

The Franklin Times

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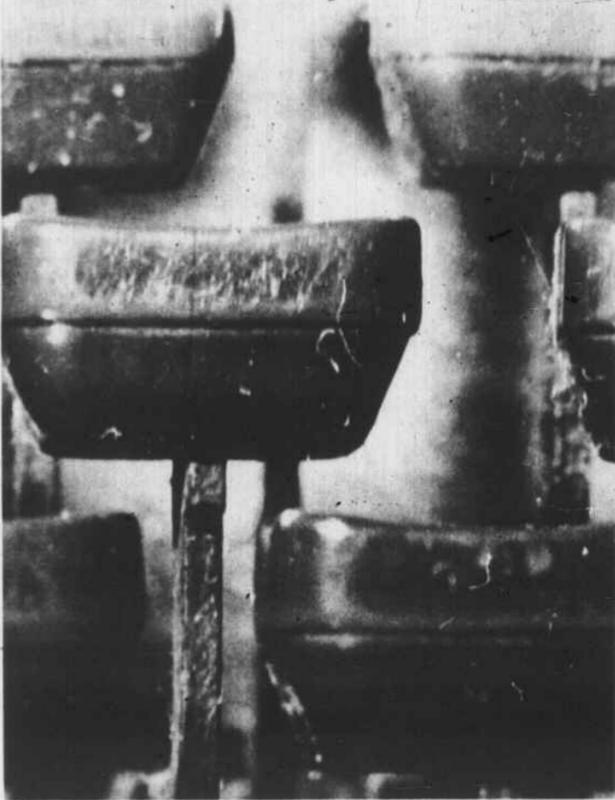
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Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Thursday, January 30, 1969

(Ten Pages Today)

99th Year-Number 100



What's It?

(See answer on Page 6)

Franklinton Civic Leader Passes

Mrs. Eleanor Wilder Eaton, 68, Franklinton civic leader, died Tuesday morning at Mary Elizabeth Hospital in Raleigh following a lengthy illness.

With her husband, Mrs. Eaton operated the Crescent Motel at Franklinton. She was an active member of the Franklinton Baptist Church where she served for many years as G. A. Counselor. A charter member of the local Eastern Star, she served as Worthy Matron for two years. She has also held district and state offices in Eastern Star.

Mrs. Eaton was active in the Mitchner's Home Demonstration Club and served as President of the Franklinton P. T. A. She was a past president of the Franklinton Woman's Club and a member of the Franklinton Garden Club. Prior to her marriage, she taught school in Nash County.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 3 P.M. from the Franklinton Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Horace Jackson and Rev. Dwight Cooper of Fayetteville and Rev. Don Lee Harris.

Survivors are her husband, William A. Eaton, Sr.; two daughters, Mrs. W. P. Weathers of Fayetteville, Mrs. Ralph Lane of Rocky Mount; one son, William A. Eaton, Jr. of Lorton, Virginia; five grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. J. A. Leonard of Nashville and Mrs. Roy Purnell of Louisburg; one brother, Glenn Wilder of Vancouver, Washington.

National Guard To Conduct Search For Missing Moulton Man Sunday

The Sheriff's Department has disclosed that units of the National Guard will launch a massive search effort Sunday for Brooks Merritt, 61-year-old Moulton Community man

who has been missing since January 10. Some ninety troopers are expected to take part in the efforts. Thirty men will be allotted from each of the units representing Youngsville, Zebulon and

Louisburg.

Merritt was reportedly last seen on Friday, January 10, by Sandy Jones, a Negro neighbor. Jones, according to reports, saw Merritt around 9 P.M. Searches by Sheriff's officers, neighbors and friends of the missing man have all failed to turn up any clue to his whereabouts. The State Bureau of Investigation entered the case last week to assist the Sheriff's department in its investigation of the mystery.

A group of Merritt's neighbors and friends have posted \$1,027 reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone causing the man bodily harm. Fear has risen that the man might have met with foul play.

Sunday's search, scheduled to begin around 9:30 A.M., will start near the Merritt and A.M. homes and cover a large wooded area east and south of the two dwellings. A spokesman for the local Guard unit indicated that if nothing is found in this area, the search may be extended to other areas in the vicinity of the Moulton Community.

