



Come In Plain Wrappers

There's something a little devious in the way the GOP kingmakers try to lower expectations for George Bush and Dan Quayle when they must meet their Democratic opponents face-to-face before a nationwide audience.

Long before the Vice President met Gov. Michael Dukakis in their first debate at Winston-Salem, his managers were saying that he was not a good debater and would be considered a winner if he managed to get through without a major blunder. And, despite the fact that he put his foot in his mouth at least twice, he was immediately hailed as the victor by his manager, Jim Baker, and his ever ready partisans.

When asked to name three defense programs he would eliminate if forced to economize, he named two that had already been discontinued by the defense department many months ago. And when asked if his proposal to outlaw abortions would not make criminals out of women electing to use them, he said he hadn't sorted out the penalties yet.

That made the elephant parade bucket brigade jump to its task of cleaning up behind him. He had not intended, he explained the next day, to make criminals of women having abortions, but of doctors performing them. He did not say what he would do if women begin using abortion pills now on the market and he probably won't, considering the success he has had dealing with illicit drugs of all sorts.

And long before Dan Quayle met Lloyd Bentsen in the vice presidential debate in Omaha last Wednesday, the news media were being fed the same old stuff about Quayle's low expectations by the public. If he could just get by without a major slip, he would be considered a winner.

Well, sure enough, he lived up to his low expectations and was immediately crowned King of the Hill by his mentor.

But he did not come off unscathed. In reciting his qualifications the third time during the evening, he compared himself to Jack Kennedy, saying he was just as qualified as Kennedy was when he ran for the presidency.

Continued On Page 4

Jones To Visit Here

The public has been invited to meet with Congressman Walter B. Jones on Thursday, Oct. 20. He will meet with supporters at Carolines for breakfast at 8 a.m.

For reservations, call Warren Twiddy at 482-2163, Nick George at 482-2138 or George A. Byrum at 482-2131.

The Congressman joins a growing list of politicians visiting Edenton this month. Also scheduled is U.S. Senator Terry Sanford next Monday at Boswell's Restaurant for a noon luncheon.

On the Republican side, Jim Gardner, candidate for Lt. Gov., will visit Edenton on Wednesday for a gathering at the Golden Corral at 12:30 p.m.



FOOD PANTRY PRESENTATION--Martha Guttu, director and Frank Cassell of the Edenton Food Pantry presented a report to the Chowan County Commission Board last week on their activities in helping meet the needs of indigent people. Seated (l. to r.) are Board Chairman Joe Hollowell, County Manager Cliff Copeland and Board Clerk Anne Spruill.

Hospital Unit Plans Ongoing

Chowan County Commissioners agreed in principal last week to underwrite any possible loss that Chowan Hospital might experience as the result of construction of a 27 bed psychiatric unit.

Concern was expressed by

the hospital's planning committee when it was learned that projected cost estimates of the construction were revised upward, by as much as \$250,000, after architects completed a more detailed look at the proposed unit.

Feasibility studies have projected a need for 27 psychiatric beds for northeastern North Carolina and there are presently no psychiatric beds within sixty miles of Edenton. The hospital signed an agreement with Albemarle Mental Health Center agreeing to build the psychiatric unit.

Originally, the hospital had planned to contribute \$350,000 from depreciation reserves to finance the construction. Plans now call for financing the estimated construction cost of \$850,000 with a \$100,000 grant from the Duke Endowment and \$750,000 borrowed from a third party lender.

The county has proposed to guarantee that the hospital will not absorb a cash loss to the hospital during the period of time that the debt service for the amount of construction costs is being retired.

Additionally, the commission board was told that occupancy rates are expected to be high, that revenues generated by the unit are expected to cover additional expenses and that "there is very little chance that county monies would ever have to be placed in the operation of the psychiatric unit."

The hospital board must now decide whether to give the construction plans the green light.

Citizens' Help Asked

The Chowan County Sheriff's Dept. has asked that anyone finding a hammer along Soundside Road (Base Road) notify the department immediately.

Anyone finding the hammer is asked to handle it carefully, since it might be related to the death of Donald Meeler on Monday, October 3.

Authorities conducted a search for the hammer along the roadside on Wednesday of last week without result.

Fire Prevention Week Fire Safety Tips Given

This week is Fire Prevention Week in the county and across the state. Locally, the Edenton Fire Dept. hosted school children at the fire station for tours, a slide presentation on fire prevention and procedures to use in evacuating the bedroom of a house after the smoke detector has sounded.

Fire Chief Lynn Perry took the slide presentation and props for the escape scene on the road as well. He took the fire prevention message to classes at White Oak School during the week.

Of this state's Fire Prevention Week observance, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal, Jim Long said, "Protecting ourselves and our families from fire is extremely important and now is an excellent time

to check our homes for fire safety."

The theme for this year's observance is "Smoke Detectors - A Sound You Can Live With." Long recommends that families install smoke detectors on each level of the home and check those already in place to make sure they are working properly.

