

### Weather

Continued warm today with a chance of afternoon showers. Friday, warm and fair. Low today, 60; high, 87.

### Comment

The proper method of reforming the world is by reforming yourself, not your neighbors.

# The Franklin Times

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## Ride Over N. C. 56 Beats Roller Coaster

### An Editorial

Many have spent far more, riding the roller-coaster at fairs and resorts and received less bumps, bounces, jerks and butter-fly stomachs, than one gets by traveling N. C. 56 from Louisburg to the Nash County line in Franklin County.

As one truck-driver, who works the strip regularly puts it: "At fifty miles an hour, 56 would throw me out of the truck." The Honda riders like it, but after this group, there is no one to be found who will agree that this highway is as it should be.

Untold numbers of commuters, living along N. C. 56 and working in Louisburg or other sections requiring travel along this route, have long since "cut through" state rural roads and are traveling miles out of their way on N. C. 56.

Why are these people riding several miles farther to and from work? The answer is simple, if you have ridden N. C. 56 lately. It is far less dangerous to "cut through" and even though this process places more miles on one's car, it presents far less wear and tear on the vehicle, to say nothing about the driver and passengers.

How many people, living along N. C. 56 in Franklin County, take the smooth, newly paved, wide, blacktop highway into Nashville instead of Louisburg to do their shopping is unknown. What is known, however is the fact, there is absolutely no comparison of the two highways.

Who is responsible? The N. C. State Highway Commission is the agency charged with road improvements. They have the answer as to why Nash County has a well-paved N. C. 56 and Franklin County does not. They have the answer why nothing has been done to Franklin County primary roads in over a decade. They have the answer as to why improvements on N. C. 56 are being withheld after ten years of promises.

Let's see what the Commission or its spokesmen have said about N. C. 56 in the past few years.

Jan. 1, 1963: (From The Franklin Times) "Wake and Durham Counties received 96% of all primary highway funds spent in the last fiscal year. (Wake, \$5,639,865; Durham, \$1,532,620; Franklin, \$0,000,901 (\$901.00)."

Jan. 22, 1963: (From The Franklin Times) "Fifth Division Highway Commissioner Clifton Benson of Raleigh promised some "relief real soon" on N. C. 56, according to County Commission Chairman Norwood Faulkner."

April 2, 1963: (From The Franklin Times) "Governor Sanford has indicated that the State Highway Commission would officially approve a project calling for widening and improving N. C. Highway 56 from Louisburg to the Nash County line at its meeting scheduled Thursday."

September 10, 1963: (From The Franklin Times) "County Commissioner Norwood Faulkner said Monday that he had been informed by District Highway Commissioner Clifton Benson that preliminary work on rebuilding N. C. Highway 56 had gotten underway."

January 14, 1964: (From The Franklin Times) "Wake Gets Millions, Franklin Gets Promise Wake County received \$6,141,244; Durham County, \$2,074,736; Franklin None. Only a repeated promise of improvements to N. C. 56 from Louisburg to Nash County Line."

August 24, 1964: (From a letter to The Franklin Times from Roger R. Jackson, Public Relations Director, State Highway Commission) "The Highway Commission's schedule calls for the project (N. C. 56 improvements) to be let to contract in September or October, 1965. I would hazard a guess that the project could be completed within four to six months." Note: The article appearing in The Times stated, "According to Jackson's statement, the project should be completed by April, 1966."

December 31, 1964: (From The Franklin Times) Report of right-of-way hearing here, attended by an estimated 150 persons. "There was no open opposition. Local officials voiced confidence that the leases would be signed and that the work would not be delayed. County Commission Chairman George Harris said the Board has been working to get this road improvement for ten years."

October 25, 1965: (From a letter to The Franklin Times from State Highway Commission Chairman Joseph M. Hunt) "It (N. C. 56 improvement project) is now in the process of design and in the not too distant future should go out for acquisition of rights of way. I can assure you this project will become a reality and that it is moving along on schedule."

Now these are the promises. Who among us is so naive to believe that we are going to get N. C. 56 or any other road improvement, unless something changes? Sitting idly by and watching others get the gravy has gained us absolutely nothing. We dare say, Franklin County, though it has not caused the Highway Commission any lost sleep in the past years, is not held in any higher esteem because of this.

Perhaps Franklin County citizens might wish to attend the next Commission meeting. Perhaps they might request some answers to these questions. It may be the Commission has forgotten us. This sounds reasonable since they have been unusually busy with our neighboring counties. Perhaps a little reminder might be in order. Say, a couple thousand citizens?

### College Gets Grant

Second Congressional Representative L. H. Fountain announced Wednesday that a \$2,000 grant for Louisburg College has been approved by the Office of Education in Washington. The grant, according to Rep. Fountain's announcement is to be used for acquisition of laboratory and other special equipment and materials.

Dr. Cecil W. Robbins, President of the College, reported that the money is on a matching-fund basis and is to be used in the shorthand laboratory, a part of the business department of the College.

A report released Tuesday by Dean John B. York reveals that the official registration for the first session of Summer School for 1966 closed with a total of 215 enrolled. The first session will continue through July 20, with the second session beginning on July 22 and continuing through August 26.

### County Boasts Successful Industrial Development Program

By Clint Fuller

One of the greatest contributors to the economic growth of Franklin County in recent years has been the industrial development program. Led by a ten-member Industrial Development Commission, a Director and secretary, the program has brought seven manufacturing plants into being in the county since its inception in 1961.

