

Public Parade

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savings in utility rates while having an opportunity to earn attractive return on any North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency Bonds they purchase.

As we started out saying, it is difficult in the best situation to compare apples with apples when dealing with utility rates. Vepco, a company that has cleaned up it's management act in more recent times, has lost the electricities business. It will be doing customers, former as well as present and future, a disservice to continue to reflect on how it could have been, which really wasn't that way at all.

New Climate

There's a new climate in Richmond, Va., and it is already showing signs of benefiting those who meander along the Public Parade. Gov. Charles S. Robb is governor of the Old Dominion; a young, energetic man who has a bright political future. The new climate, however, comes about because of his party affiliation - Democrat.

In only a few weeks of the Robb Administration in Virginia, the chill is beginning to thaw on at least two fronts which greatly affect Tar Heelia. We speak of water resources and U. S. 17.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has set water quality in the Chowan River as his top environmental priority. This has now been expanded to include the entire Albemarle Sound Basin. With 75 per cent of the Chowan watershed being in Virginia, close cooperation with that state is mandatory to any real progress.

Former Sec. Howard N. Lee of the State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development, established a bi-state water committee on orders from Gov. Hunt. Meetings of the committee were merely perfunctory.

Asst. Sec. Jay Langfelter reported a new climate already existing at the first joint meeting since Gov. Robb's inauguration. This is welcomed news hereabouts.

While Capt. Al Howard out at Arrowhead Beach may take issue, (and almost certainly so), news coming from Richmond earlier this month about highway politics is equally as important as thawing water.

It was reported in our favorite morning daily, of general circulation along the Public Parade and throughout Northeastern North Carolina, that Gov. Robb ran into stubborn legislators from Chesapeake as the Virginia General Assembly was winding down. He needed the delegates' votes to pass a gasoline tax he felt essential to meet the state's highway needs.

The delegates could find nothing for Chesapeake in the highway package. It was about 1 A.M. on Sunday that Highway Commissioner Harold King played the trump card. He told the Southeastern delegates that if they supported the tax measure, Gov. Robb would name the eight-mile interstate in Chesapeake linking Bowers Hill to U. S. 17 a "No. 1 priority."

North Carolina has been dedicated to opening up northern markets via U. S. 17 since the Terry Sanford Administration, if



NEW TOWNHOUSES CONSTRUCTED - William O. Meyers, left, local developer, points out some of the features of Colonial Townhouses new complexes overlooking Pembroke Creek to Jerry Hendee, second from left, Executive V.P. of the Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, and Cliff Copeland, right, Chowan County Manager. Norman Lee Bass, second from right, who did the finish carpentry, looks on. Two units of this prestigious townhouse project are presently completed. Plans are underway for an additional 16 structures. An open house is planned in the near future to allow interested persons to view these unique homes.

Wholesale Energy Prices Compared

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a rate increase request. The commission has conducted hearings on the application, but no final order has been issued. However, a tentative settlement has been reached, McIver said. And the rate comparisons reflect these tentative settlement rates.

If the settlement is approved, Vepco will refund the difference in bills back to September.

The chart shows Elizabeth City would have paid Vepco \$834,445 for January. If the settlement is approved, that would drop through a refund to \$779,849.

The power agency's bill for January would have been \$806,760, according to the chart. Watson argued that the power agency rate also would be subject to a partial refund.

The April comparisons of retail rates is based on newly approved fuel rates. CP&L was given an increase. Vepco received a requested decrease of 9.486 cents per kilowatt hour.

For the average 2,000-kilowatt-hour customer, probably a home with an electric furnace, Vepco indicated a price that is 6 per cent lower than that of CP&L.

"While the rates of both companies will vary," McIver said, "Vepco has achieved parity with CP&L, and this parity will continue."

Vepco rates dropped below CP&L's about this time last year, according to Nick Parham, Vepco public information officer. In April 1981, the 1,000-kilowatt-hour customer was paying about 1.1 per cent less with Vepco, Parham said.

