

## 'Buff' Is Home

J. Edwin Bufflap is once again meandering along the Public Parade. He has returned to his home at 17 Queen Anne from Portsmouth (Va.) General Hospital.

"Buff" is recovering from yet another in a series of operations to curb dreadful pain in his jaw and mouth. His latest encounter required that he be hospitalized over the Christmas holidays.

"Buff" is back home and geared up for the New Year. We are sure his host of friends join us in wishing for him a happy 1981.

## New Feature

Today this newspaper begins a weekly column on passive solar energy. Passive solar energy systems use energy in the immediate environment and the thermal mass of the building itself to trap, store and transport the sun's energy for heating and cooling homes by natural rather than mechanical means.

Not too far into the future, America's homebuilders and homeowners will no longer be able to depend on non-renewable sources of energy for these purposes, but must turn to energy alternatives such as solar.

In recent years, scientists and engineers have developed a variety of solar energy systems and designs that can substantially reduce domestic fuel consumption. Many of these systems are rapidly gaining public favor, and thousands of solar homes can now be found around the country.

This newspaper series is designed to present consumers with information about solar energy, and specific examples of solar energy systems that have proven effective and efficient in everyday use, how they work, how they can be incorporated into new buildings and how they can be applied as retrofit projects. Some energy-saving passive solar applications can be used on virtually all existing residential, and many commercial buildings in this area with savings of from 20 to as much as 80 per cent of current energy requirements.

Because solar energy is a new subject to many people, the first columns in the series will be devoted to general solar information. Later columns will provide the reader with greater detail.

## Think!

Over the years we have never been much for New Years resolutions. As we head into the second year of the new decade, it would be good if everyone along the Public Parade, throughout North Carolina and the United States resolved to be more caring and sharing.

In an interview on Channel 2 in Columbia this week, Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., called the lack of caring in Tar Heelia and throughout the nation as being the one thing most responsible for our plight. This must be turned around, he went on to say, if any significant long range improvement is realized.

Caring and sharing is nothing new. This writer can remember when some of the biggest business deals were consummated with a handshake. Ain't true any more! The lack of caring and sharing has filtered down to pit family member against family in the struggle to excel.

Individuals must begin to think; think in the plural rather than the singular. Then, and only then, will life along the Public Parade in general, and throughout the universe in particular, take on the meaning all of us feel deep down.

Just to say these are perilous times won't do the job. The treatment must be better than the disease.

Inflation has become a word in everyone's vocabulary. Even if the nation's leaders, with our assistance, can get a handle on inflation, all the world's ills won't be cured.

Farmers along the Public Parade are finding out just how bad the 1980 crop yield really was. It is also beginning to show up at the grocery store, although the middle men manage to get a lion's share of the increases.

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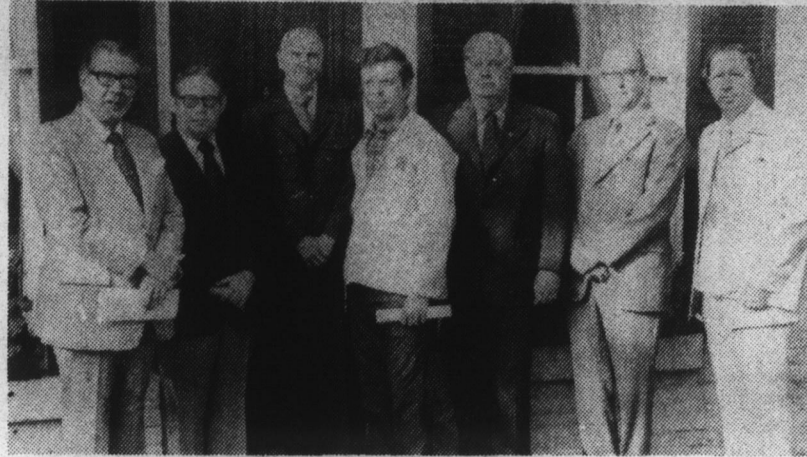
# Peerless Pressure Group Continues High Rates Battle

By L.F. Amburn, Jr.

Operation Overcharge, a citizen fueled movement without peers in Northeastern North Carolina, continues as a formidable foe to Virginia Electric Power Company. One of the early shock waves was generated by Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce.

