



Santa Arrives Here Friday

Santa Claus arrives in Louisburg Friday afternoon as the climax to the annual Christmas Parade sponsored by the Louisburg Business Association. The jolly old gent will arrive in Franklinton next Thursday night in a parade beginning at 7 p.m.

The Louisburg parade will start at 4 p.m. and travel south on Main Street. Christmas street decorations are up in both Louisburg and Franklinton in preparation to the visit by Santa and the hundreds of youngsters who are expected to line the streets for his arrival.

The Louisburg parade will assemble on Allen Lane near Louisburg High School and will disband at the corner of Kenmore Ave. and Perry Street. Mrs. Juanita Pleasants, Executive Secretary of the Louis-

burg Business Association, announced 34 entries in the Louisburg parade, including ten commercial floats and three bands.

Santa Claus will visit the stores Friday afternoon following the parade and will be in town each Saturday thereafter and during Christmas week, according to Mrs. Pleasants.

Franklinton Votes On Water Bonds Saturday

Voters of Franklinton will decide Saturday on a \$350,000 bond issue for improvements to the present water system. The money, if approved by the voters will be used together with a federal grant of \$285,000 to build a new water

plant and to establish a new water supply source from Cedar Creek, about a mile and a half from the present storage lake.

Franklinton citizens have experienced a summer-long rationing of water with many

uses being forbidden by town ordinances. At times the water situation became serious and bordered on the critical. Officials have said the solution lies in the passage of the bond issue Saturday and receiving the federal grant.

Little excitement has been noted concerning the Saturday voting and no open opposition has been witnessed. Most are confident that the issue will pass in view of the present water situation.

Polls will be open from 6:30 A. M. to 6:30 P. M. Saturday and all voters are being urged to vote in the referendum. Postal cards are being mailed out to voters urging approval of the bonds.

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Superintendent's Letter Reveals

Franklinton Bus Use Suspended, Lifted Following KKK Threats

Franklinton School officials suspended the use of the Franklinton High School activity bus this month following what was described as reports that the Ku Klux Klan planned to damage the bus in order to place responsibility for "any resulting disaster" on the Superintendent and the School Board.

The suspension came to light in Franklinton Tuesday when a

letter, signed by Superintendent Fred W. Rogers, was sent to parents of the students, explaining that the suspension has now been lifted, but that extreme care and inspection will accompany any use of the bus in the future.

The action removing the suspension of the use of the activity bus and setting down certain procedures for future use came at a meeting of the

Franklinton Board of Education last week. According to the letter, the bus will be given thorough examinations by two members of the School Board, Brodie Green and William Avery Wilder, both experienced mechanics, before each use. Other precautions being taken by the School Board include securely locking the bus and the bus garage at all times when the bus is not in actual

use, following of the bus on trips by school officials or responsible adults, and guarding of the bus while parked at athletic contests.

The letter also disclosed that the School Board seriously considered complete cancellation of all athletic activities and use of the bus, including the ever-popular basketball season by the school's teams. Supt. Rogers declined com-

ment as to the source of the reports on the Klan plans to damage the bus and Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards said Wednesday morning that he had heard nothing of such reports prior to receiving the Rogers' letter. Edwards said however, that he had already launched an investigation into the matter Wednesday.

The Superintendent's letter stated: "Action to temporarily suspend the use of the Franklinton High School activity bus and activities resulted from a suggestion by a delegation spokesman, at the November 7, 1966 Board of Education meeting, that the bus might be in dangerous condition, along with three other recent reports that the KKK planned deliberate damage to the Franklinton High School activity bus in order to place responsibility for any resulting disaster upon the Superintendent and the Franklinton City Board of Education. While most of us agree that such absolutely inhuman and unscrupulous action is highly unlikely, nonetheless, such warnings that involve potential danger to our children could not possibly be ignored by responsible school officials or Board members in the light of recent experiences in our community."

Rogers reminded parents that students are not required to participate in extra-curricular activities, but that those who do are covered by certain rules pertaining to all students. He mentioned that he was "sure that all of you will be greatly concerned about the special nature of this letter."

