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NAACP Files Charges Against Board

State Will Be Asked To Enter Case Today NAACP Attorneys Seek Fees, Costs From County



Governor Presents Awards

Times Editor Clint Fuller is shown above with Governor Bob Scott following the presentation by the Governor of two N. C. Press Awards to The Franklin Times. Fuller's editorial "Reaping the Whirlwind" published last April won third place in the state and The Times also received a third place award for the Frank Count column. The presentations were made in Chapel Hill at the annual Press Institute last Thursday night.

Times Wins Two N. C. Press Awards

The Franklin Times received two statewide newspaper awards at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Press Association in Chapel Hill last week. Times Editor Clint Fuller won third place in the best editorials category and the Frank Count column placed third among the best columns in the state's competing newspapers.

Times Editor and Mrs. Fuller attended the dinner at Chase Hall and the Cocktail Hour honoring Governor and Mrs. Robert W. Scott and the award winners, at the Carolina Inn last Thursday night. The Governor made the awards presentations and Fuller accepted both for The Times.

Fuller's editorial, "Reaping the Whirlwind", which appeared last April 9th in the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was selected third in the state. Tom Lassiter of The Smithfield Herald was first and James Schumaker of The Chapel Hill Weekly was second. Fuller won first place in editorial writing in 1967. The Frank Count column was selected third behind "Five O'Clock Shadow" by Charles Deal in The (Newton, N.C.) Observer-Enterprise and "And in This Corner" by Ron Paris of The Forest City (N.C.) Courier.

The judges comments on the editorial winners said, "North Carolina is fortunate in its outspoken and courageous editors. Most difficult to make a choice." And on the best columns, the judges said, "I'll bet these... are habit forming columns to which the readers turn week after week. It was a real tough job judging."

The coveted Community Service Award went this year to the Charlotte Observer. The Times won second runner-up for Community Service in 1967 in the state and was chosen first in the nation.

Gov. Scott addressed the annual gathering and announced that he had that day issued a gubernatorial proclamation against any type secret meeting among agencies responsible to him. He praised newspaper industry and congratulated the winners. He was introduced by William Friday, President of the Consolidated University of North Carolina.

UNC Chancellor Carlyle Sitterton welcomed the newspaper people and Brodie Griffith, President of the N. C. Press Association presided. The convention closed Saturday.

Both groups charge that the Board is operating segregated classrooms in integrated schools and that students are assigned seats on the buses according to race. The Board did not issue a statement in light of the NAACP charges, but said that the statement issued last Thursday in the aftermath of the federal charges applied to the newest charges. In that statement, the Board said the claims by the Attorney General are "untrue" and called the charges "a form of harassment against the Board of Education and the people of Franklin County."

Yarborough and Fuller are also expected to confer with the Attorney General on the possibility of the State entering the total case and several

Correction

Through error it was reported that Dr. Ellen Winston, a consultant with the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, would speak at Louisburg College this afternoon at 3 P.M. The correct time is tonight at 8 P.M. The Times regrets the error and is happy to make this correction.

Death Claims Numa Freeman

Funeral services for Numa F. Freeman, 56, Louisburg merchant, who died Monday morning in Duke Hospital, will be conducted Wednesday at 11 A.M. from the Lancaster Funeral Home Chapel, conducted by Rev. Aubrey S. Tomlinson, pastor of the



NUMA F. FREEMAN

Louisburg Baptist Church and Rev. Norwood Jones, pastor of the Louisburg Methodist Church.

Freeman, who has suffered declining health for the past several months, was a former member of the Louisburg Town Council and a past President of the Louisburg Lions Club. He operated Freeman's Hardware Store here and was a former partner in the old Union Tobacco Warehouse in addition to his farm operations.

He was a member of the Louisburg Baptist Church and had served as President of the Louisburg High School Band Boosters. He was a leader in the Louisburg Athletic Association and one of its founders. The group established the first lighted athletic field in the county.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret H. Freeman; two daughters, Mrs. Charles M. Davis of Louisburg and Vell Freeman of the home; a son, Frank Freeman of Louisburg; his mother, Mrs. Vell Freeman of Louisburg; four sisters, Mrs. Ann Shelton and Mary Harris Freeman of Louisburg, Mrs. Margaret Matthews of Greensboro and Mrs. William O'Brien of Virginia Beach, Va.; a brother, Wyatt Freeman of Louisburg; three grandchildren.

Interment will be made in Oakwood Cemetery here.

NAACP FILES CHARGES

The Board of Education, threatened with imprisonment in charges brought last week by the United States Attorney General, girded itself for battle Monday night. Meeting in special session, the Board in rapid succession, (1) directed its attorney, E. F. Yarborough, to seek intervention into the case by the State, (2) ordered that the charges be answered, (3) asked that interrogatories be filed requiring the government to spell out its charges, (4) directed that interrogatories filed by the NAACP be challenged and (5) directed the Superintendent to get a full report on the racial breakdown of every classroom in the system.

other aspects pertaining to these latest charges. The conference was set for 4 P.M. this afternoon in Raleigh.

NAACP-ASKS \$18,597 IN COURT FEES

The law firms of Conrad O. Pearson of Durham and Chambers, Stein, Ferguson and Lanning of Charlotte, attorneys for the NAACP and eleven Franklin Negro plaintiffs, filed a request with the U. S. District Court to order Franklin County to pay \$4997.04 in costs and \$13,600.00 in attorney fees in connection with the four-year-old legal battle.

The request was filed Monday with the charges against the Board. The attorneys presented a long list of expenses dating back to December 8, 1965, including a number of trips to Washington, Louisburg, Baltimore and Raleigh. The Board ordered its attorneys to file objections to this request in Monday night's meeting.

