

Leary: Area Must Prepare For Rate Boosts

Oscar White officially took the reins of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce here Friday night and some 150 people in attendance were told not to expect any substantial relief from

utility rates.

Douglas P. Leary, a member of the N.C. Utilities Commission, told the banquet audience things are changing rapidly in the telecommunication field and the

changes could result in local service rate increases in small towns and rural areas.

Also, the Chowan County native commended Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce for taking

the lead in citizen involvement regarding high electric rates charged by Virginia Electric & Power Company in Northeastern North Carolina. He pointed out there is a sign of a turnaround in Veeco rates because of a new mix of coal, nuclear, hydro and oil. By the end of 1981 Veeco is expected to depend on oil for 11 per cent of its generating capacity and 44 per cent nuclear. In 1979 the utility used oil for 31 per cent of capacity.

"The new mix may not cause any substantial decline," Leary said, "but will tend to keep them (Veeco) from increasing rates."

The commissioner predicted that in the next 10 years North Carolina electric rates will be more favorable than any other state in the nation. This, he pointed out, should be a plus for attracting industry.

Leary said the Utilities Commission will continue to be sensitive to the needs of the people.

The speaker said a recent public hearing in Elizabeth City on a rate increase request by Carolina Telephone Company produced more complaints about services than rates. But he said people now

served by Albemarle Metro in Northeastern North Carolina can expect normally higher telephone rates because the extended area service is the only regional system in the state.

He explained that the present rate structure allows toll charges to subsidize local service. The deregulation legislation changes

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Note From Blacksburg

Dr. Lloyd L. Hobbs, who meandered along the Public Parade several decades ago, has become our chief correspondent up in Blacksburg, Va. His frequent boxes of cigars of old were welcomed by "Buff" and now and then a smoke or two filtered down our way.

We've stopped smoking and "Buff" has retired, but Dr. Hobbs has kept us informed about another Edentonian, Robert Brown. Robert was an outstanding defensive end on this season's Virginia Tech Peach Bowl team. Grid mentor Bill Dooley has been lavish with his praise of Robert. This has been justified since the Edenton junior has received the Most Valuable Player Award.

"Tech Sports" reports: "Charles M. Forbes, the university's vice president for Development and University Relations, made the presentation of the award to Brown, citing Brown's achievements which helped Tech rank as the fifth best defensive team in America."

Ugly Picture

Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect received by county social services departments in North Carolina increased about 30 per cent during fiscal year 1979-80 over the previous year. While this paints an ugly picture it is suspected that many, many more cases go unreported.

Child abuse and neglect is this nation's most hideous crime. It is in a category all by itself. And as in the crime of armed robbery, offenders of child abuse and neglect laws must be handled firmly. The penalty for the offense must be substantial.

The child population along the Public Parade is 3,635. Seven child abuse and neglect incidents were reported during the fiscal year and all of them were substantiated.

The picture gets worse when you look at neighboring counties. Camden, for example, has a child population of 1,982. There were 38 cases reported with 20 of them substantiated. The Hyde situation is almost as bad. Twenty-two cases were reported from a child population of 1,855; there were 13 substantiated.

The most number of cases reported (115) was in Pasquotank which has a child population of 9,444 and 75 cases were substantiated. Washington County, with 6,467 children had 102 cases reported and 39 of them substantiated.

Throughout the state 42 per cent of 25,994 reports were substantiated.

Page Shelton, supervisor of the protective services for children unit of the Division of Social Services, N.C. Department of Human Resources, recently put it this way:

"Child abuse and neglect is a

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BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS—The official change in command of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce occurred Friday night at Chowan Golf & Country Club. Oscar White, President is shown at left, presenting a plaque to Wallace Evans, immediate past president. Douglas P. Leary is shown in the other picture as he addressed the banquet audience. Leary, a native of Chowan County, is a member of the N.C. Utilities Commission.



