

Weather

Cloudy and cooler today with scattered showers. Occasional rain tonight. Cool and clearing Wednesday. Low today, 43; high, 55.

Comment

An oldtimer is one who can remember when two could live as cheaply as one, without both working.

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

Tel. GY 6-3283 (Ten Cents) Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, February 15, 1966 (Six Pages Today) 96th Year—Number 102



Sunset Ave.



Kenmore Ave.



South Main St.

Scenes above show part of storm damage here Sunday as tornadic winds whipped through the area, leaving uprooted trees, torn awnings, and much of the area without electric power. At left, the huge tree which fell on Sunset Avenue cutting the main feeder line from the Louisburg power station, throwing the northern and southern parts of town into darkness for about 13 hours; center, tree toppled across power lines on Kenmore Avenue here; and right, front of burned-out building on South Main Street was blown out, the area having bricks onto the sidewalk and street. No injuries were reported in the area, but widespread damage was recorded. —Staff Photos by Clint Fuller.

Grocers Hear Requirements

Franklin County grocery store operators are being processed today in the local courthouse to participate in the federal Food Stamp Program recently approved by the County Commissioners.

Over 150 grocery store owners and personnel attended an afternoon meeting Monday in the courtroom here, and another group attended a similar meeting Monday night, to hear Mr. Sam Pope of Rocky Mount and Mr. Harold Yountz of Winston-Salem, both with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, explain the requirements for a groceryman to become authorized to handle stamps.

The Program, which is to begin here March 1, and for which a number of people have already applied at the Welfare Department, is an aid to low-income families. A household must, after qualifying at the Welfare Department, purchase of cash certain amounts of Food Stamps. With such purchases, bonus stamps are given which may be used to purchase food.

Grocerymen heard the Agriculture officials tell that stamps are in two denominations, fifty-cent stamps and \$2 stamps. The larger stamps are blue and the smaller, gold or yellow. These may be used as cash in purchasing food only, and this does not include imported food. Grocerymen were told that cash could not be given in exchange for stamps. Due bills or stamps

may be given, or the customer may make additional purchases. He may also pay the difference in cash.

Grocerymen were told Monday to study the law, a copy of which was given each, and to appear today ready to present their applications. It was estimated that it would take around twenty minutes to process each application.

Other material passed out to those present in Monday's meetings contained information on the "Do's" and "Don'ts" of the Program. Most dealt with the procedures for accepting the stamps at check-out counters. No old bills can be paid with stamps, it was

Coroner Rules:

Death Caused By Suffocation

Coroner James Edwards reported this morning that a 47-year-old Negro found dead in the yard of a night spot near Bunn Sunday died from suffocation.

Nelson Harris was found in the yard of a night spot, reportedly owned by Betty Baker, near Bunn Sunday afternoon. Death was first attributed to Harris having struck his head on a piece of concrete lying in the yard.

Edwards reported that X-rays of the head revealed the blow was not sufficient to cause death. Harris reportedly fell

brought out.

All in all, as one merchant put it, it sounded complicated. But most undoubtedly will attempt to become certified today, in order to participate in the estimated \$200,000 annual food bonanza to come to the area through the plan.

Signs will be prominently displayed in stores approved before the starting date, according to reports. Pope said he was told there were only 71 grocery outlets in the county, when he discovered he barely had enough envelopes of material to pass out. Many stores were represented in the meetings by more than one person.

Fuller Gives Up Local Political Post

Walter Fuller, Treasurer of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee and long-time political leader in the county while residing in Raleigh, has resigned his post, according to Joe Lane, Secretary of the local political organization.

Lane was elected to fill the unexpired term as Treasurer in a special meeting here last Saturday.

Fuller's letter of resignation, dated February 4, 1966, included several statements expressing his appreciation for the cooperation during his office, both as treasurer and in past years other offices, including that of chairman.

He said he felt since he was no longer in public office, he should move his registration to the place of his residence. He



Walter E. Fuller

also stated he had always come home to Franklin County to vote.

Fuller has been a member of the Executive Committee since 1952 and was Chairman from 1952 to 1960, while he was precinct chairman in Sandy Creek.

