

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Something To Think About

The filing deadline for candidates in the Louisburg municipal elections has passed and nine hopefuls have filed for the six seats. Five of the nine are incumbents while one decided to call it a day.

There are many problems—large and small—confronting Louisburg in the days ahead, just as there are many confronting other towns in and out of Franklin County.

However, one problem which has caused considerable concern among Louisburg citizens for years has been the matter of electric service charges. In this, Louisburg is unique among the towns in our county. Many are the council members who have over the years gone on the Board with flouaes spurting from their mouths over this little item. To a man—sometimes to a woman—they have had the fire doused and have been converted to the thinking that the electric charges, after all, are not excessive. Few citizens have had the privilege of this type of brainwashing and therefore continue to blow their tops momentarily at the arrival of each month's bill.

A glance at each year's budget where as much as \$45,000 has been transferred from the electric account to other departments shows at once that electricity customers are bearing the costs which are normally sustained by all taxpayers.

This year's budget estimate shows that the electric department will have

a profit after expenses and including the contingency fund, of \$50,730 or a profit, after expenses, of 16 percent. This profit represents almost one-tenth of the total estimated budget.

This means that the user of Louisburg electric current is carrying a load one-tenth larger than other taxpayers. It means, too, that citizens are being charged a tax for which they cannot receive credit on their state and federal tax forms. This excessive charge for electricity is pure and simple a hidden tax.

The funds derived from this source are undoubtedly needed. The service generally enjoyed from the town electric department has been good for the past few years. However, 16 percent net profit is excessive for any utility and indeed any businessman would jump with joy if he made such a profit after expenses.

This should not be construed as criticism of incumbent council member. Nor is it likely to influence the thinking of the newcomers to the races. It is, however, something about which all candidates could be thinking and certainly one thing upon which they can express themselves to the voters.

The practice was started long before today's council was formed and it is not going to be easily changed. But, it should be and voters ought to approach the coming elections with this thought in mind.

This Is Time Of Year

The Ill Wind Blows

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

"I don't care how much it storms, just so the wind doesn't blow". This remark, often heard in this section, tells vividly how locals feel about the most terrible of winds that sweep the earth's surface—Tornadoes.

This is the season. The months of greatest frequency are April, May and June. Since the early 1950's the tornado death toll has averaged 122 each year and the damage \$40 million annually, although it is often much higher.

Tornadoes occur in all 50 states. The most susceptible are the areas of the continental plains but North Carolina and even Franklin County have had their share over the years. A tornado's time is short and its path of destruction is generally rather small, but in populated areas they often leave scenes of utter devastation. A tornado funnel can reduce solid buildings to matchwood, convert a common straw into a deadly missile, uproot huge trees, and hurl people and animals for hundreds of yards.

There have been several instances of tornado-like winds hitting in this area. Last year considerable damage was suffered in Wake County and last week tornadoes struck in Cumberland, neighboring Johnston, Union Randolph and Scotland and tornado watches were up for Franklin County.

There were, of course, other wind storms in Franklin County, but two believed to be tornadoes—although neither were called such—come to mind. One occurred late Sunday afternoon, August 28, 1949. Worse hit in this storm was the Buck Medlin family which lived three and a half miles

south of Louisburg off NC-39.

The house was blown off its foundation, twisted and smashed. The furnishings were completely destroyed. Mrs. Rosa Medlin Thorne, a typesetter for The Times, recalls the storm. She was inside the house when the twister struck along with 16 other members of her family.

"It sounded like a car driving up. It was as dark as night outside although it was about 5:30 in the afternoon. We were all in the kitchen and ran to the bedroom when we heard the noise. That's when the house fell in."

Mrs. Thorne says, "We just went rolling over and over. When we stopped turning, the floor was propped up against the tree and we were beneath it."

A tree fell injuring Clifton Medlin in the face, his wife Margaret suffered injuries to her hands and ankles and Ann Medlin, 13-years-old at the time, suffered a broken arm.

The same storm did considerable damage to Wrenn's Garage on NC-561; blew down an oak tree in Hugh Perry's yard on NC-561; damaged a nearby tenant house and damaged barns, shelters and pack houses in a wide area of the county.

Mrs. Thorne discounts a report at the time that a 13-month-old baby was blown 30 feet from the Medlin house. The child, she says, was placed beneath a tree to shelter it from a downpour of rain which accompanied the storm. She isn't quite as firm when she relates that a shirt bearing the initials "J.M." (for her brother John Medlin) was found in the top of a tree at Ingleside some ten miles away.

