

Weather

Partly cloudy today with scattered afternoon thunder-showers. Low today, 70; high, near 90.

Comment

Imagination: Something that sits up with a wife when her husband is out late.

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This Is N. C. 561 In Halifax County

This Is N. C. 561 In Franklin County

N. C. Highway 561 - - - Our Pride And Our Joy

An Editorial

This is the time of year when vacationers come back to Franklin County to see the home folks; when visitors are passing through and when, in general, motorists are getting around.

So, it is the time for showing off the things of which the county is proud. Visitors are taken for a view of the Louisburg College campus. They are shown the new industrial plants, the hospital construction, the schools and North Carolina highway 561.

N. C. 561, shown above in most of its glory, is the last* state primary highway built in Franklin County. It is our pride and our joy. It represents our best road. And since it does, we naturally wish to show it off.

All local citizens and most visitors are impressed. N. C. 561 is a relatively short highway in the complex state road system. It begins or ends, depending on your point of view, at the Bickett Blvd. intersection of U. S. 401 in Louisburg. The other end of the strip disappears near Harrellsville in the Northeastern part of the state.

Traffic on N. C. 561 must be heaviest from Louisburg to the intersection of N. C. 43 below Wood. At any rate, this is the strip which shows the most wear. Or perhaps, more correctly put, this is the section which shows the greatest lack of maintenance.

This comes as no surprise, if the visitor has a Franklin County guide. Almost any citizen can readily explain that Franklin County primary roads get little attention. N. C. 561 gets much better in the next county, the visitor is told. Don't they all?

And there follows the inevitable question—How would the citizens of Wake, Durham and the other four counties in the Fifth Highway Division like to have a highway such as this, which they too, could point to with pride, as their very best? You're invited to come see ours.

*U. S. 1 which by-passes Franklinton was completed since N. C. 561 and is the newest stretch through the county. However, one suspects this was obtained as a means of connecting Henderson and Raleigh more so than as an improvement for Franklin County.

Mayor Proclaims "Bells For Freedom" Day Monday

Louisburg Mayor V. A. Peoples issued a Proclamation today designating Monday, July 4, as "Bells For Freedom" Day in Louisburg and urging all citizens to join with the local teen-agers who are sponsoring a bell-ringing celebration beginning at 2 p.m. Monday.

Peoples praised the local teen-agers and particularly Miss Tucker Meyer whose letters to the Mayor and local news media sparked the bell-ringing project.

Bells in churches, homes, and other locations, including those on the town fire trucks will ring for four consecutive minutes beginning Monday at 2 p.m.

In addition, The Franklin Times in today's issue is running the Declaration of Independence in its entirety on its Editorial page.

The local radio station will on Monday broadcast portions of the document beginning at 2 p.m. with bells as background sound.

The text of Mayor Peoples' Proclamation follows:

WHEREAS, The people of Louisburg have long been re-

cognized for their patriotism and their love of Freedom, Liberty and Justice; and WHEREAS, The celebration of July 4 as Independence Day has always been marked by display of the flag and other solemn contemplations by our

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Edwards Is President Of Millers Assoc.

Joe Edwards, operator of the Louisburg Milling Company here was elected president of the Eastern Corn Millers Association in the organization's meeting held in Newton Grove, N. C. yesterday.

Edwards, who has been active in the organization for a number of years, and his wife, Mabel, live on Church Street here.

Other officers are, vice president, Hubert Davis, Seven Springs; secretary, Norwood O. Hargroves, Raleigh and treasurer, Sherrill Williams, Newton Grove.

Franklinton Dog Tags Arrive

Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards reported today that dog tags have arrived in Franklinton and may be obtained by dog owners. Chief Edwards also issued a reminder that beginning the first of August his department will stage a roundup of all stray dogs in the area.

Edwards issued an announcement earlier this month stating that a major crackdown would be held against stray dogs beginning in August and urged all owners to obtain collars and tags for their dogs. He also asked that dogs be vaccinated.

County Board Sets \$1.58 Tax Rate

The Franklin County Commissioners, meeting in special session here Wednesday, set the county tax rate, tentatively, at \$1.58 or 40 less than the \$1.98 of last year. The decrease came due to the revaluation of property in the county, which jumped from just over \$31 million last year to \$46,600,000 this year.