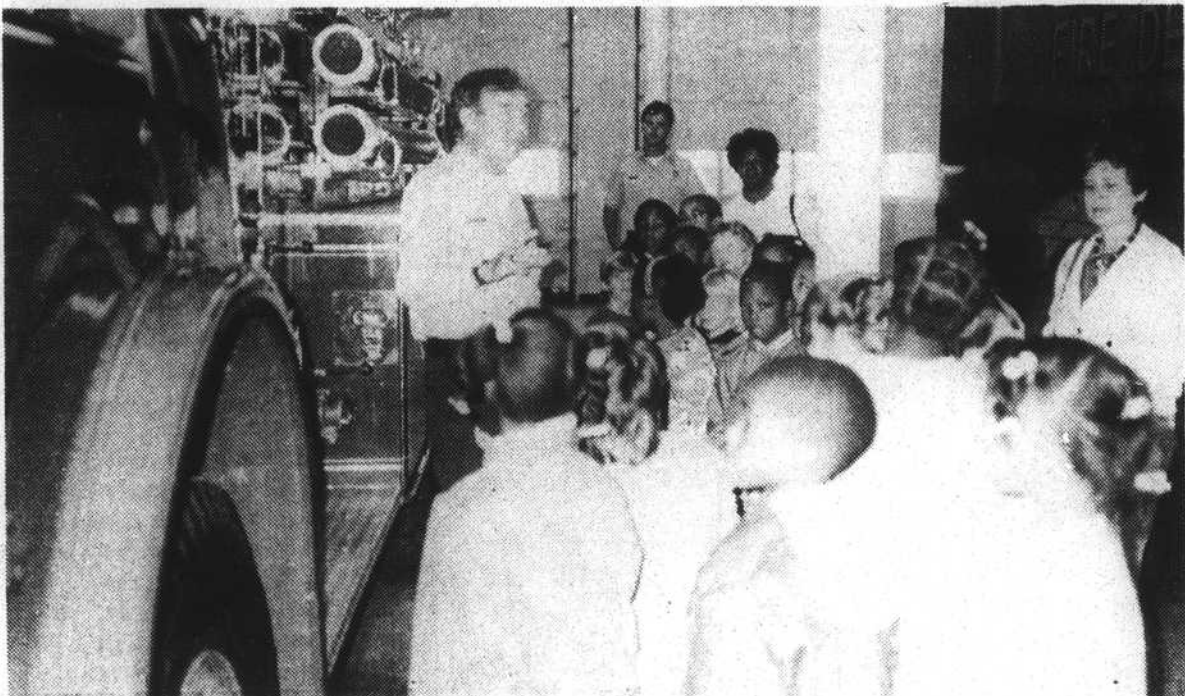
"Smoke detectors do save lives," Long said, "They give families those precious extra minutes of warning so they can get out of their homes before it's too late."

Safety tips the state is stressing are use of smoke detectors in the home; using extra care with portable heaters; remembering the "stop, drop and roll" technique; and development and practicing of a home escape plan.

Chief Perry noted that people often neglect to check smoke detectors for weak or dead batteries. In addition, some disconnect smoke detectors set off by cooking odors and forget to reconnect them, rendering them useless.

A major concern of fire officials as the weather turns cold is chimney fires. Perry recommends that chimneys be inspected and cleaned by professional chimney sweeps annually before lighting fires. He said that flues from woodburning stoves also should be checked and cleaned. Oil furnaces should be checked by professionals before use.

"We want everyone in North Carolina to stay warm during the fall and coming winter and we want them to do it safely," Long said.



FIRE PREVENTION--Lt. Junious Britton of the Edenton Fire Department explains fire equipment to a second grade class from D.F. Walker School as teacher Mrs. Lucy Meade Harless (right) and fireman Al Ward and teacher aide Mrs. Beatrice Stanley (background) look on. The tour of the fire station was part of Fire Prevention Week.

Town Utility Employees Are Honored This Week

At a special gathering of council members and utilities department employees Monday morning, Edenton Mayor John Dowd proclaimed this week as "Public Power Week."

The proclamation states, "We the citizens of the Town of Edenton are proud to operate a community-owned electric utility and we the citizens... are both consumers and owners of our public power system."

"Edenton Electric Utility provides our homes, businesses, farms and local government agencies with reliable, efficient and cost-effective electricity by employing sound business practices designed to ensure the best possible service at competitive rates and Edenton Electric Utility is one of a community of 2,204 publicly owned electric utilities in the U.S."

In the commemoration, utility employees were pre-

sented with caps and T-shirts emblazoned with appropriate logos as well as special bumper stickers. Blue signs with white lettering have been placed at entrances to the town that proclaim "A Public Power Community."

Dowd used one incident to illustrate the immediate service that customers receive when they experience electrical trouble.

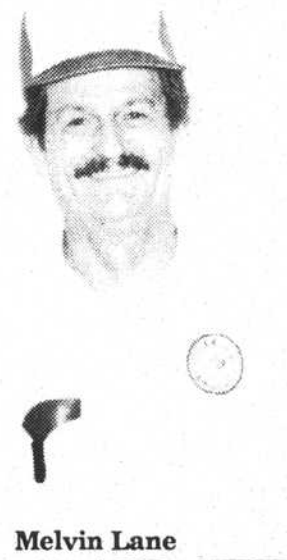
A 97-year-old woman called the utility department last Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. when she had an electrician working at her home. The electric meter had burned up while work was going on.

General Line Foreman Melvin Lane was in the shower when his wife took the call. He responded within 20 minutes and replaced the meter. The electricity was restored within 15 minutes.

"We respond immediately to calls," Lane commented. "We have been called to out-

ages where life-support equipment was involved."

The electric utility services the town, from the town to the sound bridge on N.C. 37, all of Soundside Road (including Cape Colony and the Yeopim area) and from the town to the river bridge along U.S. 17, a total of 3,300 customers.



Melvin Lane



UTILITY EMPLOYEES HONORED--Employees of the town's utilities department were honored at a special meeting Monday by town officials during Public Power Week. Utilities Director Hawk Crummey holds a sign that reads "A Public Power Community" while electric department employees wear caps made for the occasion.