The second severe wind storm that comes to mind—and one in which this writer was involved—occurred on Friday night, June 27, 1952. As if on cue at 9 P.M. the wind struck Ford Village from the north. Later a weather expert from Raleigh said it was not a tornado because tornadoes don't move from that direction. Those caught up in the thing that night will always discount the expertness of the expert.

Windows were blown in at Clint's Superette, a super market which had opened a few weeks earlier. Heavy damage was suffered in stock and fixtures. Roberson's Electric Service, next door to the market, was also damaged. Portions of the roofs from the two buildings were found later several hundred feet from the Village.

A barn caught fire at the Dave Holmes residence just north of Louisburg and the front portion of the building now occupied by the Boulevard Drive-in (then housing Dick's Drive In) was sucked out and the

aluminum fence at the drive-in theater was blown down. Electricity was off in the Louisburg area for several hours and the National Guard patrolled the area and stood guard all night at the super market.

Fire Chief R. G. Person had a new car severely damaged on Kenmore Ave. by a fallen tree. E. F. Yarborough had his car damaged on Main Street the same way. Johnson Cotton Co. lost a shed and the campuses at Louisburg College and W. R. Mills High School were strewn with tree limbs and other debris.

The June storm broke a heat wave in the area. The temperature read 101 degrees on Wednesday and climbed to 104 on Thursday and to 105 before the storm struck on Friday. Occupants of the super market, which was preparing to close as the storm hit, were saved by standing beneath a steel beam in the rear of the building. There were no injuries reported anywhere due to the storm. Half the television antennas in town were blown down.

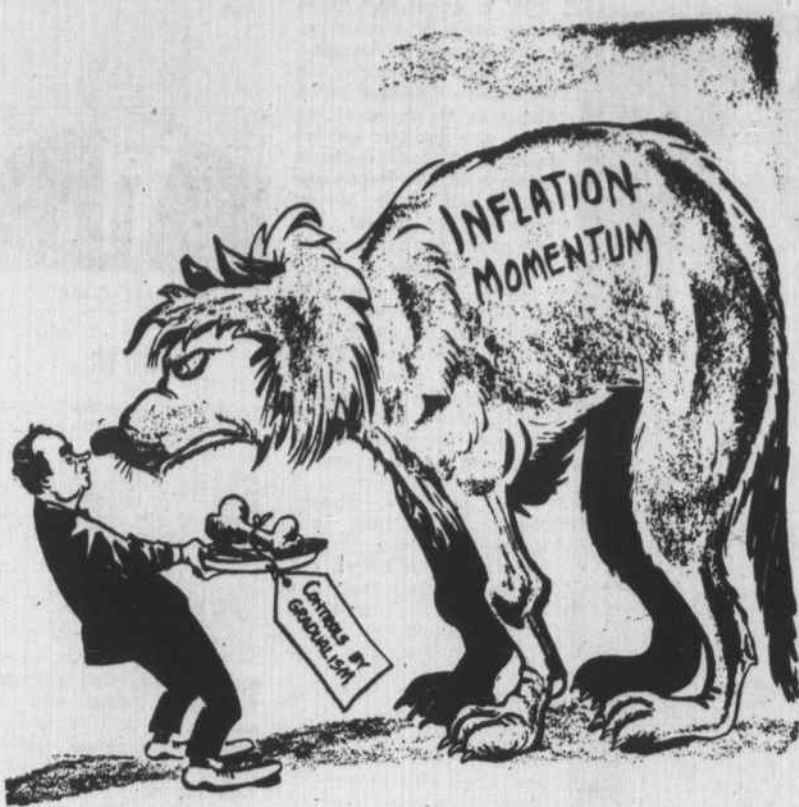
Tornadoes may occur at almost any time. Eighty-two percent hit between the hours of noon and midnight. Twenty-three percent strike between 4 and 6 P.M. On the average tornado paths are only a quarter-mile wide and seldom more than 16 miles long. A tornado, however, traveled 293 miles across Illinois and Indiana on May 26, 1917 and lasted 7 hours and 20 minutes.

The United States Environmental Science Service explains certain precautions to take in case of tornadoes. The agency says that "Watches" are not warnings. The area had tornado "watches" last week. These are issued to alert the public of the "possibility of tornado development in a specified area, for a specified period of time." The agency says routine activities should not be interrupted except to "watch" for threatening weather.

