

WEATHER

Variable cloudiness and warm today and Wednesday with a chance of showers Wednesday. Low today, 65; high, upper 80's.

The Franklin Times

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Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, August 8, 1967

(Six Pages Today)

98th Year—Number 49

White Level Negro Is Fourth Water Victim

Franklin County recorded the fourth water connected fatality of the year Monday afternoon when a 19-year-old White Level Negro lost his life when he entered a farm pond and drowned. Joe Andrew Blackwell was reportedly attempting to straighten a water drain pipe a few feet from the bank of a pond on the Curtis Crowder farm 13 miles east of Louisburg when he disappeared from the sight of a 16-year-old companion. Jimmy Evans, his companion, reported that Blackwell ran and jumped into the water during a lunch break from work at a tobacco barn

about a mile from the scene. As Blackwell showed he was in trouble, Evans ran to the opposite side of the pond to

obtain a shirt to throw to Blackwell. When he returned he saw the youth go down and not reappear. He notified the

Crowders and the youth's father, Champ Blackwell, who were working nearby. The exact time of the acci-

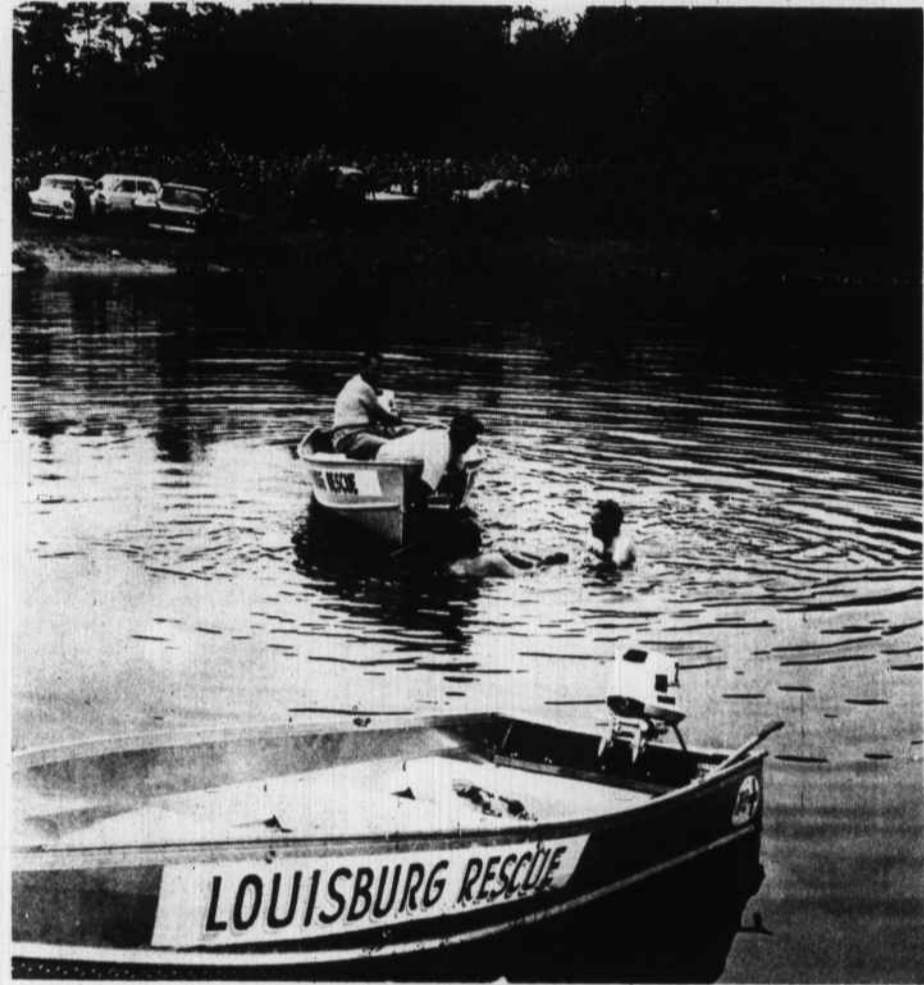
dent was not determined. Louisburg Rescue Service was called at 1:40 p.m. and dragging operations lasted for 2 and a half hours. The body was recovered around 4:30 p.m. Rescuers were hampered in their recovery attempts by heavy moss on the floor of the pond.

