



INSTALLED - New officers installed at the Chamber of Commerce annual dinner meeting Tuesday night were (left to right) C.D. Bounds, president; Walter Coley, secretary-treasurer; Graham Monroe, vice-president and Sam C. Morris, vice-president. (Photo by Lee Gillis)

CP&L Asks For Rate Hike

Carolina Power & Light Co. today asked permission to increase its retail rates on electric service in North Carolina by 5.63 percent on an emergency basis.

The power company asked the State Utilities Commission to allow the increase to be effective no later than June 3. It would add less than three cents a day to the average customer's bill for electricity used at home, the company contends.

Shearon Harris, CP&L president, says the firm's expenses have risen sharply from the basis on which its previous 11.86 percent increase

was based. The present rates are based on an allowance for fuel of 41.5 cents per million Btu. But CP&L's cost of fuel for the first quarter of this year has been 52.02 cents per million Btu. An increase of one cent per million Btu amounts to about \$1,650,000 annually for the company.

"Our expense for fuel burned in the first three months of this year was \$4.16 million more than the estimated fuel cost on which our present rates in North Carolina are based," he emphasized.

In its request to the commission, the company says presently approved rates do not afford it the opportunity for just and reasonable earnings. CP&L recently reported earnings of \$1.31 per share of common stock for the 12 months ending March 31. That was a drop of almost 37 percent per share from the \$2.07 earned in the comparable 12 months' period for last year.

"We consider it essential that we have rate relief now," Harris declared. "It is necessary if we are going to recover our operating costs, especially fuel, and if we are going to attract tremendous sums of money we will require to finance our construction program. We must have this construction to meet our customers' needs for electricity."

He said CP&L's construction program will require about \$2.4 billion by 1978, and approximately \$2 billion of this must come in the form of

new capital from people who have savings to invest.

"We have to compete for capital," he emphasized. "We can't expect people to invest

their savings in CP&L unless they have reasonable expectation of earning as much from us as they would elsewhere."

Hoke Highlights

by Debbie Anderson

Two full weeks remain in this school and the senior class is looking forward to graduation day with much anticipation!

The seniors received their cap and gowns Tuesday and then Friday, received their graduation invitations. These two factors really helped to boost their excitement.

The student body assembled in the Hoke High gym last Wednesday for the long awaited presentation of Hoke High's annual "Ekoh" and also for the tapping of the new rising junior members of the National Honor Society.

The Honor Society tapping was first, Miss E.J. Mims described the true meaning of the Honor Society, then, Kathy Sanders, this year's president spoke to the newly-tapped members. Donna Jackson also gave a very comical and true description on what it was like to be a Society member. The fourteen senior members tapped the rising junior members with a rose bud and a sea shell which was a memorandum of their senior weekend. The newly tapped members are: Tony Littrell, Joe Cochran, Miriam Ropp, Sally Austin, Donna Clifton, Caroline Niven, Mary Margaret Sawyer, Sherry Shepley, Linda Kay Teal, Kim Jordan, Joy Lent, Linda Kay Harrell, Cynthia McNeill, and Carolyn Staton. Congratulations to these members.

Friday, the members of National Honor Society who have been nominated for next year's offices, attended an induction service at E.E. Smith Senior High School in Fayetteville. The trip was to familiarize the members with induction procedures.

The second part of the assembly was devoted to the

dedication of the EKOH. Mr. Jerry Thompson presented Mr. Autry and the senior's helpful advisor Mrs. Cole their annuals. Then the members of the Senior Hall of Fame were presented their annuals. Last but not least the editor-in-chief, Donna Jackson was recognized.

Donna, the EKOH staff and Mr. Thompson have done an excellent job on the annual. Forty-four pages were added to its content along with many other improvements. The students at H.H.S. really have an annual to be proud of!

This Tuesday the Hoke County Chorale under the direction of Mrs. N.A. McNeill presented a concert at the annual Raeford-Hoke County Chamber meeting. The Chorale sang a variety of music, ranging from pop to patriotic.

Everyone is invited to the Spring Concert presented by the Hoke County High School Chorus and Chorale.

The concert begins at eight o'clock and will be held in the Hoke High gymnasium. It is promised to be one of the best yet!

The annual Employer-Employee Banquet. The president of the Distributive Education Club Donna Owens, presided at the banquet. There were approximately six DECA members and their employers at the banquet. Other guests were Mr. Raz Autry, Mr. Donald Abernethy, Dr. Riley Jordan, Mr. Bobby Gibson, Mr. Bill Howell, Mr. D.R. Hugg, and Mr. Wilton Wood.

It has been decided that seniors will be allowed to take their exams Monday and Tuesday, May 24th and 25th. This will give the seniors more time to practice for the graduation festivities and also relieve their mind from the tension of exams!

MARYOLY YOURS

by MARY ODOM



In my efforts to share with you this experience of being in the General Assembly, I have said little or nothing about education. Since my concern for children and those who teach them more or less got me into this, perhaps a report is in order.

Membership on the education committee has been a disappointment. I have attended all except one meeting and missed that one only to hear the proponents of Save Bald Head. Most of the bills before education committee have been relating to the election of school board members in various counties. There was one lively debate on whether or not Kings Mountain school could build a fieldhouse without the customary bids.