McIver said the company's average residential price and overall price per kilowatt hour were lower in 1981 than in 1980.

a Republican administration of our own, steady progress has been made on this corridor. Marc Basnight of Manteo, a member of the State Board of Transportation, has been a magician in keeping this project in a constantly declining highway construction program.

The Bowers Hill link in Chesapeake is the first positive step in the Old Dominion in some time. It seems Gov. Robb is already sending a message and it is certain to be well received.

"Among 20 large U. S. electric utilities, only Vepco showed a decrease. Increases in residential prices for the other 19 utilities averaged about 15 per cent," McIver said.

Vepco has a \$20.5-million rate increase request pending before the utilities commission. Gov. Jim Hunt has repeatedly criticized Vepco rates in the last few years. On the current drop in the comparative rates, Hunt's position is, according to his deputy press secretary, Brent Hackney, "that that's a temporary situation."

"He does recognize that Vepco has done some good things in management and operations," Hackney said. But he said the administration was still paying close attention to Vepco rates, and now the governor wants the utilities commission and the public staff to "take a very, very hard look at CP&L," Hackney said.

Bids Are Awarded During

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passed.

Last on the agenda, the Board of Education and the County Commissioners had a joint session, so the Board of Education could explain their Capital Outlay Program and a new one-cent sales tax.

The Board of Education presented a slide-tape presentation on the new sales tax. This tax could provide funds to modernize the schools. According to the slide-tape program, 27 per cent of the schools in use today in North Carolina were built before 1949, and these schools are not fire-resistant; 29 per cent of the schools in use today in North Carolina were built between 1950 and 1959, built with the concern of most space for the money and no regard to energy conservation; and 44 per cent of schools in use in North Carolina were built from 1960 to 1981 (the slide show was made in 1981) with the additional one-cent sales tax, the schools could generate enough funds to rehabilitate the older schools. Also explained was a comparison of two sales tax proposals, the Boyles-Phillips Proposal and House Bill 839. The difference in the two is the Boyles-Phillips Proposal would impose the additional one-cent sales tax statewide by action of the General Assembly, and proceeds would be divided in three ways. The House Bill 839 would impose an additional one-cent local option tax by vote of the people in each county, and the proceeds collected by the State Department of Revenue would be distributed back to the counties in which it was collected. The Commissioners passed a motion that a resolution in support of the Boyles-Phillips Proposal be drafted.

The Board of Education then explained about Phase I of their long-range planning process. Phase I will include the construction of a new cafeteria, four new classrooms, and the renovation of the present cafeteria into two science labs, all being at John A. Holmes High School. The cost of the project, which would

hopefully be completed by 1983, is \$590,000. The School Board has approximately \$500,000 and needs \$90,000 in local monies. Other phases of the five-phase project, include additions at the D. F. Walker School for 1983-84; at Chowan Junior High School; at White Oak School in 1984-85; and a new athletic complex at Holmes in 1985-86. The Commissioners adopted a resolution in support of this project. Following this, the meeting was adjourned.

District Court Cases Are Heard

The following cases were heard March 16 in the Chowan County Criminal District Court by John T. Chaffin, the presiding judge.

Carey Alan Dail, unsafe movement, \$10 fine and cost of court.

William Douglas, Jr., two counts of worthless check, 30 day suspended sentence, \$25 fine, cost of court in both cases, restitution of \$10.02 to Etna, and restitution of \$30 to Edenton Shell.

William Lee (Hook) Wilson, trespassing, 30 days commitment.

Robert Archer Prezzano, allowing dog to run at large, 30 days suspended two years, \$50 fine and cost of court, ordered not to allow his dog to run at large again.

Edith Carroll Ferrell, two counts of worthless check, voluntary dismissal.

Carol Ferrell, worthless check, voluntary dismissal.

Representatives Tour Facility

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legal technicalities involved in purchasing straight from Vepco.

Another future project is an energy conservation study to cut operating costs related to energy consumption. This is a problem we all share.

The high school dropout program, along with many other, were also outlined. The dropout program, which was started recently, is designed to help high school dropouts obtain high school certification.

The proposed budget at COA for next year is expected to be \$3,606,260, with 83 per cent of it coming from state funds, 8 per cent from Pasquotank County and 4 per cent from the federal government. The remaining 5 per cent will come from other sources,

according to Chesson.