Before the Rescuers arrived, Danny Murphy, a white youth of the White Level community, made lengthy attempts to find the body by diving in the area where Blackwell reportedly went down.

This is the fourth water fatality of the year in the county. There were no drownings in Franklin in 1966 and only one in 1965, on December 20 when a Charlotte man lost his life west of Franklinton. He was Everette Mullis, 59. Two fatalities occurred in one accident on the C. T. Dean, Sr. farm in Cedar Rock on August 2, 1964 for the last multi-drowning. James Hicks, 45, and Percy Spivey, 54, both Negroes, drowned when their boat overturned. Two small boys were saved by the Louisburg Rescue Service and C. T. Dean, Jr.

Other fatalities thus far this year are George Lee Clements, c/m/22, in Weldons pond north of Louisburg on June 25; Franklin Madison Ayscue, w/m/70, at Epsom on June 28; and Jasper Meeane Raper of Newport News, w/m/52, at Harris farm pond off NC 56 west of Louisburg on July 15. Raper was believed to have had a heart attack before falling from his boat and drowning.

Drownings have almost reached the highway fatality total for the year. Franklin thus far had recorded only five highway deaths this year.



Search For Body

Rescuers are shown above Monday afternoon searching for the body of a 19-year-old White Level Negro who drowned in a farm pond on the Curtis Crowder farm about 13 miles east of Louisburg. Pictured are, left to right, L. S. Ward, Centerville Rescue member; W. C. Hunt, N. C. Forest Service (in boat), and David Minnich, Chief of the Louisburg Rescue Service, and Asher Johnson, Jr. one of the founders of the Louisburg unit. The body of Joe Andrew Blackwell was recovered, after a search for over two hours, about 4:30 p.m.

Epsom Lions Name Club Committees

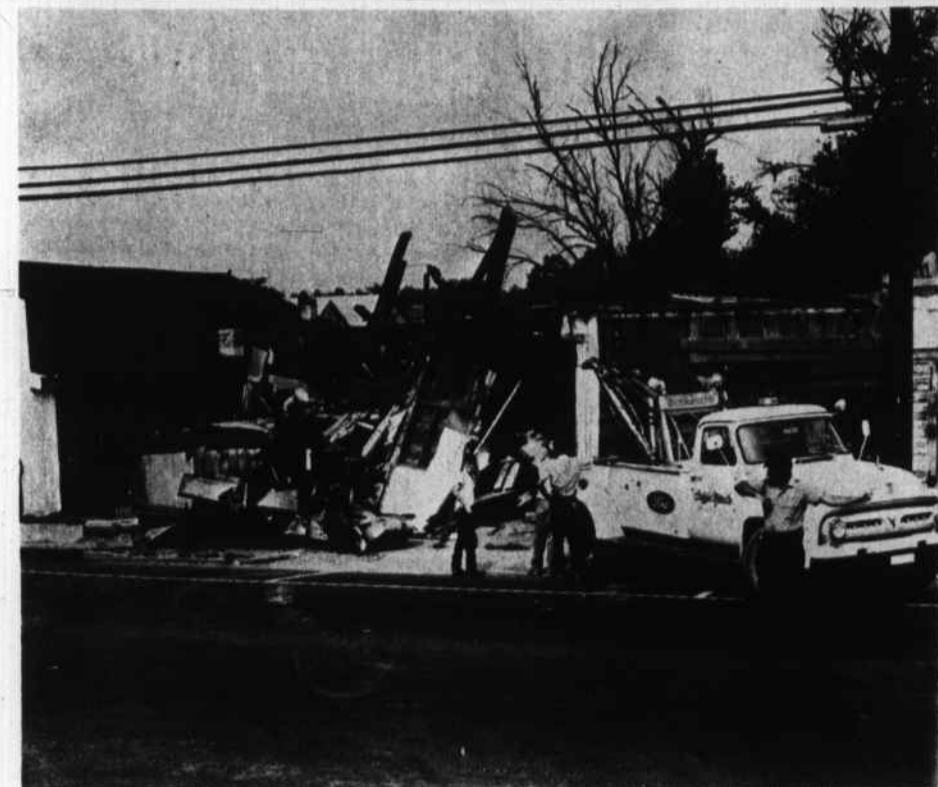
Committee appointments for the 1967-68 year highlighted the business session at the regular meeting of the Epsom Lions Club Thursday evening in the fellowship hall of Liberty Vance United Church of Christ.

