

Well. What Do You Know?

Have there ever been reports of sightings of flying saucers in Franklin County?

Yes. There is no record of how many such reports but on August 12, 1952, three Centerville families reported substantially the same story regarding what they called a "flying saucer". Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Raynor, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Gupton and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Pleasants reported sighting what they described as "a round ball of light about the size of a man's hat circling about 100 feet (one couple said 1500 ft.) overhead over an area about half mile radius." They reported that the light "grew very bright, then dimmed and brightened again". The object, which hovered over the area for an hour, went completely dark when an airplane passed overhead they said. No explanation of the object was ever reported.

Summer School Starts

The remedial Summer School Program has opened at Louisburg High School for the second year sponsored by the ESEA-Title I program. The six-week session is under the supervision of Mr. Thomas A. Riggan, Principal of Louisburg High School. The registration is much higher than last year—approximately 250 students are enrolled.

The subjects offered are essentially the same as those of last year and include the following: English 1, 2, 3, 4; Algebra 1, 2; Geometry, Fundamentals of 7th and 8th grade Math, Biology, Chemistry, American History, World History, Typing (non-credit), Clinical Reading, and Reading for speed and comprehension.

A participating student must come from a school district of one of the Title I qualifying schools in the Franklin County Public School System and can only participate if he meets one or more of the following qualifications:

1. A student must have failed the subject for which he is enrolled.
2. A student was unable to take a subject because it was not offered in his own school, and it is needed for college entrance.
3. A student was unable to take a needed course in his own school because of scheduling difficulties.
4. A student reading below his actual grade level may register for the speed and comprehension reading course.

Participation by non-public school students is not permissible unless specified criteria has been met by private school authorities. Students from adjoining counties and/or city school systems are not eligible to enroll. These restrictions are not local decisions, but are regulations set forth by both the Federal and State authorities.

The school day will begin at 8:00 a.m. and run through 1:00 p.m. This schedule will be maintained five days a week (except for the one day vacation on July 4) and will end on July 25th.

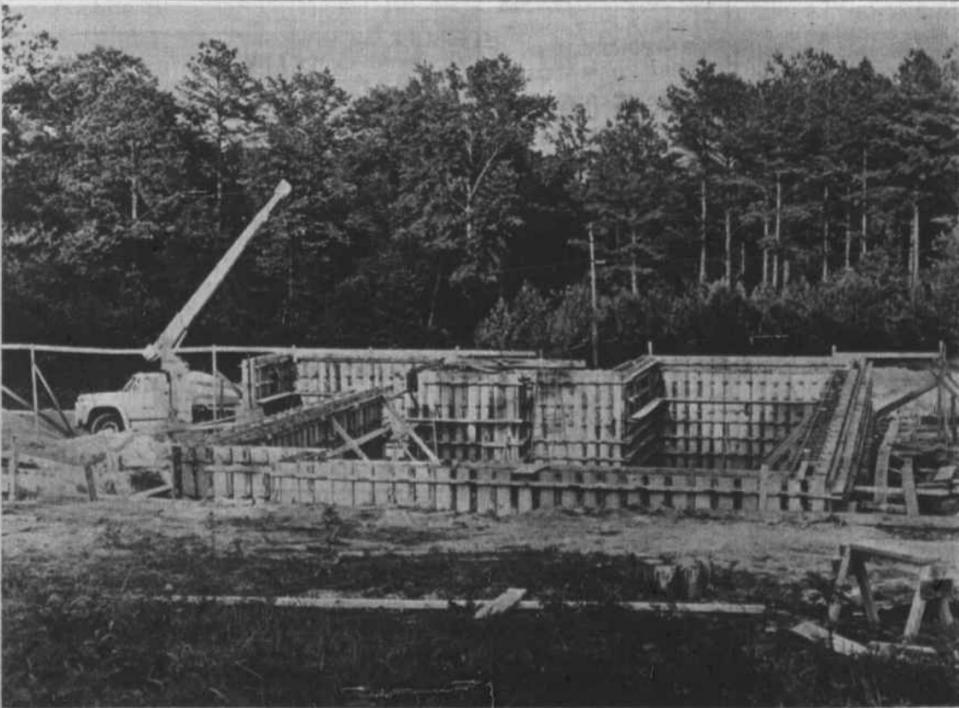
Driver Ed Program To Begin

The class room phase of Driver Education will be offered at Louisburg High School beginning Wednesday, June 18, 1969 for youths living within the Franklin County Administrative Unit. The class will meet from 8-10 a.m. daily for a period of 15 days.

Students regularly enrolled in public and non-public schools who are

14½ years of age and older shall be eligible to enroll in the course; and out-of-school youths not younger than 14½ years and not older than 18 years shall be eligible to enroll.

Those who desire to take this course should report to Louisburg High School Wednesday, June 18, at 10 a.m.



