

# The Franklin Times

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## Little Jackie's Father, Grandparents Lived Here

The tragic death of little Jackie Stone, 13-year-old Wallace, N. C. school girl at the hands of a kidnap-slayer has shocked this area as well as other parts of the state. The child's father, Leon Stone, a Wallace radio announcer, lived here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Whit Stone following World War II. The Stones lived near Sandy Creek Baptist Church on NC-561 at the time. The child's paternal grandmother, Mrs. Irene Nelms Stone, now lives on Route 1, Henderson. Mr. Stone died several years ago.

Jackie's mother, the former Reba Woodlief, is a niece of the late Al Woodlief, Louisburg automobile dealer, who died in August, 1953, following an automobile accident in Wake County. She was the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Nelms, Route 2, Louisburg and has other relatives in the county.

Her grandparents moved to Franklin County from neighboring Vance in 1946 and Jackie's father returned here following his release as a prisoner of war in 1946. He left Louisburg to work at White Lake, N. C. where he met his wife. He also worked as an announcer in Oxford before moving to Wallace about eight years ago.

The child's body was found Wednesday night in five-feet of water following a massive search by several hundred people.

Police Chief Earl W. Whitaker said the girl's body was found not far from where her pocketbook had been discovered.

The highway patrol had closed all roads in the immediate area to press the search for the girl's body after the purse was found containing pictures and other identification.

The spot was a rural area about 14 miles north of Wallace.

A dog turned up the pocketbook and its owner flagged down a highway trooper, R. M. Johnson, who relayed word of the discovery. Officers converged on the scene to press a search that had involved an estimated 400 law enforcement men and volunteers.

Meanwhile, a suspect picked up shortly after the girl's disappearance, was questioned at an undisclosed jail in a neighboring county, according to officers.

Police said the girl's body was found in a small creek off a rural paved road about 14 miles north of Wallace. The area was off N. C. 11 running between Wallace and Kenansville.

Two highway patrolmen, J. S. Briley and Harry Pridgen, found the girl's body at a bridge spanning the creek. The scene was about a mile and a half from the area where the pocketbook was found in the yard of a residence.

Briley reported that the girl was clothed except for her shoes.

Later, Briley said when he returned from the scene to Highway 11, about 50 local residents had gathered at the intersection. Briley stepped out of his patrol car and said, "I want you to do me a favor. We appreciate all the help you folks have given us. We found the girl's body in the water in the woods."

A newsman said some of the persons at the intersection, some who had been waiting more than an hour, appeared stunned. Several teen-age boys who had assisted in the search broke into tears.

Police Chief Earl W. Whitaker said he was told by younger sisters of Jackie that the girl was picked up by a man Tuesday as they walked home from school.

He said the girls told him a stranger in a black and white car pulled beside them and asked their names. The girls said the man then told Jackie her mother had been injured and he would take her to the hospital to see her.

The girls said they were told to go home, that only Jackie was wanted at the hospital.

They said they found their mother at home.

Mrs. Stone telephoned police. Authorities broadcast a description of the car and searched through the night. "We were out there all night last night," said one deputy, "checking everything that we know how to check." The man was picked up for questioning about 5 p.m.

Two ponds near Wallace were dragged early Wednesday.

## Man Killed, 16-Year-Old Girl Held

A 16-year-old Negro girl was jailed in Oxford Monday about noon in connection with the slaying earlier in the day of her common-law husband, Willie Andrews, 34.

Sheriff J. C. Cash and Coroner Grover C. Saunders had not completed their investigation at noon Monday.

Authorities said the shooting occurred about a mile off 96 on the Evans farm, in the vicinity of Pocomoke, near the Franklin County line, around 9 a.m.

The girl, identified as Clara Mae Mangum, was said to have walked about one mile in a drizzle to the Mitchell's Supermarket to report the shooting and to request that authorities be notified.

The death weapon was described as a sawed-off .22-calibre rifle without

stock. Sheriff Cash said the girl had sustained cuts in her right arm during a scuffle which the girl said followed argument earlier in the morning.

She was quoted by Cash as having said she got out of the grip of Andrews, crawling under the stove pipe, to get into another room, where she found the death weapon. She told officers Andrews had been drinking and "wanted to fight when drunk."

Cash said no charge had at noon been made against the girl and that she was in temporary custody for questioning. He indicated that a charge would be preferred later in the day.

The body of Andrews, who was a sawmill worker, was removed to Franklinton to await burial plans.