Osman Garrard presided over the meeting and announced new committees as follows:

Attendance--Norwood Wynne, B. M. Newman, Fred Peoples; boys and girls--Russell Eaves, Bobby Moss, Rogers Edwards, Steve Lamm; convention--J. K. Weldon, Irvin Inscoc, Sam Beasley; education--Otis Bolter, E. C. Edwards, Dean Coffey.

Finance--Tollie Smith, Johnny Bowen, Sam Southerland, John Foster; health and welfare--John Grissom, Johnny Bowen, Alton Foster; information and public relations--Sonny Gatano, Kenneth Fuller, J. C. Allen; program--Nelson Falkner, R. A. Bartholomew, J. R. Bobby Foster; White Cane--Nelson Falkner, Freddie McGhee, Osman Garrard, Eugene Perkinson; bread sale--Fred Kesler, Fred McGhee, William Matthews, Irvin Collins.

Also of interest to members was an announcement by Bobby Moss concerning a pancake supper which the club will sponsor in the near future. Sort the tobacco into several



Clearing Started

Wreckage of four businesses destroyed by fire on Sunday, November 20, last year, is being removed from South Main Street by the Wade Moore Construction Co. Allen Oil Co. has reportedly purchased the property and will construct a bulk plant on the site. The clearing of the site began here Monday.

From Farm Agent's Office

Suggestions Made For Marketing Loose Leaf

The shortage and high cost of labor continue to put the squeeze on flue-cured tobacco farmers to look for more labor-saving production and marketing practices. One marketing practice that

has received overwhelming endorsement from farmers is the marketing of flue-cured tobacco in loose leaf form. Farmers are expected to take advantage of the first 95 hours of sale time on each

market this year to sell untied tobacco, points out S. N. Hawks, Extension tobacco specialist at North Carolina State University.

The grower who devotes a little more time to preparing his crop will be the one who receives the top dollar.

Hawks reminds farmers that company officials have requested that loose leaf tobacco be laid straight with all butts placed in the same direction. It should be marketed in the proper keeping form, free of sand, thread another foreign matter, and properly sorted. A basket cannot weigh more than 200 pounds.

The specialist makes several suggestions for preparing and marketing loose leaf tobacco. Work and maintain untied tobacco in a drier condition than tied tobacco. As one example, the moisture of lugs should be at the stage just before shattering would normally occur.

Sort the tobacco into several

See TOBACCO Page 6

Commissioners Meet

Electrical Inspection Program Still Dead

The Board of County Commissioners, with Commissioners Brooks W. Young and Richard Cash absent, refused to reinstate the controversial electrical inspection program in their regular monthly meeting held here Monday. Young and Cash opposed the elimination of the program last month.

Henry Privette of Youngsville appeared before the Board seeking to have the program reinstated and applying for the position of inspector. The Commissioners, according to reports, said they would wait and see how their decision worked out before giving the matter any further consideration.

The program was killed following the inability of several county citizens to get an inspector when they needed current turned on.

Little River Ice Co. was low bidder on fuel oil for the county and was awarded the county contract for the year. The firm's bid was No. 1 oil, .1750 and No. 2 oil, .1289. Chairman E. M. Sykes was

authorized to sign all papers pertaining to the Mental Health Program in the county and Louisburg College was exempted from paying a \$72.59 tax levy against the McFarland property purchased in 1966 by the College.

It was disclosed that the county is to receive \$1540 from the N. C. Department of Public Welfare. The Commissioners acted to use \$396 of the amount as a pay increase for Mrs. Jane York, Director and \$288 for Mrs. Mary Holton, an employee of the local Welfare Department. The remainder of the money is to be used for administration of the Welfare Department. In a separate action, the Register of Deeds office was given \$300 for extra help. This amount had been removed from the Deeds office budget earlier.

Carl Pernel, Louisburg fireman appeared before the Board in connection with the county's fire prevention programs. Pernel displayed several fire extinguishers for sale. No action was taken.

Sales Continue To Climb In Franklin

Latest figures released by the North Carolina Merchants Association show that retail sales in Franklin County are continuing to climb. Figures for the month of May, latest month available, show a gain of \$242,601 over the same month last year.

