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The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday — Serving All Of Franklin County

Agriculture Industry Education

Tel. GY 6-3283 | Ten Cents | Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, October 18, 1966 | (Six Pages Today) | 97th Year—Number 69

At Bethel Hill Ceremonies

Pictured above, left, Judge Gaither M. Beam and G. M. Beam, Jr. standing beside the marker unveiled in ceremonies in Person County Sunday in memory of Judge Beam's parents. At right, Mrs. Gladys Beam Bailey of Louisburg and Mrs. Beryl Beam Smith of Richmond, Va. are shown with Judge Beam at the marker. All three are children of John and Mollie Beam, founders of Bethel Hill Institute.

Photos courtesy of G. M. Beam, Jr.

The Beams Were Parents Of Education In Person County

Cermonies held last Sunday at Bethel Hill School in Person County honored the memory of Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Beam, parents of Judge Gaither M.Beam and Mrs. Gladys Bailey of Louisburg and Mrs. Beryl Beam Smith of Richmond, Va.

The Beams have been referred to as "parents of Person County education". Rev. John Alexander Beam, a native of Cleveland County, went to the Bethel Hill Community in 1886 following his graduation as a Baptist minister from Wake Forest College the year before. At 29, Rev. Beam decided to combine his ministry with teaching and started by purchasing the Old Flat River Academy. He renamed it Bethel Hill Institute, a name which has to become synonymous with John Beam.

The young minister-educator advertised in the newspapers of the day, "If your want an education, come to Bethel Hill. If you have no money come anyway".

In 1888, the struggling young instructor was joined by a native of Bleinheim, S. C. Educated at Oxford College and graduated in 1885 at the age of 17, Miss Mollie Lucas began what was to be an illustrous 58 year service in edcation in Person County.

More important, however, Miss Lucas and Rev. Beam wed in 1889 and became a team, under whose direction Bethel Hill grew and prospered for many years.

"The little two-room building gave way to a splendid building of goodly proportions and architectural beauty," according to The Roxboro Courier Times. It opened with a mortgage on the Beam home, five dollars in money and the good will of the community and faith.

Records show an enrollment in 1896-97 of 30 boys and 27 girls and in 1903-04, a student body of 74 boys and 41 girls, is shown. Disaster struck in 1905 in the form of a destructive fire. The building burned to the ground. Rev. and Mrs. Beam moved to Leaksville and later to Danville, Va. where he was business manager of Averett College. Mrs. Beam became an instructor.

The Beams returned to Person County when the new Bethel Hill High School was erected on the same site as the old Institute. Mrs. Beam was named Principal of the school and Rev. Beam was named Superintendent of Schools of Person County.

Sixteen years later, Rev. Beam retired from the position due to ill health. Mrs. Beam became his successor and was the first woman to ever hold the position of Superintendent of Schools in North Carolina.

Mrs. Beam died in 1928 and Mrs. Beam returned to the classroom, of which she had said, " I prefer the role of just plain teacher as I miss the direct contact with the boys and girls I love".

Mrs. Beam retired at the age of 75 in 1942. Not including eight years of substitute teaching, she had completed 58 years of service to education at her death in 1951.

The Institute was located "in the fine tobacco growing section of the hill country five miles from Denniston, Va. and near Woodsdale, N. C. The attractive scenery", so said the catalog of 1903.

A Marker was unveiled in "the hill country" Sunday afternoon by two great-grandchildren from Louisburg. It will stand as a tribute to two people who dedicated their lives to helping others. May it last forever in the "pure air and attractive scenery".

Beams Honored At Bethel Hill Sunday

Local members of the Beam family participated in ceremonies in Person County Sunday honoring Rev. and Mrs. John Alexander Beam, founders of Bethel Hill Institute there.

Judge Gaither M. Beam, son of the Institute Founders, was the principal speaker. Judge Beam spoke to the large group gathered in the Bethel Hill High School Auditorium. He related some of his boyhood experiences while living with his parents at the Institute and spoke generally on the subject of success.

"Every member of the Beam family appreciates the efforts of the Person County Historical Society and any concerned in making this moment possible," Beam said at the Bethel Hill School auditorium. "We hope that we can express our appreciation by carrying out the foundation laid by our parents."

He continued by pointing out the motto of the Bethel Hill Institute, founded in 1868 by Rev. Beam. "Train the heart as well as the head." As the theme for his address, he expounded upon the definition or sucess, saying that appreciation is essential to success.