Tornado "warnings", however, are another thing entirely. They indicate the location of the tornado at the time of detection and the "period during which the tornado will move through the area warned." The agency says when "warnings" are issued persons in the area should take immediate safety precautions. Among these is to seek inside shelter, preferably in a cellar or concrete building; stay away from windows, but keep some windows open; do not stay in mobile homes.

Maybe the ill wind will not blow this way. But, it is better to be safe than sorry.

'We're going to starve you slowly and we hope you'll cooperate'



Le Felley
The Charles S. Smith

Drug Safety Hearings

From The Office Of Congressman L. H. Fountain

Washington, D. C. . . Last week the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, of which I am Chairman, resumed its hearings on the drug safety activities of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration. These hearings have extended over a considerable period of time and have covered many aspects of the agency's activities in the drug field. However, one area which the Subcommittee had not explored in depth is that

pertaining to the agency's responsibility for assuring that the drugs on the market are effective as well as safe for their intended use.

This responsibility was given to FDA by the Drug Amendments Act of 1962. Last week, we examined FDA's handling of the antibiotic drug chloramphenicol.

This drug is a potent antibiotic with a wide range of activity which has been on the market for many years. However, because chloramphenicol is also known to cause serious and potentially fatal blood disorders, its labeling has been progressively restricted so that its use is presently limited to serious and life-threatening conditions. This is of particular importance because it means that if a patient is given chloramphenicol and it does not have the effect it is supposed to have, the patient might die.

Chloramphenicol is one of those drugs which came on the market prior to 1962 without having been proven effective. However, the Subcommittee found out that a committee of experts from the National Academy of Sciences had reviewed the evidence on the effectiveness of this drug last year, at the request of the Food and Drug Administration, and had concluded that one form of this drug, which was supposed to be effective when injected into the vein, or into the muscle or under the skin, was in fact effective only if injected directly into the vein.

As a result, FDA required the manufacturer of this drug to change its labeling to indicate that it should be used only by injection into the vein. However, our Subcommittee found that FDA did not require the manufacturer to get back from hospitals, doctors' offices, and other channels over a million-and-a-half doses of this drug with the old directions for use.

The ranking minority member of the Subcommittee and I were concerned over the possibility that physicians were being misled into using this drug by injecting it into the muscles or under the skin as was recommended by the old labeling and which FDA had concluded were not effective. We were also concerned that use of the pro-

duct by these routes, frequently favored in treating small children, could result in unnecessary death, since the drug was to be used in life-threatening situations.

As a result, we notified the FDA Commissioner of this concern on April 4 and asked him to let us know by April 7 what he intended to do about it. On that day he informed us that he was requiring the company to recall all of this drug with the old labeling and to send a letter to every physician in the country calling their attention to this problem.

The Food and Drug Administration has one of the most sensitive and serious responsibilities of any governmental agency. Like all of us humans, the human beings there, as elsewhere, will make mistakes—sometimes serious ones. We seek to prevent them whenever and wherever we can because, in countless thousands of situations, the extent to which they do their job properly may well have an impact somewhere along the line as to whether or not a given sick person lives or dies. Of course, doctors, nurses, hospitals, drug manufacturers and all others who help to make the sick well again have similar responsibilities.

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"Frank," she said, "Let's go to bed. We got to get up earlier in the morning. The time's gonna change. Come on, get up out of that chair, comb your hair and get in the bed."

"Ah, come on now, woman," I said. "It's just seven o'clock. What's all this time change business? It's seven o'clock here and it's seven o'clock everywhere. I ain't going to bed at no seven o'clock."



"But, Frank," she said, "We're gonna lose a hour's sleep. You ain't never gonna catch it up unless you go to bed a hour early."

"I ain't gonna lose no sleep," I said. "I'm going to bed when I get ready and I'm getting up the same way. How can I lose a hour. Ain't nobody gonna take a slice out of the night are they? I ask you, woman, how can they take away a hour? They gonna take the world?"

"Frank, you just don't understand nothing. You got to run the clock back one hour."

"Why? They're all set at the correct time. I checked with the radio and the western union and the bank clock on the corner. That's always got the time. It ain't never right. But, it's always got the time."

"It's the law, Frank," she said like she knowed so much. "You got to do it. They said to."

"Who said to, woman?" I asked. "They's my clocks and I'll set them like I want to. Whose they? And how can they invade the privacy of my own home and tell me to go set my clocks. Ain't they never heard of the Supreme Court?"

