

# The Franklin Times

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## Arsonist Strikes Near Bunn

Arson is suspected in a nearly morning fire that destroyed an unoccupied dwelling, filled with tobacco, near Bunn last Friday. The fire was discovered about 2 a. m. Friday morning by an unidentified Negro man who was

employed to keep watch over the house and tobacco. The house was located on the line dividing property owned by

Pete Johnson, and the estate of Johnson's late father, H. H. Johnson. The portion of the land and house situated on the

Johnson estate was placed for sale Friday noon at the courthouse. The tobacco, which was totally

destroyed in the fire was the property of Lafayette Johnson, a brother of Pete Johnson. Sheriff Joseph W. Champion and Deputy Sheriff Dave Batton reported that kerosene soaked rags and paper were found in the ruins, and kerosene was evident on the ground near the structure. Both were in attendance before the blaze was extinguished early Friday morning.

The Negro watchman reported seeing an automobile pull up to the unoccupied house around 1:45 a. m. and again seeing it pull away 15 minutes later. Shortly thereafter, the man reported he saw the blaze. The ruins were still smoldering late Friday afternoon. Batton reported that Lafayette Johnson told him that he had his tobacco insured and the Deputy also reported that Pete Johnson had the building insured. Both were a total loss.

The Sheriff's department is still investigating a mysterious fire, similar to this one, which destroyed another unoccupied dwelling belonging to Pete Johnson last April 12. That fire also was discovered in the early morning hours of a Sunday morning and the building was a total loss. A Negro tenant and his family had moved out of the house just a few days earlier. Footprints were found at that fire and officers believed that arson was involved.

Local officers and special investigators are continuing to search the ruins and the area for additional clues. They have definitely determined that this recent blaze is the work of an arsonist.



Fire Scene

Sheriff's Deputy Dave Batton points to kerosene soaked rags and papers found in ruins of unoccupied dwelling near Bunn following fire early last Friday morning. The house, owned by

Pete Johnson and the H. H. Johnson Estate, was filled with tobacco belonging to Lafayette Johnson. Officers are investigating.

-Times Staff Photo.

### Subscription Drive

The Franklin Times will launch its annual Subscription Campaign beginning Monday, September 21. Again this year, seniors in our high schools will act as agents for The Times in obtaining new and renewal subscriptions. The campaign will continue through October 3. Following the drive, subscription rates will be increased and subscribers, new and old, are urged to sign up immediately with the senior that calls on you and take advantage of the savings.

### Chief Urges Check Of Local Water Heaters For Safety

Louisburg Fire Chief W. J. "Pete" Shearin issued a warning today on the danger of certain types of hot water heaters. Shearin urged homeowners to have their present heaters checked by a reputable plumber if there was any doubt as to their safety.

Exploding hot water heaters have been widely publicized in the past few weeks and Adrian King, writing in Sunday's issue of the Raleigh News and Observer named several companies that sell and distribute heaters of the kind that have been known to explode.

Among those named in the article were State Stove Manufacturing Co. of Ashland, Tenn., as manufacturer of eight of ten heaters known to have exploded. A hurried check by a Times reporter this morning of local hot water dealers disclosed that heaters made by the Tennessee firm are being offered for sale by dealers in Louisburg.

State Stove Mfg. Co. heaters are on display in the local Johnson Cotton Co. store and the FCS store here. Both the store manager and furniture department managers at Johnson Cotton Co. were out and unavailable for comment. One of their salesmen said he did not know if the models displayed had been converted to safer material, but he had heard someone mention it. An installation folder which accompanied the heaters stated that they contained plastic dip tubes.

David Williams, manager of the FCS store, said all his heaters had been converted from the plastic tube to copper, which he showed the reporter. He also said the explosions were caused by faulty thermostats causing a rise in water temperature, which in turn caused the plastic dip tube to collapse, leaving the rising steam no place to go. Williams said a safety valve added to the heaters with plastic tubes would make them safer.

The FCX store also had heaters manufactured by Mor-Flo Ind. Inc., of Cleveland, Ohio. Joyner's Wholesale Builders Supply, whose heaters are made by Standard Water Heater Division, 123 South 1st St., Nashville, Tenn., reported that all heaters in stock had arrived Monday and were completely new and with the safety features. All the heaters on hand containing plastic dip tubes were returned, according to the salesman at Joyner's.

Gerald Strickland, local General Electric dealer, said his company had made some with the plastic line, but very few. He said he was checking all installations out to make sure they were safe before they were installed.

House Furniture Co. here reported that their Westinghouse hot water heater has never had any plastic components. They do sell another brand made by Row-Con of Nashville, Tenn., but they have just recently stocked them and they contain copper tubing.