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DSA PRESENTED — Gary B. Anderson, second from right, was named recipient of the 1980 Distinguished Service Award presented annually by the Edenton Jaycees. He is shown at last Thursday night's banquet with, from the left, John Lowery, president of the N.C. Jaycees, Mayor Roy L. Harrell who presented the award, and W.T. Culpepper, III, president of the Edenton Jaycees.

Anderson Is DSA Winner

Gary B. Anderson, manager of Atlantic Credit in Edenton, became the thirty-third recipient of the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award at a banquet held last Thursday night.

The Guilford County native who currently serves as Jaycee operations vice president, was presented the award by Mayor Roy L. Harrell. The mayor pointed out that Anderson has served as chairman of the Red Cross Blood Program and was chairman of the 1976-77 Edenton-Chowan Peanut Festival. In 1976, he received the Jaycee Project of the Year award. Anderson served in the U. S. Coast Guard; is married and the father of two children. He moved to Edenton in 1973.

"Receiving such an award makes it awfully easy to say 'I've done all I can do,'" Anderson commented. "But to me, it is a challenge for the future. Right now, this is the greatest thing ever bestowed upon me."

He said that since 1973, he had had the opportunity to move away from Edenton, but he has found a home here.

John Lowery of Lincolnton, president of the N. C. Jaycees and a past DSA recipient, addressed the gathering at the Jaycee Community Building saying that

DSA recipients are people that you can always count on. "They are the true leaders who treat life as an investment."

Lowery said the Jaycees, during the past year, raised \$96,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Campaign as well as raised record high funds for muscular dystrophy and cerebral palsy campaigns.

"The North Carolina Jaycees

have had a great year and have done many things to make a dream a reality," he commented. The Jaycees have found that the only limitations we have are those we create in our own minds."

Volunteers he cited as the country's greatest asset and added that getting more people involved is one way of restoring world-wide respect for the U.S.

Mrs. Ruth Rose Heads Heart Fund Campaign

Mrs. Ruth Rose, 305 North Broad Street, is president of the Chowan County Heart Association and announces that Jim Brown has accepted the role as fund raising chairman.

Brown is city executive with Peoples Bank & Trust Company. He will double as city chairman with the annual fund raising effort.

Mrs. Carolyn Ricks is secretary and in charge of publicity. Mrs. Evelyn Keeter serves as treasurer and also handles memorial gifts.

Mrs. Georgia Hines is special gifts chairman. Mrs. Martha Britton and Jay Woglom are handling special events.

Rural Heart Fund directors are Mrs. Fran Ward and Murray Goodwin, and they will be assisted by the 4-H clubs.

Mrs. Betty Bunch will handle solicitations from corporations and industries.

Serving on the seven-member board of directors are: George Alma Byrum, Ralph Cole, Dr. Edward G. Bond, Jerald Perry, George Stokes, Leslie Barry and E. N. Manning.

Mrs. Edith Nixon, Heart Association official, said an activity chairman will be announced at a later date to round out the organization for 1981.

Mrs. Nixon stressed that the Heart Association is a voluntary health agency, composed of volunteers who are interested in preventing premature death and disability from diseases of the heart and blood vessels. It is the only voluntary agency devoted to this mission.

"There are other agencies working in the fight against heart disease, but ours is the only voluntary agency concerned with the problems of heart disease in our community," Mrs. Nixon stated.

County Crime Watch Is On Its Way

Chowan County Crime Watch Committee is being formed by Sheriff Troy Toppin. An organizational meeting is set for 8 P.M. on February 6 at the American Legion Building.

Civic organizations throughout the county are being asked to select a representative for membership on the committee. Sheriff Toppin says he is hopeful that the person selected has a

sincere interest in crime prevention. But, he pointed out, attendance at the meeting is not limited to one person from each club.

"The purpose of this meeting is to initiate concern about crime

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Parent-Teacher Talks Slated

A Parent-Teacher Conference Day marking the end of Edenton-Chowan's first academic semester, has been scheduled for February 6. Notice from each school are being sent to all parents, encouraging them to make appointments with their child's teacher. Students will not attend school on conference day.

