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House Pleads Guilty To Manslaughter

Lonnie House, 42, former Deputy Sheriff charged with murder in the January 17, 1968 shooting death of Franklinton Police Officer Carlyle Breedlove, pleaded guilty to charges of manslaughter in Superior Court here last Friday. Judge Pou Bailey ordered House "committed to the custody of the North Carolina Department of Correction for evaluation and recommendation to the Court under provision of G.S. 148-12 (b)" with the request that the report be filed with the Judge presiding at the May 12, 1969 Criminal Session of Superior Court of Franklin County.

Judge Bailey further ordered that, "any time spent in custody of the Prison Department would be credited on any sentence ultimately imposed. Prayer for judgment was continued until the May 12, 1969 Criminal Session."

The shooting occurred around 11:20 P.M. at the Law Officers Cabin on the Louisburg-Youngsville highway,

Fountain Hits FCC Actions

Congressman L. H. Fountain (D-N.C.) has issued a statement on the Federal Communications Commission's proposal to ban cigarette advertising on radio and television. The text of the Congressman's statement follows:

"I have not researched the legal question, but I know of no authority granted the FCC to ban the advertising of cigarettes or any other legitimately manufactured and legally sold product in this country. Nor do I know of any other valid basis upon which it could make such a decision.

"This attempt by six individuals to arrogate to themselves the role of physician, prosecutor, judge and jury is uncalled for and will, in my opinion, be fought to the end in the Congress.

"Until there is clear, indisputable, scientifically proven medical and understandable evidence in support of the charge as to the harmful nature of smoking, no government agency, nor any individual employee or official of the Federal Government has any right, or, in my opinion, authority to render a decision which could force into bankruptcy some 625,000 farm families in 16 states who make an honest and legitimate living from the production of tobacco and the millions of other good Americans who earn their livelihoods, either in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from the handling of tobacco."

Town Tag Warning Issued

Louisburg Police Chief Earl Tharrington warned motorists residing inside the Louisburg town limits that their town auto tags expire at midnight, February 15.

Chief Tharrington urged all such vehicle owners to go by the town office and purchase their new tags. Town tags are required on all cars owned by Louisburg residents.

Death Claims Gold Sand Resident

Mr. Maurice Ellis Bledsoe age 61 of Rt. 3, Louisburg, died Thursday morning in Franklin Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services were held Friday at 3 p.m. from Mt. Zion Baptist Church conducted by the Pastor, Rev. Kenneth Hunneycutt and Rev. Paul Childers. Interment followed in Highland Memory Gardens of Franklin Co., Inc. on Highway 561.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Louise May Bledsoe; one son, M. E. Bledsoe, Jr. of the home; four sisters, Mrs. Bertha Wilson, Mrs. Sue Perdue, Mrs. Gladys Leonard, Mrs. Zena Gupton, all of Louisburg.

Mr. Bledsoe was a retired farmer, a member of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and a deacon for several years and a teacher of the Aquil-Bible Class.

following a supper meeting attended by a number of county law officials. House, Breedlove, Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards and Franklinton Police Officer Tom Allen were at the cabin at the time of the incident. Edwards reported that the shooting was "unintentional" at the time.

Breedlove was taken to Franklin Memorial Hospital and transferred to Duke where he died around 5 A.M. the same morning. House was hospitalized for several days following the shooting, suffering from shock. Agents of the State Bureau of Investigation served a murder warrant on House on Friday, January 19.

At Friday's trial, Allen was the only state's witness and the defense called only a number of character witnesses.

Other cases disposed of in the final two days of the Criminal Session include:

Henry M. Holden, operating auto intoxicated. 6 months in jail.

Lewis King, public drunkenness, 20 days in jail, suspended for 5 years on payment of costs and to report on Monday of each criminal session of Superior Court of Franklin County for the next 5 years.

Lewis King, public drunkenness, 20 days in jail, to run at expiration of prior sentence; to pay costs and report to Superior Court as above.

Herbert Lester Griffin, w/m/45, public drunkenness. 20 days in jail, suspended for one year on payment of costs and good behavior.

Maurice Harrison, non support. Nolle pros.

Clem Pearce, speeding. Misdrial.

Charles Alexander, n/m/50, public drunkenness. Nolle pros.