The local contingent was well organized, well researched, and blessed with determined leadership that doesn't consider defeat a possibility. Time and time again the Stan Hege's have bowed up to the task. Setbacks have seemed to make a tighter bond, a challenge underneath, a second wind, if you please.

It has been by no means one sided. Vepco has been unrelenting, maintaining a high profile through redoubled public relations efforts. The stable of high paid attorneys, economists, and lobbyists have been able to cover the flanks and winning, rather than losing in



PRIMED FOR BATTLE — These leaders of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce posed in front of the East King Street office before going to Williamston in May, 1978, to testify in opposition to a Vepco rate increase. Left to right in the file photo are: Stan Hege, W. Earl Smith, Robert W. Moore, Charles Creighton, Al Howard, George Alma Byrum and Bill Norvell.

courts if not at hearings.

The utility's well organized and financed attack has been challenged aggressively by Operation Overcharge, where an

attempt is made to bond a layer of common sense amongst the reams of data. Vepco's rate request justification and rebuttal to

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VOICES HEARD — Among the voices heard in a continuing battle by a consumer group with Virginia Electric & Power Company are Stan Hege, seated, a member of the Executive Committee of Operation Overcharge, and Bill Norvell, a past president of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce. A petition drive in 1978 was spearheaded by the local chamber and prompted Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., to call for an exhaustive study of Vepco management.

## THE CHOWAN HERALD

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# Hearing Set On Telephone Rate Hike

Knob Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City will be the scene of a public hearing January 6 on a proposed \$25.5-million rate increase by Carolina Telephone Company. The hearing opens at 7 P.M.

On August 28, 1980, the telephone company filed a rate request with the N. C. Utilities Commission. The request is to increase monthly local telephone service rates, plus certain other customer charges. The affected customers exceed 542,000.

Carolina Telephone Company has said the request is a 13 per cent increase in the company's intrastate operating revenue.

The request has already brought a rebuff from the Public Staff of the Utilities Commission. Also, local governments have voiced objection to the increase, as well as chambers of commerce.

The company simply states that inflation has increased the cost of doing business faster than revenues have increased. "We

have offset some of this increased cost through greater efficiency, but there comes a point where we must have more money to pay for the increased prices we are paying for fuel, equipment, labor and borrowed money," according to resource information distributed to the media.

Jerry Hendee, executive vice president of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, points out that the local service increase would be in the neighborhood of 40 to 50 per cent, not the 13 per cent claimed by the utility company. In the case of some new installations the cost would be 100 per cent more than is now allowed.

Hendee points out further that Southern Bell is requesting an increase in rates but they are

lower in both dollar amounts and percentages.

It is also pointed out that the company proposed a new "telephone set" charge of \$1.25 per phone over and above the increase in residential and business service.

The increase in the Edenton exchange (482) would be much less than in the Welch exchange (221) although both are in Chowan County.

Carolina Telephone's request for increased revenue is primarily in Extended Area Service and supplemental services. These two groups total \$21-million of the entire increase requested.

When the company adds EAS in an area the long distance revenue

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## Boards To Meet In Joint Session

Chowan County commissioners and Edenton-Chowan Board of Education will meet in joint session at 9 A.M. Monday. Following the joint meeting each board will hold regular monthly meetings.

School officials had called the joint meeting in order to share a presentation on the Naval Junior ROTC program. Edenton-Chowan Schools were approved for a NJROTC program this year but had to delay it a year because of funding difficulties.

The meeting will be held in the Fourth Floor Conference Room of the Chowan County Office Building on East King Street.

# Smaller Classes; Fewer Drop-Outs Key Issues

Keeping students in school and reducing class size are the key issues of the State Board of Education's proposed \$540-million biennium budget (1981-83). It comes before the General Assembly in January for scrutiny and should be decided before adjournment.

It also emphasizes the importance of basic skills, a balanced school program, effective citizenship, and operational support and effective management. Almost 5,000 additional teachers and 9,400 other school personnel will be employed in the public schools over the next two years if the budget is approved.

Top priority is a reduction of class size. The budget calls for one teacher for 26 students in grades 4-6, rather than one teacher for 30 students which is now the situation. Almost 1,400 additional

teachers would be needed for the 1981-82 school term and about 1,360 for the 1982-83 school year.

