



Staff photos by Clint Fuller.

## Plane Lands And Takes Off White Level Road

A Cessna 172-B light single engine plane landed in the White Level Community last Friday night around 9 P.M. when the pilot discovered the Rocky Mount airport closed in by weather and fuel running low.

The aircraft made a perfect landing on State Rural paved road 1466 and hours later took off along the same stretch.

The two men occupying the craft declined to give reporters their names. One explained that he had just that day begun employment as a co-pilot of the undisclosed company plane. The two told somewhat conflicting stories to the hundreds of spectators gathered at the scene.

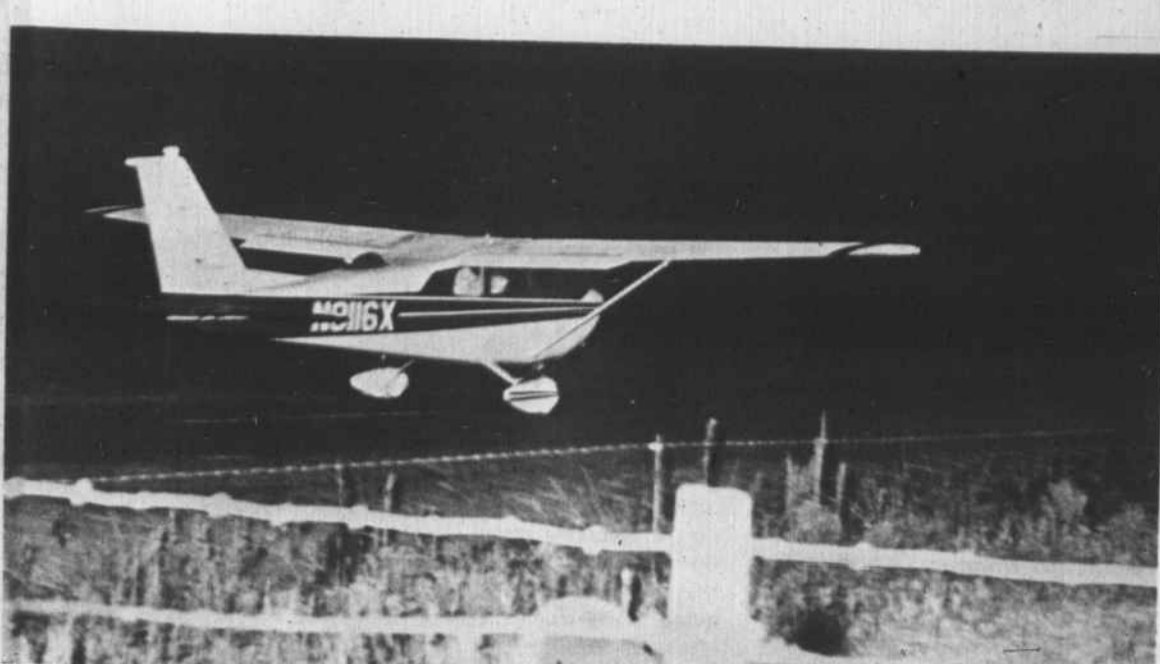
They said they were based in South Carolina and were on their way from the Roanoke Rapids airport to Rocky Mount when it was discovered that the

Rocky Mount airport was overcast. The pilot said the road at White Level was clear and fuel was low and he decided to set the ship down there.

The Louisburg Rescue Service collected fuel from the local Civil Air Patrol and transported it to the scene. State Trooper C. Glenn Todd cleared the road of automobiles and spectators and the plane took off at 11:30 P.M.

Todd parked his patrol car in line with some power lines running across the highway and the plane cleared the road immediately after passing beneath the power lines and the patrol car blinkers.

Centerville Rescuers were dispatched to the scene when the plane landed. Forest Poythress and J. Linwood Guppton, local CAP officials were also on hand to assist the downed pilots.