ESEA Building In Progress

Scene above shows progress on the construction of the federally-financed Methods and Material Center building behind the Board of Education office here. Earl Martin, Director of ESEA for the county, said the structure, expected to cost around \$135,000, is to be completed by the middle of November.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

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Louisburg Town Council's Annexation Motion Stirs Controversy

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

A couple of Friday nights ago, the Louisburg Town Council passed a motion to request the county's delegation in the General Assembly to introduce a bill to kill the exclusion-of Franklin County in a 1959 law authorizing municipalities to annex outlying areas. The action passed without any undue attention being paid it at the time. However, when such a bill was introduced in the State Senate by Senator E. F. Griffin, the fur began to fly.

Opponents of annexation came alive and although somewhat abated at this time, the thought of taking certain areas into the corporate limits of Louisburg, brought forth some heated exchanges, according to reliable reports.

An informed source said the Council did not intend that the town limits would be extended "the next day" but rather that the council be given the authority. The source expressed the opinion that the Town could not at this time, furnish the required utilities and services for an annexed area.

Mayor V. A. Peoples, when interviewed on the matter said, "We are one of only seven counties excluded from the act. We just wanted the town's governing body to have the authority to do what other Boards can do. I don't necessarily mean this particular council—we'll probably be gone before anything takes place but I think the town's governing body ought to have the authority."

Mayor Peoples explained that in order to extend the limits, the town would have to show that it could supply the same services to the newly acquired areas as those being given to the present town residents and that this could not be done at the present time.

Councilman Grover Harris, Jr. said he favored annexation and, like the Mayor, explained the difficulties which would have to be overcome before any extension of town limits could be accomplished. "We need the authority in order to plan for the future. I want to see the town grow and I'd like to see more industry locate here. We need to expand."

Town officials interviewed on the subject all pointed to the low 80-cent Louisburg tax rate. One official said that a house valued for taxation at \$4,000 would mean an annual tax bite of only \$32. He said fire insurance

rates would be reduced, the \$10 annual fire protection most outside residents carry with the town would be eliminated and he added, one should consider the value of police protection, garbage collection and water and sewer services.

Town officials feel that there is a sizable opposition to the move, but investigation shows that some considered by the officials as "strong opponents" are in reality privately saying they favor annexation.

Some reported opponents are said to object to the tax since they have gone to the expense of having wells dug and septic tanks installed and some just feel that they do not want to be taken into town, according to reports. Many have reportedly expressed the desire to have a vote on the matter.

However, the law when and if Franklin County is included, does not provide for such an election. It calls for certain procedures to be taken by the town board but does not require a vote of the people. But, then it does not provide for such in the 93 counties where it now applies.

The law does, however, require that a "map showing the present boundaries" and a "map showing the proposed areas of annexation" be made public along with a hearing and a "statement setting forth the plans of the municipality for areas to be annexed and each major municipal service performed by the municipality at the time of annexation."

It also says that "specifically, such plan shall: Provide for extending police protection, fire protection, garbage collection and street maintenance services to the area to be annexed on the date of annexation on substantially the same basis and in the same manner as such services are provided within the rest of the municipality prior to annexation."

This provision that services must be supplied to any newly annexed area is a safeguard against an overnight extension of town boundaries. One town official explained that given the authority, plans could be made based on incoming revenue as to what areas might be annexed and the cost of additional services. He said he did not believe this present town board or any future board would move to annex any area where the people of the area were opposed to such a move regardless of a vote. One observer said the council might hold a straw vote to get the feeling of residents in certain areas before annexation.

The bill to have Franklin County—and thereby Louisburg—included in the 1959 law was introduced last week in the Senate by Senator Griffin. Presently the measure is in the Local Government Committee. Some political observers feel this is where it will die. Reports say that Senator Griffin has been contacted by opponents of the bill and the time for local bills having passed, that the measure will never come out of the Committee.

Even should the Senate give favorable action to the measure, there is

little chance it will ever reach the House. Representative James Speed failed to comply with a request by the Louisburg Council in 1967 to introduce the same measure handled last week by Griffin. Unless Speed has changed his thinking, it is unlikely he will support the measure this trip.

Representative John Church reportedly has said he will support the

measure if it comes to the House, has also said he would not get involved in a local matter. This leaves the future of the bill squarely up to Rep. Speed, if, that is, it gets through the House.

Town officials believe that misunderstandings have contributed to the recent heated stir over the action. They say privately that perhaps it would have been better to have in-

formed the public of their reasons before requesting the measure.

At any rate, it now appears that the matter has run its course. There is still some chance that the General Assembly could act before adjournment and make Franklin one of 94 counties covered by the law. This is unlikely and so, too, is the chance that Louisburg is going to grow.



