

Weather

Partly cloudy and continued warm today and Wednesday with a slight chance of an afternoon or evening thunder-shower. Low today, 64; high, 87.

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(Six Pages Today)

98th Year-Number 33

Violence Claims Lives Of Four On Bloody Saturday

Franklin County has just experienced the bloodiest weekend since September 1, 1963, as violence claimed the lives of four persons and injured at least five others. Saturday was perhaps the bloodiest day in recent county history. All four deaths and the five injuries took place in the 24-hour period beginning at midnight Friday night and ending at midnight Saturday.

A Pilot man was killed shortly after midnight in an automobile accident on US-64. Three hours later, a Negro man and his six-

year-old son were burned to death when their home was destroyed by fire on NC-98, and Saturday night around 10 p.m. a Franklin mother was killed in a gun incident. One other person was injured in the fatal automobile accident; two young boys were injured in the fatal fire; and two men were injured in separate wrecks, one at Bunn and the other at Franklinton before the end came.

Not since the Labor Day weekend in 1963 when three Winston-

Salem residents were killed in a two-car collision three miles west of Bunn on NC-98, and a Franklin Negro man killed his wife in a shootout has the county registered four deaths in such a short period. The shooting death occurred on Friday night and the accident on Sunday afternoon.

On April 5, 1957 the county recorded a two-death accident on NC-561 when racing was blamed for the death of a young Louisburg man and a nurse headed home from Franklin Me-

morial Hospital. A few days later a third person died from injuries in the accident. The accident resulted in the forming of a Safety Council here at the time.

One Rescue call, coming late Sunday afternoon to aid an elderly Louisburg lady who had suffered a fall at her home, has been the only reported action since the bloody 24-hour period ended Saturday midnight.

Man Held In Death Of Wife

Leonard Lee Steed, 39-year-old loom fixer at Franklin Fabrics, is being held in Franklin County jail, without bond, awaiting a hearing next Tuesday in Recorder's Court in the pistol slaying of his wife Saturday night.

Mrs. Mavis Markham Steed, 38, was pronounced dead shortly after being brought to Franklin Memorial Hospital by the Franklin Rescue Service. She was reportedly shot in the head with a .38 caliber pistol. The couple were alone at the time of the incident, in a bedroom of their home at 1103 East Mason St. in Franklinton.

Mrs. Steed was shot around 10:30 P.M. Saturday, according to reports. Her husband reportedly called neighbors who in turn summoned the Rescue Service.

Sheriff William T. Dement investigated the shooting Saturday night and placed Steed in custody shortly after 11 P.M. A warrant charging that Steed did "kill and murder Mavis Markham Steed" was issued Sunday morning.

Funeral services for Mrs. Steed were held Monday at 3:30 P.M. from the Franklinton Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Lloyd Jackson and Rev. Dwight Cooper. Burial followed in Fairview

cemetery. Surviving in addition to her husband are a son, Bill of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Linda McGhee and Miss Shelia Steed, both of Franklinton; a sister, Mrs. Carol Wells of Martinsville, Va.; five brothers, Wallace, Charles and Gordon Markham, all of Roanoke, Va.; Kenneth Markham of Baltimore, Md., and Julian Markham of Portsmouth, Va.; and her father, Charles O. Markham.

Two Injured

A Cherry Point Marine was injured in a single car accident near Franklinton around midnight Saturday and a Rt. 4 Louisburg Negro suffered minor injuries when he ran off the road below Bunn around 6:30 P.M. Saturday, both inadvertently becoming a part of the bloodiest weekend in recent years in Franklin County.

Twenty-year old Thomas Gilleland was hospitalized with a brain concussion following an accident on a rural road southeast of Franklinton and Thomas Earl Perry, 21, was transported to Franklin Memorial Hospital following his escape from Crooked Creek, where he was thrown following an accident 3 miles east of Bunn.

Fifth Fatality Of Year

Pilot Man Killed, Another Injured As Car Hits Pillar

A 22-year-old Pilot man was killed instantly Saturday morning shortly after midnight when the car in which he was riding slammed into a brick and concrete pillar at Privette's Motel and Restaurant one mile east of Pilot.