He was recently removed from his post of Director of Water Resources for the state by Gov. Dan Moore. Fuller had been named to the post by former Gov. Terry Sanford.

Violent Wind Storm Leaves Area Damaged

Minds of local citizens wandered Sunday morning back to a windy storm-filled Friday in 1954, when a hurricane with the unlikely lady-like name of Hazel came plowing through the area, leaving untold damage.

Fortunately, the tornadic winds which hit the Franklin County area off and on most of the day Sunday, with the hardest blows coming around 10:45 a.m., were somewhat less violent than were the winds of the October 15, 1954 storm.

But, several thousand dollars in damages were suffered in the area as the storm hit practically the entire state. Power was off in most of the Louisburg area for much of the day and night. Full power to all homes was not resumed until around 2:30 a.m. Monday. Cur-

rent was discontinued around 10:45 a.m. when a tree, in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Umphrey Lee, Sunset Ave. here, was blown over, severing the main feeder line for the northern section of town and much of the southern area.

Other damage was reported at the local power station, where at least two power poles were downed. A large tree was uprooted on Kenmore Ave. tearing down power lines in that section of town. A concrete block fence was blown over at the outdoor theater on the Franklin highway.

A large outdoor billboard sign was toppled at the river bridge on Main Street, and a number of awnings were torn or blown down. The front of a burned-out building on South

Main Street was blown out, falling bricks onto the sidewalks and into the street.

No injuries were reported in any of the county area. There was a report of one lady in the Cedar Rock Community receiving a cut when the wind blew a pane of glass out at her home. An automobile accident Sunday around 3:45 p.m. on the Louisburg-Hickory Rock road, in which two youths were injured, was not attributed to the storm.

No reports of extensive damage were made from Franklin, but a number of shingles were blown from roofs of homes, several TV antennas were downed, and at least one large tree, on Green Street, was uprooted.

Scattered reports indicate that isolated damage occurred throughout the county area. Damage was extensive in the White Level-Hickory Rock area near St. Delight Church, where a store awning was torn down, a car shelter was felled, and a house trailer uprooted from its foundation. Another house trailer on the Bunn highway was blown over. No injuries were reported.

At Mapleville, a shelter was blown down on top of a tractor, inflicting minor damages to the tractor.

Louisburg Town Administrator E. S. Ford estimated the cost of local repairs by the Town at \$1,200 Monday. He stated that had the storm not caused the severance of the main feeder line, power could have been restored much quicker and at less expense. He also reported that Carolina Power and Light Co., supplier to the town, suffered damages in the area but that most of their damage was in secondary lines.

Current was restored to the northern end of town around midnight Sunday, to Noble Street residents around 1 a.m. Monday, and to Kenmore Ave. around 2:30 a.m. Monday.

Telephone linesmen were still working on their lines early Monday morning in the Louisburg area.

