

Pearl Harbor -



Where Were You 25 Years Ago?

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

The beginning was much the same as the multitude of Sunday's which had preceded it. The morning was crisp with the cool December air. Louisburg families, much like others in Franklin County, bundled up in warm clothing and went to church. Prof. I. D. Moon conducted the Church School that morning at the Louisburg Methodist Church and Dr. A. Paul Bagby preached on "A Vital Matter" at the Louisburg Baptist Church.

At the 11 o'clock church hour, the United States was exactly two hours and 25 minutes from its "day of infamy". The attack on Pearl Harbor was about to begin and it would be a long time before the Franklin County community or the world would be the same as it stood on this quiet Sunday morning.

That was 25 years ago Wednesday. Over 100 Jap planes and a number of midget submarines attacked the U. S. Pacific fleet—86 ships—at anchor in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii at 7:55 a. m. Hawaiian time, 1:25 p. m. EST here. Totally lost were the battleship Arizona; severely damaged were the battleships Oklahoma, Nevada, California, and West Virginia, three destroyers, 1 target ship, 1 minesweeper. Ships damaged and repaired included the Battleships Pennsylvania, Maryland, Tennessee; cruisers Helena, Honolulu and Raleigh.

The army lost 97 airplanes, the Navy lost 80, the Japs lost 48 and three submarines. The Navy had 2,117 officers and men killed, 960 missing, 876 wounded. The Army had 226 officers and men killed and 396 wounded.

Here at home, courting couples were making plans to attend the local movie showing of William Powell and Myrna Loy in "The Shadow of the Thin Man". Folks were talking about Duke's Blue Devils being invited to play in the Rose Bowl (later moved to Durham).

Monday of that week, a Youngsville educator was named Superintendent of Franklin County Schools. Wiley F. Mitchell was to hold the post until his death 21 years later.

The Franklin Times had carried an ominous headline two days earlier warning "Looks Like War With Japan". This was on Friday, December 5. A housewife could buy a pound of "pure fresh roasted coffee" for only 15¢ and a loaf of bread for nine cents. One local furniture store would sell you a three piece bedroom suite for \$35 and ladies dresses were selling for \$1.94 in downtown stores.

The Town Council was in a hassle over what to do about electric power. Pearl Harbor caused them to settle the differences. They voted to accept certain repair parts already shipped for the 360 H. P. power supply engine. The vote was evenly split between W. G. Lancaster, R. C. Beck, W. J. Cooper, W. B. Barrow, F. H. Allen, and W. J. Shearin. Mayor W. C. Webb broke the tie, voting in favor of repairing the engine.

Louisburg College Choir was busy preparing for the December 14 appearance on WPTF radio in Raleigh as a part of the Christmas Program and plans were underway for the annual Community Christmas Tree Services at the armory on the 21st. Capt. Fred E. Frazier had received orders from State General Metts to hold his 8th Company of the State Guard in readiness and Mr. E. H. Malone called for a meeting of the Franklin County Council for Defense. Dr. Paul Bagby received word that the Louisburg District had a quota of \$2,000 to raise in the Red Cross drive.

The community would suffer the losses of many young men and much sorrow would befall many of its homes before the end would come at 8:41 p. m., May 6, 1945 in Germany and on August 14, 1945 in the far east. V-E and V-J Days were to mark the end of wars and quiet Sundays were never again to be interrupted by news of war. But, has anything really changed in these 25 years?



Saturday Night Fire

Spectators and firemen are silhouetted above flames from a dwelling house, which was destroyed early Saturday night at Ingleside. The building located adjacent to Marshall's Garage and Store was owned by Howard Marshall and occupied by a Negro couple, Percy and Magalene Hopkins. The couple was away from home at the time of the fire and no cause was given. Epsom volunteer firemen prevented the spread of the blaze to the nearby store. Mrs. Marshall reported the building was partially covered by insurance. All furnishings were lost in the flames.

—Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Ward

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Fire and Rescue Association, which he helped to organize in 1959.

He is married to the former Mildred Leonard of Centerville. They have four children, Mrs. Joy Seal of Clarksville, Tennessee; Dene, L. S. Jr., and Leonard.

Others appointed to the committee were: W. W. Ballentine of Raleigh, Chairman; John L. Reitzel, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, Executive Secretary; Boyd Morris of Greensboro and Melvin Heirn, Mrs. Marguerite Surles, Guy L. Honeycutt, W. M. B. Denny, Charlie B. Morris, Jr., John Desern and Emmett C. Hanson, all of Raleigh.

County

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holding their regular first Monday sessions and the new Solicitor was busy with his duties as County attorney. E. M. (Buck) Sykes was elected to succeed Commissioner Norwood Faulkner as Chairman of the Board for the coming year. The Commissioners operate on a rotating basis in choosing a chairman. Faulkner took over at the death of Chairman

ASCS NEWS

John R. Davis

Franklin County ASCS Manager

By now, all eligible cotton producers, as determined by

Claude Arnold earlier this year. Mrs. Arnold was appointed by Superior Court Clerk Ralph Knott to fill her husband's unexpired term. Mrs. Arnold resigned recently and Knott named Young, who at the time was Commissioner nominee-elect, to fill the post. Young started his own four-year term Monday.

County ASCS Office records, should have received their ballots to vote in two very important cotton referendums.

Ballots for the cotton marketing quotas referendum and cotton promotion and research referendum must be returned to the County ASCS Office in Louisburg, not later than December 9, 1966. Ballots postmarked after midnight, December 9th, will not be counted.

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