He called on the parents to "find ways of responding to the tough challenges of the future..."

Board Chairman John Moore has moved out of town and could not be reached for comment and Vice Chairman Dr. Richard Whitfield was tied up in his office when an attempt to gain his comments was made.

Response from local citizens early Wednesday was mixed. A number called Rogers Tuesday night and Wednesday morning and some had called Chief Edwards.

It was reliably reported that a Klan sticker had been posted on the office of Dr. Whitfield sometime ago, following a Board meeting and that a number of automobiles passed the Rogers' home Tuesday night blowing their horns.

Highway Work To Be Awarded

For the first time in many years, Franklin County is included in bids on highway work, which are expected to be reviewed Friday by the State Highway Commission in Raleigh.

Sixty projects are included in what has been described as perhaps the biggest monthly batch of projects in the agency's history. Among these are projects in Franklin and Vance counties.

The local projects are 22.65 miles of bituminous concrete surface on US 1 and US 401 in resurfacing US 401 from NC 98 to Louisburg and US 1 between Franklinton and Henderson. T. A. Loving Company of Goldsboro was low bidder on the projects at \$157,566.

Enforcement Proceedings Launched Against Franklinton School System

Franklinton School officials have been informed by U. S. Commissioner of Education, Harold Howe, II that their case is being referred to the Office of the General Counsel of the department requesting administrative enforcement proceedings be brought against the system for failing to comply with school desegregation guidelines.

The letter, dated November 25, states that further efforts

to secure voluntary compliance would not be productive. The letter also relates that the agency has contacted the Franklinton officials by letter, telephone and in person in their efforts to gain voluntary compliance.

The newest action is being brought against three school systems in North Carolina and the State Department of Public Instruction has been made a party to the actions.

In the Franklinton case, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds totaling slightly over \$80,000 have been the point of contention in recent efforts by the federal officials to gain more substantial desegregation.

Superintendent Fred C. Rogers reported that funds from this source have been drawn monthly and that none have been deferred. An end was believed achieved in the contrary several weeks ago when a ruling was made that these particular funds had already been approved before the Office of Education moved to have them deferred. It is un-

certain how much of these funds, if any, would be lost if the system fails to defend this latest move by the government.

Howe's letter clearly points out that all other agencies of government are being notified of the Franklinton situation, implying that other funds are also in danger of being cut off.

Supt. Rogers declined to comment on what, if anything, the School Board intends to do about this latest development.

He said the Board would meet soon to consider the matter.

The School officials have 20 days in which to answer 52 charges contained in accompanying papers and in which to request a hearing on the matter. Many of the complaints against the Franklinton system are not applicable, Rogers said. Obviously, the charges are standard by the Office of Education and are broad enough in scope to cover almost any conceivable situation. It is anticipated that the Franklinton Board will answer the charges whether a hearing is sought or not.

Possible Robbery Averted At Franklinton

Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards reported Wednesday that alertness on the part of night-time officer Tom Allen, a possible robbery was averted. Edwards said that Allen spotted an automobile, which has been under suspicion in connection with the hold-up of a Franklinton hardware and feed store recently and the robbery of a Youngsville hardware and furniture store last Friday night, Tuesday night in Franklinton.

Officer Allen followed the car losing it near the shopping center on U. S. 1. While there he noticed a car parked in front of the laundromat in the center and went to investigate. As he pulled up several youths came out and jumped in the car and drove away. Twice later, the car with the youths returned to the laundromat and fled when sighted by Allen.

Allen called Chief Edwards around 4 A. M. to express his concerns and together with Edwards went to the laundromat to investigate.

Chief Edwards reported one coin box missing, although he declined to say it had been stolen, plus two large screwdrivers, the tips of which had been broken.

Edwards also reported that the case involving the robbery of Thompson's Feed and Hardware Store on November 21, was still "hot" and indicated that he has some leads. He also stated that his investigation showed that had Mr. Lewis Thompson, the owner and his son-in-law, Mr. Clement Weston not entered the store while the robbery was in progress, officers would have been unable to discover the entry on routine patrol. Edwards and his department, which has not suffered a break-in in almost two years, are doubly concerned that anyone would pull one off near the station.