Getting The Word Out

Kenneth S. Schubart, Director of Industrial Development, is shown above showing one of four new signs the Industrial Commission has had erected in the county publicizing its efforts to obtain new industry. The large reflectorized signs, manufactured by the state prison department, are placed at strategic locations on US-1 north of Franklinton and US-1 south of Franklinton, both near the county lines and US-401 south of Louisburg. The one pictured above is located at Ingleside, five miles north of Louisburg, for travelers along US-401 and NC-39.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Speed, Church Didn't Vote

House Narrowly Approves Violence Bill

The North Carolina House of Representatives narrowly approved a bill requiring the expulsion of students involved in campus disorders Wednesday. The vote was originally 53-52 but one inaudible vote was missed and the final tally was 54-52. Reports of the vote show that Rep. James D. Speed and Rep. John Church, representing Franklin, Vance and Warren Counties, did not vote for or against the measure.

An amendment to the bill, also approved Wednesday, will require local Boards of Education to pass a resolution before local public schools are included in the law. The bill now goes to the Senate for final action.

The bill would make expulsion mandatory for students involved in

disruptions at state-supported institutions of higher learning. Expulsion would come when a student "hindered, delayed, obstructed, disturbed or prevented any lawful activity" at an institution. The same would apply to local schools if the Board of Education adopted the policy.

It is known that the Franklin Board of Education is conscious of the possibility of campus disorders and school personnel were cautioned this past year to be on the lookout for any signs of disruption. The year passed without disruption but school principals exercised full authority to expell students violating any school board policies or causing any disruption on the school grounds.

It is not known whether the Frank-

lin Board or the Franklinton Board will adopt, as policy, provisions contained in the bill passed by the House Wednesday, if and when it gets through the Senate and becomes law.

Wednesday's action brought sharp debate from proponents and opponents of the bill. The bill is only one of several get-tough measures now pending in the legislature. Others pertain to street violence and riots and reflects a trend toward a tighter law and order attitude in the state.

The Senate passed a bill authorizing presidents or chancellors of state-supported universities to restrict the presence of disruptive elements on their campuses. An amendment offered by Sen. Russell Kirby, D-Wilson, denied such restrictive power to the chief of the campus security officers, as the bill proposed. The bill, already approved by the House, was returned there for concurrence in the amendment.

A measure giving local governments broad new powers for riot control also was passed by the Senate. It spells out the powers of local governments to declare curfews and has other provisions strengthening local powers to deal with rioters.

The student expulsion measure was given tentative House approval by a 63-45 vote on May 26.

After the May vote, the measure was sent to the House Judiciary II committee where several technical changes were made in an effort to clear up a question of its constitutionality.

Jackie's Mother Accuses Duplin Clerk Of Inefficiency

Mrs. Reba Woodlief Stone, mother of 13-year-old Jackie Stone who was kidnapped and murdered at Wallace last March 25, has accused the Duplin County Clerk of Court with inefficiency. Mrs. Stone, whose husband, Leon Stone, is a former resident of Franklin County, picketed the Clerk's office recently carrying a sign saying: "Inefficiency and incompetence in the Clerk of Court's office may be partly responsible for the death of my daughter, Jackie Stone... Wells must go!" Wells is R. V. Wells, Duplin Clerk.

Mrs. Stone's reference is to the fact that Roger Vernon Miller, accused of the murder of the child, was convicted of a second reckless driving offense which would have revoked his license to drive. She says that the Clerk's office failed to notify the State Department of Motor Vehicles until a month after the child's death.

The second violation conviction took place in December, 1968 and was not reported until April 29, 1969. Mrs. Stone says had the Clerk acted sooner, Miller might not have been driving on the day her daughter was killed.

Mrs. Stone is the niece of the late Al Woodlief who died in 1953 of injuries received in an automobile acci-

dent. Woodlief was an automobile dealer in Louisburg at the time. Mr. Stone's mother, Mrs. Irene Nelms Stone, lived for many years on highway 561 east of Louisburg and now resides on Route 1, Henderson.

The accused man has a long list of traffic violations, according to Motor Vehicles Department records and Wells explains the delay by saying that it was probably overlooked for awhile and then processed.

No Word On Missing Boys

Sheriff William T. Dement reported this morning there are no new developments in the case of two county youths missing since June 3. His department is still investigating, the Sheriff said.

Wesley Earl Smith, w/m/17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Smith, Rt. 1, Kittrell, and Charles Wayne Piper, w/m/14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie B. Piper, Pocomoke Road, Franklinton, were last seen at a baseball game at Franklinton Tuesday night, June 3. Neither have been heard from since leaving the game, according to reports.

A description of the boys has been broadcast and a statewide alert is posted for them. Smith is reportedly 5'11", weighs 130 pounds and has reddish brown hair and brown eyes. Piper is said to be 5'6", weighs 130 pounds and has brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone having any information as to the whereabouts of the youths are asked to contact the Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

Also missing is a 1961 white over blue Chevrolet Belair with a dented right fender. The vehicle, belonging to Smith's father, was being driven at the time of the disappearance by the Smith youth, according to reports.