

Weather

Scattered showers and mild today and tonight. Friday decreasing cloudiness and cool. Low today, 50; high, 67.

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Dedicated Today

The new Dean Farms plant shown above, was dedicated here today at 1:30 p. m. by a group of speakers, including North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture James A. (Jim) Graham.

Occupied in early December, the 20,000 sq. ft. structure contains egg processing operations which turn out over 180,000 dozen eggs each week.

Graham Dedicates Dean Farms Plant In Ceremonies Today

North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture James A. (Jim) Graham was the featured speaker this afternoon at 1:30 p. m. at dedication ceremonies at the new Dean Farms plant here.

The plant is located just off NC 56 west of Louisburg and has been in use since early last December.

In addition to Commissioner

Graham, Sixteenth District Representative James D. Speed of Franklin County, C. T. Golden, Produce Merchandiser for Winn-Dixie Food Stores and James Grady, manager of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. here also took part in the program.

The dedication ceremonies were presided over by J. H. Talton, vice president of

First-Citizens Bank and Trust Co. and also Chairman of the Franklin County Industrial Development Commission. Talton welcomed the public and introduced the management and personnel of Dean Farms.

J. Jackson Dean is President of the corporation and Harris Spencer is plant manager. Following the dedica-

tion ceremonies, a tour of the plant was held.

The 20,000 square foot building houses operations which are processing around 180,000 dozen eggs weekly and has an estimated gross expectation this year in excess of \$3-1/2 million. At present 45 persons are employed in the operation excluding the management.

Wrong Date

Cards sent to Legionnaires earlier this week bore an incorrect date, according to James Post 105 Adjutant George Champion. The Legion supper is scheduled for February 3, 1967 and not February 6 as stated on the cards. The supper meeting is planned for The Murphy House here.

Franklinton School Board Adopts Desegregation Plan

An announcement, dated January 30, released this week reveals that the Franklinton City Board of Education has adopted the Freedom of Choice plan of school desegregation for the 1967-68 school term. Some details of the newly adopted plan were announced in public meetings last Friday and Monday nights in Franklinton.

Basically, the new plan is the same as the one in force last year. However, last year's plan did not meet approval of the U. S. Office of Education and the two-school unit was placed on the deferred list and prohibited from participating in federally-financed new programs.

The new plan's purpose is "eliminate from our school system the racial segregation

of students and all other forms of discrimination based on race, color or national origin". A 30-day Spring choice period is set to begin on February 8 and to close on March 8, 1967. During this period students and/or their parents must exercise a choice of school to which the child is to attend this fall.

Forms will be mailed to each parent of a child now attending a school in the administrative unit and to those children known to be entering the first grade. The plan says, "no choice will be denied for any reason other than overcrowding".

The Franklinton system, operating under a Freedom of Choice plan last year which was first approved by Washington officials, was later declared in non-compliance when only seven Negro students applied for the predominantly white Franklinton High School.

A team of officials from the office of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington visited Franklinton and attempted to come to some agreement with local school officials on a plan which would satisfy federal authorities. Several plans were believed discussed and the Board finally tentatively agreed to a recommendation by the team to transfer the seventh grades from B. F. Person-Albion Negro School to the Franklinton High School.

Word of this pending decision reached local citizens, who hurriedly formed an opposition group and prevailed upon the Board to reverse its de-

cision to transfer the grades. Following this, the system was placed on the deferred list along with six other North Carolina school units and a hearing in the matter is now scheduled for April 3, 1967 in Washington.

The new guidelines, to which the Franklinton Board has agreed, calls for an increase in desegregation in the coming year. It is assumed that if such an increase takes place, Franklinton would be reinstated and again become eligible to transfer the grades.

See SCHOOL page 8.

Man Held In First Degree Burglary

Robert Mitchell, c/m/50, Rt. 1 Louisburg, is lodged in Franklin County jail without privilege of bond, charged with first degree burglary. Mitchell allegedly entered the home of Sarah Kelly, c/t/65 on Rt. 1 Louisburg early Sunday morning and robbed the woman of an undisclosed amount of cash.

Details of the crime have not been made public, but a reliable source reported that the money was taken from inside the woman's stockings while she was still wearing them. The incident was not reported until sometime Monday, according to Sheriff William T. Dement. Deputy Sheriff Dave Batten arrested the man near Bunn Monday night.

Rhode Island Firm Buys Johnson Stores

James M. Johnson, Vice President and General Manager of Johnson Cotton Company, announced today that an option to purchase the assets of Johnson Cotton Company and its affiliated corporations had been exercised by the Larchfield Cor-

poration of Rhode Island. Johnson further announced that he was pleased with the recent developments; that no changes in management were anticipated; and that operations of the Companies will continue as in the past.

Robbery Trio Gets Long Sentences, Collins Freed

A jury in Franklin Superior Court delivered a verdict of not guilty in the 1963 slaying of a Stallings Milling Co. employee. Richard Collins, Rt. 4 Louisburg Negro, was freed here Wednesday in the death of James Henry Arrington following an argument on December 13, 1963.

Three men, charged with the November 21, 1966 holdup-robbery of Thompson's Feed and Hardware Store in Franklinton received long sentences following a plea of guilty before Superior Court Judge William Y. Bickett here Wednesday.

James Thomas Knight, 33 and George Rudolph Glass, 38 were sentenced to 25 to 35 years in prison and Larry Keith Sommersett 25, was sentenced to 30 to 40 years.

