

# The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday Serving All Of Franklin County

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Tuesday, August 1, 1967

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### The Hospital

"An opportunity for healing and to be healed." That's the reference made to Franklin Memorial Hospital Sunday afternoon by Congressman L. H. Fountain in his dedication address.

"Second to none" was the reference made by Board of Trustees Chairman E. C. Bulluck.

"Beautiful," "Impressive," "Wonderful." These were the references made by the host of people touring the new wing following the ceremonies.

Everyone was impressed.

When plans were first announced that renovations were to be started, much was said about the addition of thirty beds. This is hospital parlance and the public formed an image of thirty beds being added and failed to visualize all the other things which were included in this addition.

Possibly because of this and perhaps

just simply because it is such a fine structure, the public came away with oozes and ahs Sunday.

Truly, Franklin Memorial Hospital is something in which all can take pride. It is a magnificent expression of what people working together under selfless leadership can accomplish.

The culmination of the dreams of the many and the labors of the few can act as an example to the entire area. It can mean a beginning of better things throughout the county. Such things can be done. And now that it has been seen, everyone knows that it can.

There is no way to measure the final meaning of this expression. Suffice it to say for the time being: This was a job well done and to all involved, the county is eternally grateful.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

My cousin Marion Merritt sent me a copy of your write-up and Editorial of "Chuck" Gattis's funeral, July 18, 1967. I want to thank you for a job so very well done. The pictures were wonderful and a beautiful Editorial.

I surely would appreciate it if I could get several more copies so that I can send some to his mother and sister. They too, will appreciate what

### May Use Civilians

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has indicated he may substitute civilians for U. S. soldiers in nonfighting jobs. He said foreign nationals may be hired for certain military construction jobs.

### World War 1 Debt

Officials have estimated other nations now owe the United States more than \$41 billion from World War 1. About half of this amount is in principle and interest from this war.

you wrote.

You really have a gift for writing and I'm sure you will have much success as a writer.

Sincerely,  
Helen Gattis Tyson  
Durham, N. C.

To The Editor:

Thank you for writing the inspiring editorial "The War Comes Home." Also thank you for Clint Fullers "Chuck Gattis Comes Home" story and photos. We also extend our thanks to citizens of Lousburg for sympathy and understanding they extended.

Sincerely,  
Ed and Mae Betus  
Crete, Illinois

## The Man Who Saved A Hospital

By Clint Fuller

"I'd appreciate it if you'd keep my name out of it," he said. He has been saying this to us for the past four years. We have an idea he has been saying it for the past nine years.

As the near \$1 million dollar new wing and renovations were being dedicated at Franklin Memorial Hospital Sunday, we remember thinking it was somehow typical of this modest man that he stood in the background while others manned the speakers rostrum.

His name was mentioned and, indeed, a few words more were spoken about him than the multitude of others singled out for praise. And well it should have been.

Contrary to his continuing insistence, we are going to place his "name in it" because we believe, more than anyone else, it deserves to be at the forefront. Those who know him agree that this would be the last thing he would want us to do. But, we believe the people have a right to know just what a debt all us owe this man.

The July 22, 1958 issue of THE FRANKLIN TIMES carried this headline: "Board Picks M. M. Person, Jr. To Put Hospital Back On Feet." If ever any board picked the right man at the right time it was the Hospital Board of Trustees on that fateful day.

THE TIMES' article continued: "Person takes over the Administration of the hospital at a time when all is anything except bright at the institution. Unofficial, but reliable reports show the hospital presently up to its neck in debt—some over \$40,000. Accounts receivable amount to more than \$100,000."



M. M. PERSON, JR.

The issue of May 5, 1961 — three years later — reported that Person had "Put Franklin Memorial at the top, financially and otherwise." This followed a testimonial dinner given by a host of friends in recognition of this outstanding service.

It was also reliably reported that in 1958 when Person was named, the Board of County Commissioners had issued a mandate to straighten out the hospital affairs in a limited time or it would be closed.

It is apparent to us that without the services of Maurice Person, our hospital would in all likelihood have been closed in 1958. Even had it been reopened later, the new million dollar additions would likely not have come.

We have seen him walking the halls at all hours — day or night — holidays and Sundays included.

He moves at a hurried pace. We suppose a man with so much to do and so much service to render must move in a hurry. We have never seen him when he was not pleasant, polite and cooperative. One need only visit with him briefly to detect the strain under which he operates. And still he continues to give of himself untiringly. To him, there is always so much to be done.

There is no doubt in our minds but that the original hospital and indeed, the new additions came about through the efforts of many people. Every single one of them deserves our gratitude. We could name many of these but in any listing a strong possibility of omission exists. Each, for whatever he or she has contributed toward giving this county such an outstanding medical facility, have the everlasting appreciation of us all.

But to us certainly no one has done more and many of us have surely done much less than has the able Administrator, M. M. Person, Jr.

Some men are thinkers; some are planners; others are doers. This man is a happy combination of all three. Franklin County is fortunate indeed, to have raised such a native son — and wise beyond belief in selecting him to head our hospital.

The old dusty topper is doffed in admiration and in appreciation for all he has done, to what we consider, without hesitation to be one of the county's truly outstanding servants — M. M. Person, Jr., Administrator of Franklin Memorial Hospital.