Furman Ray Peace, w/m/26, operating auto intoxicated. Nolle pros with leave.

Weldon Perry, affray. Nolle pros with leave.

Charles Eugene Moore, w/m/24, non support. Nolle pros with leave.

Richard Isaish Sneed, probation revoked. Defendant was sentenced to 24 months in jail on the charge of burning of personal property. Said sentence was suspended and defendant placed on probation.

Attack Fatal To Berkley Strother

Alger Berkley Strother, 57, Star Route mail carrier and local hardware store employee, died early this morning of an apparent heart attack while on his way to Louisburg from Franklinton with a load of mail.

Strother, who formerly operated a grocery store here, was discovered in the cab of his pickup truck by a long-time friend, Lee Bell, on the Franklinton highway shortly after 7 A.M. this morning. Bell had seen the truck pass a nearby store a short time earlier. The vehicle ran off the highway and stopped in a shallow ditch.

Funeral services will be conducted from the Louisburg Baptist Church, of which he was a member, Wednesday at 11 A.M. conducted by the pastor, Rev. A. S. Tomlinson. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Flavid L. Strother; one son, C. W. Strother of the home; one daughter, Mrs. H. J. Taylor of Greenville, N. C.; two grandchildren; two brothers, Morris W. Strother and C. Willie Strother, both of Louisburg; two sisters, Mrs. Edward Dement of Louisburg and Mrs. Helen Rooker of Warrenton; two step-children, Mrs. R. F. Sloop of Wilson, Mr. J. B. Cash of Franklinton and four step-grandchildren.

Little Girl Found Safe

A 2½-year-old girl, daughter of Mrs. Mozelle Baker, was found safe last Friday afternoon near her home in the Riley section of Franklin County, according to reports. The child wandered from home and was considered lost for over two hours before being found.

Sheriff's officers assisted in the search with neighbors of the child.



No Evidence Of Foul Play

Local Group Organizes In Support Of Public Schools

Nearly one hundred parents, teachers and others met here Monday night and organized the Citizens for Public Schools. The purpose of the organization, according to Mrs. Lucy Taylor Allen, one of the organizers, is to clear up the false rumors being circulated about the public schools and in general, to add needed support.

Rev. Walter McDonald was elected moderator for the meeting which saw most of those gathered express their support for the public schools. A number of teachers rose to tell of the "good" things going on in the schools. Most stressed that the quality of education being received by the students is as good as or better than in past years.

Many of the rumors of teacher resignations and exaggerated accounts of incidences in the Louisburg schools were found to be wholly erroneous. Several teachers said they had no intentions of resigning although it had been rumored that they would.

Parents were invited to visit the school and to see for themselves the conditions there. The group, for the most part, was made up of persons in the Louisburg area, although it was made clear that people from other areas would be welcomed at future meetings.

A committee was named to work on the many suggestions made as to how the group might increase support for the public school system and was authorized to call a public meeting of all interested persons as soon as the

Man Faces Charges

Chief Earl Tharrington reports that a Route 1, Youngsville man is facing multiple charges in connection with motor vehicles violations and illegal possession of whiskey. Tharrington identified the man as Jerry Allen Rogers and said that Rogers was charged with traveling 100 miles an hour in a 45 mile zone.

Tharrington said the arrest was made by police officer Lewis Evans. Evans gave chase on NC-561 and when the man's car apparently blew up near Griffin's Pond, Evans made the arrest. Rogers is also charged with driving after his license was revoked and with possession of non-tax-paid whiskey. He is free under \$500 bond, according to Tharrington.

Junior Gets Nomination

(FRK. B.W.) Lewis Alston Thompson, III, has been nominated for the Governor's School in the academic area.

Al is a member of the Junior Class at Franklinton High School. He is vice president of his class and assistant editor of the yearbook, member of the Beta Club and the Future Teachers' Club. He is also vice president of the MYF at the Franklinton Methodist Church.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Thompson, Jr.

Body Of Missing Man Found Near Ingleside

The body of Brooks Cleveland Merritt, 62-year-old Moulton man, missing since January 10, was found Saturday near Ingleside by two hunters, who asked that their names not be used. The two men discovered the body on the edge of a field a few feet from a patch of woods around 12:30 p.m.