"Appreciation is an large part of success as is courtesy," he said. I think a person who spreads joy and encouragement is successful, in the true sense of the word."

Judge Beam was introduced by Maury Fontaine, an alumni of the Institute, who said in his remarks of the Rev. and Mrs. Beam, "They had a vision when they opened the Institute and worked steadily toward the fulfillment of their aspirations for the welfare and benefit of any who studied at the Institute."

The program followed a picnic for guests and members of the Beam family. Rev. C. N. Kerley, Pastor of Bethel Hill Baptist Church, gave the invocation. John C. Dawes, Principal of Bethel Hill welcomed the group.

Music for the program was presented by Patsy Beam Shotwell and Sandy Beam, children of the late Dr. Hugh Beam who once practiced in Franklin County. He died in 1950. The Bethel Hill Alumni group also sang.

As a climax to the day's activities, a marker was presented and unveiled designating the area where the Beams lived and the location of the Institute. The marker was presented by Mrs. R. Bailey Fluke of Alexandria, Va., the former Rachel Anne Bailey, daughter of Mrs. Gladys Bailey of Louisburg. Mrs. Bailey is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Beam, founders of the Institute. Mrs. Fluke is their granddaughter. The marker was unveiled by Barbara Anne and Thomas Beam, daughter and son of G. M. (Buddy) Beam, Jr. of Louisburg, grandson of

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Red Cross Meeting

Shown above is a group meeting here Monday night to map plans to retain the local Red Cross Chapter in the county. Pictured left to right are: Dr. Cortland Smith; Warren W. Smith, Chapter Chairman; A. F. Johnson, Publicity Chairman; Wallace Tippett, Drive Chairman; Mrs. Bill Perry, Mrs. Pat Palmer, Mrs. D. R. Saunders, Mrs. Margaret Holmes, Mrs. Neva Fuller, Mrs. Helen Stephenson, Mr. R. N. Hadley, Volunteer Territorial Fund Chairman; Dick Collie and Arthur D. Paradeses, Field Representative.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Group Maps Plans For Red Cross Drive

A group of local interested citizens met here Monday night to formulate plans for a fund drive in an effort to retain the local chapter of the American Red Cross in the county.

Superintendent of Schools Warren W. Smith, Chapter Chairman, called the meeting, the second in recent weeks, at the local school office.

The group agreed to stage a drive for funds totaling some over $2,000 which are needed if the chapter is to remain active in the area.

Wallace Tippett, local farm implement dealer, was named Fund Drive Chairman and chairmen for many communities in the county were selected. Among those named were John Neal, Centerville; Dick Collie, Cedar Rock; Mrs. Margaret Holmes, Bunn; Arthur Hall, Youngsville; Rev. Lloyd Jackson, Franklinton and Dr. Cortland Smith, Louisburg.

Asher Johnson was named Publicity Chairman. Named to Johnson's committee were Rev. Walter McDonald, veteran Red Cross leader and Clint Fuller.

The drive is slated to start early in November and Tippett said he would have further announcements pertaining to it at a later date.

Selling Time Is Reduced On Local Market

A three-hour daily schedule of selling hours begins today and will continue through the week on the Louisburg tobacco market. Monday's sale was four and a half hours.

The schedule is applicable to all ten markets of the Middle Belt in an effort to relieve congestion in redrying plants.

Eastern Carolina markets sold Monday for three hours, but on Tuesday and the remainder of the week will have four hours of selling time daily. The advisory marketing committee and the executive committee of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association, which set up the new program, is scheduled to meet again next Thursday night to chart the sales schedule for next week.

William Boone, Sales Supervisor of the Louisburg Tobacco Market, reported this morning that the local warehouses had sold 811,465 pounds of leaf last Thursday, Friday and Monday. The sales brought $524,127.41 for an average of $64.59.

Dr. Wayland To Speak

The Brotherhood of Sandy Creek Baptist Church will have a supper on Thursday night of this week at the church.

Following the supper, Dr. John Wayland, Professor of Religious Education at Southeastern Seminary will speak to the group.

All members are urged to attend.

Board Corrects Appointment Error

The Board of County Commissioners met here last Friday to correct an error in the recent appointment of Kenneth Braswell to replace Lee Murray as County Accountant. Murray had resigned effective December 1 to accept a position in Wake County. Braswell, present Tax Superviser was named to replaced Murray, effective October 19. The difference in the dates was first set to allow Murray to take leave days which he had accumulated.

