

• THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 35, No. 18

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, May 3, 1979

15 CENTS

Voices Heard On High Rates

By JACK GROVE
Virginia Electric Power Co. (Vepco) is under attack from several fronts in Northeastern North Carolina. The object of these assaults is the company's rate structure.

The town of Hertford buys power wholesale from Vepco and retails it to residents using its own electrical distribution system. Albemarle E.M.C. also gets its power wholesale from Vepco and distributes it to customers in the county.

The North Carolina Utilities Commission has just completed a series of public hearings on a re-

quest by Vepco for a retail rate increase. These hearings were held at Elizabeth City, Ahoskie, Williamston and Roanoke Rapids.

The commission is investigating the higher rates charged by Vepco in contrast to Duke Power and Carolina Power and Light (CP&L).

At the Ahoskie hearing, Operation Overcharge spokesman Joe M. Parker said Vepco is charging the highest rates of any major power company operating in North Carolina and is returning the smallest return to its stockholders.

Operation Overcharge has filed a Petition of Intervention with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERA) in Washington, D.C. The petition opposes Vepco on a wholesale rate increase of 19.86 percent it has requested which would be charged to municipal electric systems, including Hertford.

Area residents may remember signing petitions concerning Vepco increases. The petitions were circulated last summer by Operation Overcharge with the cooperation of chambers of commerce of this region.

Electricities of North Carolina is another group fighting Vepco's rate increase requests. North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number Two is one of three such agencies of Electricities. Each agency is composed of a group of "electric cities" municipalities that own and operate their own electric distribution systems.

Agency Number Two members include Hertford, Edenton, Elizabeth City, Ayden, Belhaven, Enfield, Greenville, Hamilton, Hobgood, Oak City, Robersonville, Scotland Neck, Tarboro, Washington, Windsor and Winterville. All are served by Vepco.

David R. Taylor, chairman of Agency Number Two, announced that the Agency has met with CP & L to explore the possibility of having CP & L supply all or part of the electric power needs of the Agency's member cities.

Taylor, town manager of Tarboro, cited widespread and continuing dissatisfaction with the higher rates charged by Vepco. He said, "the Agency is exploring several alternate power supply sources, one of which is service from, or a joint ownership arrangement with, Carolina Power and Light."



Skinner Home To Be Open During Tour

Skinner Home Tour Set

When Perquimans County plays host to participants in the Museum of the Albemarle Tour of notable houses on May 23, one of the places to be shown is the house known as the James L. Skinner house located on Old Neck Rd. near Cove Grove.

Like many of the older homes, it is difficult to say with certainty who its builder was. Raymond Winslow, Jr., Perquimans historian, is of the opinion that it was built by William Fletcher, who was lost at sea.

Fletcher was engaged in the shipping trade with the West Indies as were many of the plantation owners in the Old Neck and Durant's Neck section of the county. An interesting provision in his will called for the emancipation of his slaves, long before it was mandatory.

Benjamin Smith Skinner, builder of Cove Grove, also to be seen on the tour, bought the property for his son, James Leigh Skinner whose mother was Elizabeth Leigh, a daughter of Col. James Leigh of Land's End in Durant's Neck.

The Fletcher-Skinner house has always been regarded as one of the finest homes of its period in North Carolina. It is pictured in Ernest Pickering's "The Homes of America" and he says it was built about 1800. Drucilla Haley, architectural historian, says that "it is a very fine house with many distinctive Federal period features."

The stairway has distinctive Federal brackets with a banding of reeded moulding. Also of that period are the wainscoting in the hall

and parlor. The downstairs room to the left of the entrance has a beautiful mantel with sunburst motif and reeding. The baseboard in this room is marbledized.

Plantation buildings still standing are a brick dairy, a smoke house with beaded weatherboard siding, and a massive barn with pintle hinges and spade motif.

The house is owned by the heirs of Thomas Nixon, but is occupied by Mrs. George Caddy who has lived there for thirtyseven years. Living with her are her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. George Baker, hosts for the tour.

Title I Activity Studied

The Perquimans County ASEA District Title I and Migrant Math Council met Wednesday, April 25 to discuss the Title I activities for the 1979-80 school year.

Morris Kornegay discussed the budget requirements for Title I and outlined several proposed changes in the program operation.

Attending parents and agency representatives were asked for their suggestions for program improvement and discussed alternative methods for identification of students needing compensatory education.

Mr. Pete McNair, Regional Director of the Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers Association and Mrs. Oressa Moore, Field Representative of the Association were recognized as guests and Mr. McNair outlined the services available through the Migrant Seasonal Farmworkers Association which is now providing full-time employment for a Math Aide at Perquimans Union School.

The parents voted to tour the ESEA and Migrant Labs in the four schools on May 8.

Any interested parent desiring to accompany the lab visits, please meet at Hertford Grammar School at 9 a.m. on May 8. The group will visit three labs at Hertford Grammar School, two labs at Perquimans High School, two labs at Perquimans Central school and two labs at Perquimans Union School.