### Alert Representative

It is no secret that this column and Representative James D. Speed of Franklin are not always in agreement. Be this as it may, Mr. Speed has perhaps saved Franklin its turn in representation in the State Senate in 1969 and deserves credit for the doing.

His alertness in spotting the discrepancy in the ruling by the State Board of Elections on July 21 is the mark of a good representative. His experienced eye readily spotted what others had missed.

The bill referred to "multi-member" districts and while nobody bothered to read the small type, it speaks well for Mr. Speed that he was aware of what he had supported in the legislature. When it did not turn out as he had understood it to be, he yelled. As a result the Board of Elections admitted he was correct and proceeded with due haste to rescind its ruling which had voided the agreement between Franklin, Vance and Granville

counties.

This is doubly important since 1969 is Franklin's year for choosing the Democratic nominee for the all-important post. As capable as Vance County's Fred Royster and Granville's Wills Hancock have proven to be, Franklin received very little attention from either.

Just what the political implications of this move might be are not known at this point. Lousburg attorney Wilbur Jolly served in 1963 as the last Senator from Franklin. One thing seems reasonably sure, provided the agreement is not attacked by other sources. Franklin will get a free ride in the next elections. This is not to say, however, that the candidate from Franklin should expect to go unopposed.

Mr. Speed is to be congratulated for his alertness and for this service to his county.

## Durham Law Enforcement Praised

BY JESSE HELMS

The fact that serious violence was avoided at Durham last week should not be counted merely as a happenstance blessing, but a tribute to preparedness on the part of Durham's law enforcement agencies—and Governor Moore, who ordered in national guard personnel before, not after, matters got out of hand. Other communities in the nation have too often made the mistake of facing such problems both timidly and tardily. And widespread mayhem has been the inevitable result.

Durham, then, may have provided the formula—the only formula—for quelling a potential rebellion. Obedience to the law is not negotiable in a nation that hopes to survive. In retrospect, Durham's wisdom may seem only the obvious protection against chaos. Still, it wasn't "obvious" in Newark or Detroit or Watts or Cleveland or Harlem, or in countless other places where too few law enforcement officers

were on hand too late to prevent irresponsible frivolity being turned into ghastly anarchy.

In Durham, as elsewhere, a great percentage of the threatening gangs consisted of youngsters, many scarcely more than mere children, out for a lark. Fortunately for Durham, the frivolity—and tempers—of the gang were cooled by the presence of sufficient numbers of policemen and national guardsmen clearly prepared to deal with any outbreak of violence. One can only imagine what might otherwise have happened, without such official preparation for the protection of the community. There is scant reason to doubt that there might have been a night of regret for everyone.

And now that tempers have cooled—if they have cooled—it is time to ponder the provocations. Congressman Jim Gardner charges, with ample evidence at hand, that many so-called "War on Poverty"

workers, financed directly and indirectly with federal funds, need to be bridled in what Mr. Gardner believes to be their practice of inciting violence and unrest across the nation.

Mr. Gardner calls as his first witness the director of police in Newark, New Jersey, which was torn asunder last week by Negro mobs. Back on May 25, Newark's Police Director, Dominick A. Spina, wired both a protest and a plea to Sargent Shriver, Lyndon Johnson's director of the "War on Poverty". Bear in mind that this wire was sent on the 25th day of May of this year. It read: "I strongly protest the use of resources and manpower from . . . an agency of the Office of Economic Opportunity for the purpose of fermenting and agitating (in) the City of Newark." The telegram recited specific instances of "War on Poverty" personnel, using federal funds and equipment, in the pro-

vocation of unrest. The Newark police director said that "War on Poverty" personnel had even threatened to deprive Negroes of their jobs if they did not join in the demonstrations and picketing. ". . . This kind of practice," said the police official in his telegram to Washington, "will undoubtedly lead to riots and anarchy in our city. I request an immediate response." The telegram was signed: Dominick A. Spina, Police Director, City of Newark, New Jersey.

Sargent Shriver waited more than two weeks before responding, and then sent only a politely snide acknowledgement. In July, Newark was wracked for several nights running with a destructive hell that cost many lives and millions of dollars worth of damage to property.

Throughout his campaign for Congress, Jim Gardner repeatedly warned about the inappropriate use of federal money in the so-called "War on Poverty". The News and Observer snarled and sniped at Mr. Gardner. When tensions began to rise in Durham, concerned citizens of that community appealed to Mr. Gardner to look into the activities of poverty workers there. And because Mr. Gardner did so, The News and Observer now charges Mr. Gardner with what it calls "irresponsible meddling".

The truth of the matter is that if The News and Observer, and others who share that newspaper's foggy views, were truly interested in the poor, it seems obvious that they would long ago have joined in — and not resisted — the efforts of men like Congressman Gardner.

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## The Franklin Times

Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

Bickett Blvd. Dial GY 6-3283 LOUISBURG, N. C.

CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager

Advertising Rates Upon Request



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In North Carolina:  
One Year, \$4.64; Six Months, \$2.83  
Three Months, \$2.06

Out of State:  
One Year, \$5.50; Six Months, \$4.00  
Three Months, \$3.50

Entered as second class mail matter and postage paid at the Post Office at Louisburg, N. C. 27549.