



# Highway Deaths: What's A Life Worth?

By Clint Fuller  
Times Managing Editor

The hour is late. The house is quiet. Everyone has gone to bed. The telephone rings.

"Is this the Jones residence?" "Is this Mrs. Jones?" "Is there anyone there in the house with you right now, Mrs. Jones?"

"Mrs. Jones, I'm sorry to be the one to tell you... but, you see, there has been an accident... and I'm afraid I've got some-very bad news for you. Your son is dead."

Cold. Straight to the point. Your son is dead. Seventeen years. And now, he's dead.

It is, of course, humanly impossible to know the feeling of a mother or a father, husband or wife at a time such as this. It is, of course, unless you have experienced it.

In 1968, nine persons were killed on the highways of Franklin County. Somewhere, nine people were sorry to be the ones to tell the story. Some-

where, nine people had to listen and somewhere those who heard must have cried aloud. Each life is that important to someone.

Across the state of North Carolina, around 1800 times it was necessary to give the bad news to a next of kin. The news to a wife that forever more she must walk alone; to a mother that never again will she hear that tender voice saying, "Hi, mom"; or to a father that he will not again feel the warm hand on his.

How did they die - the nine - in Franklin County? We know. We were there on eight of them.

Torn, mutilated bodies. Blood covered. Automobiles ripped apart like a child's toy. Officers searching for identification. Gawkers looking on. White suited rescuers, busily, efficiently working to aid the injured and hand-

ling the dead with a dignity that decried the circumstances. Gently, as if they might be hurt further, the bodies were laid on stretchers. Nobody cried. Most just shook their heads.

Nighttime is the worse. The flicking lights of parked cars; the blue Trooper beacon; the putt-putt of the rescue engine generating electricity. "Who is he?" Always, somebody asks. "Who is he?"

You can always tell by looking at a rescuer's eyes. Most of the time you can tell. If they are hurrying, there's life. Too often, it is obvious that there is no need for great haste.

Some do make it to the emergency room and there doctors and nurses work feverishly to patch the broken bodies. Sometimes they succeed. Sometimes, they can't.

Experts have pondered the problem

for years. None have thus far come up with an answer. In the last five years, 18 persons between the age of twenty and thirty have died on Franklin highways. Five others between 13 and 19 have also been killed. In the 30 to 40 year range, only three and six have died between the ages of forty and fifty. Nine were between the ages of fifty and sixty and only two were past sixty.

The most dangerous age, then apparently is the group between twenty and thirty years and most all were young men. Too often, speed was the contributing factor.

With a bright new year started, one of the best resolutions anyone could make would be to resolve to pay far more attention to his or her driving in 1969. Don't let the phone ring late at your house with the bad news.

Don't let 1969 be your year.

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## Mrs. Kate Perry Passes

Mrs. Kate Clifton Perry, widow of Bennett Boddie Perry and mother of the late Dr. William G. Perry, died at Franklin Memorial Hospital, Wednesday after a lingering illness.

Mrs. Perry was the youngest daughter of the late Dr. James Beverly Clifton and Anne Smith Clifton. Born in Louisburg in 1882, she spent her whole life here. She was educated at Louisburg College and St. Mary's College. Mrs. Perry was a charter member of the Green Hill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the U. D. C., and a life-long member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

She is survived by two grandsons, William Clifton Perry of Raleigh, and Bennett Boddie Perry of Winston-Salem, one great-grandson, David Lyle Perry, also of Winston-Salem, and 12 nieces and nephews as follows: John W. King, James B. King, Maurice Clifton Joyner, Maurice S. Clifton of Ventura, California, Mrs. J. K. Dixon of Trenton, Mrs. Joe Wall, Mrs. Elizabeth Webb, Mrs. James M. Allen, Mrs. Peter Stapleton Allen, Mrs. Paul W. Elam, Mrs. Frank E. Pulley, and Mrs. Harrell J. Lewis.

Interment will be at Oakwood Cemetery Friday at 2:00 p.m., following graveside services conducted by the Rev. Frank E. Pulley.

## Trailer Home Burns Here

The trailer home of Darrell Collier was completely destroyed by fire this morning around 10 A.M. The new 60-ft. mobile home, occupied by the Collier family just last week was located on the Raleigh Road just south of the Cloverleaf in Louisburg.

A small quantity of the contents of the trailer were saved and a nearby trailer escaped damage. The Colliers were not at home at the time of the fire, according to reports.

