

Operation Overcharge: Petition To Push Rate Cuts

By Flynn Surratt

The signatures of some 75,000 citizens living in 22 Northeastern North Carolina counties served by Veeco will be sought on petitions protesting area electric rates as Operation Overcharge gets underway October 26.

Stanley Hege of Edenton, executive committee member of Operation Overcharge, reported Monday that the petitions, calling for a cut back in the wholesale and retail rates, will be distributed locally to most businesses, financial institutions, industries, and rural firms. In addition, the Edenton Jaycees and Jaycettes on November 4 and 11 will solicit signatures downtown and at the shopping centers.

Following a meeting Tuesday,

Hege reported that the executive committee has finalized plans for the presentation of the petitions directly to Gov. James B. Hunt on November 15.

The petition reads:

"We, the undersigned, served either directly or indirectly by Veeco, do appeal to the Governor of the State of North Carolina and other elected officials of the N.C. Utilities Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and all other regulatory bodies concerned to take such steps as are necessary to effect, for the consuming public in Northeastern North Carolina, electric rates compatible with those paid by consumers in other sections of the State, beginning with a roll back of retail and wholesale rate in-

creases recently approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission."

Gov. Hunt has ordered the Public Staff of the Utilities Commission to further study of the high retail rates charged by Veeco, with completion of the investigation scheduled for the end of November.

Currently, Veeco has approval of a 17.8 per cent increase. They originally requested a rate hike of 22 per cent.

Operation Overcharge is chaired by Richard S. Coiner, president of the Washington Chamber of Commerce which serves as clearinghouse for the effort. There are 11 members on the executive committee.



PETITION CAMPAIGN PLANNED — Operation Overcharge, a petition campaign of 22 Northeastern North Carolina Counties aimed at rolling back high Veeco rates, will be initiated on October 26. Shown above is the Chowan County committee coordinating the local effort. From the left is Robert W. Moore, Warner Perry, Bill Smith, Stan Hege, George A. Byrum, Charles Creighton, Capt. Al Howard, Carl White and W.E. Smith. Operation Overcharge is composed of representatives throughout the region with the office of the Washington Chamber of Commerce serving as clearinghouse. Stan Hege serves as local representative on the Executive Committee. The campaign was spearheaded through the Edenton Chamber of Commerce which prompted other area counties to become involved in protesting further rate hikes.

Public Parade

Public Service

The Town of Edenton has a policy which restricts the time a person can serve continuously on a committee, commission or authority. It is designed to involve more citizens in governmental affairs.

In theory, the policy should cause members to work harder during their tenure if they are interested in accomplishing anything for their fellow man. If, in fact, they don't they should not be given lifetime status.

While no person is indispensable it is bound to harm a program when the policy prohibits continued service of key figures. This is the case with A.C. Hudson and the Edenton Housing Authority.

It was in October, 1967, that then mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., appointed the original five commissioners to an authority to develop a low-rent public housing project. Jack Habit was named chairman. We served as a member with Mr. Hudson, George Lewis and Glenn Mabe.

The commissioner selected this writer to serve as executive director, a post held until a year ago. During that period we were in a position to watch the performance of many public servants. Mr. Hudson as a commissioner and later as chairman served with distinction.

In fact, he was the first of his race to be chairman of a public housing agency in all of North Carolina.

Mr. Hudson was in the forefront in the development of a project designed in keeping with the rest of Edenton and has been among those who are determined it will not become just another slum.

The course for public housing along the Public Parade has been set. The challenge of the future lies in the past.

Melvin Elbert Bunch

Lt Col. Melvin Bunch's temporary duty along the Public Parade has ended. His final orders were cut last Thursday at Duke Medical Center in Durham.

The Supreme Commander called Mel Bunch to his own services on just two weeks' notice.