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## Speed Says He Will Vote Against Leaf Tax

Franklin Representative James D. Speed told The Times Monday that he plans to oppose the proposed tax on cigarettes "all the way". Speed had received some degree of criticism in some quarters for being absent last Thursday when the House voted to return Governor Bob Scott's tax package back to the Finance Committee.

Speed, who has been plagued much of the current legislative session with illness, said he was absent Thursday on advice of his doctor. He said he did not feel well Wednesday night and returned home. He added that he felt some better Friday and returned to his office in Raleigh.

He said the report in Sunday's News and Observer's Under the Dome column that a vote against the tobacco

tax by him would have thrown the matter into a tie for House Speaker Earl Vaughn to decide was in error. Speed said he had the official count of the vote and there was "at least two votes difference" on the matter of deleting tobacco from the bill and "at least five" votes difference on the vote to send the tax bill back to the Committee. The daily newspapers and wire services reported last week that the motion to delete tobacco from the tax bill was defeated 58-56 and the bill to send the whole package back to Committee was carried 59-55.

The News and Observer column reported that had Speed voted "for" the motion to delete tobacco a 57-57 tie would have resulted.

Speed said he would vote against any tax on tobacco even if a compromise of a two-cent tax is offered. He said that a two-cent tax would not be much better than a five cent tax and that if passed two years from now a five-cent levy might be imposed against the leaf. Representative John Church, also representing Franklin, Vance and Warren counties, voted to delete tobacco and then later to send the tax bill back to Committee last week by the process of pairing his vote with a House member favoring the tobacco tax.

The failure of the House to pass the Governor's tax package has brought on a heated controversy between Governor

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Duke Memorial Church At Justice

Staff photo by Astor Bowden.

## Boys Break Church Windows

Three teenagers were arrested Monday and charged with damage to real property, according to Sheriff William T. Dement. Property damage includes several broken windows in Duke Memorial Church at Justice, Dement reported.

Dement identified the youths as Robert Allen Blake, w/m/17, Rt. 4, Louisburg; Danny M. Smith, w/m/19, Rt. 1, Louisburg and William H. Murray, w/m/18, Rt. 4, Louisburg.

The bottle-throwing spree reportedly began around 11 P.M. Saturday

night and lasted until around 2 A.M. Sunday morning. Several houses were struck, a number of highway signs were reportedly hit and some bottles were broken on the highways. At least three windows were broken in the church. The youths also climbed the fire tower five miles east of Louisburg and dropped bottles on the fire ranger's office below the tall steel structure, according to the Sheriff.

Bond was set Monday for the youths at \$200, according to the Sheriff's office.

## Youths Arrested In Cabin Breakins

Sheriff William T. Dement reported the arrest of three young boys Monday as a result of his investigation into the Sunday afternoon break-in of two cabins at Franklinton. Dement said two of the three youths, charged with breaking and entering, were juveniles and declined to give their names.

The third youth, Dement reported, was Joseph Earl May, w/m/17 of Franklinton. One of the other boys was reported to be a 15-year-old from Route 3, Wake Forest and a 13-year-old from Franklinton.

The youths are charged with entering a cabin owned by Ronda Gupton of Louisburg which is located along a private pond also owned by Gupton off US-1 north of Franklinton. A cabin owned by Alton W. Ausborn of Henderson was also entered. Dement reported the youths took only minor items but inflicted heavy damage to the interior of the two cabins.

Bond for May was set at \$200 and the other youths were turned over to the Welfare Department.

## Church Helped On Student Disruption Bill

Representative William T. Watkins, D-Granville, told The Times today that Representative John Church, D-Vance, had supported the school violence bill, sponsored by Rep. Watkins although Church was not present to vote for the measure last week. The Times had reported that neither Rep. Church or Representative James D. Speed, D-Franklin, had voted on the bill.