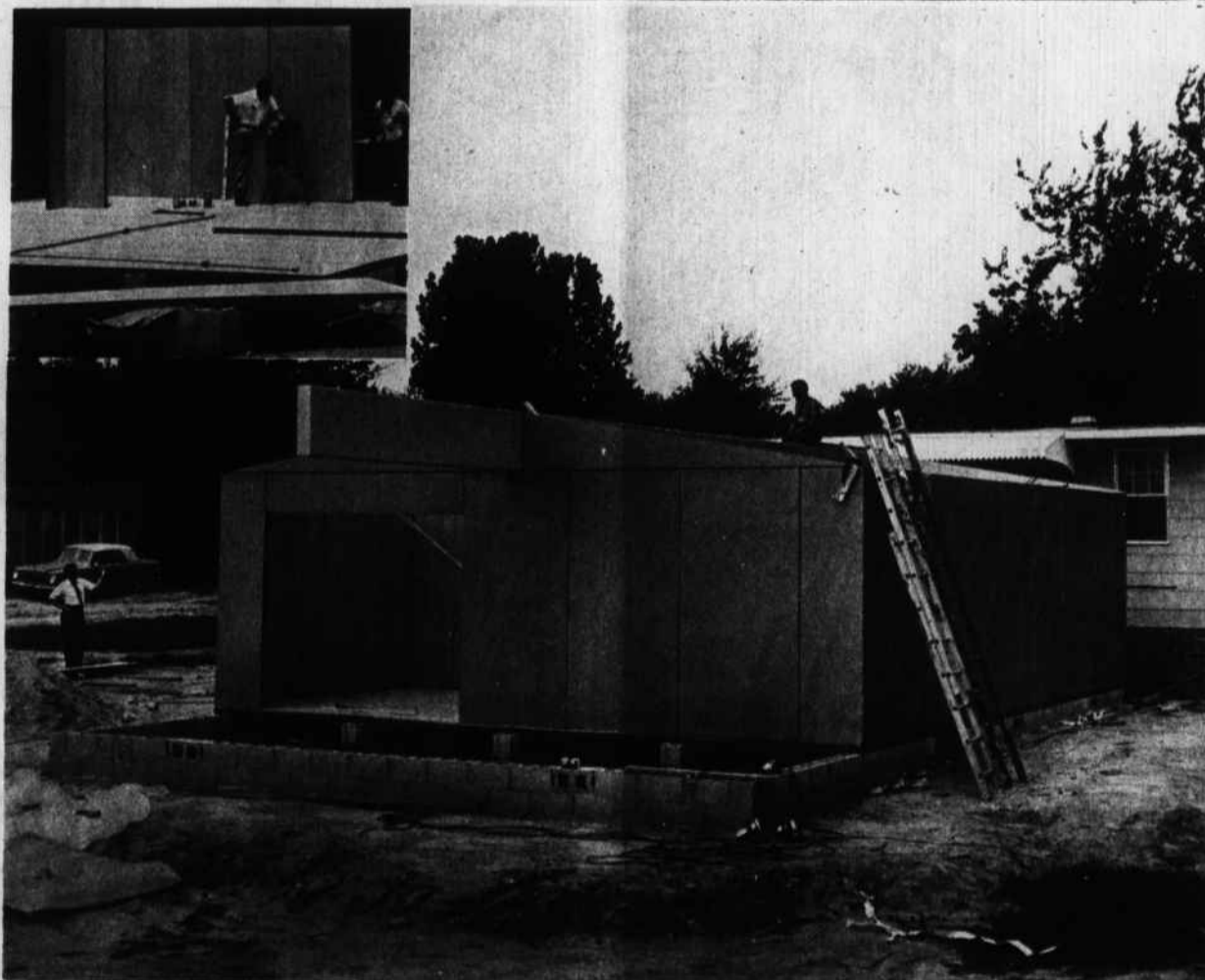
Retail sales for May of this year are reported at \$2,563,567. The same period in 1966 show a total of \$2,320,966.

May sales are also more than sales in the month of April this year. April figures listed were \$297,137 less than those for May. April sales totaled \$2,266,430.

The Retailer, monthly publication of the Association, explains that May figures were reported in June, broken down by cities and counties and were ready around July 15 for reporting in August issue.