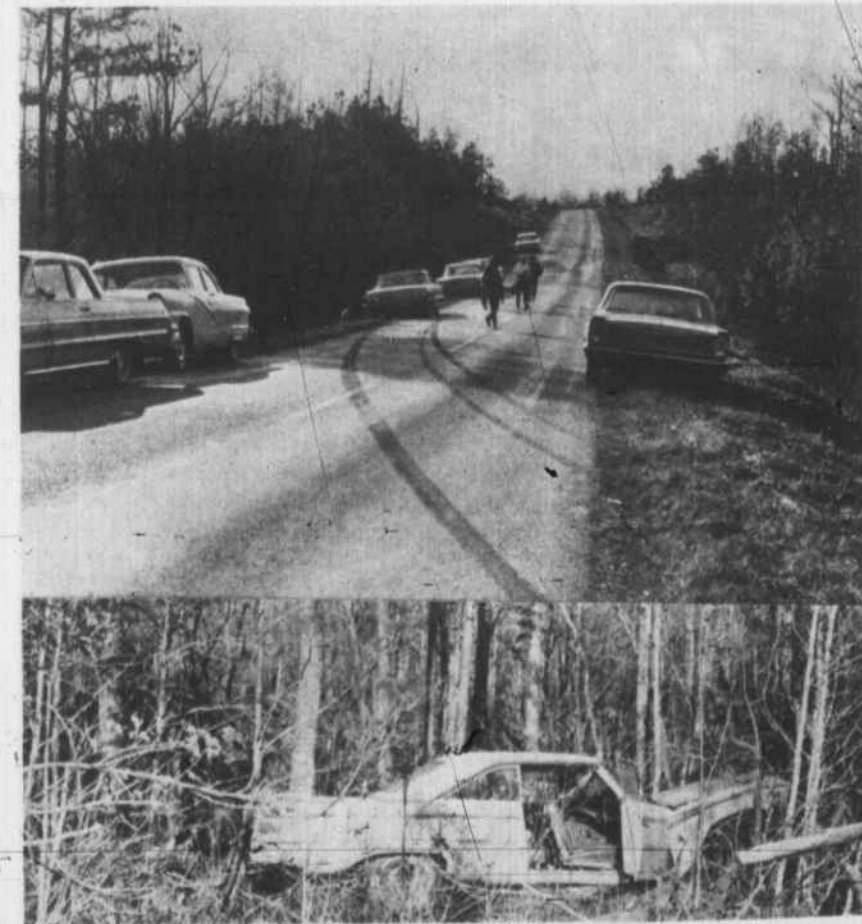
Routine Meeting

The Louisburg Town Council held its regular monthly meeting here last Friday night. Only routine matters were taken up at the relatively short session.

Three motions were made, according to the minutes, in which Councilman S. C. Foster's motion to have names of local firemen certified before being submitted to the N. C. Firemen's Pension Fund was approved. Councilman E. F. Thomas seconded the action. Councilman Jonah Taylor moved that Louis A. Wheelis,

See SCHOOL Page 6

See MEETING Page 6



Minor Injuries

Scene above shows where accident occurred Sunday afternoon around 3:45 p.m. on the Louisburg-Hickory Rock highway. Two men were injured, though not seriously, when the driver lost control of the vehicle on top of the hill shown above and traveled 1174 feet down the highway, landing deep in a patch of trees. Glenn West, w/m/28, Rt. 2, Louisburg, and Dan Collins, w/m/28, Greensboro, suffered minor injuries. —Photo by Clint Fuller.

Local School Suit In Hands Of Judge

The fate of twenty Negro school children and the future of Franklin County's School Compliance Plan remain today in the hands of U. S. Eastern District Judge Algernon Butler of Clinton. Both sides in the suit for a preliminary injunction to allow these twenty Negro pupils to attend schools of their choice in Franklin County rested their cases last Thursday afternoon in Raleigh. Thirty transfer requests were denied last September and eleven parents filed suit in December.

The surprising end to what had promised to be a lengthy hearing came when plaintiff attorneys declined to place any witnesses, on the stand late Thursday afternoon and the defense, just as surprisingly, refused to call their witnesses.

Ruling Uncertain

No indication was made as to when Judge Butler might issue his ruling in the case. Attorneys completed their arguments shortly before 6 p.m. Thursday. Court was adjourned, and the Judge ordered attorneys for both sides into his chambers for a conference which lasted over an hour.

A group of local Negro parents, led by Rev. Luther Coppedge, filed suit in December against the Board of Education for refusing to grant requests for transfer of their children to grades which did not come under the Board's Freedom of Choice grades for this year. The U. S. Justice Department entered the case in January; and both the government and the Negro group sought a preliminary injunction, which, if granted, would allow immediate entrance to the schools in question by the Negro students.

The hearings, which began last Tuesday in Clinton (N. C.), were to determine whether or not the constitutional rights of the Negroes have been violated

in this refusal by the School Board. The case-in-chief, which attacks all phases of the Board's Plan of Compliance to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, is yet to be heard.

Smith On Stand

In Thursday's hearings, Supt. Warren Smith returned to the witness stand, where he had spent nearly four hours Tuesday. Smith described in detail conflicts in courses which would arise should these students be transferred in the middle of the year. Conflicts would exist, according to Smith's testimony, in a number of the cases, resulting in several courses now taken by the Negro students having to be dropped. Judge Butler asked about requirements for graduation and college entrance in regards to the pupils.