The three pled guilty to entering the Thompson store, breaking open the safe and taking around \$2,000 plus a new Dodge pickup truck. Thompson surprised the trio when he entered the store during the burglary. He was later joined by his son-in-law C. H. Weston and while one of the three went outside, Thompson and Weston jumped the other two. Only when the third man returned and placed a gun at Weston's head did the two men stop their struggle. The trio escaped in the pickup truck which was later recovered near Franklinton.

Sommersett, Knight and Glass were arrested by Charlotte officers in connection with a similar robbery there. Franklinton officials were informed of the arrest and brought the trio back here for trial.

Sommersett's term is to begin at the expiration of a 19-year term he is now serving. Charges of armed robbery, breaking and entering and the theft of the vehicle were not

pressed. The trio was sentenced on their plea of guilty to safe cracking. The 25-year-old Sommersett reportedly told Mr.

Thompson, a witness at the trial, "Old man, I'll see you in thirty years". One observer was heard to remark, "He doesn't want any part of

Mr. Thompson. He almost whipped the threesome in the robbery". None of the money taken, has ever been recovered.



GLASS



SOMMERSETT



KNIGHT

In Five-Year Plan

Tobacco Will Remain On Top

BY C. T. DEAN CHAIRMAN EXTENSION SER

When agriculture grows, the North Carolina economy usually grows with it. The North Carolina agricultural economy is expected to grow at the rate of 6% a year for the next five years, arriving at a gross value of \$2 billion by 1971, according to the Franklin County Extension Agents.

This \$2 billion figure is one goal of the new long-range opportunities program Target 2, launched January 30 by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service.

The goal was arrived at after a year-long, county by county study which involved many key leaders across the state in addition to much of

the staff of North Carolina State University's School of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

In determining the state's agricultural production potential for the next half-decade, Extension planners and advisors studied every commodity produced on Tar Heel farms. The results indicate that, while there will continue to be a strong move toward increased livestock production, North Carolina will continue to be a crop producing state primarily.

Tobacco, which accounts for about two out of every three Franklin County farm dollars, should be able to maintain its relative position - at the top. Gross sales should move from the 1965 figure of \$10-1/2 million to nearly \$14 million by 1971.

After two years under the acre-poundage program

the tobacco outlook appears much better. The surplus has been reduced quite a bit and both the domestic and export demand looks good.

One of the major priorities in the Extension program is to cut tobacco production costs through mechanization and better use of labor.

Cotton isn't expected to stay down at the low level it reached in 1965 and 1966. Acreage will drop, but sales will climb because of improved yields and lint quality.

Locally a total of 10,624 acres are allotted to the county and planted on 2,166 farms. The trend will be toward participation in government programs to the maximum extent through 1969 and producing the allotment, after adjustment more efficiently.

See TOBACCO page 8



SAUNDERS

PERSON

Rotary Club Makes Donation

Louisburg Rotary Club President D. R. (Rocky) Saunders, left is shown presenting a club check to Hospital administrator M. M. Person. The \$100 donation goes to aid in the purchase of a Cardiac Therapy Group, which includes a Monitor, Synchronizer, Defibrillator and Pacemaker. The total group, complete, is expected to cost around \$2200. This latest donation brings the total to \$1800 and leaves only \$400 more needed to finance this equipment. Person reported that a Cardiac Arrest Team was being organized for the local hospital. He described this as a group of trained personnel ready to answer an emergency call with full equipment to treat a heart patient.

Donations toward the purchase of this much needed equipment have come from local civic groups, businesses and individuals, Person said. The drive for the Cardiac Therapy Group was sponsored by the Franklin County Medical Society. Dr. J. Doyle Meddars was Committee Chairman.

Person also reported his pleasure at the progress being made in the renovation of the local facility and stated that construction was on schedule. He reported that the project should be completed in May.

Church Comments On Legislature

Editor's Note: This is the first in what is expected to be a series of articles revealing the thinking of the three men who will represent Franklin County in the coming session of the General Assembly. Questionnaires have been sent to Rep. James D. Speed, Rep. John T. Church and Senator Wills Hancock. Rep. Church is the first to reply and his comments make up today's article.

Sixteenth District Representative John T. Church is an executive of Rose's Stores Inc. He is senior vice-president and secretary of the Henderson bases firm. Thus, he is classified as a businessman and is widely known as a successful one. His reflections on issues expected to confront the General Assembly which convenes next Monday in Raleigh are in keeping with the expressed opinions of his constituents in his three-county district of Vance, Warren and Franklin.

Mr. Church says he favors legalizing the practice of "brown-bagging" "under condition of careful control by the ABC Board" and that he is in favor of an increase in pay for school teachers.

Roads, which Church says is the main concern of the people in his district, is something which the legislature "probably can't do much about". He also said he will exert his personal influence to obtain more of present available funds for Franklin county and other counties in his district. He also referred to a recent interview with News and Observer writer Laurie Holder, Jr. in which he stated his concern for road

improvements in his district. East Carolina should have university status, Church stated, "Provided that East Carolina meets the requirements". He stated that some questions remain whether or not it should be a separate unit or consolidated with the University of North Carolina. "I need more facts before a final decision is made", he said.

The Henderson businessman favors increased emphasis in the matter of highway safety, but steered clear of any specific answers to the problem. He said he favored Governor Moore's proposed tax cut, "Provided requirements can be met in higher education and other worthwhile demands. This will take a lot of study before actual commitment", he concluded.

He also is in favor of physical education for every school child, but hesitated to answer a question on how funds might be raised to finance local athletics. He stated he would make his decision when the "best solution comes to my attention". His chief project, according to a published interview by Ann Colarusso writer for the Durham Morning Herald, is to gain the establishment of a training center in Henderson. He indicated in the interview that at the moment plans were not far enough advanced to say whether such a center would be an industrial training unit, a technical institute or a community college.