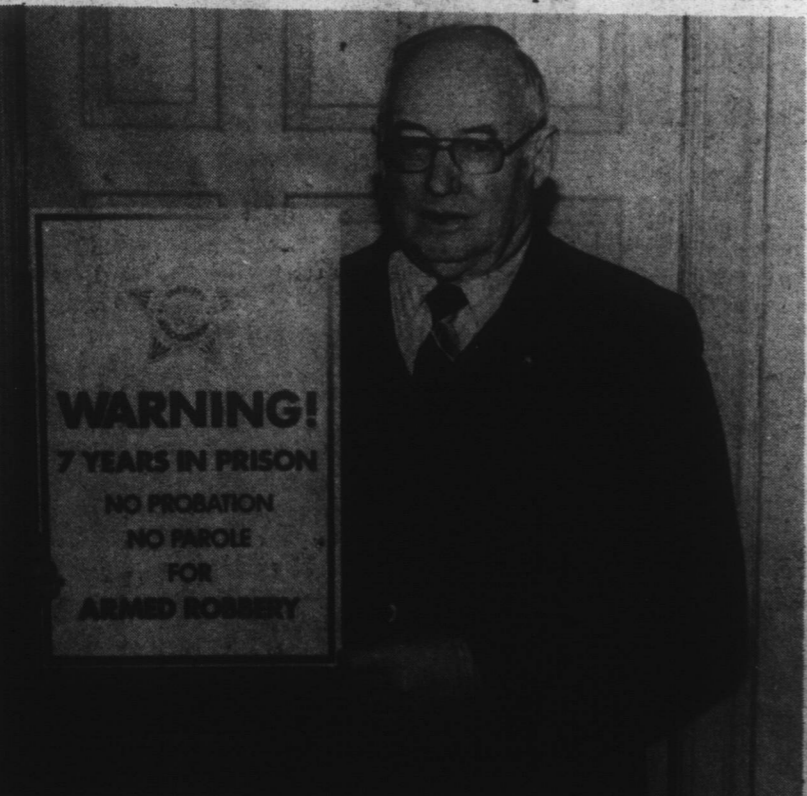
Because the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education realizes the importance of providing special times for parents to discuss their children's progress with teachers, two days are set aside in the school calendar each year for this purpose. The first conference day followed the end of the first six weeks grading period.

It is felt that direct communications between parents and teachers at the end of these two grading periods are most crucial. If a student's academic performance is not satisfactory at these two stages, there is still time for parents to use their influence and work with teachers on a plan to help the student before the end of the school year.

First semester actually ended for students with the completion of mid-term examinations on January 27. Students received a holiday on January 28, while teachers observed a regular work day grading exams and completing first semester reports. Report cards will be sent home with students on February 3.

Semester Calendar - 1981

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| January 29 | 1st day of 2nd semester |
| February 3 | Report cards go home |
| February 6 | Parent-Teacher Conference Day-Student Holiday |
| March 12 | End of 4th wks. grading period |
| March 19 | Report cards go home |
| April 20-24 | Easter Vacation (Days missed due to inclement weather possibly made up during this period) |
| April 30 | End of 5th wks. grading period |
| May 7 | Report cards go home |
| June 11 | Last day of school for students |
| June 16 | Last day of school for teachers |



SPREADING THE WORD — Sheriff Troy Toppin and members of the Chowan County Sheriff's Department are distributing posters in the community seeking citizen help in fighting crime. The poster also publicizes the fact that armed robbery is a very, very serious offense. February 6 has been set as the date to organize a Crime Watch program in Chowan County. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn).



CHARITY BALL PLANNED — Plans are now underway for the annual Chowan Hospital Charity Ball, sponsored by the hospital auxiliary. The ball will be held February 21 in the Edenton National Guard Armory with all proceeds to be donated to the hospital. Theme for the occasion will be "Mardi Gras". Co-chairmen of the project are Mrs. Wanda Henson and Mrs. Shirley Parker, shown above at left and center with Mrs. Thelma Smith, auxiliary president.