Allen DeHart is Chairman of the Commission and J. Harold Talton is vice-chairman. W. J. Benton, who was at one time head of the Commission and a former Louisburg Mayor, is the Director. Mrs. Lucille Romero is secretary. Members of the Commission are Lloyd West, Commission Secretary; James T. (Joe) Moss; Frank Collins; Joe Denton; Simon Collier; K. G. Weldon; Macon Morris and Jackson Dean. Members are chosen from different districts of the county.

While industrial development had been talked in the area for a number of years, nothing concrete was done until about 1956. During that time the late Stuart Davis campaigned vigorously for some type of committee to seek industry in the county. As a result of his efforts, Clint Fuller, President of the Louisburg Rotary Club at the time, appointed Davis and present Director W. J. Benton to form a committee. The first attempt was made on a county-wide basis with several meetings resulting, but little really accomplished. However, Davis continued to work as long as his health allowed and Benton continued his efforts along with several others in the area.

In 1961, mostly through the efforts of Benton and his group, a bond issue was approved by a vote of the people almost 2 to 1 to tax themselves 5¢ on the \$100 valuation to support a fulltime Industrial Development program.

Since its beginning in 1961, seven manufacturing plants have located in Franklin County (this is in contrast to the fact that no manufacturing plants located in the county from 1948 to 1962). These seven new plants (Louisburg Sportswear, Justice Manufacturing Company, Gay Products, Inc., M. E. Joyner Manufacturing Co., Diazit, Inc., Ben-Bar Electronics, and Tre'Jay, Inc.) have created approximately 1250 new job opportunities, with a total annual payroll eventually exceeding four million dollars. Over 95% of those employed are residents of Franklin County. Based on U. S. Chamber of Commerce figures that payrolls turn over 5 times before leaving a community, this would release a buying power approximating \$20,000,000 per year.

In addition to the seven new plants mentioned above, four manufacturing plants have announced or begun expansions during the period of 1964 to 1966.

Benton, who has served as Director for the past 2 1/2 years, says that several industries are now considering the area for plant locations. He adds, "During the period of time that I have done industrial work, one of the greatest changes I have noted has been in the type of meeting I attend. It used to be that a meeting pointed out why we needed an industrial program and a full time director, but meetings now are about what we are doing, what we plan to do, and how we are working out some particular project." He is the first to admit that it takes a lot of cooperation from a lot of people--"and this," he says, "has been splendid." "Members of the County Board of Commissioners, members of the various town boards, and individual citizens have all cooperated to the fullest, and when called upon have been ready and willing to do more than their part," he continued.

"One of the reasons Franklin County was recently removed from the poverty list by the Federal Government was a result of work done by the Franklin County Industrial Development

### Four Injured In Tuesday Accident

Four young people, two girls from Louisburg and two boys from Franklin, were injured Tuesday night around 7:30 p.m. when the late model car in which they were riding ran out of control and overturned in a deep culvert on U. S. 401 south of Louisburg.

Carlyle Breedlove, w/m/21 of Franklin, owner of the 1963 Chevrolet and reportedly the driver at the time of the accident was admitted to Franklin Memorial Hospital Tuesday night. Diane Arnold, w/f/18, Kenmore Ave., Louisburg was also admitted to the local hospital following the accident. The extent of their injuries were not disclosed.

Robert Harris, Jr. w/m/18 of Franklin and Audrey Hockaday, w/f/19 of Louisburg were treated at the hospital but had not been admitted late Tuesday night. Their injuries were also not disclosed.

The accident occurred about half a mile south of Royal on the Raleigh Road, some eight and a half miles south of Louisburg. The car left the right side of U. S. 401, jumped a creek and hit head on into an

### West Gets O.E.S. Post

George M. West, Worthy Patron of the William B. Barrow Chapter No. 39, O. E. S., was elected as Associate Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of North Carolina, Order of the Eastern Star, at the three-day meeting of Grand Chapter held in Raleigh this week.

The position is the second highest held by a man in the state organization. West is presently serving as Master of the local Masonic Lodge in addition to heading the O. E. S.

The election, held Wednesday in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium, was attended by over 1500 delegates from throughout the state.

Mrs. Irene Stone Walker of Salisbury was installed as the new Worthy Grand Matron and James B. Soesbe of Lake Junaluska was elevated to Worthy Grand Patron.

West, who held three Grand Chapter committee appointments this past year, has also served the state Grand Chapter as a District Deputy Grand



GEORGE M. WEST  
A graduate of U. N. C., West is in the real estate business in Louisburg, active in church and civic work and is married to the former Kathryn Joyner of Louisburg. They have three children.

### Bunn Forms Lions Club

A group of Bunn men have formed the Bunn Lions Club, it was announced this week, under sponsorship of the Zebulon Lions Club.

In their organizational meeting, held recently, Gene Mullen was named President of the new club. Other officers named to head the organization until the new Lions' year starts July 1, 1966 are: Decimo Gay, Secretary; Wilbur Green, Tail Twister and W. H. Kelly, Lion Tamer.

The group plans Charter Night for Saturday, June 25 at 7:30 p. m. in the Bunn School cafeteria. This is to be a joint meeting of the Bunn Club and the Zebulon Club. The public is invited and tickets for the banquet and meeting are being handled by members of the Bunn Club.



The 1963 Chevrolet shown above was termed a complete loss, following a crash on U. S. 401 south of Royal, Tuesday night. Four young people were injured. --Staff photo by Clint Fuller.