An Addendum to the N. C. Boiler Law, Rules and Regulations, effective last June 4, says: "Dip tubes, supply and hot water nipples, supply water baffles or heat traps when used in hot water supply, storage tanks or heaters shall be constructed and tested to withstand a temperature of 400 de-

grees F. without deteriorating in any manner, and the tank so labeled by the manufacturer."

The release also states, that since the order could not be made retroactive on existing installations it strongly recommends that tanks which now have the plastic dip tubes be checked. One dealer reported that plastic had not been used in heaters longer than the past four years, but another said some manufacturers were using a limited amount as far back as 15 years ago. Chief Shearin requested everyone to have his heater checked, particularly those having recently installed heaters.

### County To Get \$23,708 In Street Funds

The four towns in Franklin County will receive a total of \$23,708.34 in Powell Bill Funds, for non highway system streets, next month, according to an announcement from the North Carolina Highway Commission. The funds are distributed annually to qualified cities and towns for use in non-highway system street-work within their corporate limits. Checks are to be mailed the last of September so that they will reach the municipalities by Oct. 1. Louisburg leads the list for the county with a \$12,042.81 allocation, followed by Frank-

### Dora Dumps Downpour Here

Hurricane Dora, paying a somewhat unexpected visit Sunday, dumped nearly 3 inches of rain in the Louisburg area. G. O. Kennedy, local weather man, reported 2.95 inches of rain over the weekend.

According to Kennedy, the local area had less rainfall than

did the Raleigh-Durham weather station, which reported 3.5 inches for the same period. They also reported winds up to 40 miles an hour in the airport area. Kennedy said he doubted the winds were that strong here. No wind damage has been reported.

The river reached a high of 10.20 feet Monday, which was still lower than a few weeks ago when it reached a point

of 10.65 feet after a 4-inch rainfall. Local temperatures are below normal for this time of year, reports Kennedy with a low this morning of 44 degrees, lowest in a number of years. There have been temperatures in the forties in September in the past few years, but they have come later in the month. The low Monday morning was 47 degrees.

### Officials Hear Air Field Needs

The local Civil Air Patrol played host last Friday night to governmental officials, out-of-town guests and the press, with a bar-b-que supper at the local air field.

Numbered among the forty men present were Franklin County Commissioners; the Louisburg Town Council, State Civil Defense Director and members of the local newspaper and radio station.

Sgt. Peter Eggmann of Raleigh spoke about the training program which he is conducting in conjunction with the Civil Air Patrol. Gen. E. F. Griffin spoke briefly on the value of the CAP to civil defense. He praised the Patrol highly for outstanding services in emergencies such as hurricanes and search missions.

Wilbur Raynor, local businessman-flying enthusiast, was the featured speaker. He told of the accomplishments of the local group over the years and told of the need of the air field. "This is Franklin Field," he said, "Not just Louisburg, and it belongs to the entire county."

Raynor complimented local officials on the growth of the county and town in the past 12 months, saying, "More has been done here in the past twelve months than in any other year," but he added, "Something should be done to improve the facilities of our air field." He related numerous times that visitors could not land at the local field because of inadequate facilities and urged those present to "start the ball rolling" on improving the local facility.

Prior to the meal and meeting, members of the local unit and plane owners took many of the group for a plane ride over Louisburg.

### Cotton Baled

F. H. Allen announced Monday that he baled the first cotton of the season Saturday for E. L. Avent, who had reported the first cotton bud earlier this year. Avent's cotton weighed 542 pounds and has not yet been sold.

Allen also baled 452 pounds of cotton for Gene Mullen of Bunn on Saturday.

L. H. and H. K. Dickens baled the first bale of cotton in Castalia September 14 for Joe Leonard.

Johnston also determined that John Johnson was born in 1764, a son of John Johnson, Sr., who died in Franklin County in 1829, willing the President's great-grandfather \$10.

John Johnson, Sr., settled in 1776 in Northeastern Franklin County. There are still numerous Johnsons, in Franklin and Nash counties, many of whom could be and probably are kin to the President, Johnston noted.

There is evidence of some of the President's forebears, including tombstones; crumbling chimneys on original homesteads, and an old well, possibly dug by Joshua Johnson, brother of the President's great-great grandfather.

Joshua Johnson died in Franklin County, and his grave

The Justice Fire Department answered a call Monday afternoon around 2 p. m. to fight a barn fire on the Rhyland Wheeler farm near Seven Paths. Early Tuesday morning, Justice firemen were called to a fire near Sledge's Store, involving a barn being tended by Jack Bottoms.

