third Ward positions.

Dr. James Fenner, pastor at Providence Baptist Church, defeated incumbent Gil Burroughs for the position of Councilman-at-large. Fenner carried the East Edenton voting convincingly, with 368 votes as opposed to 198 for Burroughs. Burroughs, however, carried the West Edenton voting, with 316 votes as compared to Fenner's 263. Burroughs had three absentee votes while Fenner had two. But the final results showed Fenner with a convincing lead, 633 votes to Burroughs 517.

The results in the Third Ward were a little closer, but Erwin Griffin's 181 votes were enough to defeat incumbent James P. Ricks, who received 115. This is the first time for Griffin, a retired federal employee, in the political field.

There was a tie in the East Edenton voting, with both Griffin and Ricks receiving 54 votes. Griffin carried West Edenton, however, with 127 votes. Ricks received 59, and also received two absentee votes.

Roy Harrell, unopposed for Mayor, received 795 votes, while Willis Privott, unopposed for

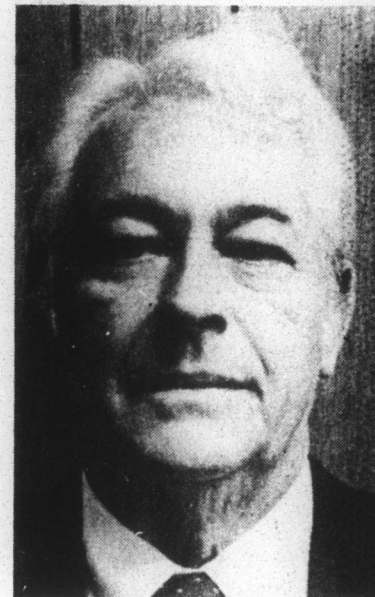
Councilman Fourth Ward, received 165.

In the East, Emmett Wiggins received two write-in votes and Wallace Evans one, while in the West, Dr. Hornthal received two.

Of the 2,542 voters registered in Chowan County as of May, 47 per cent of them turned out for the election.



Dr. James Fenner



Erwin Griffin

million for the 21 municipal customers. FERC allowed Vepco to implement the rate increase subject to refund on September 30, 1978. An interim settlement in May, 1979 with the municipal customers reduced the annual increase to \$8.5-million.

On April 10 of this year, FERC issued a ruling which required Vepco to file revised rate schedules. The Company filed the rate schedules under protest because it had petitioned for rehearing of certain issues in FERC's April 10th ruling. The annual increase resulting from the revised rates was about \$4.6-million.

FERC granted Vepco's rehearing request on June 8 of this year. If the petition for rehearing should result in lower rates for the municipalities, Vepco would make appropriate additional refunds with interest. However, if FERC should increase rates based on the rehearing petition, the municipalities would return the excess refund with interest to Vepco.

The \$13.7-million interim refund includes \$2.7-million in interest. Vepco's 13 municipal customers in North Carolina will receive \$10.3-million (\$2-million in interest).

The refund is based on the wholesale customer's electrical usage from September 30, 1978, through August 31, 1981.

FERC granted permission to make the refunds on October 21 pending the outcome of Vepco's rehearing petition.

## Edenton Shut Out By Tarboro, 12-0

The Edenton Aces were shut out for the second week in a row, this time 12-0 by Tarboro. The Aces will complete their season at home next week against Williamston.

Edenton's best scoring opportunity came in the second quarter, following a 55-yard pass reception by Thomas White that put them at the Tarboro five. But the Tarboro line held and a field goal attempt by the Aces was wide.

The game, a defensive battle all the way, remained scoreless until the third quarter. Tarboro intercepted an Edenton pass, and three plays later scored from the

Continued On Page 4

## Theft Reported

At approximately 8:44 P.M. on Nov. 2, Roger Leeper of 102 W. Peterson Street, called the Edenton Police Department and notified them that someone had taken some jewelry and clothes from his home. Apparently the front door was unlocked, and the subject had entered through it while no one was home.

Continued On Page 4



HERTFORD RESIDENT INJURED IN ACCIDENT — Rhonda Kotell, 19, of Hertford was injured in a single car accident between 3:20 A.M. and 4 A.M. on November 1. Travelling north on U. S. 17, according to investigating patrolman J. A. Siles, she lost control at the 5-mile Y due to the slick road and skidded into a ditchbank. Becoming airborne, the late-model Maverick wrapped around a telephone pole. She was treated at the Chowan Hospital for a fractured leg and transferred to the Albemarle Hospital.



RECEIVE AWARDS AT BANQUET — Cpl. McCoy Parker of the Edenton Police Dept. received the Officer of Year award at the Law Enforcement Banquet on Oct. 22. Also, Deputy Sheriff Linda Terry of the Chowan County Sheriff's Dept. received the Edenton - Chowan Optimist Award from the Optimist Club. A good time was had by all.