As its second concern, the board lists teacher daily student load reduced from 150 to 125 for reading-language arts and math classes in grades 7-12. More than 1,500 additional teachers would be required each year of the biennium.

The budget calls for expanding basic skills instruction for low achievers, grades 9-12, by allotting \$283 per student for those in the bottom quartile of the 9th grade achievement test. The additional funds would provide remediation for the more than 65,000 low-scoring students.

It is estimated that an additional 85,000 students in secondary schools in North Carolina need and want vocational programs which are unavailable to them. The Board is asking the General Assembly for enough teachers to serve an additional 42,500 students each year of the biennium with financial support for equipment and materials.

Improving the allotment formulas for instructional support from one position for each 264 students to one position for each 200 is a major goal of the State Board. More than 1,000 assistant principals, guidance counselors, librarians, attendance counselors, social workers, nurses, etc. would be needed each of the two years to accomplish this goal.

Additional funds for exceptional children amounting to \$30-million are deemed necessary over the next two years to provide needed services to additional children identified as exceptional.

The board hopes to fund aides, clerical assistants, and custodians to midpoint of the state salary schedule and to establish a salary schedule for bus drivers providing an average wage of \$4 per hour in

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## Noncompliance Ends With Jail

A defendant in Chowan County District Court learned Tuesday the results of noncompliance with a probation judgment. Judge Richard Parker gave Kenneth Gibbs an active prison sentence after his second conviction of larceny this year.

Gibbs, enrolled at Coastal Development at Edenton Municipal Airport, confessed to the theft of \$40 from a pocketbook in the office of Coastal Concrete, across base road from the training center where he was enrolled.

Deputy Sheriff Melvin Evans testified that Gibbs returned the money prior to being arrested on the larceny charge.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Keith Teague of Elizabeth City noted a prior larceny count. Then Bob Roberson, probation officer, informed Judge Parker that he (Parker) had placed Gibbs on probation but the defendant had not lived up to the conditions, one of which was to pay indebtedness to the court.

Other action Tuesday morning included:

Larry L. Bond, failure to comply with suspended sentence, term invoked but commitment not to issue until February 3.

William Warren Powell, speeding and drunk driving, six months, suspended upon payment of \$300 fine and costs.

Bruce Haywood White, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

John Arthur Roberts, exceeding safe speed, \$5 fine and costs.

Archie Allen Felton, two motor vehicle counts, 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$50 fine and costs.

Charles Heber Small, Jr., inspection violation, costs.

Joseph Wallace Goodwin, III, attempt to take antlerless deer, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$200 fine and costs and ordered not to hunt in North Carolina during the 1980-81 season.

Robert W. Richard, Linda Scarborough Hobbs and James Bennett Smith, all charged with speeding, called and failed.

## Federal Grant Received

The Town of Edenton has received another substantial federal grant to continue development and beautification of property along Edenton Bay.

Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District today announced the approval by the Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service of a grant of \$200,741 to the N. C. Department of Natural Resources & Community Development. The grant is designated for Edenton.

Expansion of Colonial Park along the waterfront will include boat storage, picnic shelters, bulkhead, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, handball court, sidewalks, lighting, benches, and formal garden.

The state will contribute \$7,591 and local sources will provide \$193,150 to match the federal portion, making a total of \$401,482 for the project.

The project includes the property the town purchased from J. H. Conger & Son and is adjacent to the Edenton Police Department, recently relocated in the area.

Late last year the Town of Edenton and W. B. Gardner, administrator, were recognized for outstanding contributions toward the objectives of the Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service. Citations were presented on behalf of the Secretary of Interior during dedication of Queen Anne Park.

At the dedication, Sec. Howard N. Lee of the State Department of Natural Resources & Community Development announced that he had just recommended the new project — the third in Edenton's master plan — for federal funding.



LICENSE TIME AGAIN — As sure as January 1 rolls up on the calendar owners of motor vehicles have business with the license plate agency. The agent is Mrs. Jeanette H. Dowd, shown here at her office in the Trailways Bus Station on North Broad Street. Mrs. Dowd's office will be open longer hours from now until February 15, deadline for obtaining plates and-or validation stickers. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)