It was discovered that under this procedure, the county would have two County Accountants at the same time. The Commissioners approved a motion to change Braswell's appointment to December 1. Murray will continue at his duties until that date. He is expected to be paid for the days he had earned in vacation time.

The Board also received a letter from H. C. Stansbury, Secretary to the North Carolina State Board of Assessment releasing the Board's decision in a case brought by Mrs. Melvin Holmes seeking an appeal from the value placed on property owned in the county by her. The Board sustained the County Commissioners on the assessment of a three-acre tract one mile north of Louisburg on U. S. 401.

Democrats To Hold Rally At Wilson

Washington - Congressman L. H. Fountain (Dem. -2nd District, N. C.) announced today that the Second Congressional District Democratic Rally will be held in Wilson, North Carolina, on October 20 at 4:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall on U. S. 301.

The distinguished and highly respected United States Senator, Sam J. Ervin, Jr., will be the featured speaker at the rally.

Among the persons expected to attend are Governor Dan K. Moore, members of the Council of State, other State officials, and Congressman L. H. Fountain.

Rogers Case Moved To Recorder's Court

The assault cases against Franklinton City Schools Superintendent Fred W. Rogers have been moved again. The latest maneuver has the case back in Franklin County Recorder's Court, where it appeared initially following the alleged incidents on September 23.

Rogers is accused of assaulting two Franklinton youths in a parking lot at Louisburg High School while the annual Franklinton-Louisburg football game was in progress. Warrants were sworn by parents of Charles D. Smith, 15, and Melvin D. Hayes, 17, both of Franklinton.

The case originally moved from Recorder's Court to Louisburg Mayor's Court was scheduled for trial last Monday night. An appeal by defense attorney Hill Yarborough to Mayor V. A. Peoples resulted in a one-week postponement. Rescheduled for trial last night, the case was ordered moved to the higher court by Peoples following a request for removal by the defendant. It is now scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, October 25, before Judge Gaither M. Beam.

Mrs. Hobgood Named To Morehead Committee

Mrs. Hamilton H. Hobgood was recently named to membership on the Franklin County Morehead Selection Committee. Charles Yarborough, Chairman of the Committee, announced that the appointment of Mrs. Hobgood increases the membership of the group to ten persons.

The other members of the Committee are John A. Moore, President of Sterling Mills in Franklinton, John W. King, former Clerk of the Franklin County Superior Court, Elizabeth Johnson, member of the Mathematics Department of the Louisburg College faculty, Dr. Carey Perry of Perry-Medders Clinic, Edward F. Yarborough, Louisburg Attorney, Dr. Cecil W. Robbins, President of the First-Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Bland B. Pruitt, local businessman, and Charles

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Body Of Missing Man Found

The body of Charles Linwood (Doodle) Edwards, 30, of Wake Forest, missing since October 7, was found Sunday in his car in the woods near Youngsville in Franklin County.

Franklin County Coroner James Edwards of Louisburg said there was no indication of foul play. He said a ruling on the death was being held up pending receipt of an autopsy report.

Funeral services will be conducted at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Rolesville Baptist Church by Rev. Earl Haynes. Interment will be in Rolesville Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Sylvia Perry Edwards; three children, Charles L. Edwards, Jr., Sylvia Denise Edwards and Margaret Ann Edwards, all of the home; his mother, Mrs. Alma Edwards of Route 1, Youngsville; five sisters, Mrs. Eva Dail of Kinston, Mrs. N. B. Height of Long Island, N. Y., Mrs. Richard Pearce of Route 2, Wake Forest, Mrs.

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Mr. & Miss Louisburg & Court

Representatives for Mr. and Miss Louisburg High School from the four high school classes and their campaign managers are, front row, left to right, Beth Johnson and Phillip Robertson, Sophomore; Yvonne Dickerson and Leon Dillard, Senior; Ann Merritt and Craig Sledge, Junior. Back row: Betsy May, Brian Rogers, Bettie Lavender, Mike Fuller, Margo Raynor and Charlie Hobgood, Mr. and Miss Louisburg High, and the Freshman representatives; Betty Sue Radford, Mike Wrenn, Susan Pleasants and Parker Lumpkin.