## Social Security Rates Up

### Locals Face Higher Taxes

Higher taxes by way of increased Social Security take-outs have come in with the new year. To pay for bigger pensions for retired workers, locals will feel a tighter pinch in their next pay check.

To meet the cost of the 13 percent increase in social security benefits, which went into effect last February, workers will face an increase in payroll taxes.

Effective January 1, they will be paying at the rate of 4.8 percent on earnings up to \$7,800. The previous rate was 4.4 percent. Matching amounts must be paid by the employers.

Self-employed people will be required to pay 6.9 percent on the first \$7,800 of income for a maximum tax of \$538.20. In 1968, the figure was \$499.20.

For those working for someone else, the maximum this year will be \$374.40 as compared with the \$343.20 in 1968.

According to preliminary figures, social security receipts throughout the country will amount to more than \$27 billion this year.

The person who is making \$4,000 at present and paid \$176 in 1968 will pay \$192 in 1969. The \$5,500 earner will go from \$242 to \$264 in taxes and the worker with an income of \$7,000 will pay \$336 instead of the 1968 figure of \$308.

Further tax increases and benefits are slated for the coming years, up to 1987. According to present schedules, providing no further changes are made by the Congress, a person earning \$7,800 will have social security taxes of \$440.70 ten years hence. Ultimately, it will reach a peak of \$460.20, Happy 1969.

## Who Remembers The Thirties?

# Does Inflation Threaten Country With Another Depression

By Clint Fuller  
Times Managing Editor

his work would be for "cash only", and closed his ad with the fact he was "forced to take the above action or close my business."

That was 38 years ago and many people today do not recall those times. They have heard of the Great Depression and most are convinced that it cannot happen again. Economists, however, are today pointing to the threat of inflation being far greater

than that of a depression. Inflation they say leads to depression.

The early thirties were filled with sale of land for taxes; suicides, bankruptcy and just plain misery.

It mattered not that coffee was selling for 13 cents a pound

when you did not have the 13 cents. Nor was it important that a new Ford cost \$430 when you could not afford a cord tire, which cost \$5.65.

"One Time Wealthy Man Files Petition in Bankruptcy Here", blazed a headline in January, 1931. The article read: "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ owned 300,000 acres of choice land five years ago but deflated real estate value and crop conditions during the past several years have combined to force him into bankruptcy." A half-page ad proclaimed that "forty mules" and "15 cows", a pony and other items including a car were being "Sold under mortgage and nothing will be reserved."

A local creamery was sold to a Raleigh firm for \$1,090 and the Franklin County Relief Association was formed to aid "underprivileged farmers." The Louisburg Kiwanis Club took that as a project in 1931... aiding farmers. The Red Cross held meetings to explain its aid requirements. The local theater posted prices of 10 and 25 cents for matinees and 10 and 35 for nights except on Bargain Days when adults could attend the movie for 20 cents.

When one thinks of the prices today in comparison with those of the thirties, it seems that anyone should have been able to survive that time. However, those who experienced it will quickly tell you that there was no money. Times were hard was a favorite expression.

One local clothing concern told its customers, "We've decided to take our medicine and get out." They had a sale. Ladies coats sold for \$1.83 and Men's all wool suits went for \$2.39. And a cartoon in The Times depicted a couple talking to Santa Claus and saying: "A job or two which will enable us to pick our own Christmas."

The County Commissioners replied to a letter from the Relief Association: "Under the economical and financial

conditions existing at this time there can be no more difficult task imposed upon any body of men than proper levying, collecting and disbursement of taxes. And the pages of The Times were filled with Notices of Foreclosure Sale for Taxes.

Tobacco sold for an average of ten cents a pound that fall and Chevrolet said it had "The American Value for 1932" at only \$475. A half-ton pickup cost \$440. With ten-cent tobacco, you could buy neither.

Christmas came as always in 1931 and the usually Merry Christmas accompanied with a drawing of a couple of tots viewing Santa's shadow outside their bedroom window, adorned the front page. Right along side the headline read: "First National Bank Closes... Account of Run Made by Depositors on Friday and Saturday."

In early 1932, the temporary postponement of sale of land for taxes enacted by the 1931 General Assembly ended. The price of cheese fell from 25 cents per pound in 1931 to 17 cents in April of 1932. The country was headed further downhill.

Seaboard would take you from Franklinton to Washington round trip for only \$5.00 but few were going. "From all over the country we read and hear reports of a rising tide of protest against the high cost of government," a Times editorial stated. Sound familiar?

Western steak was selling for 15 cents a pound or a dollar less than today's price and one local store said it had "Shoes for all the family at almost any old price."