"This was the first break-in in 23 months", Edwards said. The "19th of December would have been two years", he added.

Among the 52 items covered are such things as the allegations. See SCHOOL Page 8

Jaycees Launch Toy Drive

The Louisburg Jaycees will launch their annual toy drive Monday night, December 5 and local residents are requested to leave toys on their porches and to turn their porch lights on around 8 P. M. The Jaycees will pick up the toys beginning at that time.

Residents wishing to donate mendable or useful toys to the drive may also leave the toys at Shannon Village Esso on Bickett Blvd. or at First Federal Savings and Loan on Main Street, according to Jaycee Jimmy Hill, who is Chairman of the drive this year.

Toys will be accepted at the two places until December 23. The Jaycees mend broken toys and give them to needy children at Christmas.

Local News Briefs

A power failure threw the Franklinton area into darkness Tuesday evening from shortly after 5 p.m. until around 8 p.m. The blackout stretched to the airport near Louisburg.

Deputy Sheriff Tom Powell, on a routine mission of serving papers, found a 50-gallon wood-fired steel whiskey still at the home of Thurston Dunston, Route 1, Louisburg Negro earlier this week. The apparatus was located upstairs in the Dunston home.

An airplane, unidentified as to its size or ownership, was forced to land near Youngsville Tuesday night during a storm, according to reports. The plane was said to have landed on a highway.

The body of Negro employee of Taylor Thayer Lumber Co. here was found by officers Tuesday after the man was reported missing from work. No evidence of foul play was discovered, according to reports.

Talton: "Threshold Of Greatness"

Community Jubilant At Announcement

The announcement Tuesday that Carolina Fine Woods, Inc. will build a 130,000 square

foot plant here has been met with widespread expressions of elation by the local populace.

J. H. Talton, Chairman of the Industrial Development Commission and a prime mover in the firm's decision to locate here, said this morning, "I doubt the people of Louisburg and Franklinton County yet realize the magnitude of what has happened. This could put Louisburg and Franklinton County in the forefront of this area. This is a once in a lifetime thing. It is almost unbelievable. With the nearness of Raleigh and the Research Triangle, this could be just the beginning."

Talton added that in a conversation Wednesday, with what he described as "a very influential man in this area," the man said that within ten years, Louisburg would be two to three times its present size due to industrial growth. Talton said, "We're on the threshold of greatness."

The size of the new plant will be over three times the size of the Gay Products and Sportswear plants, both relatively new industries in the area. By comparison, Ford's Warehouse, one of the largest

buildings in the area, is around 80,000 square feet. The new plant will be 130,000 square feet.

Bids are expected to be let for the construction on Thursday, December 8, with work starting as soon thereafter as possible. The land, costing around \$50,000 and the building together are estimated to cost around \$2 million. Equipment in the plant is expected to move the total cost to slightly over \$3 million. No announcement has been made as to the number of employees expected, but conservative estimates range from 200 to 600 at the start. The majority of those employed will be men, according to a reliable source.

Talton also reported that a new corporation is being formed to finance the water line and to build eight to twelve homes for plant personnel expected to move into Louisburg. He said the number of homes will vary and depend on the number of persons desiring them. He also said that the new homes will be located on the most desirable lots to be found and would not be built together in a village type development.

The new homes will be

scattered throughout town, according to Talton, because, "We want them to be happy in their new locations here and to become a part of the community. We hope to make their moving from other localities smoother."