On May 6, 1967, the Guard was called out to aid in the search for a missing man in the Alert Community of the county. Edward L. Burnette, 57, had been missing from his home for three days. Guardsmen found the body of the missing man in a heavily wooded area just minutes after the search began. Other searchers had passed the spot several times, according to reports at the time. Guardsmen line up with arms rack of each other and begin walking through the woods. Walking this close together, it is almost a certainty that every inch of the area is covered. The Sheriff's department wants the area near Merritt's home combed more carefully than it has been able to do with a limited staff and volunteer searchers.

Merritt is a member of a prominent Moulton Community family and his disappearance has stirred the community unlike any event in years. A bachelor, he lived alone and his whereabouts were not always known to his neighbors but one report has said that he always informed his family or neighbors when he planned to be away from home for any length of time.

It was learned that some people have been brought in to the Sheriff's office and questioned by the SBI in the case. However, no arrests have been made and no charges filed. Hospitals in the area were alerted some time ago in places where Merritt might have visited have been checked by investigating officers.

Pays \$24,391 In Local Taxes

Howard T. Pitts, local manager for Carolina Telephone, one of the county's larger taxpayers, this week presented a check for \$24,391 to the Franklin County tax collector.

The check was in payment of 1968 ad valorem taxes on the company's properties within the county. Also, checks for \$2,085 for municipal ad valorem taxes in Louisburg and \$1,477 in Franklinton were handed to the city tax collectors. Checks covering municipal ad valorem taxes in other towns will be delivered this week.

The company's total county and municipal tax bill throughout eastern North Carolina amounted to \$1,929,000. In addition, state and federal taxes came to \$9,300,000.

This does not include the 10% federal excise tax on telephone service which the company collected from its subscribers and remitted to the federal government.

Sign-Up Begins

The annual feed grain, cotton and wheat program sign-up will begin on February 3, 1969, and end March 21, 1969.

No decision concerning annual advance payments has been announced but we expect to know by the beginning of the sign-up period. Every producer on a farm who will be receiving payments must sign the necessary forms before any payments can be made. Therefore, the farm operator should bring these producers to the county office at sign-up time.

There have been some changes regarding the division of diversion and price support payments among operators and tenants. These changes will be thoroughly discussed with producers at sign-up time.



Local Vets Among Many Victims Of Bonus Hoax

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Any veteran can testify that the Army works in mysterious ways, its foul-ups to perform. Most contend that it isn't easy for the service to maintain its high rate of goofs. And even though it has long been accepted as fact that the Army works hard at it, there have also been some disbelievers. They have said all along that the Army must have some undisclosed help.

Now it can be told. The Army does have help. It's the Navy. All the facts, as one might suspect, are not yet in, but one fact has been made crystal clear the past few days. The bonus, a widely circulated naval bulletin said was due ex-GI's, is a hoax. A clever one to be sure, but a hoax nevertheless.

A few months ago, there was circulated here a poor photographic copy of what was labeled, "Daily Bulletin of Information" from the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California. Dated, 4 November, 1968, and numbered No. 153. The document not only looked official, but carried a full page of service jargon.

It listed information on "Navy Uniforms Prescribed in Los Angeles/Orange Counties", "Duty Officer Watch List" and an announcement of a service "Travel Meeting" replete with the 0600's and 1800's so familiar to those who have traveled the service routes.

The heading, "VA Dividends For The Asking" was the catcher. It said a bill had been passed by Congress authorizing the payment of fifty cents per thousand of GI insurance for each month of service.

Kilroy must be indeed rolling over

Weather

Mostly cloudy and warmer today with chance of rain or showers. Friday, variable cloudiness, chance of showers and mild. Low, 40; high, near 50.

N.C.-39 Project Bid Cut \$241,663

Franklin County's NC-39 highway project has been cut by almost a quarter million dollars in the latest bids opened by the State Highway Commission and is now well within the funds appropriated for the construction of the 4.6 mile stretch.

Bids were opened Tuesday in Raleigh by the Commission and the apparent low bidder, T. A. Loving Company of Goldsboro, bid the job at \$483,521.70. Loving was apparently low bidder in December on the uncut project calling for 6,540 miles at \$725,185.00. This exceeded the funds available for the project and a call was made for another bid on the curtailed mileage.

The latest bid cuts the cost of the road improvements \$241,663.40 and represents a cut of almost \$121,000 per mile.

At a meeting here last week, Division Engineer Merle T. Adkins disclosed that Franklin had a balance for construction at the end of November of \$595,380.48 from the original allocation of \$750,000. He explained that the money already spent was on engineering and design and acquiring necessary rights-of-way along the route.

