

# The Franklin Times

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## Weather Bad, Hopes High As Rishel Breaks Ground



C. FRANK SEIDEL



J. HAROLD TALTON



RICHARD E. MELLISH

By Clint Fuller  
Times Managing Editor

Rain, mud and the dark of day failed to deter the high hopes and gay spirits of a host of local, state and company dignitaries as groundbreaking ceremonies were held as scheduled here Monday for the J. K. Rishel Furniture Company plant. Stuck cars and a lost Congressman served only to lift spirits even higher as the area marked what was termed "a turn around the corner."

Standing in a downpour of rain and surrounded by dignitaries, poking umbrellas points and mud holes, Industrial Development Commission Chairman J. Harold Talton and Rishel President Richard E. Mellish dug into the good earth marking the official beginning of the new industry here. Mellish relinquished the honor of the first spading to his company associate, C. Frank Seidel, Assistant Treasurer and new plant manager.

Ceremonies at the site on NC-56 east of Louisburg were curtailed due to the weather and the program was completed at The Murphy House where participants were feted at a luncheon by Rishel.

Congressman L. H. Fountain, who had been inadvertently left behind in Louisburg when others motored to the plant site, hitched a ride with an attorney friend's secretary and took a bit of good-natured kidding in the process. Proceedings were held up while officials were busily looking for the principal speaker who had been left back in town. The Congressman, sensing the untold political value of

such a break, happily made the best of it. Red faces, however, are expected to be the vogue around the Industrial Development office for the remainder of the week.

Speaking at the luncheon, Congressman Fountain said he was glad Rishel had chosen to locate here. "The plant will be a decided asset to the community," he said. "It will enhance the economic position of the city and county. It spells progress and opportunity for the city and the people who live here," he continued.

(See Fountain's speech.)

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He praised state and local officials for their work in landing Rishel saying, "It is a sign of an energetic and dynamic community able to stand on its own two feet, able to face the challenges and prospects of twentieth century America, and able to give its citizens the good life they deserve."

Referring to his service on the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of Congress and a study recently made by his Committee, the Congressman disclosed that agricultural jobs in Franklin County have declined from 5,700 in 1950 to 3,600 in 1960—a loss of over 2,000 jobs in a ten-year period.

"The job opportunities presented by this new plant makes it possible for people to remain here and to continue to enjoy the pleasures of small city living—unparalleled by any large city in America," Rep. Fountain said in connection with his Committee's study of urban and rural problems.

He pointed to "availability of labor" as one of the reasons for this area's attraction to industry and told of the various state institutions such as technical centers and Community Colleges and their ability to train unskilled persons as another. He said industry looks for workers "capable of fitting into the routine of industrial employment." "This means reliability, promptness, an ability to learn, and a desire to progress. This community

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### Welcome To Rishel

A number of expressions of welcome were made Monday as J. K. Rishel Furniture Company held groundbreaking ceremonies at the plant site on NC-56 east of Louisburg and at a luncheon which followed. Among those expressions were the following statements:

"This is a great thing that has happened to Louisburg and Franklin County. It gives our people new jobs, new hope and new courage." State Senator E. F. Griffin

"This is a day of fulfillment for you here, for us and for the company. This plant will make a great contribution to this community. On behalf of all state agencies of government—welcome." Tom Broughton, Assistant Administrator State Division, Commerce and Industry

"On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, welcome. It is our hope that you will keep the lines of communications between us open." W. H. Taylor, County Attorney

"I appreciate all the kind remarks about Louisburg and may God bless each and every one of you who have helped make this dream come true." V. A. Peoples, Mayor Town of Louisburg

"Louisburg College is proud indeed to welcome this fine company to Franklin County and to Louisburg." Dr. Cecil W. Robbins, President Louisburg College

"Franklin County is fortunate when industry such as J. K. Rishel locates here. It should serve as an inducement for our local government to provide more and better service. Prosperity begets prosperity. On behalf of the many good industries already in the county, welcome." J. Jackson Dean, President Dean Farms, Inc.

"For paying your own way, we are grateful. Welcome." G. M. Beam, Jr., Representative New York Life Insurance Co.