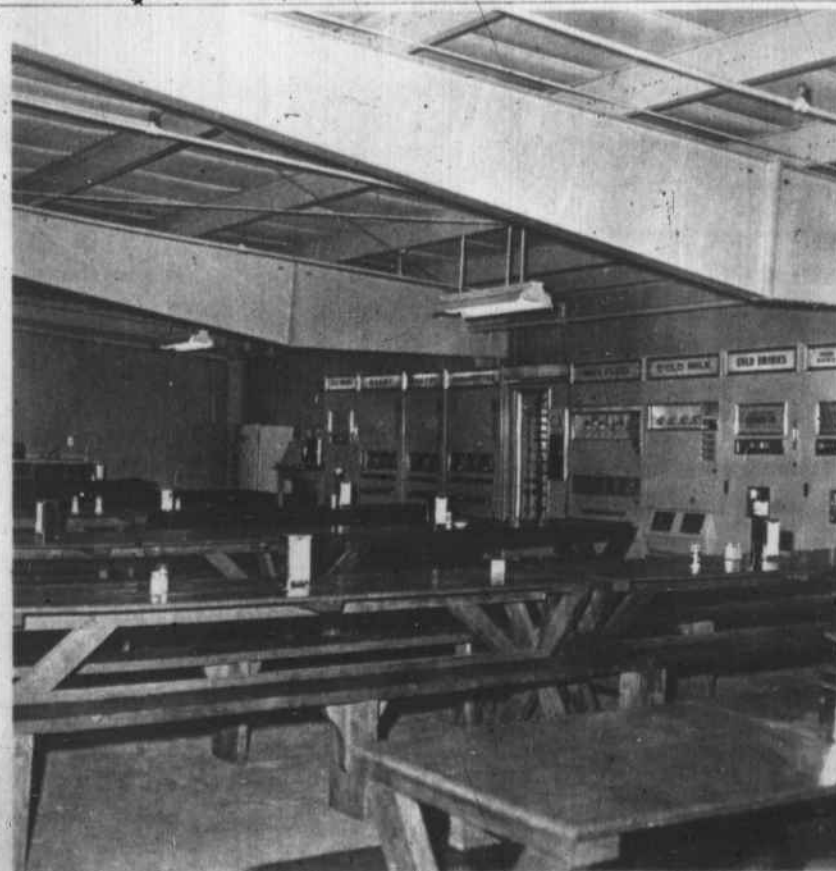
W. J. Benton, Director of Industrial Development, who also was a leader in getting the firm to locate here, expressed his appreciation this morning to the State Highway Commission and highway personnel for "wonderful cooperation" in working out certain problems at the plant site. Benton also expressed his

See JUBILANT Page 8

Louisburg GI Dies

The Defense Department identified nine U. S. servicemen Wednesday who had been killed in action, including one who was previously listed as missing.

The Army listed as dead from causes not due to hostile action: Spec. 4 Wilbert Williams, Jr., husband of Mrs. Martha Williams, Route 4, Louisburg, N. C.



Gay Products Addition

Pictured above is new addition to the Gay Products plant here. Use of the 1900 square foot facility began Monday. The new area, designed to accommodate Gay employees during break and lunch periods is fully equipped with various vendors, coffee machines and tables and chairs. Ed Pittman, plant manager reported the completion and expressed his pleasure at the facility for the convenience of the force at the plant.

Whitaker Named To Board

Joe R. Whitaker has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Vance C. Estes on the Franklinton City Board of Education. The action came at the meeting of the Board last week.

Whitaker is purchasing agent for Aerotherm, Inc. of Raleigh and lives at 210 Winston St. in Franklinton. He is married to the former Mattie Hicks of Franklinton. They have three children, Dudley, age 16 in the 11th grade at Franklinton High School, Janice, age 12 in the 7th grade and Ben, age 2.

Whitaker attended the University of Kentucky and is a member of the Franklinton Methodist Church.

He replaces Estes who recently resigned his position on the nine member Board. A spokesman for the Board said all names presented to the Board as candidates to fill the vacancy were considered with the Board naming Whitaker to fill the post.

Fire Being Investigated

Franklin County authorities are investigating a fire which destroyed a house in the Diking Section of Franklin County around 4 a.m. Tuesday.

The house was owned by Julius Wrenn, and was occupied by his son, Joe Wrenn. Officers said the house fire was one of several which have occurred in the community recently, and cause has not been determined in any of them.