

## Rural EMCs Unite To Slow Costs

RALEIGH—The 28 independent Electric Membership Corporations across North Carolina are uniting in a new effort to slow the spiraling cost of power for the 400,000 Tar Heel consumers they serve, according to officials of the state association of EMCs.

The new effort is designed to prepare the EMCs to play a major role in the state's power supply picture, with hard-nosed negotiations on the wholesale power rates charged by the private power companies and a "vigorous and judicious" attempt to acquire their own power generation facilities.

"We feel we have to take some steps now to assure a reliable source of power at a reasonable cost for the people we serve," said Robert Cleveland, executive vice president of N. C. Electric Membership Corporation.

The EMCs currently have an investment of roughly \$300-million in distribution facilities to serve a quarter of the state's population, he said.

"This means we have a large stake in what happens in the overall power supply situation in North Carolina. And we intend to see that those people are represented when the key decisions are made affecting that situation."

N. C. EMC represents the state's EMCs in all negotiations with the power companies, which supply virtually all the EMC power

at wholesale rates for resale to EMC consumer-members.

"We are constantly involved in negotiations with the power companies over rates—and in hearings before the Federal Power Commission, which has jurisdiction over these wholesale rates," Cleveland said.

He noted that N. C. EMC devoted a large part of its 1975 budget to following rate proposals through the time-consuming rate-making process to establish rates amounting to about \$86 million a year.

The EMCs are currently involved in rate-making procedures with all three of the state's major power firms.

They are awaiting on a negotiated settlement of a 36 per cent rate increase which was put into effect, under bond and subject to refund by Virginia Electric and Power Co., in February.

The EMCs are also in the midst of negotiations with Carolina Power and Light Co. on two rate increases: The first of these hikes went into effect last summer, boosting the price of power for the 18 CP&L-served EMCs by more than 60 per cent. The second, which was originally proposed to become effective March 1, would have raised those rates by another 35 per cent.

Although the hearings have been held in the first rate case, the FPC has reached no decision on it.

And those rates will remain in effect until the FPC acts in the matter.

The second case was filed with the FPC last month. However, the federal agency—under pressure from the EMCs and the municipal electric systems—has taken steps to delay the effective date for the new rates until May 1 and has required CP&L to refile them at a lower level.

A negotiated settlement appears in the offing on a rate increase from Duke Power Co., which went into effect last July, raising the rates of the eight Duke-served EMCs by 30 per cent.

Meanwhile, N. C. EMC has been negotiating with Duke since January on the firm's proposal to sell its \$1.2-billion Catawba Nuclear Station, now under construction in York County, S. C., to its wholesale customers—the cooperatives and municipal electric systems in the two Carolinas.

Under the proposal, Duke seeks to sell one of Catawba's two units to the cooperatives and the second, to the municipal systems.

The EMCs are now preparing a counter proposal to submit to Duke within the next few weeks.

N. C. EMC officials have also discussed the possibility of acquiring facilities from Veeco and CP&L but no specific acquisition plan is under consideration with those firms at the present time.

"We are very hopeful that a workable plan can be developed which will put the EMCs into ownership of generation facilities in the near future," Cleveland said.

"They key to this kind of cooperation between the power companies and the EMCs is money. The EMCs can get government-guaranteed loans at a lower rate of interest than the private companies can get on the open money market, so they're interested in the idea now for the first time. It's just that simple."

Government officials have already indicated they would look favorably on efforts by Tar Heel EMCs to acquire generation facilities.

Even so, Cleveland pointed out, establishing this independent power supply system will be no easy task for the EMCs after they've been captives of the power companies for 40 years. Attaining that goal will probably take years, he said.

"We know it'll be a hard row to hoe, but we feel we must move in this direction in order to protect the thousands of people who depend on the EMCs for electrical service to their homes and businesses."



Rev. Maurice Marrow

### Rev. Marrow Guest Minister At Capeharts

Rev. Maurice Marrow will be guest missionary for opening of a world missions conference March 21-26 at Capeharts Baptist Church at Merry Hill.

He is a missionary adviser for a number of African Churches in Kigoma, Tanzania. Mr. Marrow is a native of Cedar Lane, Tex. He was graduated from the University of Corpus Christi with the BA Degree and from Golden Gate Bridge Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. with the BD Degree.

He will speak at the 11 A.M. Sunday worship service. At 7 P.M. Sunday, Rev. Herbert Slaughter, a director of associational missions of West Virginia will be the guest speaker.

Monday-Friday different missionaries will be on hand for each service. These services will begin at 7:30 o'clock each evening.

Rev. Bervin Ferguson, pastor, extends the public an invitation to attend.

### Letter To The Editor

To The Editor: Amendment No. 2 (the Industrial Revenue Bond issue) should be approved by the voters on March 23.

Here is how you can speak up for jobs for North Carolinians. On March 23, when you vote for your favorite presidential candidate, you will have an opportunity to approve a constitutional amendment which would permit local governments to issue "tax free" revenue bonds to finance:

1. Manufacturing facilities for private industries.
2. Pollution control facilities.

Your vote for the constitutional amendment will make these vital economic activities possible."

In the past 2 years, more than 50 companies that would have employed more than 20,000 people have refused to locate in North Carolina because we are the only state that does not offer this incentive to new industries.

Approval of Amendment No. 2 will cost the tax payers nothing. Cost of retiring the bonds will be borne entirely by the industry and not by the state.

Hopefully North Carolinians will pass Amendment No. 2 on March 23.

## Chowan COUNTY SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION

### VOTE YES

On the bond issue to build classrooms, libraries, laboratories and other buildings on the University campuses.