In 60 years, Mel Bunch lived a

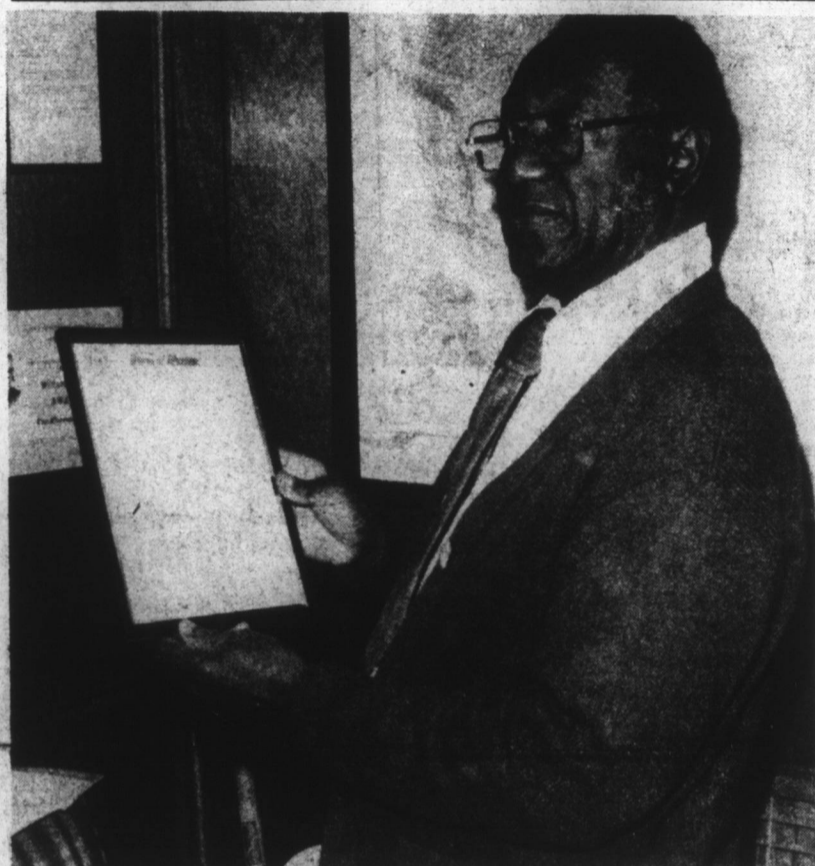
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THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XLIV-No. 43

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, October 26, 1978

Single Copies 15 Cents.



RECOGNIZED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE — A.C. Hudson, 706 North Oakum Street, has been recognized by the Town Council for his service to Edenton Housing Authority. He is pictured here holding a copy of the resolution signed by Mayor Roy L. Harrell. Hudson was appointed to the authority when it was formed in October, 1967, and for the past five years served as its chairman. He was not eligible for reappointment for a new term. (See Public Parade.)

McArthur Outstanding Officer

State Trooper Michael J. McArthur of Edenton was named "Outstanding Officer of the Year" at the Annual Appreciation Banquet for Law Enforcement

AFP To Meet

A meeting of the full board of Alliance for Progress has been called by L.M. Brinkley, acting chairman, for 6:30 P.M. Monday at the new Gates County Community Education Center.

Richard W. Baker, Jr., director, said among the agenda items is the election of a chairman and vice chairman due to the resignation of Frank Rice.

AFP is a six-county educational consortium headquartered in Powellsville.

sponsored by Edward G. Bond Post 40, American Legion, last Thursday night.

Legion District Commander E.C. Toppin made the presentation before a capacity crowd attending the eighth annual banquet.

Trooper McArthur has been assigned to Chowan County since graduating from N.C. Highway Patrol Training School in 1974.

A native of Wilson and 1967 graduate of Wilson Fike High School, McArthur attended N.C. State University and in 1967 joined the N.C. Wildlife Commission as an enforcement division officer.

In Highway Patrol school, the

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More Employed

The unemployment rate for Chowan County dropped to 2.9 per cent in August, from a 7.2 per cent average for the year 1977. This compares with a national average of 6.4 per cent as of June 30.

Bouncing back from a long, hard recession, the area has shown much progress job-wise according to figures released by Mrs. Alice W. Bond, manager of the Edenton Employment Security Commission Office.

The Edenton ESC Office serves Chowan, Gates, Perquimans and Tyrrell counties on a daily basis.

Activity in the four counties for the 12-month period ending September 30, shows 3,491 persons were registered for work, 536 individuals counseled, 355 individuals tested, 1,386 individuals placed on jobs and 162 food stamp and welfare recipients were placed on jobs.

Insurance Scheme Costly

By L.F. Amburn, Jr.

HERTFORD — Plea bargaining may have kept Mayor George R. Rowsom, 67, out of jail here Monday and at the same time it recouped for Chowan and Perquimans counties some of the expense incurred in the lengthy investigation of insurance fraud, embezzlement and conspiracy

Little Theater Patrons Sought

The Edenton Little Theater Group is still holding their annual patron drive. If you are interested and haven't received a letter, please call Mrs. Sally Blount at 482-4954 or Mrs. Pat Weber at 482-2287.