## Three Hurt In Accident

The scene below shows results of an accident which occurred last Saturday afternoon around 3 P.M. on NC-56 when the car flipped over several times a few miles east of Louisburg. Pictured at right shows a coat belonging to one of the car's occupants which was thrown some distance into a nearby tree. Three persons were treated at Franklin Memorial Hospital for what were believed to be minor injuries. Ernest Perry, c/m/24 of Newport News, Va. and two employees of the hospital, Bertha Mae Hicks, c/f/21 and Mary Battle, c/f/21, both of Rt. 4, Louisburg were transported to the hospital by the Louisburg Rescue Service.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.



## "To The Moon First" Project Halted In Franklin County

By Clint Fuller  
Times Managing Editor

zens of Franklin County must have uttered a like phrase in connection with improvements to the county's primary highways back then.

If one did, he is likely to be getting

Until a few years ago, it was a common expression in this part of the country. "It's harder than putting a man on the moon" or "There'll be a man on the moon before so-and-so is done". Although there is no record of such, one can imagine that some citi-



SAME OLD BUMPY STRETCH

So, What Else Is New?

## Rishel Awards Contracts

The J. K. Rishel Furniture Company lost no time in awarding construction contracts after Monday's ground breaking ceremonies here. Reliable reports indicate that company officials are extremely pleased at the reception received here Monday and that the overall attitudes expressed optimism for the future of the company and local relations.

Bids totaling more than \$918,000 were awarded to contract Tuesday in Durham by representatives of Rishel, according to S. Kenneth Schubart, Director of Industrial Development for Franklin County.

The general building and plumbing contract was awarded to the J. M. Thompson Company of Raleigh and the electric work was awarded to Bryant Durham Electric Company of Durham. Comfort Engineering Com-

pany, another Durham firm, was awarded the heating and air-conditioning contract. Fire protection contracts was awarded Viking Protection Company of High Point.

The price of the work does not include steel to be used in the structure. This is being purchased under a different arrangement and the steel is expected to be placed on the site by April 4.

Armed with information that the Louisburg Town Council is looking with favor at a natural gas franchise, Rishel awarded contracts Monday calling for the use of natural gas in the Louisburg plant. Although gas lines are not expected until 1970-71, the firm had said earlier it would use bottled gas until the lines could be run to the plant.

The Board of County Commissioners are expected to formally adopt a resolution at its next meeting to finance the \$155,000 water line project to serve the new plant. Schubart says that with Tuesday's contracts, the steel, land, water line, machinery and fixtures the new plant is likely to represent an investment of around \$2 million.

Questioned about the outflow of optimism following Monday's successful ground breaking ceremonies, Schubart said RISHEL Page 6

## Rep. Speed Improving At Duke

Sixteenth District Representative James D. Speed is reported resting comfortably in Duke Hospital, where he was transferred Tuesday from Franklin Memorial Hospital.

The lawmaker's wife reported to The Times Wednesday night that Speed is suffering from pneumonia and is expected to remain at Duke for recuperation. She said Speed's doctors have been most encouraging and that a number of people have called to inquire about the legislator's condition. She expressed her appreciation to all who have called.

ready now to say, "I told you so". Undoubtedly, there will be a man placed on the moon before Franklin gets its first primary highway construction project in 19 years.

The culprit this time, however, is a new nemesis. Locals have long since learned that politicians on the state level had some little thing to do with the continued put-offs. But, this time, except for the lack of planning and the fact that any road improvements in Franklin were due years ago, the old bug-a-boo cannot be faulted. The offender now is inflation.

So, while man flies to the moon and the honorables ponder more taxes in Raleigh, travelers must continue to manipulate the curving, patched and pitiful stretch of NC-39, US-401 north of Louisburg.

In the allocation of the state bond money to the 14 Divisions across Tarheelia, each received its share based on primary road mileage. However, in order to give the Highway Commission members some flexibility - among other things - funds were not allotted in this manner to the counties within the Division. Had this been done Franklin would have had enough to complete the NC-39, US-401 project all the way to the Vance County line with enough left over to have celebrated with an outdoor barbecue. With 155 miles of primary highway - second largest in the Division - Franklin's share - had it been based by county as it was done by Division - would have been \$1,734,140.00.

For the now halted project, Franklin was allocated \$750,000. Even cutting back some six miles of the project, there are not enough funds to do more than the five miles from Louisburg to Ingleside.

Now, the sale of \$60 million worth of road bonds is stalemated. Bond buyers don't want to invest with only four percent return on the investment. State Treasurer Edwin Gill has asked for the interest rate to be raised.