Total sales for the state were reported at \$772,926,199, an increase over the \$731,985,663 reported for last May and the \$751,473,018 reported for April of this year.

More money was spent for food in the state than any other category listed, and May showed a sizable increase over April and May of last year. As expected, Charlotte led all cities in retail sales with \$90,365,846.



Comstruct Home Goes Up

Pictured above is the first Comstruct house to be erected. Materials for the house were manufactured here by Composite Structures Corporation and the structure was erected last week in Augusta, Ga., home of the firm's sales manager. J. Burdette Wilkins, President of the firm, is shown, inset, discussing the erection with workers. The home, erected along a business-section by-pass in the Georgia city, features a new "sand" color. Wilkins reports it took two days to erect the house, but

the firm is aiming for a five-hour erection time as work progresses. The reinforced plastic panels and other parts of the house were manufactured in the plant here, located just off Main Street at the intersection of Kenmore Ave. The plant is not yet in full production. Aluminum doors and windows are now being installed in the panels and full production is expected to get underway shortly, according to Wilkins.

Weekend activities for law enforcement and Rescue personnel began last Friday morning around 10:30 a.m. when federal ATU and Franklin Sheriff's officers raided an 800-gallon submarine whiskey still between Franklinton and Youngsville. Two white men were arrested at the site and charged

with illegal manufacture of whiskey. They were identified as George Robert Hayes, 28, and Thomas Winston Dickerson, 25.

Franklinton Rescuers answered their 49th call since establishment of the service last May 10 Saturday night around 9:30 p.m. The unit transported Gus Stroud, 36-

year-old Franklinton Fabrics employee, to Franklin Memorial Hospital after he was injured by boiling water. Details of the accident were not made available.

T. O. Nelms, Cedar Rock farmer, lost a tobacco barn Sunday around 12:30 p.m. The Justice fire department answered the call and reported the barn completely destroyed upon their arrival.

Shortly after midnight Saturday night, two Franklinton men were injured when their car overturned 2 miles west of Franklinton on the Pocomoke Road. Sammy Lee Watson, w/m/18, was transported to Duke Hospital with severe chest injuries following treatment at Franklin Memorial here. His brother, John Watson, w/m/24, was treated here for lesser injuries.

Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Jean Handy, 28-year-old expectant mother from Asheville, received back injuries when the car, driven by her husband, was hit and run off NC 56 west of Louisburg. Witnesses described the hit and run car as a blue 1957 Chevrolet and listed the license number as FC 911. At last report, no arrest had been made.

A minor accident involving a motorcycle and an automobile did little damage and resulted in no injuries late Sunday afternoon on NC 561

at Oswego intersection. Those involved were not immediately identified.

A 19-year-old Negro drowned in the Curtis Crowder farm pond in White Level shortly after noon Monday. Joe Andrew Blackwell, reportedly entered the pond to straighten a drain pipe and slipped into water over his head. Louisburg Rescue Service members recovered the body around 4:30 p.m.

An automobile fire near the W. H. Horton residence on John St. here did minor damage to engine wiring around 5 p.m. Monday.

Fire destroyed a tobacco barn on the H. H. and N. M. Perry farm on NC 561 Monday night around 8 p.m. Centerville firemen contained the blaze and prevented nearby barns from igniting. A heavy rainstorm was in progress during the time the blaze was reported and firemen fought the flames. The barn was gutted and the tobacco, belonging to A. H. Spencer of Rt. 3, Louisburg was totally destroyed.

Two submarine-type whiskey stills were raided Monday by Halifax officers and ATU agents near the Franklin County line. Sheriff J. R. Daniel of Halifax reported the arrest of Jesse Coley of near Essex at the time of the raid.

Would You Like To Help?

There is a 14-year old white boy at Caswell Training School. He has been there since 1960. His home was originally in Franklin County. Due to unexplained circumstances this retarded youngster cannot visit his home.

Right now, he is eligible to attend Camp Don-Lee down on the coast. He can leave Caswell on August 13 and return on August 19. This will perhaps be the highlight of this youngster's life. He is expected to remain at Caswell for another seven to eight years.

The hitch is finances. For this Franklin County boy to be included among those going to camp, he needs \$37. Local civic clubs or an individual who might be interested in helping in this matter are urged to contact Mrs. Jane York, Director of Welfare for Franklin County immediately.