

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

Phone GY6-3283

Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, February 4, 1969

(Six Pages Today)

99th Year-Number 101



Guardsmen Launch Search

Guardsmen Stage Futile Search For Missing Moulton Man

Hampered by a cold, misty rain National Guardsmen from Louisburg, Youngsville and Zebulon spent several hours Sunday in a futile search for some clue to the whereabouts of a 62-year-old Moulton Community man, missing since January 10.

Late Sunday afternoon the efforts of nearly 100 guardsmen were halted, after a thorough search at arms length, through the heavily wooded areas near the home of Brooks Merritt, failed to uncover any clue in the four-week mystery.

Rain and swollen streams prevented the search from being termed complete in the area, but officials believe that there is little hope of finding any clues in the wooded terrain covered in Sunday's efforts.

Commanded by Lt. Col. John Fleming of Raleigh, units of the National Guard began their search shortly after 11 a.m. and continued until late Sunday. Hundreds of spectators visited the area throughout the day, but none were allowed to participate in the highly organized mission.

ID Checks Mailed

An announcement from the Industrial Development Commission office discloses that checks totaling \$3,512.00 have been mailed to holders of Franklin Building Corporation bonds, which financed the construction of the Gay Products Company building.

The bonds were sold in 1964 to 200 buyers and totaled \$87,800.00. This is the fourth annual payment of interest to the holders.

Merritt was first reported as missing on Wednesday, January 15. He was last seen, as far as is known by officials, at the home of Sandy Jones, a Negro neighbor near Merritt's home. This, according to reports, was around 9:30 p.m. on the night of January 10.

Searches by friends and neighbors and Sheriff's officers had already proved fruitless. Merritt's friends and neighbors have posted a reward of \$1,027.00 for information leading to the conviction of anyone having inflicted bodily harm to Merritt.

FHA Makes \$550,000 Loan, Grant To Franklinton

A \$450,000 loan and a \$100,000 grant to the Town of Franklinton, Franklin County, North Carolina, to rebuild its water system has been approved by the Farmers Home Administration, reports Melvin H. Hearn, the Agency's State Director.

The loan and grant will enable the Town of Franklinton to construct a dam and reservoir on Cedar Creek to supplement the existing raw water supply, to provide a new 1.0 million gallon per day water treatment plant to replace the existing water treatment plant, and to erect a new 500,000 gallon clear water storage reservoir.

Construction of the project will provide 9,000 man-days of labor for engineers, surveyors, and day laborers. The system will be capable of delivering 750,000 gallons per day.

Cedar Creek has been checked by the North Carolina State Board of Health and approved for use as a source of raw water by the Town of Franklinton. After treatment, the water will meet the drinking water standards of the U. S. Public Health Service.

The Town of Franklinton has suffered from a very serious water shortage for several years. Water use has had to be curtailed. The bond referendum passed by an overwhelming majority.

Present population to be served by the water system is estimated at 1715 inside town and 1050 outside town, making a total of 2765. This system will serve the Sterling Cotton Mills located inside the town limits, and the Franklinton Plant of Burlington Industries located about one mile east of the town limits.

The Franklinton Plant of Burlington Industries employs about 350 people and is the largest single user of water. It is anticipated that future expansion of the plant will raise the number of employees to 500 people.

The Farmers Home Administration's loan is to be repaid over a period of 40 years.

Officers of the Town of Franklinton are: Town Mayor - Joseph W. Pearce, Franklinton, North Carolina; Town Counsel - William F. Pearce, Jr., Franklinton, North Carolina; Town Clerk - Mrs. Ormond Collins; Town Engineer - L. E. Wooten and Company, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Rural water system loans are available to organizations operating on a non-profit basis such as nonprofit corporations and water supply districts, and small rural towns and other rural political subdivisions.

Radio Station Ownership Changes

The sale and voluntary transfer of license for WYRN Radio station in Louisburg from Joseph T. Lane to Franklin Broadcasting Company to the Franklin Broadcasting Company, Inc., was approved by the Federal Communications Commission in Washington Friday, according to an announcement here Monday.

The officers and principals of the new corporation are Clay McBride, President and Program Director; Asher F. Johnson, Vice-President and News Director; and (Mrs.) Mollie B. Evans, Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager.

McBride, 42, a native of Fayetteville, N. C., attended Clemson and High Point Colleges and is an Air Force veteran of World War II. He has had extensive radio and television experience and has been associated with WYRN Radio here since 1960 as

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State Seeks To Enter Franklin School Case

Attorney General To Aid In Defending Tuition And Contempt Charges

North Carolina Attorney General Robert Morgan has filed a request with the federal court for permission to enter the Franklin County school suit. The necessary papers were filed last Friday in the federal Clerk's office in Raleigh.

The "Motion and supporting Petition in which is requested to allow the Attorney General to be admitted to this case in the capacity of amicus curiae (friend of the court)" was signed by the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General Ralph Moody, noted expert in school law, and Andrew A. Vanore, Staff Attorney.

North Carolina, through the Attorney General, seeks to "present the legal views of the State upon any pertinent laws and statutes that may be brought under consideration in this cause".

