

Weather

Increasing cloudiness and warm today. Occasional rain and rather cool Friday. Low today, 25; high, 55.

The Franklin Times

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Serving All Of Franklin County

Chuckle

"In time of trial," boomed the visiting pastor, "what brings us the greatest comfort?"
From the rear of the church came the answer: "An acquittal."

Tel. GY 6-3283

Five Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Thursday, January 30, 1964

(Six Pages Today)

94th Year—Number 98

\$150,000.00 FIRE RAZES BLOCK AREA

One of the most disastrous fires in Louisburg's history leveled Ford's Southside Warehouse, Bunn's Grocery, Weaver's Clothing and the old abandoned Cooper's Gin here early Wednesday morning.

The fire, discovered shortly after midnight by Police Patrolman Earl Tharrington raged out of control for nearly two hours and posed a serious threat to the entire south side of town. All available fire apparatus in the Town of Louisburg was thrown into service to combat the blaze along with units from Franklinton, Epsom, Centerville, Justice and Bunn.

Louisburg Fire Chief W. J. (Pete) Shearin said that a favorable wind plus timely and efficient assistance by the out-of-town departments probably prevented spread of the

fire throughout the entire south side of town.

While the wind aided in preventing spread of the flames north and east into a row of buildings and the highly flammable Franklin Milling Co., facilities and Allen Oil fuel storage tanks, it carried flaming debris as far as three blocks away setting numerous grass fires and ignited at least two houses, but these were quickly controlled by the assisting rural firemen.

All told, six buildings were destroyed by the fire including the sprawling Southside tobacco warehouse, Louisburg's largest. Total damage estimates were not available, but Charlie Ford, owner of the warehouse, in which the fire originated, said damage to it alone would amount to well over \$100,000.

The fire burned a primary electrical

feeder line and two 200 pair telephone cables into knocking out electric and telephone service over the entire southern section of Louisburg for upwards to six hours. It was near noon Wednesday before street crews, using a bulldozer and several large trucks could clear the debris and re-open South Main Street to traffic.

In addition to the six structures, a 1962 automobile, a tractor and a model A Ford, parked in the warehouse, were destroyed.

Adding to their miseries was the temperature, which fell well below the 20 degree mark during the early morning, causing ice to form on the streets and coats of the firemen. Smoke and flames from the blaze were seen from as far as fifteen miles

away on the clear, brightly moonlit night.

The Louisburg Rescue Service, always on the scene at every disaster, aided by handling communications, rushing additional hose and fittings to fresh emergency points and served steaming hot coffee to the half frozen firemen.

Chief Shearin said that it looked as if the whole south side of town was going at one point as he praised the efforts of the area firemen and Louisburg College students, who pitched in the battle.

There were no injuries reported, but so fierce was the battle at one point that a hose cover on top of the town's new Ford pumper caught fire and the paint on one side of the truck was scorched slightly.

- Other Fire Stories and Photos on Page 8



FLAMES TOWER SKYWARD

Brilliant flames from Wednesday morning's disastrous southside fire turn an otherwise black sky into an orange and yellow glow that could be seen almost 15

miles away. Photo above was taken from Depot Hill looking south within just a few minutes after the first alarm was turned in. See other fire photos on page 8.