"Mr. Church was on the Higher Education Committee which considered my bill," Rep. Watkins said, "and he contributed much to it in Committee. He voted for it and encouraged it out of Committee. He voted for it the first time it came to a vote and on the second vote he discussed it with me and waited as long as he could hoping to be able to vote for it again. The debate was so long, however, he had to leave. This is the reason, Mr. Church failed to vote for the bill and I thought you would like to know this."

He also said that Mr. Church was unable to pair for this vote. "I have

never discussed this bill with Mr. Speed", he said, "and I cannot comment on this." He also emphasized that he was not being critical of anyone and that he "appreciated" The Times position on the legislation, which he termed the "student disruption" bill.

### Negro Girl Found

## Boys Still Missing

An 18-year-old Negro girl, reported missing last Wednesday, was found visiting a school mate in Charlotte over the weekend, according to reports. Mary Patsy Richardson, a deaf mute, of Rt. 2, Louisburg, was reportedly supposed to have boarded a bus in Raleigh last Wednesday afternoon for a trip home.

Meanwhile, the whereabouts of two Franklinton High School boys remain a mystery although Sheriff Williams T.

Dement reports his department is continuing its search for the boys.

Wesley Earl Smith, 17, and Charles Wayne Piper, 14, have been missing since they were last seen at a ball game at Franklinton two weeks ago tonight. A reliable report says that Smith's father, Ben Smith of Rt. 1, Kittrell is at Wrightsville Beach searching for the youths. It was not learned if Smith was working on any type of lead.

## One Killed, Several Injured In Weekend Accidents

Speed "in excess of 100 miles per hour" was given as the cause of Franklin County's fifth fatality of the year Saturday. State Trooper C. Glenn Todd said a 1967 Chevrolet Camaro driven by Thaddeus Earl Clements, II, c/m/20, skidded 500 feet and overturned "at least twice" on N. C. 64, 1.3 miles east of Pilot. Clements was killed instantly, according to reports.

Trooper Todd placed the time of the accident at 3 P.M. Saturday.

Six persons were injured, four seriously, in a head-on crash of two cars on rain-slick NC-56, four miles west of Louisburg Sunday afternoon around 2:30. The accident, investigated by Troopers James Byrd and E. S. Monday, took place when a late model car,

driven by Offie Joyner, w/m/18, 121st Street, Franklinton, went out of control and spun around in the road striking a car driven by C. R. Parrish, w/m/45, 907 Alice Drive, Thomasville, N. C.

The two drivers and four passengers in the Parrish car were taken to Franklinton Memorial Hospital by two Franklinton and three Louisburg Rescue Service ambulances. Preliminary reports following the accident listed Joyner as suffering from knee, leg, hand and back injuries. Parrish suffered broken ribs, his wife, Mrs. Pauline Parrish, 45, suffered a broken arm, broken leg, a broken wrist and severe head injuries. Both the Parrishes were

transferred to Wake Memorial Hospital in Raleigh.

Mrs. Beatrice Hicks, 54, a passenger in the Parrish car, received a crushed pelvis and hip and head injuries and her daughter, Jane Hicks, 20, received a broken leg, a crushed shoulder and head injuries.

Mrs. Hicks and her daughter were transferred to Duke Hospital in Durham. Steve Randall Parrish, age 6½, received minor head injuries and was treated and released to a relative here.

The Thomasville group had been visiting Mr. Parrish's family in Centerville prior to the accident.

A single car crash just inside the Franklin County line on US-401

twelve miles south of Louisburg Sunday afternoon shortly before 5 P.M. sent a Negro man, identified as James Williams, to the local hospital for treatment. The Louisburg Rescue Service transported the victim, who was not believed to be seriously injured. The late model Mustang ran off the highway and struck a tree. The car was heavily damaged.

A three-car crash just across the Franklin line in Vance County on US-1 Sunday afternoon killed a State College student and injured twelve other persons. Franklin Troopers report a host of minor accidents over the rain plagued weekend.



NC-56 ACCIDENT PUTS FIVE IN HOSPITAL



Staff photos by Clint Fuller.