

Good View

Astronauts Jack R. Lousma and C. Gordon Fullerton are on a week-long trip into space and the maneuvers they are doing are carving a place for them in history. There are those of us who really don't have the capacity to comprehend all that is going on. But one thing we can all enjoy are the fantastic color photographs being beamed throughout the land.

The space ship Columbia was launched only one hour late Monday morning, a fete within itself. The ship circles the globe every 89 minutes and 17 seconds. The thrill of such a trip may be "old hat" for Mr. Lousma since he logged almost two months in space aboard in 1973. Mr. Fullerton is a "rookie" and is entitled to more colorful conversation about what is happening.

What caught our eye Monday evening was a newsphoto sent back as Columbia crossed the Atlantic coastline. The astronauts spoke of spotting Kitty Hawk, where the Wright Brothers made their own history. The detail of the photo was so vivid that the astronauts and views got an excellent picture of the Public Parade.

It gave us an extra thrill to have such a good view of Northeastern North Carolina, in general, and our neck of the woods, in particular. This view of the last frontier of Tar Heelia will certainly be shown countless times in the future, if the past tells us anything about the future.

On one of the first Apollo flights a view of the East Coast was captured on film and has been used time and again on magazine covers, in brochures, etc. It is fitting, too, that we continue to play a role in history. Nevertheless, getting such a good view from outer space makes it extra special.

Those Rates, Again

There ought to be a law against detailed comparison of utility rates. A majority of the people along the Public Parade and throughout North Carolina who have to pay the bills, regardless of the rates, are confused by claims of who's lower, and charges of who's higher.

The Town of Edenton long ago adopted the published residential rates of Virginia Electric & Power Company. This seems fair since the municipality, until recently, bought electricity from Vepco for resale. There was a margin of profit in the deal and since Vepco rates are set by regulatory agencies to give the company a fair return on investment, the same can be expected for the town.

Profits make Vepco attractive to investors. Profits make Edenton a good place to live; where maximum services are delivered at the lowest possible tax rate. We like to call it paying taxes by the month. Too, some citizens who don't have a great number of possessions pay no, or at best little other form of taxes.

About the time things appear to be somewhat settled, along comes some joker who wants to compare rates.

Vepco officials lost in the comparison game last year when the Town of Edenton joined with other municipalities in the electric business to dump Vepco for what is considered a better deal.

These electricities entered into an agreement with Carolina Power & Light Company and are now geared up to sell \$400-million in tax exempt bonds to close the first brush of the deal. As fate would have it, CP&L's economic situation changed between then and now, causing some delay in the bond offering. This opened the door for Vepco to point the finger, while saying: "We told you so!"

The profit in the deal for Edenton may be closer to 11 per cent, for example, than 15 per cent. But, whatever the profit amounts to, it will be welcome relief when it comes.

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Benefits Totaled \$3,324,754 During Last Year

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina paid benefits totaling \$3,324,754 to hospitals, doctors, skilled nursing facilities, and home health agencies in Chowan County in 1981, the not-for-profit health care plan has announced.

The amounts paid to doctors and institutions in other counties in the area were Camden, \$1,364; Currituck, \$7,048; Dare, \$136,913; Gates, \$12,758; Hyde, \$34,324; Pasquotank, \$10,364,357; Perquimans, \$19,358; Tyrrell, \$1,238; Washington, \$2,247,651.

During the year, the statewide health service Plan processed 4,900,000 claims for participants in its regular Blue Cross and Blue Shield programs, amounting to approximately \$600-million in total benefits. In addition, over \$62-million was paid through the federal government's Medicare

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CANCER PATIENT GIVES TALK — Mrs. Judy Hamby, second from right, gave a speech in benefit of the Chowan County Chapter of the American Cancer Society on March 22 at Edenton Baptist Church. She has had cancer for 12 years. Pictured with her are, left to right, Dr. Richard Hardin, Mrs. Carolyn Bunch, Mrs. Corrine Thorud, Hamby, and Mrs. Sally Blount.

Bids Are Awarded During County Commissioners Meeting

The Chowan County Commissioners met March 22 at 7 P.M. in a special session in the Commissioners Room of the County Courthouse on Broad Street.

First on the agenda was the awarding of bids for the Chowan Hospital Expansion Project. Marvin Bryan, Hospital Director, and Jesse Harrell of the Chowan Hospital Board of Directors, explained the bids to the Board. These bids had been approved at the last meeting of the Chowan Hospital Board of Directors. The bids, with Miller Building Corporation of Wilmington doing the general work, Lenoir Plumbing and Heating Company of Kinston doing the plumbing, Henry Baker Heating Company, Inc. of Wilson doing the mechanical work, and Watson Electrical Construction

Company of Wilson doing the electrical work, were passed unanimously by the Commissioners.

Gardener Construction Co. of Elizabeth City had submitted a bid that was \$114,000 lower than the next lowest bid, but this was proved to be the result of a machine error. He was released from a contract, even though his actual bid was still \$14,000 lower than the next lowest, because of a statute that says if a bid is withdrawn because of error, that bidder cannot bid again.