### Feeder Pig Market Declines

Feeder pigs weighing 40-80 pounds were steady to 4.00 weaker per cwt during the March 8-12 period according to the Market News Section, N. C. Department of Agriculture. A total of 5,177 pigs were sold on six graded sales. 40-50 pound pigs brought 94.00-108.25 per cwt; 50-60 pounds 80.00-101.50; 60-70 pounds 65.00-90.25; 70-80 pounds 67.50-86.50; 80-100 pounds 60.00-75.00.

Market hog prices at daily buying stations ranged from 44.50-47.50 per cwt last week. These prices were 1.00-1.25 lower than prices of the previous week.

At weekly cattle auctions last week slaughter cattle were steady to 2.00 higher and feeder cattle steady to 2.00 lower. Good slaughter steers 800 lbs. and up brought 32.00-37.00 per cwt.; Good slaughter heifers 700 lbs and up brought 29.75-34.25; Good veal calves 150-250 lbs. 43.00-53.00; Utility and Commercial cows 23.75-32.50; Good feeder steers 300-600 lbs. 33.25-40.00; Good feeder heifers 300-500 lbs. 26.00-31.25; Baby calves 6.00-30.00 per head.

Broiler-fryers prices are lower this week. Demand is slow to moderate. Total birds slaughtered last week amounted to 5,659,000 head. The North Carolina dock weighted average price is 41.62 cents per pound for small purchases of sized plant grade broilers for the week of March 15-19.

Egg prices increased one cent per dozen on large, but declined one cent on medium and 2½ on small. Supplies are adequate and demand light. The North Carolina weighted average price for small lot sales of consumer grade A eggs in cartons delivered to retail stores on March 12 was 64.46 cents per dozen for large; mediums 55.42 and smalls 47.82.

Corn prices the first four days of last week ranged mostly 2.64-2.69 per bushel in the east and 2.65-2.80 in the Piedmont, but prices weaken on Friday, March 12 to mostly 2.62-2.65 in the east. No 1 yellow soybeans were stronger the first four days of last week at 4.63-4.72 ½ per bushel, but closed weaker on Friday at mostly 4.62-4.65.

Sweet potatoes prices were steady last week. Fifty

lb cartons of U. S. No. 1 Jewels at Eastern North Carolina packing houses were quoted at 5.50-6.50, best quality 6.75. A total movement 60,000 cartons last week was reported to the Market News Office and was 9,000 cartons above the previous week.

### Providence Baptist Church News

Church School at Providence begins at 9:30 A.M. with the superintendent in charge. Morning worship service begins at 11 A.M. with the Senior Choir serving.

The guest minister for the morning worship service will be Rev. J. March Hall of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Future happenings are Providence are:

Sunday, March 21st - 3:30 P.M. Pew Rally sponsored by the Missionary Society.

Sunday, March 28th - 4:00 P.M. Anniversary of the Young Women in Action. Guest speaker: Mrs. Janet Hodnett of Norfolk, Virginia.

Sunday, April 4th - 6:00 P.M. Talent Hunt sponsored by the Senior Choir. Come one; Come all!

Sunday, April 25th - 6:00 P.M. \$5,000 SPRING RALLY. Members and groups are asked to meet their quota.

The public is invited to attend all services.

## Elizabeth Taylor Completes Education After 22 Years

Who says it can't be done? Certainly not Elizabeth Taylor, a student in the Manpower program. Elizabeth has just completed her high school education. After being out of school for 22 years, she wasn't sure it could be done, but she is a firm believer in trying the "impossible" now.

Elizabeth enrolled in College of The Albemarle's Individualized Instruction Center in Edenton on November 29, 1975. She completed her General Education Development (GED) requirements on February 18, less than three months later.

She was encouraged to return to school by her Manpower counselor, Betty Dail. According to Elizabeth, "I had no confidence in myself when I started studying, so I owe thanks to Mrs. Dail for having confidence in me, and telling me she knew I could do it."

Indeed she could! On January 14, she took her first test and was so encouraged by the result it took her only a month to complete the other four tests with better-than-average scores.

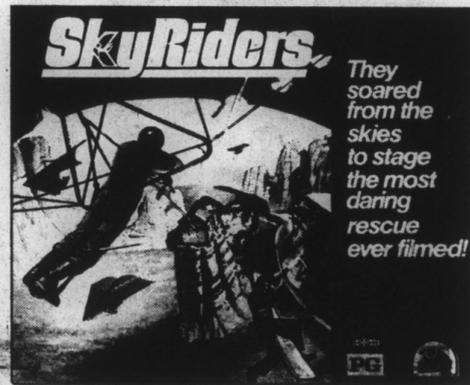
The Manpower program which provided the young woman with the opportunity to work and attend school simultaneously, is sponsored by the Albemarle

Regional Planning and Development Commission. It is funded from Title I CETA monies. It is a temporary work-experience program for individuals who meet at least one of the following three criteria: unemployed, underemployed, or disadvantaged. Under the program, high school dropouts who are interested in completing their education may attend the IIC eight hours and work 24 hours a week in a non-profit human service organization.

Although Elizabeth feels that the Manpower program and her counselor were most helpful in encouraging her to undertake the challenge, she also says she would not have completed her GED had it not been for Loretta Guard, Edenton IIC coordinator and Dorothy Aydtlett and Bes Spangler, coordinators in the GED Testing Center at COA's Technical Center in Elizabeth City. She avows their friendliness, helpfulness and concern were instrumental in giving her the confidence to complete her education.

Others who are interested in attending the IIC with the goal of accomplishing the impossible in mind, are encouraged to contact Mrs. Guard at 482-4745 or Mrs. Dail at 482-4495.

Ends Tonight "Afternoons On Pamela Mann"



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We would like to caution all mothers buying infant formulas to be aware of the need for proper dilution and to be aware of the dangers of preparing "rich" formula mixtures.

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