"Frank, it ain't the same thing. They ain't coming here and make you set the clocks. They have ordered that they be set back a hour tonight so's we'll be on time tomorrow."

"Well, if they want to be one time tomorrow, let them set their clocks with my clocks. I ain't gonna change. No, sir. I ain't gonna change. The chickens ain't gonna crow no earlier and the cow ain't gonna milk no earlier and the sun ain't gonna get up no earlier. No, sir, I ain't gonna change."

"I declare Frank Count, you are the stubbornest man I ever seen. Why have you got to be different? Everybody else is gonna change. The lights is already out at the neighbors and the dogs done started barking. It's time to go to bed."

"Look, if I told you once, I told you a dozen times, it ain't none of your business what the neighbors do when the lights is out. If they want to sit around and read in the dark, it ain't none of your business. Maybe they're saving electricity or something. They might be watching television. There's a whole lot of things folks do in the dark besides play with their clocks."

"Well, I'm going to bed. You can set up all night if you want to. And I'm gonna call you in the morning a hour earlier, so's you'll be on time."

"You ain't gonna have to, woman. I'm setting right here til morning."

"Frank Count, you know you ain't gonna set up all night. What on earth for?"

"I'm gonna wait and see what happens when everybody else in the world has a hour taken away from them. Ain't nobody gonna take no hour away from old Frank. No sir, I'd rather fight than snitch."

Highway Hunter Hit In Griffin Bill

Sen. Edward Griffin, D-Franklin, drew a bead Monday on hunters who have been shooting from public roads onto private land in the northeastern section of Franklin County.

Griffin's bill prohibits taking or attempting to take any game animal or bird from any public road without first securing the written permission of the owner of the land which abuts the road in an area of the county bounded by Warren County on the north, Nash County on the east, Sandy Creek on the south and U. S. Highway 401 on the west.

Violations of the law,

should it be passed, would be punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days, or both.

The bill was entered because game animals abound in that particular area of the county and this has drawn a large number of out-of-county hunters.

Landowners along the road in this area have complained that hunters are endangering lives and property by shooting from the road into the farm and woodlands in the area.

Franklinton Woman Convicted In Wake

Mrs. Mooneyham was convicted Wednesday of "aiding and harboring escaped convicts" in Wake Superior Court. She was acquitted of the charges of passing a pistol to a prisoner in Wake County jail. She is expected to be sentenced by Judge Leo Carr Friday.

Two escaped convicts have testified in Wake Superior Court that a 37-year-old woman, reportedly from Franklinton, did not aid in their escape from the Wake County jail on the night of January 17, 1968. Mrs. Joyce Lawson Mooneyham is accused of smuggling a .32 caliber automatic pistol and a clip of bullets to Joseph Michael Pinyatello, 44, a convicted safe cracker while he was a prisoner at Raleigh.

The pistol, according to reports, was used by Pinyatello and William Francis Burgess, 28, convicted burglar, to escape. The two were later captured in Durham and Mrs. Mooneyham was with them at the time. The two men and Mrs. Mooneyham testified that she only gave them a ride and had nothing to do with smuggling the pistol.

Jessie Thomas Barbee, 68, of Creedmoor was later charged with aiding Mrs. Mooneyham in slipping the pistol through the bars on a visit to Pinyatello. He testified that he saw the woman take the gun from beneath her blouse

and slip it to the prisoner. Pinyatello testified that he had taken the pistol off a drunk some two months prior to the escape and that he did not know the woman until she gave him a ride to Durham.

Pinyatello testified that he had hidden the pistol inside a mattress and it had not been discovered during several prison shakedown inspections. Jailor M. L. Bagwell testified that Pinyatello pretended to be injured from a fall and when he went to his aid, the prisoner flashed the gun and with Burgess escaped.

Jaycee Bottle Drive Next Week

The Louisburg Jaycees issued a reminder today that they will launch a soft drink bottle drive next Tuesday night, April 29. The house to house canvass will be held between the hours of 6 P.M. and 9 P.M. an organization spokesman said.

Proceeds from the bottle collection will be donated to the Louisburg Rescue Service.

Bill Fleming is chairman of the project and persons living outside the Louisburg area wishing to donate bottles to the Jaycees may do so by contacting any member of the organization or bringing their bottles to Ford's Warehouse here on the night of the 29th.