"Our people are just as anxious to help in the days and years to come as they were in getting you to come. I am sure you'll find them to be the best people you'll ever come in contact with." J. Harold Talton, Chairman Industrial Development Commission

### Brentwood Rest Home Opens This Week

residents of the county to begin with. Just how many will return was not disclosed. However, it was learned that some will be returned Friday.

The facility is divided into two wings with a reception-dining area in the center. One wing will be for men

residents and the other for women. Couples will reside together near the center area, it was learned.

The home is completely new in every respect with beautiful as well as

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Brentwood - A Place Of Beauty

### Commissioners Agree On Water Line Appropriation

The Board of County Commissioners, meeting in special session here Monday afternoon, agreed to finance the proposed water line to the site of the new J. K. Rishel Furniture Co. plant. The Board had given verbal assurances that it would finance the project at an earlier meeting.

Basing their actions on the low bid which places the cost at slightly over \$155,000, the Board agreed to donate the sum of \$20,650.20 to the Development Corporation of Franklin County, annually for ten years to pay principal and interest on the project. The Development Corporation is a non-profit organization formed in the Sportswear and Gay Products plant acquisitions in past years.

Although the county was already committed to Rishel for the water line, it took the Board quite some time to reach its final actions. At one point, most of the Board members, industrial development and bank officials were conferring in the halls outside the Commissioner room. Newsmen, the project engineer, Board chairman Brooks Young and Commissioner John House waited inside. After a wait of more than half an hour, Commissioner House rose and said, "I think I'll go see where the Commissioners are meeting."

Part of what was going on in the halls was apparent once the group moved back to the Commissioner's room. James Grady, Waccamaw Bank manager, Frank Holden of Smithfield, First-Citizens Bank official and J. Harold Talton, local First-Citizens manager, disclosed that an agreement had been reached to have both local

banks loan the \$155,000 to the county. It was also brought out that part of the five cent authorized levy for the Industrial Development Commission would be used to help pay off the note. This was suggested by Holden with Commissioner Norwood Faulkner and Talton in agreement.

The Board had passed a resolution calling for a payment of \$13,600 for such a project under the old Carolina Fine Woods project. In view of limited information on the Rishel project at the time, a verbal agreement had been made by the Board to donate \$15,500 to the new project. Once bids were actually received and interest added, the figure reached the \$20,000-plus and a formal resolution was needed to

obtain the funds. The two local banks are expected See WATER LINE Page 4

### Death Claims P.S. Allen

Graveside services for Peter Stapleton Allen, 63, retired Louisburg automobile dealer, were held Monday at 11 A.M. at Oakwood Cemetery, conducted by Rev. Frank E. Pulley, pastor, St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Mr. Allen, who operated Allen Chevrolet Company for many years here, died Sunday morning in Duke Hospital after a period of declining health.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Annie Boddie Allen; a daughter, Miss Frances Neal Allen of Raleigh; a son, P. S. Allen, Jr. of Louisburg; a brother, Carl Allen of Louisburg.

Mr. Francis Holt, head of Holt Industries, Inc. of Kinston, announced the opening of the new Brentwood Rest Home here this week. Holt made the announcement at an open house at the new structure on NC-39 east of Louisburg Sunday.

Several hundred persons toured the 52-bed rest facility Sunday afternoon, enjoyed refreshments and welcomed the new facility as a part of the community.

Holt announced that his organization will operate the home and that Mrs. Agnes Burroughs of Winfall, N. C. has been named manager. He said that Mrs. Burroughs is experienced in such operations and that residents will begin arriving this week.

"We are morally committed to offer first choices to those people who were moved from the Franklin Boarding Home and wish to return", Holt stated. He explained that the facility could have already been filled except that he is awaiting decisions by those people who were moved when the old Ben Franklin Home was sold.

A spokesman for the Welfare Department said only a few of the people would be returning. It was explained that some have passed away and some others have decided to remain where they were placed when the old home was closed. The spokesman said many of those who were moved were not

the communication leaders of tomorrow," Otto W. Quale, NSPA Executive director stated, "and high school newspapers provide a living laboratory for journalistic research and innovation. The school and community are to be commended for their support of this challenging co-curricular activity."

Mrs. Bland commented, "It is a privilege to be affiliated with National Scholastic Press Association, the oldest school press association in the nation, and serving high schools and colleges. The detailed critical service rendered to us, and the suggestions made, will be of great help in future planning."