"Prosperity", said The Times editor, "is just around the corner" and he asked, "Are you ready for it?"

A delegation traveled to Washington seeking an extension on farm loans and a meeting was held here "To tell how to get 8 cents for cotton". You could buy a man's dress shirt for 49

See INFLATION Page 2



## Alert Community Man Is Fire Victim

A 61-year-old Alert Community man lost his life in a fire which destroyed his home near the Warren County line last night around 7:30 p.m. Sheriff William T. Dement reported that Josh Moseley met death by accidental fire. Centerville Volunteer firemen rushed to the scene when called, but the building was almost completely consumed by flames when firemen arrived. Moseley was last seen alive around 4 p.m. Wednesday, according to reports. The house was completely destroyed. Moseley lived alone on a dirt road a short distance from U. S. 401 and the Franklin-Warren County line.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

## Local News Headlines Of 1968

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| <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 - Trio Face Murder Charges In Franklinton Slaying</li> <li>9 - Five-Car Smash-up Sends Six To Hospital</li> <li>11 - Storm Hits County With Snow, Sleet, Freezing Rain</li> <li>16 - Griffin, Jolly File For State Senate</li> <li>18 - Franklinton Police Officer Killed By Deputy Sheriff</li> <li>23 - Stone Announces For Top Education Post</li> <li>25 - Board Approves Private Ambulance Agreement</li> <li>30 - Former County Accountant Faces Embezzlement Charges</li> </ul> <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Franklin School Suit Appeal To Be Heard At Richmond</li> <li>6 - Former Wake County School Chief Killed Near Centerville</li> <li>8 - Franklin Voters Face Host Of Changes In Coming Elections</li> <li>13 - New County Wide Voter Registration Is Ordered</li> <li>15 - County Basketball Tourney Starts</li> <li>20 - Rescuers Save Life Of Raleigh Man</li> </ul> | <p>Man</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 - Franchise For Natural Gas Service Is Sought</li> <li>27 - Sportswear Hearing Continues Today</li> <li>29 - Franklin Voters To Chose From Sixty-one On State Ballot March</li> </ul> <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 - New Voter Registration Poses Many Questions</li> <li>7 - Tar River Dams Said 10-20 Years Away</li> <li>12 - Youngsville Wins District IV Championship</li> <li>14 - Filing Fees Paid By Wood, Cash, Speed</li> <li>19 - Investigation Continues In Dynamite Find</li> <li>21 - Court Ordered School Plan Deadline Nears</li> <li>26 - Three-way Race Develops For District 2 Board Seat</li> <li>28 - County School Plan Presented To U. S. Court</li> </ul> <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 - Whites Make Up 30% Of Saturday Registration</li> <li>4 - Survey Shows County Needs 262</li> </ul> | <p>Additional Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 - Franklin Board Loses Appeal To Circuit Court</li> <li>Quiet Returns To Louisburg, Franklinton Following Weekend Of Vandalism, Arson And High Tension</li> <li>11 - Pair Charged With Kidnapping In Hijacking Of Franklinton Bus</li> <li>16 - County Records Second Highway Fatality Of Year</li> <li>23 - Total Registration Below Past Figures</li> <li>25 - Voters Hear Issues Discussed As Candidates Meeting Held</li> <li>30 - Board OK's Cutbacks In Courthouse Plans</li> </ul> <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 - Record Turnout Seen For Saturday Primaries</li> <li>7 - Sykes, Griffin, Cash Win In Local Races County Goes For Broughton, Taylor Top Voter Getter</li> <li>9 - House Calls For Runoff With Cash</li> <li>14 - Board Petitions Circuit Court For Re-Hearing</li> <li>16 - Tar River Flood Plain Study Meeting Slated</li> <li>21 - Commencement Exercises Held</li> </ul> |
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- 23 - Offices Moved From Courthouse As Renovation Projects Begins
  - 28 - Commissioners Refuse To Make Motion In Land Dispute
  - 30 - Light Voting Forecast In Saturday's Primary
- June
- 4 - Circuit Court Says "No", District Court Orders Hearing
  - 11 - Commissioners Again Refuse Land Request
  - 13 - Several Hundred Attend Gardner Rally Here
  - 18 - Louisburg Police Face Salary Crisis
  - 20 - County May Lose \$83,000 Building
  - 25 - Federal Court Orders Unitary Desegregated School System In Franklinton County This Fall
  - 27 - Union Wins Sportswear Case, Appeal Planned
- July
- 2 - Commissioners Amend Budget, See HEADLINES Page 2