The normal increase in valuation is estimated at between three-quarters and one million dollars. Based on this estimate, revaluation added about \$14 million in property to the tax books.

Leading the list of departments in the budget, as usual, are the school systems. The tax rate dropped from .38 current expense and .48 capital outlay last year to .32 and .33 respectively this year. However, the total amount of tax levy exceeds that of last year. Current expense moves from \$120,326.33 in 1965-66 to a new \$149,120.00 for 1966-67. Capital outlay tax levy moves from \$151,991.16 last year to \$153,780.00 for 1966-67. The Franklin County School system gets 20.18 per cent of these totals, the county system

gets the remainder.

All items in the new tentative budget are increased except the Debt Service which drops from \$28,498.34 last year to \$23,300.00 in the present budget. The largest increase appears in the General Purpose Fund. It jumps from \$63,329.65 to \$93,200.00.

Two new items appear in the tentative budget. Capital improvement to the jail is set at \$18,640.00 and Capital improvement to the Boarding Home is set at the same. Louisburg Township tax payers will have an additional levy of .26 School Debt Service and Franklin Township citizens will have an extra .44 in School Debt Service. Louisburg is down from 40 cents last year and Franklinton fell from 54 cents.

The total budgetary requirements amount to \$1,353,955.95 for the coming year from local sources. This, however, is not all received from tax levy. This figure does not include federal and state assistance in the various county agencies and programs.

The final approval of the budget is expected in July.

Town Council Approves Tentative Budget, Salaries Increase

The Louisburg Town Council has approved a tentative budget of departmental and bond indebtedness totaling \$493,951 for the coming fiscal year, 1966-67. The action came last Friday night.

A meeting is scheduled for July 22 at 7:30 p.m. for final approval and the setting of the new tax rate, which is ex-

pected to be somewhat lower than presently.

Included in the new budget are salary increases for town employees ranging from 5 to 10 per cent. On the first motion passed by the Board with Mayor V. A. Peoples ab-

staining and Councilwoman Breattie O'Neal voting against the proposal, all employees were granted a 5 per cent raise except Roy Holmes, Harold Foster, Bobby Gilliam, Sammy Tucker, Athleen Saunders and Katherine D. Gupton. These were granted 10 per cent raises under the first motion. Council members voting for the motion were: E. F. Thomas, Jonah Taylor, Louis Wheelless and S. C. Foster.

The minutes show People's reason for not voting was because the police and firemen were not included. Mrs. O'Neal's reason was not stated.

However, following this vote, another motion was made by Councilman Foster "that the three paid firemen and patrol members of the Police Department be given a 10 per cent increase in lieu of the 5 per cent previously authorized." Councilman Thomas seconded this motion and all members voted in favor of it.

Leading the list of departmental expenditures for the coming year is the electric department with a budget of \$220,710. Police Department is next in line with a budget of \$44,980 followed by General Government, \$41,609.

Other departments include: Fire, \$22,140; Street, \$19,703; Sanitation, \$29,176; Water, \$34,716; Sewer, \$16,353; and Recreation, \$6,574. The Rescue Service is budgeted at

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Saunders Takes Rotary Proxy Post

D. R. (Rocky) Saunders, Louisburg businessman, will take over as the new president of the Louisburg Rotary Club tonight, it was announced today.

Saunders is joined by Ed Pittman, manager of Gay Products here, as vice president and John Davis, ASCS office manager, will assume the duties of secretary-treasurer.

Rev. Buford Raffield, pastor of the Mapleville Baptist Church, was the featured speaker at the Rotary meeting last week. He spoke on "The Happy Man," utilizing scripture in relation to happiness.

Two new members were inducted into the club by past president Dr. Cecil W. Robbins. New members are Dr. John Vassey, radiologist at Franklin Memorial Hospital and W. G. Lancaster, Jr., local funeral home director. Dr. Carey Jones Perry is the retiring Rotary president.



Wind Damage

James Wilder, member of the firm of Franklin Milling Company here is shown above late Wednesday afternoon viewing damage to the 15,000 bushel grain bin being installed near the railroad depot here. Wind which accompanied a severe rain storm around 4 p.m. in the Louisburg area yesterday toppled the huge structure with four men inside it, but fortunately no one was injured. Wilder said he could not estimate the damages at the time. The structure is 55 feet high and 24 feet in diameter. Reports that as much as 2 inches of rain fell in some areas of the county bringing relief to the tobacco crop in these areas.