Two major points are noted by the Attorney General, of which he says, "Any ruling of the court on this subject will have State-wide effect". He states, on the points of tuition charges and contempt charges against the Board and Superintendent, that, "the Attorney General of North Carolina would like to brief and argue this subject".

Most reports of the Attorney General's actions have omitted the fact that the State will argue brief in defense of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of schools, who are charged with contempt of court by the U. S. Attorney General for not having complied with federal court orders. The Board denies this charge and has termed the federal claims a form of "harassment".

School officials, having studied the Attorney General's filings in a regular monthly meeting here Monday night, feel that the defense of the contempt charges by the State, is tantamount to the entry into the entire case. They believe that the State cannot attempt to argue against these charges without defending the Franklin County method of pupil assignment. It was obvious in Monday's meeting that the Board and the Superintendent were delighted that the State is seeking to enter the case.

"I feel that this is a major breakthrough in the long court battle", said one Board member. "The actions of the State Attorney General should have a settling effect on our entire school system. Most of us now feel that, with the aid of the State, Franklin can successfully defend its school operation."

In the Petition of the Attorney General to appear in the case, it is stated that, "The plaintiffs and the plaintiff-intervenor attacked a ruling made by the Attorney General of North Carolina in 1958, in which the Attorney General ruled that pupils whose parents reside permanently in other states may not attend schools within the State but the school boards in question had the discretion to admit

such pupils upon payment of tuition charges if classroom space was available; that this initial ruling was not directed at colored students but was made upon request of the school superintendent who reported that white parents residing in the State of Virginia were sending their children, in some cases, to relatives, and were asking that they be admitted to the public schools of North Carolina."

The document continues with "The Attorney General wishes to brief, argue and maintain the position that under North Carolina law and statutes this ruling is valid and legal and is not an unconstitutional administrative practice."

In Mr. Morgan's second point, the Petition states, "That inasmuch as the plaintiffs and the plaintiff-intervenor are asking the Court to hold the Franklin County Board of Education, the members of the Franklin County Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Schools of Franklin County, in civil contempt, and are asking that these persons be imprisoned or fined, any ruling of the Court on this

subject will have State-wide effect, and the Attorney General would like to brief and argue this subject".

The State Attorney General has asked for a hearing on his Petition to enter the case on February 12 at 10 a.m. in the federal courtroom in Raleigh. The Board of Education has until February 14 to file answers to the charges by the United States Attorney General and the NAACP. The date for a hearing on the full case has not been set and Board attorney E. F. Yarborough says he does not know just when the case will come to trial.

News releases Monday disclosed that the Eastern District Court has a large backlog of cases here in North Carolina. This could delay the final disposition of the latest charges against the Franklin officials.

Board attorneys, it was learned, will meet soon with Deputy Attorney General Ralph Moody, to discuss the case.

Meanwhile, the Board of Education said Monday night that no changes are anticipated in the operation of the schools at present.

Classroom Teachers Back School Officials

The Franklin County Classroom Teachers Association has issued a prepared statement in which, the organization gives its full support to Franklin school officials. The organization is made up of classroom teachers only, with no administrative personnel allowed in its membership, it was explained.

The statement of support comes as a result of charges filed against the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Warren W. Smith, by former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. The charges claim the Board is not in compliance with court orders calling for desegregation of the schools.

The full text of the C. T. A. statement follows:

The Executive Council of the

Franklin County Classroom Teachers Association at its regular meeting, January 30, 1969, unanimously authorized the following statement.

We, the Executive Council, fully support Superintendent Warren Smith and the Franklin County Board of Education.

Furthermore, we feel that Superintendent Smith and the Board of Education have acted in good faith in complying with the terms of the court order under which the schools of Franklin County are now operating.

Finally, the C.T.A. Executive Council feels that the Franklin County public school system has made excellent progress this year despite the claims of some groups and news media.



Run-A-Way Car Meets Its End

Unusual Accident

If unusual happenings make news, the accident which occurred here Saturday afternoon around 4 p.m. is truly news. Shown above is the end result of the unusual happening. The car, driven by Miss Pam Phelps, 16, and occupied by her two sisters, Brenda, 14, and Tammy, 4, is pictured as it ended a wild trip down Cedar Street, along a narrow private drive way, into a small garage and out the rear to land in a heap in a gully, ten feet below the garage level.

The incident occurred according to reports, when the brakes failed as Miss Phelps attempted to stop at the intersection of Cedar Street and East Nash. The vehicle crossed busy Nash and roared down the driveway of the home of Mrs. J. Forrest Joyner, Sr. and through the garage. As the car exited from the rear of the garage, it struck a power pole and came to rest partly on its left side in a muddy ravine. Hundreds of spectators flocked to the scene. The three girls were taken to Franklin Memorial Hospital by the Louisburg Rescue Service. Only Brenda Phelps was admitted and her injuries were not believed serious. Damage to the car was moderate considering the hazzardous trip it took.

Photo by Clint Fuller.



Officers Discuss Mission