The area, where the body was discovered, is about three-quarters of a mile from Merritt's home and where he was reportedly last seen alive on the night of January 10, by a Negro neighbor, Sandy Jones. The area is about a mile off US-401 north of Ingleside.

Sheriff William T. Dement said he found no signs of foul play but ordered an autopsy performed on the body. Preliminary reports from pathologists at Wake Memorial Hospital indicate that they found no signs of foul play, according to Sheriff's Department.

It was apparent that the body had been lying where found for some time, although searchers had combed nearby for several weeks in efforts to find the man.

Neighbors and friends had posted a reward of \$1,027 for information leading to the conviction of anyone having done the man bodily harm and units of the National Guard launched a massive search on February 2. However, the Guard search was hampered by rain and searchers scoured only the wooded areas in that section of the county.

Funeral services for Merritt were conducted Monday afternoon at 2 P.M. from the Lancaster Chapel by Rev. Bill Clodfelter. Burial followed in the Trinity Methodist Church cemetery. Surviving are his stepmother, Mrs. Nannie Merritt, Rt. 2, Louisburg; two brothers, Maurice and Fred Merritt of Louisburg.

Franklin Road Project Apparently Not Frozen

A contract for the NC-39 highway project in Franklin County was awarded last Friday to the T. A. Loving Company of Goldsboro, by the State Highway Commission. The \$483,521.70 project is a part of a \$2,182,179.62 total letting by the Commission.

A release from the Commission last Friday, explaining the recent order to freeze certain highway construction due to North Carolina's inability to sell the final \$60 million in Road Bonds, indicates that the Franklin project may be within the \$240 million bonds already sold. If it is, construction could begin soon on the long-awaited highway improvement.

The Commission stated, "... the Highway Commission will give close study to those projects in the January letting which are completely or partially financed from the bond issue, and will award the projects for construction as funds are available within the 240-million limitation."

The awarding of the Loving contract last Friday indicates that the Franklin project is to come out of the \$240 million fund.

The Franklin project is described in the awarding as follows: "4.611 miles of grading, coarse aggregate base course, bituminous concrete base, binder, surface and culverts to improvements on NC-39 and US-401 between Ingleside and Louisburg and SR-1229 from NC-39 to the Louisburg city limits."

The full text of the Highway Commission statement follows:

The State Highway Commission has been advised by the State Treasurer's Office that under the present market conditions, it is unlikely that it will be possible to borrow at this time, or at any time in the near future, the last 60-million dollar installment provided in the Highway Bond Act of 1965. The Treasurer's Office further indicates that so long as the present

conditions prevail, funds in excess of 240-million dollars cannot be made available to, or committed by, the Highway Commission.

There are a number of Bond projects already approved by the Highway Commission which if advanced from preliminary engineering to right-of-way acquisition, or from right-of-way acquisition to construction, would exceed this 240-million dollar limitation.

In light of this situation, it is necessary for the Highway Commission and the individual commissioners to re-study and re-evaluate the total highway program because of the close relationship of the bond financed portion of the total highway program to the overall program.

As a part of this overall re-evaluation, the Highway Commission will give close study to those projects in the January letting which are completely or partially financed from the bond issue, and will award the projects for construction as funds are available within the 240-million limitation.

In addition, those projects which are financed totally or in part by bond funds have been deleted from the February letting.

At the same time, division engineers and the Project Control Department of the Highway Commission are studying the overall highway program and are compiling data on the status and funding of virtually every project. The data provided in this report will give the highway commissioners the necessary background to determine how best to move the highway program forward until such time as the remaining 60-million dollars in highway bond funds can be borrowed. It is hoped that a report will be ready within the next several weeks.

Weather

Generally fair and warmer today. Partly cloudy and a little colder Wednesday. Low today, 26; high, 56.



Fire Sweeps Louisburg Home

Scene above shows the fire last Friday afternoon around 5 P.M. that destroyed the home of Mary Whitley on the Bunn Road a short distance off Bickett Blvd. Origin of the blaze was not determined. Both the Louisburg Fire Department and Bunn Volunteers answered the call. However, the house was destroyed before firemen arrived. Nearby dwellings, however, were saved by the firemen.

Staff Photo by Clint Fuller.