Staff Photo by Clint Fuller.

Other News Media Comment On Times' Road Editorials

At least four out-of-town news media have commented or reported on the series of front page editorials pertaining to road conditions in Franklin County, which have appeared recently in The Franklin Times.

WRAL-TV (Channel 5) in Raleigh, reported on a statement by County Commission Chairman Norwood Faulkner Tuesday on their 6 p.m. Dateline News program and again at 11 p.m. on Late Dateline. The call to Faulkner followed the reading of the first three editorials by WRAL Vice President Jesse Helms and News Director Sam Beard.

The television station again reported Tuesday night on word from the State Highway officials, who were not named, in light of the Times editorials.

The Henderson Daily Dispatch carried an editorial on

the articles in their Wednesday afternoon issue. (See the Henderson editorial page 4).

The Raleigh Times has requested pictures of the road conditions from Times Editor Clint Fuller and indications from the Raleigh newspaper is that an article will appear today on the editorials carried in this newspaper.

The Nashville Graphic, Nashville, N. C., carried the first of The Times front page editorials pertaining to N. C. 64 at the Nash-Franklin county line, in their issue last week. Bill Armstrong of WRAL-TV news indicated by telephone Wednesday to Fuller that his station would send a crew here Friday to photograph some of the roads.

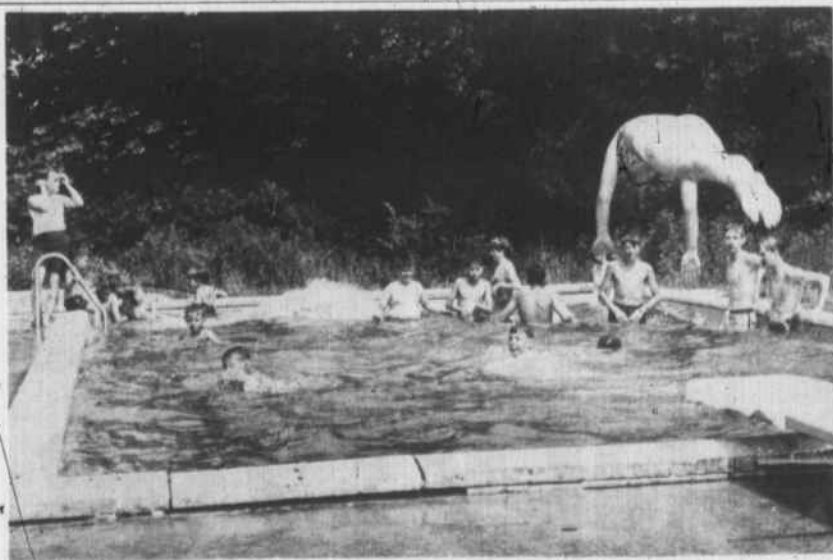
WRAL-TV reported Tuesday night that around \$900,000 had been spent in Franklin County in the past 29 years on primary highway construction.

They also mentioned that Wake county gets several millions annually. In the Dateline report Wednesday night, WRAL-TV reported that word from the Highway Commission was that "Franklin County would have to wait." The broadcast stated that N. C. 56 is the only future project approved and that this has a "low priority."

Wednesday's broadcast also disclosed that the county had received around only \$5,000 from the state for primary roads in the Moore Administration, the four years of the Terry Sanford Administration and the last four years of the Luther Hodges Administration combined.

Times Editor Clint Fuller, who writes the front page editorials and also handles the photography, said in light of the WRAL-TV report, "We

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Old Swimming Hole Changes

The old swimming hole was never like the one shown above. The 20 by 40 ft. pool is located in Centerville at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Ward and is home, on these hot days, for all the kids in the neighborhood. Ward reports they come early in the morning and stay until after dark when he is forced to light the pool. The deepest part measures 12 ft. near the diving board and there were over twenty youngsters enjoying the water when the above photo was taken. Some of the kids of the old swimming hole may be lost in this modern version, but one thing remains the same--the kids enjoy it.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.