It is believed, based on these figures, that the latest bid is within the funds available and that the project

will probably be awarded to the apparent low bidder. A highway spokesman said recently that once the bids are awarded, work on the project is expected to begin immediately.

The Franklin project's counterpart in Vance County was also in Tuesday's bid openings. The "1.721 miles of grading, coarse aggregate base course, bituminous concrete base" project, which is to run from the Henderson city limits to SR-1148 southeast the Vance county seat calls for the expenditure of \$368,482.85. S. T. Wooten Construction Co. of Stinsonburg was apparent low bidder on the project. Both the Vance and the Franklin projects have been points of controversy in recent weeks. The Vance County Board of Commissioners met with Fifth Division Commissioner J. B. Brame of Durham in efforts to have the stretch lengthened two weeks ago. Franklin Commissioners met for similar reasons with Brame and other highway officials last week. Both Boards were turned down for reasons of fund shortage and rising highway construction costs.

Originally, the two projects were to have met at Epsom where the two counties join. First, Vance was cut back two miles and Franklin was cut three. This five-mile stretch was immediately dubbed "the missing link" by newsmen.

When bids were opened in December and it was found that the low bidder exceeded the allotted funds, the projects were again cut, widening the "missing link". The Franklin project will extend from the Louisburg city limits on Bickett Blvd, north and North Main Street, beginning at the town limit sign to the Rocky Ford road a short distance north of Ingleside.

Brame said last week that he hoped that the link could be joined at some later date and said he was sorry the funds would not be enough to carry the project to what was originally planned.

State Decision Awaited

Board Gets Ten-Day Extension In School Case

Attorneys for the Franklin County Board of Education have revealed that the United States Justice Department and attorneys for the NAACP have agreed to a ten-day extension in the latest charges against the Board. February 4 was originally set as a deadline for filing Board answers to the charges. A request for additional time by Board attorneys E. F. Yarborough and Charles Davis has been agreed upon by Frank Schwelb, acting attorney, and Lavonne Chambers, attorney for the NAACP, according to reports.

Meanwhile, the Franklin Board is awaiting a statement by the North Carolina Attorney General as to the plans of his department. Franklin officials have requested the State to enter the case in defense of the tuition policy and the method of student assignment.

Indications are that Attorney General Robert Morgan will place his

department into the case. Yarborough said following an hour-long meeting with Morgan last week that the talks had been "fruitful". Assistant Attorney General Ralph Moody, recognized authority in school law in the state, is expected to handle the matter for North Carolina. The Franklin Board instituted a policy of charging tuition for students attending schools here whose parents live outside the district last fall. The policy was based on a 1958 ruling by the Attorney General's office that such children were ineligible to attend schools.

The Board first said such children could not attend Franklin schools last fall, but because of the hardships imposed in the short period of time before the opening of schools, the policy was amended to allow attendance by tuition.

Former Attorney General Ramsey See BOARD Page 6

District Court Has Usual Lengthy Docket

The following cases were disposed of in District Court on Monday and Tuesday, January 27th and 28th:

Helen Irene Carter, w/f/16, damage to personal property. To pay \$15.00 restitution to prosecuting witness.

William Jeffries Arnold, w/m/34, operating auto intoxicated; resisting arrest. 12 months in jail, suspended for 2 years on payment of \$100.00 fine and costs and not to operate motor vehicle for 1 year in N. C.

Jimmie Dale Champion, w/m/24, driving under influence. Pleads guilty to careless and reckless and reckless driving. 6 months in jail, suspended on payment of \$200.00 fine and costs and to remain of good behavior, not violate any criminal laws of N. C.

Luther Liles, w/m/58, operating auto intoxicated. 8 months in jail, suspended for 2 years on payment of costs.

Clayton O'Neal, w/m/46, assault with deadly weapon. 12 months in jail.

Cesar Edward Johnson, n/m/23, improper muffler. To pay costs.

Joseph Bullock, public drunkenness. \$5.00 fine and costs.

Bryant Faulkner, public drunkenness. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Randy Murphy, w/m, worthless check. To pay check and costs to court.

Linwood Williamston, non support. Warrant dropped on payment of costs.

William Howard Harris, w/m/26, driving under influence. Guilty to careless and reckless driving. \$75.00 fine and costs.

James Earl Walker, c/m/19, assault with deadly weapon. 18 months in jail, suspended for 3 years on payment of costs and medical expenses of prosecuting off. Prayer for judgment continued on payment of costs.

See COURT Page 6