Bobby Hendrix Pearce, Rt. 2 Zebulon, became the fifth highway fatality of the year in Franklin County, when he died just three miles from his home near Pilot.

Randy Morris Denton, 19, of Rt. 2 Zebulon, was identified as the driver of the 1964 Chevrolet by State Trooper D.C. Day. Denton is listed as in critical condition in Wake Memorial Hospital with head and chest injuries. The car, according to Day, was registered in Denton's father's name.

It was reported that Denton apparently lost control of the vehicle on a slight curve on US 64. The car ran off the right side of the road, jumped a ditch and slammed into the concrete pillar broadsides.

The right side of the car where Pearce was reportedly riding was forced in several feet. Funeral services for Pearce were conducted Sunday afternoon at 2 P.M. from the Pilot Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Donald R. Wagner. Burial followed in the Pearce family cemetery.

The death was the first on Franklin County highways since a Franklinton mother succumbed on April 26 to injuries received in a head-on crash on April 15 one mile south of Franklinton. See WRECK Page 4

Second Flim-Flam Arrest Made

The second arrest in recent flim-flaming operations in the county was made here Saturday, according to Sheriff William T. Dement. Melvin H. Hicks, w/m/22, of Rocky Mount was jailed charged with allegedly fleeing four elderly Franklin County people out of a total of \$800.

Charged earlier with similar crimes, was Bobby Harold Brown, now lodged in a Johnston County jail awaiting trial there and here on false pretense charges.

The duo, according to Sheriff Dement, posed as electrical inspectors and made exorbitant charges after having allegedly treated the homes of termites or electrical troubles.

Hicks is being held under \$7,500 bond in the county jail, having been identified by his victims here Saturday.

Council To Seek Bids On Additional Street Paving

The Louisburg Town Council disclosed in its regular Friday night meeting last week, that bids are to be sought on paving West Nash, Court and Market Streets here. Town Administrator E.S. Ford was authorized to advertise for bids on the projects to be opened on July 7, 1967.

Main Street and East Nash Street are scheduled to be resurfaced under the state bond program and the Council plans to look into the possibility of completing the downtown streets not included in the state project.

The Council authorized the Administrator to pay one-half the cost of a 15,000 Watt emergency generator to be used by the county-town fire and rescue services provided the County of Franklin votes to pay the remaining half. The cost is not to exceed \$1,000.

Council members Jonah Taylor, Mrs. Breatie O'Neal and George Bunn were named a committee "for recommendations on streets". Justice Street was placed with the State Highway system on a resolution adopted by the

Council for "maintenance and improvements". The Council set June 23 as the next meeting when the tentative budget will be studied and invoices totaling \$8,342.84 were approved and ordered paid.

General Griffin Honored At Wilson

General Edward F. Griffin, retiring Director of Civil Defense, was honored Sunday by former members of his army outfit, the 113th Field Artillery, at a dinner meeting held in Wilson.

Reports vary from 200 to 600 in estimating attendance, but the meeting was moved to different quarters when the crowd was too large for the original restaurant location.

Gen. Griffin, scheduled to retire from his civil defense job this summer, was hailed as a "man with nerve" for his leadership of the cannoners during 1940 while a

major. Men from all ranks came to attend the banquet from North and South Carolina, Tennessee, New York and Pennsylvania.

Many of the women attending with their husbands were fascinated with the greetings extended by the men who served together during a bitter part of the war, and who haven't seen one another for some 27 years.

Harold Williams of Louisburg said the dinner was a combined reunion and retirement ceremony for General Griffin, who led us into battle and brought us home.

General Griffin was born in Franklin County on 4 November 1900. His military career was launched when he enlisted as a private in the National Guard on 1 October 1923. As an enlisted man he held successive grades as private, corporal, sergeant and Chief of Section with Battery B of the 113th Field Artillery Regiment.

General Griffin received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1926. See GRIFFIN Page 4

Board To Rebuild Shop

The Franklin County Board of Education, meeting in special session here Monday, voted to rebuild the Gold Sand School Vocational Agriculture shop, which was destroyed by fire early last Thursday morning.