Somehow I had it in my mind that the education committee carefully considered what was best for children and action was taken from that point. Nothing could be further from the truth and it has practically shattered my ego to make this discovery.

Apparently decisions on school matters works this way. Somebody (I'm not certain who) decides how much money ought to be allocated to schools and you plan from there. Representative George Miller, Durham County, very appropriately describes it as like playing a game of monopoly. Everybody has so much money. Now how should it be spent? Maybe this approach to spending has just grown like Topsy. I don't know. I do feel there ought to be a better way. I try not to be guilty of knocking the system until I know what it is all about. I do confess to a questioning attitude.

From my freshman vantage point, I've tried to correlate the many different sets of statistics relating to school affairs. The advisory budget commission gives one set. The audit division gives another and the tax research division comes up with something else. The department of administration has still another. Mary was baffled for every person who presented these figures seemed to be an authority. There absolutely HAD to be some point of reconciliation and it took me hours and hours to find it. Now I am preparing my own set of charts and while they may not influence anybody or anything, at least I will have some way of evaluating figures that are presented.

The school salary situation is now in a sub-sub committee on appropriations and as of last week they had three plans, each costing a given amount of money. It is my understanding that when the word comes as to how much money can be used for education, they'll offer the plan in the proper price range.

Meantime, Dr. Craig Phillips doesn't like any of the plans and neither does Claude Farrel, who lobbies for the North Carolina Association of Educators. Dr. Phillips seems committed to the initiation of a ten calendar months term of employment with whatever amount of money is allocated and Mr. Farrel advocates a gradual extension of the term with whatever money is available AFTER the Governor's 5 and 5%

recommendations. I have the feeling that NOBODY is going to be very happy with the outcome.

Speaking for myself, I see little to be optimistic about for this biennium. Absolutely everybody is FOR God, Motherhood, and Education. There is wide disagreement as to how to achieve the latter. My guess is that it will take something very unusual to change things much from the three plans of the sub-sub committee. Maybe this pessimistic attitude of mine is end-of-school-syndrome. Teachers just automatically get hollow-eyed and haggard looking in mid-May. But we always make it to the end.

Visitors this week included Mrs. Ellen Newbold, County Commissioner Kenny McKenzie, James McKenzie, Jim Sutherland, Colon McArthur, and Bob Davis. The latter four came up to have breakfast with the Governor and came by to see me, too. Commissioner McKenzie came up to hear Vice President Spiro Agnew explain the revenue sharing plan.

I frankly was a little disappointed in Agnew's speech. He has so many colorful speeches that it was a definite let down to listen for forty minutes to an exposition on how to divide up millions and billions of dollars I'm not sure we've got to divide.

It was also good to see the school children from Scotland and Robeson counties. Students from Shaw and Union Chapel schools toured the State House.

Saturday at the 7th Congressional District Democratic Women's meeting I heard of a great idea that I wish I had thought of. I was told that Norwood Bryan, Cumberland County representative brought home copies of all the bills introduced during the week and left them at the courthouse for anyone who might be interested in reading them. It is worth looking into to see how many folks take time to look them over.

Sewing Is Booming Art

One of the booming home arts today is sewing. Technology has made available a wide array of fabrics, invisible thread, hidden zippers, and sewing machines that all but sew by themselves.

Learning to sew is no longer the tedious, baste-and-rip, time consuming chore it once was. More young girls are making their own clothes today than ever before - in school, at home, and especially through 4-H Clubs.

Any girl ages 9-19 interested in learning to sew and who would like to participate in summer sewing workshops please call the County Extension Office at 875-2162. There will be classes for the beginner, classes for those with little sewing experience, and an intermediate class. Call today because there is a limit on the number of girls who can participate.

Social Security News

By C. V. Shelton, Field Representative
Fayetteville Social Security Office

There is still a great deal of confusion regarding benefits for widows - that is the benefits offered by our Federal Social Security System.

Do you know the age at which an aged widow may begin to receive monthly Social Security payments based upon the contributions her late husband made to the system? Is it age 65 or 62 or what?

Actually, an aged widow may choose to receive benefits as early as the month she reaches age 60. At this point, you may say to yourself, "That man does not know what he is talking about as I know several widows who are well under age 60 and they are receiving payments!" The payments these widows receive are not widow's payments but mother's payments. A widow can qualify for monthly mother's benefits based upon the fact that she has one or more minor children - under age 18 - in her care or a disabled child - a child over age 18 but who has been disabled to work based upon a disability which started before age 18.

Well, we have discussed benefits for aged widows and mother's benefits, is there anything that can be paid to a widow who has not reached age 60 and whose children are already grown? Yes, there is. This is the newest - payable since September 1965 - type of payment and which is payable based upon the fact the widow

is disabled. The requirements that must be met for a widow to qualify for disabled widow's benefits are these:

1. There must be entitlement on her late husband's Social Security account which means he had to have worked long enough under Social Security prior to his death to be insured.

2. The widow must be between the ages of 50 and 60.

3. She must be disabled that she is unable to engage in any gainful employment and the disabling condition must be expected to last for at least one full year.

If I have omitted any part of this, or if a question has arisen in your mind concerning widow's benefits, give your Fayetteville Social Security office a call. The number is 483-2661.

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