The motion that passed the bids also included an application to file with the Local Government Commission of North Carolina pursuant to the Local Government Revenue Bond Act for an approximate amount of revenue bonds totalling \$2,625,000.

Five Larceny Counts Lodged

Warren Leonard Alexander, 38, of Route 1, Edenton was arrested March 23 by Deputy Sheriff Melvin Evans of the Chowan County Sheriff's Dept. and charged with five counts of larceny by employee from Western Gas.

Alexander allegedly took five L. B. White Farm heaters, valued at \$358 each from Western Gas of Edenton while employed there.

According to Evans, the investigation is still continuing and Alexander's first appearance is set for tomorrow (March 26). Alexander is in the Chowan County Jail under a \$50,000 bond.

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PROCEEDS DONATED — Father Gaul, right, of St. Annes's Catholic Church in Edenton presents the proceeds of their bingo game to Chowan - Edenton Optimist Club President Mike McArthur. The money will be used to purchase shirts and ribbons for competitors in the Special Olympic games March 27. A good time for all is planned.

Two For One Split Is Ok'd

GATESVILLE — In a move seen as a healthy financial indicator, Tarheel Bank and Trust Co. stockholders have voted for a two for one stock split.

The action came during the company's annual shareholders' meeting in the Gates County Agriculture Building near the corporate headquarters located here.

The vote created two new shares for each existing one tripling the number of common stock shares from 280,248 to 840,744. The stock is currently owned by 538 stockholders, many of whom live in the area served by the Tarheel banking system.

The change does not lower the overall value of Tarheel stock, but does lower the value of individual shares from approximately \$36 during the final quarter of 1981 to a new figure of approximately \$12 per share.

Robert E. Lee, executive office
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Wholesale Energy Prices Compared

RALEIGH — Here's another set of figures to consider if you're pricing electricity.

Under a recent ruling by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the average Vepco customer will pay 3 per cent less in April for 1,000 kilowatt hours than the same customer of Carolina Power & Light, according to figures from Virginia Electric & Power Co.

Vepco Vice President Randy McIver recently showed the Elizabeth City Rotary Club a chart of tentative wholesale rate comparisons that indicated Vepco's January "settlement" rates to be 3.4 per cent less than North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency rates.

That's "not a valid com-

parison," according to Bill Watson of Electric - Cities of North Carolina, speaking for the power agency. Watson said that when Vepco's lowered rates are approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the power agency, which serves 11 of the 13 Electric Cities towns, will lower its own rates and make refunds accordingly.

The power agency rates are in part based on Vepco rates. Watson said that when the rates are final for the month, he expected the power agency to charge 2-4 per cent less than Vepco.

Vepco is charging wholesale municipal customers rates filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as part of

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WHOLESALE MUNICIPAL RATES JANUARY

	Vepco Present Rates	Vepco Settlement Rates	Power Agency Rates
Belhaven, Town of	\$ 63,193.62	\$ 59,067.31	\$ 60,987.10
Edenton, Town of	293,744.49	274,570.64	285,005.21
Elizabeth City, City of	834,445.12	779,849.87	806,760.67
Enfield, Town of	84,265.42	78,765.37	81,465.16
Greenville Utilities Commission	2,731,297.13	2,547,955.45	2,636,725.39
Hamilton, Town of	14,421.97	13,485.41	13,864.57
Hertford, Town of	83,967.41	78,502.15	81,826.28
Hobgood, Town of	16,784.47	15,683.66	15,850.50
Robersonville, Town of	88,069.18	82,328.08	84,999.04
Scotland Neck, Town of	98,007.55	91,600.59	94,765.23
Tarboro, Town of	756,802.61	707,364.34	730,744.89
Washington, City of	774,302.90	724,408.70	752,592.30
Windsor, Town of	118,564.66	110,850.14	115,496.58
TOTAL	\$5,957,866.53	\$5,564,431.71	\$5,761,082.92
			or 3.4% greater

SETTLEMENT RATES — Reflect tentative settlement negotiated between the cities and Vepco of a pending rate request before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Case was filed on March 31, 1981 and the rates were put into effect, subject to refund under bond, on September 1, 1981. The settlement rates have not received final approval of the FERC.

Daniels Urges Unity For Area Fishermen

MANTEO — Sen. Melvin R. Daniels, Jr., Democrat - Pasquotank - at a joint meeting of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and the Marine Fisheries Legislative Study Commission, advised the fishermen of North Carolina to unite for the survival of the industry.

Speaking before the two groups and an audience of over 250 fishermen, Sen. Daniels outlined

three serious problems facing today's fishermen: (1) Inflation and the high cost of getting the catch to market, (2) The very serious threat of a "User" fee on all watermen, that is being proposed by the Reagan Administration, and (3) The high license fee increase being asked for by the Marine Fisheries Commission.

Sen. Daniels in objecting to the proposed license increase, noted

that in some cases the increase was more than 3000 per cent. He commented, "The average fisherman today is just holding on. I am deeply concerned that a major license increase of the amount proposed could be more than many could stand."

The fishermen present to a large extent, echoed Senator Daniels' objection and asked the Marine Fisheries Commission to reconsider the proposed license increase.