Volunteer Day Scheduled

Stuart Anderson, vice president for operations of Don Juan Manufacturing Co. will speak at Hertford's Annual Volunteer Day festivities.

Volunteer Day activities begin at 9 a.m. on the Court House Green on Saturday, May 5. The Rescue Squad will begin taking blood pressure readings at that time.

Ceremonies begin at 2 p.m. honoring local volunteers for their many hours of work in the community. Ice cold

lemonade will be served and entertainment provided by the school band and a square dance group.

The square dance group will perform at 3 p.m. They are the "Harbor Lites" a group formed at Snug Harbor.

The Hertford Fire Department will have a static display for its part in the activities. The display will include a portable civil defense unit and demonstrations will be given.

Squad Plans Public Event

Perquimans County Rescue Squad will hold its annual Blood Pressure Day on the Court House Square May 5. This coincides with the town's annual Volunteer Day and the service is provided free by volunteers of the squad. Blood pressure readings will be taken beginning at 9 a.m.

At the monthly meeting Monday, Squad Captain Seymore Chappell an-

nounced that Squad directors will ask for an increase in its annual budget to \$18,000 from \$16,000.

The call number used by the late George Peckham will be retired out of respect for his memory.

Captain Chappell also pointed out the necessity for adding on a garage for another ambulance and more storage space.

Coming Events

THURSDAY, MAY 3
Alcoholics Anonymous will meet 8 p.m. in the Hertford United Methodist Church.
American Legion Aux.
Hertford Lions Club.
American Legion 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 5
Perquimans County Volunteer Day 2 p.m.
Perq. Co. Horse and Pony Club Show 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 6
Holiday Island Civic League meets at 10 a.m. at Club House.
Fire Station Dedication 3 p.m. Hertford Fire Station.

MONDAY, MAY 7
Bethel Fire Dept.
Perq. Co. Bd. of Comm. A.M.
Winfall Town Council 7 p.m.
Perq. Co. Bd. Education.

TUESDAY, MAY 8
Perq. Masonic Lodge No. 106 will meet 8 p.m. at Lodge Hall.

Meridan Lodge No. 18 will meet 8 p.m. at Lodge Hall.
Perq. Co. Horse and Pony Club.
Hertford Rotary Club 6:30 p.m.

Dedication Scheduled

The Hertford Fire Station will be dedicated on Sunday afternoon at 3:00.

After an introduction by Mayor Cox, Chief Charles Skinner will welcome visitors. Following the program, refreshments will be served. All are invited to attend.



CONTRACT DELIVERED — Mayor Bill Cox hands the contract for structural repairs to the Senior Citizens Center to Donald Riddick, contractor. The recently acquired building will be completely renovated and open for use by senior citizens sometime in late summer or early fall. Looking on are,

from left: Karen Bunch, ARPDC Aging Secretary; Dottie George, ARPDC office supervisor; Pam Whitley, ARPDC Grants Coordinator; Joe Nowell, County Commissioner; Billy Wooten, Hertford Recreation Dept.; and Rebecca Rhodes, ARPDC Aging Program Administrator.



URNS OVER REINS — Outgoing Perquimans Jaycees president, Archie Miller congratulates new president, Thomas L. Riddick.



NEW JAYCETTES PRESIDENT — New Jaycettes president, Jeannie Umphlett receives a corsage from outgoing president, Sandra Hudson.

Jaycees, Jaycettes Pick Officers

The Perquimans County Jaycees and Jaycettes joined together on April 26 at Angler's Cove for the 1979-80 Installation Banquet.

Those who received awards were as follows: Presidential Award of Honor Ray Winslow; Director of the Year Dennis Hare; Project of the Year Bike-A-Thon, Co-Chairmen Ray Winslow and Tommy Riddick; Spoke of the Year, Greg Biggs; and Spark of the Year Douglas Umphlett.

Jaycettes who received awards were as follows: Rookie of the Year Sonnie Hurdle; Jaycette of the Year Betty Hare; Committee Chairman of the Year Daisy Lane; Presidential Award of Honor Jeannie Umphlett.

New officers were also installed; they are: Jaycettes Chairman of the Board, Sandra Hudson; President, Jeannie Umphlett; Internal Vice President, Patsy Miller; External Vice President, Daisy Lane; State Director, Betty Hare; Recording Secretary, Rose Riddick; Corresponding Secretary, Diane Copeland; Treasurer, Diane Stallings and Historian, Lynn Matthews.

Jaycee officers are:

Chairman of the Board, Archie Miller; President, Tommy Riddick; Administrative Vice President, Edward Byrum; Internal Vice President, Ray Winslow; External Vice President, Parker Newbern; State Director, Bobby Harrell; Recording Secretary, Greg Biggs; Corresponding Secretary, Richard Copeland and Treasurer, Dennis Hare.

Volunteer Day Is Saturday, May 5