Patron memberships are \$5 each or \$10 per couple, and you receive tickets for both performances of the season.

The first performance for the group is November 16-17, when they will present "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown". The play has been cast with the following performers: Mrs. Jean McGraw, as Lucy; Mrs. Pat Weber as Patty; Eric Byrum as Eric Byrum as Linus; Otis Strother as Schroeder; Bruce Weber as Charlie Brown; and Greg Shackelford as Snoopy.

charges.

Bargaining between Dist. Atty. Thomas Watts of Elizabeth City and defense attorneys also put Rowsom and an employee, Clarence L. (Barney) Badham, 56, of Edenton, out of the insurance business.

In total, Rowsom coughed up some \$8,000 in fines, court costs and restitution as well as his insurance license and the right to be able to participate in mutual burial associations.

He paid a fine of \$1,000 in Perquimans County, plus court costs and restitution of \$1,033 to victims of the alleged scheme. In cases brought from Chowan County and in which pleas were entered, he paid a fine of \$4,000, plus court costs and restitution totaling \$1,569.

Rowsom is not to engage in any insurance business for five years and is not to associate with Badham and a third defendant, Joe Dixon, for a like period of time.

Badham entered a plea of guilty to four felony counts growing out of action in the two counties. He was sentenced to from seven to 10 years by Judge Thomas W. Seay of Spencer.

Also, Badham entered a plea of guilty to an insurance law violation and was given two years

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Dr. Richard Hardin

Hardin To Head Society Directors

RALEIGH — Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., former Secretary of the Department of Human Resources and currently assistant to Rep. James T. Broyhill in Washington, D.C.; was elected president of the N.C. Division, American Cancer Society, at their annual meeting at the Sheraton-Crabtree Motor Inn. Kirk succeeds Dr. William E. Easterling, Jr., associate dean of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, in this position.

Dr. Richard Hardin, of Edenton, first vice president, was elected chairman of the Board of Directors.

Other division officers elected were First Vice President, Sen. George M. Wood, of Camden; Second Vice President, Dr. James E. Davis, of Durham; Third Vice President, W.C. Calton of Raleigh; Secretary, Dr. Richard W. Martin of Salisbury; Treasurer, J.T. Lindley, of Raleigh; and Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, H. John Thatcher, Jr., Raleigh.

Jobs Created

Perdue, rapidly becoming a familiar name in Northeastern North Carolina, plans to add a second shift to its broiler processing plant in Lewiston. The decision by the Salisbury, Md., firm will add 250 employees by March and push capacity to 900,000 birds a week.

Frank Perdue, president of Perdue Farms, Inc., made the announcement at the company's 21st festival held Saturday at Chowan College.

Edgar Ray and Joann White of Edenton were presented the top award for being the best overall producers.

The festival was an activity the company sponsors each year to bring together the growers and to present awards to outstanding producers.

Perdue has 24 per cent of the retail chicken business in New York, 20 per cent in Baltimore, and 17 per cent in Philadelphia.

The president reported that although "money is short," there were 50 to 60 new chicken houses scheduled for construction in the immediate future.



AQUARIUM TO RE-OPEN — Members of the Young Adult Conservation Corps are pictured above completing masonry work at the Edenton Fish Hatchery which is scheduled to re-open its aquarium in the near future. The youth workers built sunscreens for the aquarium and rest room entrances as well as painted the aquarium interior.

Visitor Aquarium To Re-Open

After being closed to the public for five years, the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will reopen the aquarium at the Edenton National Fish Hatchery.

Much of the renovation and remodeling of the aquarium area has been done by Young Adult Conservation Corps enrollees (YACC). Some of their work involved the masonry work on the new concrete sunscreens around the Aquarium and public bathroom entrances, and painting

the Aquaria.

The Young Adult Conservation Corps, established by Public Law 95-93, is a program to provide year-round jobs for unemployed and out-of-school young men and women, ages 16-23, in conversation work on national forests, national parks, fish hatcheries, wildlife refuges, and other public lands. The program is administered jointly by the Departments of Labor, Agriculture and the Interior

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OUTSTANDING OFFICER — American Legion District Commander E.C. Toppin presents the "Outstanding Officer of the Year" award to State Trooper Michael J. McArthur of Chowan County during the Eighth Annual Appreciation Banquet for Law Enforcement, held last Thursday night. In the background are Trooper McArthur's parents. (Photo courtesy of Jim Reid, Daily Advance photographer)