LeVonne Chambers, one of the two attorneys for the plaintiffs, in his argument before the court, indicated that lost courses and college entrance were not the issues involved. He pointed out that some of the subject matter could be taken next year by the students, even if certain courses were abandoned this year.

Bunn Negro Held For Break-ins

Louisburg Police Chief William Dement reported Monday that an arrest has been made in two recent break-ins in the Louisburg area. Cornelius Alston, n/m/17, of Bunn is being held in lieu of \$500 bond in two cases of breaking and entering, according to Dement.

The youth is charged with breaking into Johnny's Shoe Shop on South Main Street last Thursday night and stealing a pair of shoes and some shoe heel taps. He is also charged with entering the Louisburg Milling Company last Friday

Reason Changed

It was disclosed in the attorney's arguments that Rev. Coppedge, who originally stated on his suit's application that "nearness of school" was his reason for seeking transfer from Perry's School to Edward Best High School, now says that his son wishes to take a course in agriculture at Edward Best, a course not presently available at Perry's School. A desire to obtain a course of study in the school attended was one of the two reasons for granting a transfer, according to attorneys for the Board of Education.

Board Attorney E. F. Yarbrough took issue with this point, stating that Rev. Coppedge had on three separate occasions stated that a course of study was not his reason. Plaintiff Attorney Chambers explained that it is now the child who says it is a course of study desired.

Irving Tucker of Raleigh, Board attorney, asked why it took from last May until now to decide that a change in a course of study was the reason when it had been stated on the application the reason was

nearness of school. He also pointed out that Coppedge and other plaintiffs were informed personally of the criteria for granting transfers last September 2, six days before schools opened, and that none changed their applications and none had sought to reapply, even though the Board's plan makes provisions for transfer any time during the year for proper cause.

Yarbrough told the court, "The Franklin County Board of Education has acted in extreme good faith. They did exactly what the Office of Education guidelines required." He pointed out that the Office of Education did not require Freedom of Choice in all twelve grades, but only in four for this year.

Both defense attorneys emphasized the point that all twelve grades are to come under the Freedom of Choice Plan this fall. Tucker cited several similar cases in District Courts and Circuit Courts in which Freedom of Choice was upheld and in which Office of Education guidelines were ruled as legal.

Howard Fink, attorney for the government, accused the Board of "trickery" when the point was made that plaintiffs were informed on September 2 of the criteria for transfer. Heated arguments at this point between attorneys and during the debate on the change in the Coppedge reason for transfer were taken off the record by Judge Butler.

Plaintiff attorneys protested on a point contained in an affidavit by Clint Fuller, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education and Managing Editor of The Franklin Times, in which Fuller said, "In my opinion, the publication of the names

of local citizens who were named in the application for transfer was not in the public interest and was a violation of the privacy of the individuals named. The Board of Education should have taken steps to prevent the publication of the names of the individuals named in the application for transfer."

Good Faith

Yarbrough told the court, "The Franklin County Board of Education has acted in extreme good faith. They did exactly what the Office of Education guidelines required." He pointed out that the Office of Education did not require Freedom of Choice in all twelve grades, but only in four for this year.

Both defense attorneys emphasized the point that all twelve grades are to come under the Freedom of Choice Plan this fall. Tucker cited several similar cases in District Courts and Circuit Courts in which Freedom of Choice was upheld and in which Office of Education guidelines were ruled as legal.

Howard Fink, attorney for the government, accused the Board of "trickery" when the point was made that plaintiffs were informed on September 2 of the criteria for transfer. Heated arguments at this point between attorneys and during the debate on the change in the Coppedge reason for transfer were taken off the record by Judge Butler.

Plaintiff attorneys protested on a point contained in an affidavit by Clint Fuller, Vice Chairman of the Board of Education and Managing Editor of The Franklin Times, in which Fuller said, "In my opinion, the publication of the names

of local citizens who were named in the application for transfer was not in the public interest and was a violation of the privacy of the individuals named. The Board of Education should have taken steps to prevent the publication of the names of the individuals named in the application for transfer."