On the way to the Tuesday fire, a bag of lime fell off the back of the truck at an intersection, causing some firemen to make a wrong turn thinking the fire truck had followed the trail of the lime. Firemen taking the wrong turn ran onto another barn fire on Dr. Frank Alford's farm. They were somewhat frustrated when the truck, for which they were waiting never arrived. All barns were total losses.

lies only a few feet from the site of his original homestead. Johnson has almost completed his research of the President's family, but has concluded that of Ann Ealy Johnson's ancestors, tracing back to an original immigrant, Robert Eley.

Eley, Johnston said, left London on the ship "Primrose" on July 27, 1635, settling in Isle of Wight County, Va.

Eley's descendants eventually migrated southward into Southampton County, Va., and on into Franklin County.

President Johnson's ancestors remained in Georgia until about 1838 when they moved to Texas.

Merriman Kearney, 52, Rt. 2, Franklinton, took his own life Friday morning around 10 a. m. at his home. Kearney shot himself in the chest with a .12 gauge shotgun, in his yard, according to Sheriff's Deputy Dave Batton.

Kearney was alone at the time of the shooting and there was no note found and no explanation of his actions were disclosed by investigating officers.

He was a member of Ebenezer Methodist Church and a retired farmer. Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 3 p. m. at Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Vance County by the Rev. W. M. Dameron. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are three brothers, Odis A. and Troy B. Kearney, both of Franklinton and Glenwood G. of Wake Forest; five sisters, Mrs. Elsa Pace of Franklinton, Mrs. Zelma Fisher, Miss Polly Kearney and Miss Rebecca Eula Kearney, all of Baltimore, Md., and Mrs. Ada Katherine Kearney of Louisburg.

### At CAP Meeting

Pictured above are officials of local Civil Air Patrol and speakers, taken at annual dinner meeting last Friday night. Left to right: Wilbur Raynor, Sgt.

Peter Eggmann of Raleigh; Gen. E. F. Griffin, State Civil Defense Director; Joe Shearin, Linwood Gupton, and Talmadge Fuller. -Times Staff Photo.



### Leaf Sales

Scene above taken Monday afternoon at Big Franklin Warehouse here as sales continued on the local market. Averages

picked up Monday from a dip last Friday. Averages for the three-day period on the local market are \$52.95.

## Local Market Sales Pick Up

Sales on the Louisburg tobacco market picked up Monday after a drop Friday from the heavy sales of opening day. The local market topped the Middle Belt average on opening day last Thursday with an average of \$54.82 per hundred. The Middle Belt opening day average was \$54.57.

Poundage dropped nearly 100,000 pounds on the local warehouse floor Friday and with it dropped the average to \$50.41. Sales picked up yesterday boosting the average to \$52.94.

Total sales for the three days the market has been open is 903,282 pounds for \$478,358.96 with an average of \$52.95. Offerings were heavy at all three warehouses Monday, with low grade untied leaf holding averages down.

Sales for all three days were running much ahead of last year's opening. On opening day, 1963, only 59,460 pounds were sold for \$33,159.27 and an average of \$55.76. The 1962 opening average was \$55.61.

The Federal - State Market News Service said gains of \$1 to \$2 per 100 pounds were noted on the North Carolina Middle Belt where both tied and untied leaf is on sale. The service said most markets had more tobacco on hand than could be sold in the allotted auction time. The percentage of nondescript decreases and the amount of fair tobacco increased.

Auction bid averages per 100 pounds on a limited number of representative U. S. grades on the Middle Belt with untied listed first and tied next:

### Dogwood Blooms

Mr. M. C. Murphy, local grocer, reports dogwoods in bloom at his cabin on Mitchner's pond. He brought one in to the Times Office for display. It is unusual, to say the least, for dogwoods to bloom in September.

### Production Of Coins Double

Harold Talton, Vice President of First Citizens Bank and Trust Co. here released a statement from the Treasury Department today on the actions being taken by the Federal agency to alleviate the coin shortage.

The release follows: The Treasury Department today made two announcements in connection with its two-month old program to double coin production and ease the coin shortages which have been felt in some parts of the country.

1. August output at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints was 590 million coins -- an increase of 132 million pieces over monthly production in July. This brought production up to an annual rate of 7 billion coins, which compares with a rate of 4.2 billion during fiscal 1964. Meanwhile, the 60 additional coinage presses now being purchased and installed by the Mint will bring coin production up to an annual rate of over 9 billion coins a year, by June 30, 1965.

2. The Treasury said it would invoke the authority provided by Public Law 88-580, approved by the President on September 3, 1964, so that coins manufactured after January 1, 1965 will continue to bear the 1964 date.