Rainfall 2.32 Inches Here

The weekend rains swelled the Tar River from 4 feet Monday to 9.6 feet this morning and Louisburg weatherman G. O. Kennedy says the river is still rising. The area received .48 inches of rain Sunday, 1.47 inches Sunday night and Monday with .37 inches Monday night, according to Kennedy, for a total of 2.32 inches in the two day period.

Courthouse Furniture Arrives

Furniture for offices in the newly renovated courthouse began arriving this morning following approval by the Board of County Commissioners Monday of a bid submitted by Raleigh Office Supply Co.

Believed at first to be the high, rather than low bidder, the Raleigh firm was granted the contract when it was discovered that other bidders had not bid on all the items listed. Total bids to the firm amounted to \$5,755.81.

The purchase consists of desks, chairs, filing cabinets and other items of furniture for the various offices.

Weather

Considerable cloudiness and not as cold today and Wednesday. Low today, 34; high, around 50.

BOARD ISSUES STATEMENT

The Board issued a prepared statement late last Thursday after receiving copies of the charges by Attorney General Ramsey Clark. The statement declared there was no "discrimination whatsoever in any of the schools or on any of the school buses." Fuller read portions of the statement for the Board on WRAL-TV's Dateline news Thursday night and copies of the statement were distributed to other news media in the area.

The Board questioned the sincerity of the Department of Justice when it related that a "squad of FBI agents" had staged an investigation in the county three months ago and said it had "received no complaint from the Department of Justice."

"We regret", the Board stated, "that the federal government, through the Attorney General, has seen fit to further handicap us in our attempt to provide a sound education for all the school children of this county."

CEDAR STREET, YOUNGVILLE ELEMENTARY SURPLUS

In other actions Monday night, the Board declared the former Cedar Street School building and the Youngville Elementary School build-

ing to be surplus and of no further use to the system. It ordered the attorney and Superintendent Smith to proceed with the necessary steps to place both up for sale to the highest bidder. The Youngville building is unoccupied and the Cedar Street building is presently being used by the Franklin Academy private school. The group holds a lease on the property through August of this year.

Final approval was given to categories of children who are to receive free or reduced price lunches in the schools. This is a federally financed project staged in conjunction with the state lunch program. A special committee of school officials and private citizens representing each section of the county had studied the project and made recommendations to the Board. These recommendations were approved Monday night.

The Board also approved a project for a Summer Pre-School Readiness Program at a cost of \$35,680 which is to be financed by federal ESEA funds. The project is to utilize surplus state allotted ESEA funds if it meets approval of the federal agency. It would be held in six schools throughout the county for children expected to enter the first grade for the first time next fall.

Board Of Education Statement

"The charges in the motion for contempt filed by Mr. Ramsey Clark, the Attorney General against the Franklin County Board of Education are not true. All the schools and faculties in the Franklin County School System are fully integrated and there is no racial discrimination whatsoever in any of the schools or on any of the school buses. The schools opened last September 9 fully integrated as required by the Federal Court and the Franklin County Board of Education emphatically denies that there is any racial discrimination whatsoever in the Franklin School System.

"Our schools opened four months ago and prior to the filing of this motion on Wednesday, the Board of Education had received no complaint from the Department of Justice regarding the operation of schools this year. The Chairman was informed about three months ago by the FBI that a squad of agents were in the county investigating the school operation. It seems to us that if this investigation revealed any discrepancy that the logical recourse should have been for the Department of Justice to inform the Board of Education before this late date.

"All assignments of pupils in the elementary grades were made on the basis of recognized educational tests,

given impartially to all students. Under the system of team teaching all students are taught by teachers of the teams, regardless of the race of either pupils or teachers.

"The Board of Education has complied in good faith with all orders of the Federal Court and we feel that this motion by the U. S. Attorney General is a form of harassment against the Board of Education and the people of Franklin County, and that it certainly is a disservice to the children in our schools. If the Board should be required to re-shuffle the students and the teachers at this time, it will have an unsettling effect on our entire school system.

"In this difficult situation we are attempting to provide a good education for the students, and these false accusations by the U. S. Department of Justice will serve only to make the task more difficult.

"We regret that the Federal Government, through the Attorney General, has seen fit to further handicap us in our attempt to provide a sound education for all the school children of this county. We believe that the Court will recognize the good faith of the Board of Education and the willingness of the people of Franklin County to obey the law as declared by the Courts."



Booze Business Burns

Franklin Sheriff William Dement points to the burned illegal liquor operation discovered about 8:15 A.M. Friday morning when Bunn firemen answered a call to extinguish the fire. The abandoned house was located about 1 1/2 miles west of Bunn some distance off N. C. 39. According to reports, an explosion set off the blaze that destroyed the four-room house and the still operation inside. Dement points to the various items used in the operation, (1) a submarine type still, (2) a radiator, (3) burned wooden barrels, (4) a shed containing a hoard of jars and (5) a second shed containing a small still, which is believed to have been the forerunner of the larger operation. No arrests were made but salvageable materials were confiscated.

Photo by Clint Fuller.

Legislators Named To Committees

Franklin's three representatives in the General Assembly were named to committees announced Monday by Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor and House Speaker Earl Vaughn. State Senator Edward F. Griffin was appointed to the Senate Finance Committee, which is headed by Sen. Ralph Scott of Alamance County.

Rep. James Speed was named to the House Subcommittee on General Government and Transportation of which Rep. Ernest Hicks of Mecklenburg County is chairman. Rep. John T. Church was appointed to the House Subcommittee of Personnel and Long-Range Planning. This Subcommittee is headed by Rep. Charles Phillips of Guilford County.