The average student age, according to Chesson, is 30. He added that enrollment is at an all-time high.

A slide-tape presentation was also presented. It featured a Humphrey Bogart-type detective who heped high school graduates find a college to attend after high school. COA plans to use this as a recruitment-type presentation. The presentation, which offers a different way of showing the advantages of COA, has been a big success so far in the schools where it has been shown.

Following this, a tour was given through the new facilities. Several of the training programs were observed. These are programs where students can learn a skill that will last them a lifetime.



COUNCILMAN FENNER DONATES - Councilman James Fenner donates blood at the March 16 Bloodmobile. Town employees gave 15 units, while the County employees gave 11 units of blood. The travelling trophy instituted in November will remain with the Town for a second time. The one with the highest donation rate among its employees receives the award.

147 Pints Are Collected

At the Red Cross Bloodmobile donation. The County won in March 16, sponsored by the Edenton Jaycees at the American Legion Building, 147 units of blood were collected from 159 donors.

Town employees are also on a roll. For the second straight time, they beat out the County employees for highest donation honors. A travelling trophy was instituted in November to be given to the segment with the highest

County employees had 11 donations, while Town employees had 15.

According to Bruce Wackelin, Chairman of the Bloodmobile, the Bloodmobile will be held at Chowan Hospital beginning May 18. This will now be a permanent home for the Bloodmobile.

Downing Fined For Pot Possession

The following cases were heard March 23 in the Chowan County District Court by Grafton G. Beamon, the presiding judge.

Leander Downing, DUI and possession of marijuana, 90 days suspended 3 years, \$200 fine and cost of court, surrender operator's license.

Thomas Moore, three counts of worthless check consolidated, 10 days suspended 2 years, \$5 fine and cost of court in each case, two restitutions of \$25 to A&P and one restitution of \$20 to A&P. Appealed.

Marvin Bonner, worthless check, 5 days suspended 2 years, cost of court, and \$5 restitution to S&R. He was also fined \$25 for failure to appear.

James Norman Hughes, shoplifting, 90 days suspended 3 years, \$50 fine and cost of court, ordered to remain off the premises

of TG&Y for 3 years.

Roderick Vernon Leary, careless and reckless driving, operating a motor vehicle left of center line, 90 days suspended 3 years, \$300 fine and cost of court, driving privilege suspended until 9 A.M. April 23.

Arnie Riddick, Jr., 45 MPH in a 35 MPH zone, \$15 fine and cost of court.

George Mark Amick, misdemeanor possession of Marijuana, \$50 fine and cost of court. DUI and '66 MPH in a 55 MPH zone, 90 days suspended 2 years, \$150 fine and cost of court.

Randall Thomas Dixon, inspection violation, voluntary dismissal.

Paul Tunney Blizzard, 65 MPH in a 55 MPH zone, cost of court.

Gary Lynn Smith, 67 MPH in a 55 MPH zone, \$5 fine and cost of court. Appealed.

Martin Edward Bateman, 75 MPH in a 55 MPH zone, \$20 fine and cost of court, ordered to surrender his operator's license.

Randy Stevenson Green, breaking and entering and larceny, probable cause was found and the case was bound over to Superior Court.

Cynthia Howard White, larceny, 6 months suspended 3 years, \$100 fine and cost of court, ordered to remain off the premises of Macks for 3 years. Appealed.

Robert Archer Prezzano, motion for appeal, his appeal was entered.

Frank Junior Leary, operating a motor vehicle left of center line and improper equipment, \$35 fine and cost of court. Appealed. No liability insurance, \$50 fine and cost of court. Appealed.

Benefits Totaled

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program (Part A), which is administered by the Plan.

Through its underwritten and administered government programs combined, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina serves approximately 2.5-million North Carolinians, roughly half of the state's total population.

Now in its 49th year of service, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is the 10th largest Blue Cross Plan and the 11th largest Blue Shield Plan in the nation. The voluntary prepayment organization was founded in 1933 and is the oldest and largest health service plan in the state.

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