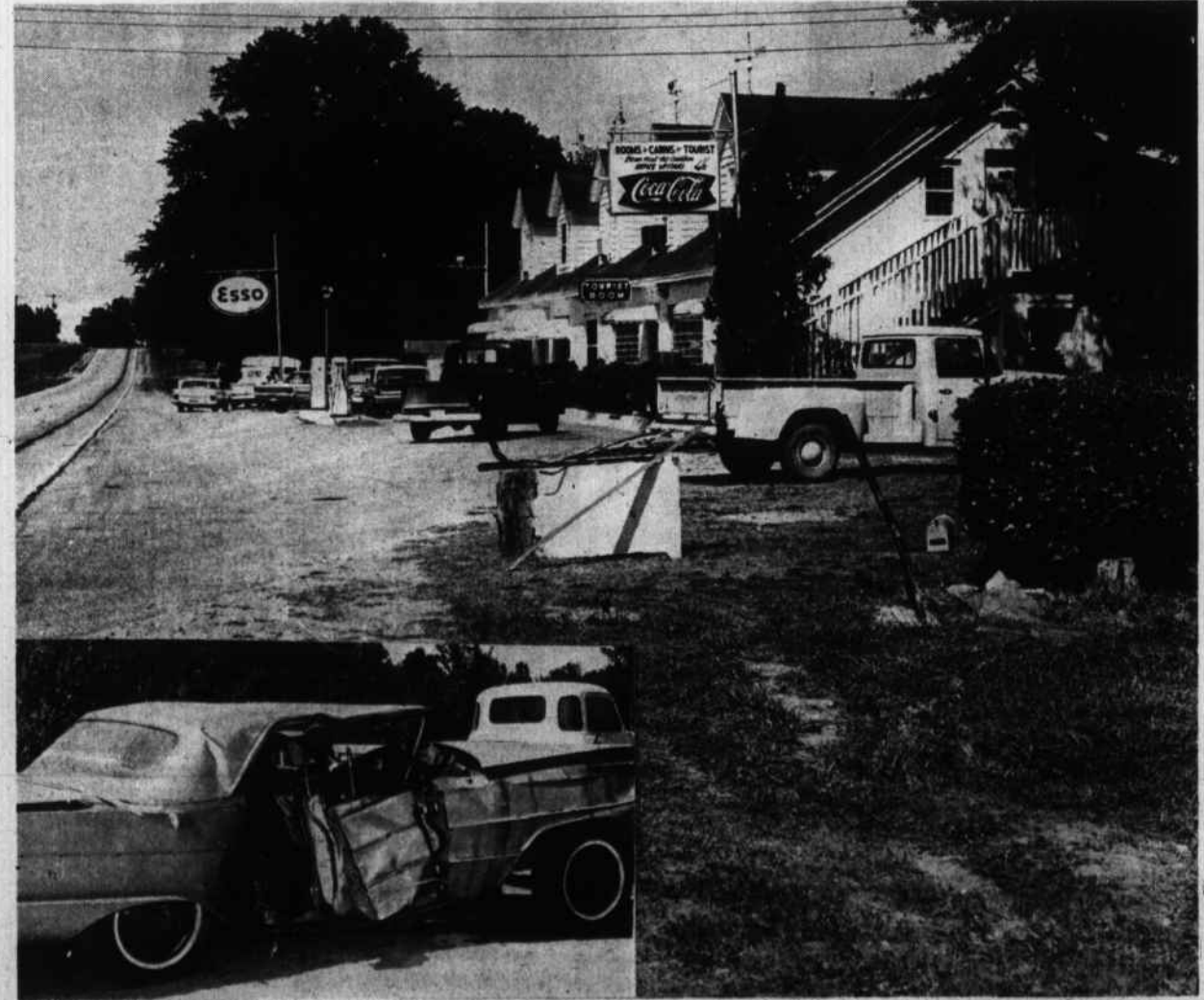
Supt. Warren W. Smith was directed by the Board to proceed with preliminary drawings and to investigate several

avenues by which the new building could be built in time for the fall school opening. Smith estimated the loss at \$30,000 for the building and between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for the equipment. He said insurance covered part of the loss.

In other actions, the Board See BOARD Page 4



Father And Son Are Trapped In Inferno Shown Above Staff Photo by Clint Fuller



One Killed, One Critically Injured Staff Photo by Clint Fuller