This is easier said than done. The people must vote on the issue. Legislation was introduced in the General Assembly a couple of weeks ago by Rep. Fred M. Mills, Jr. of Anson County raising the maximum interest rate to five percent. In the snail-paced law-makers haven, the measure still crawls along. Once it is passed, assuming that it or a bill like it will be, the matter must go to the people for a vote.

This leads to a whole lot of ponderables. How much interest is enough? Will the legislature pass any such bill before it adjourns? How do you sell it to people such as Franklin citizens who have had their fill of the highway thing?

Man on the moon before NC-39 is completed? There may be one on Mars.

## Rescue Service Needs \$1,000

David Minnich, Chief of the Louisburg Rescue Service, reported today that the Service needs \$1,000 more in its drive to raise funds for a new Rescue unit. Minnich said the new truck will arrive in about three weeks.

The unit costs \$9,100, said Minnich, and the Service has raised all but \$1,000. Members of the Service will man a stand on the corner of Nash and Main Streets Friday afternoon and Saturday to accept donations, he said.

The Service collected \$501.32 on the corner last Saturday, and Minnich expressed his appreciation to everyone who donated. He said anyone who would not be passing the fund-drive stand could mail their contribution to the Service, P. O. Box 352, Louisburg, N. C. 17549.

## Franklinton Man Arrested

From The Oxford (N.C.) Public Ledger

Two van-type trucks, loaded with whiskey making apparatus, were seized by enforcement men in Oxford around midnight Thursday, and one of the drivers was arrested and charged as the second made a get away under cover of darkness.

ABC Chief Arthur Ray Currin, who was called into the case after two night-prowling sheriff's men became suspicious of the contents of a truck whose driver they were questioning, said the value of the two trucks and the cargoes they carried was around \$4,000.

Participating in the round up were Deputies H. T. Brame and Allen Thomerson, who first spotted two trucks on the entrance drive of Oxford Implement, near the southern outskirts of the city; Police Lt. Arch Wilkins, Police Patrolman Joe Hall,



Mayor V. A. Peoples

## Peoples To Seek Third Term

Louisburg Mayor V. A. (Tommy) Peoples has announced his intentions to seek a third term and is expected to officially file for reelection today.

Mayor Peoples, who served as a member of the Town Council in the 1963-65 term, was first elected Mayor in 1965 in a close contest with former Council member Robert Hicks. He ran unopposed in the 1967 municipal elections.

In making his announcement, the Mayor stated, "If it is the wish of the voters, I will be happy to continue to serve as Mayor. I have no so-called political promises to make. I only hope, if elected, to continue the progress our town is making in its many fields of service to our people."

Peoples, 41, is a television-radio dealer here and is married to the former Joyce Strother. They have two sons, Al and Larry and three daughters, Vickie, Susan and Deborah. Mayor Peoples has served a senior member and Chief of the Louisburg Rescue Service and as a member of the Louisburg Fire Department.

He is active in the Louisburg Baptist Church where he has taught a Sunday School class for several years.

During his tenure as Mayor, Louisburg has seen ninety-five percent of a new lighting project completed and a continuing updating of its electric system. Peoples points to the continuing project of paving streets and says that the town now has less than four miles of unpaved streets in the entire system. Main street and Justice Street were repaved in 1967 from state bond money.

A capital reserve fund, now totaling around \$58,000 has been established for the continuing updating of the municipally owned electric system and a like fund has been set up for the purchase of a new fire truck. Mayor Peoples explains that the electric system improvements are financed from the reserve fund and does not require additional taxes. Since 1964 the system has been moved from one of 2100 K.W. to 4100 K.W. and the next move is expected to be upwards to a 7200 K.W. system.

The Mayor will become the fourth to file in the municipal elections scheduled for May 6. Incumbent Town Council members Grover C. Harris, Jr., George T. Bunn and Jonah Taylor have already paid their filing fees and Harris and Bunn made public announcements of their intentions.

Other members of the Council who have not yet announced their plans are: Mrs. Breattie C. O'Neal, W. J. Shearin, and H. D. Jeffreys.

## School Fire Nets Little Damage

An early morning fire in the Louisburg School cafeteria resulted in minor damage to a bake oven today, according to reports. A milk deliveryman discovered the smoking unit shortly before 5 a.m. this morning.

It was believed that the unit had been left on overnight. A pan inside the oven had melted. Minor smoke damage was noted, but lunches are to be served as usual, it was said.