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Annexation Views Aired In House Hearing Today

A large delegation of Franklin citizens attended a public hearing in the state legislative building this morning on the controversial Louisburg annexation request. The hearing before a House Calendar Sub-Committee chaired by Rep. Perry Martin, D-Northampton, lasted a little over half an hour. No decision by the Committee was announced.

Speaking for proponents of the bill in general and the Louisburg Town Council and Mayor particularly was W. M. Jolly, town attorney. S. Kenneth Schubart and David Daniel also spoke in favor of the bill which was introduced in the Senate by Senator E. F.

Griffin and which has already passed the upper chamber.

Herman Spencer was chief spokesman in opposition to the passage of the bill. Mrs. Wilson Clay and Harris Spencer also spoke in opposition.

Franklin Town Attorney Bill Pearce and Mrs. Richard Whitfield also spoke in favor of the measure. Pearce said he represented the entire Franklinton Board and Rep. John Church introduced a letter from Franklinton Mayor Joe Pearce favoring the measure.

Jolly told the Committee he could not understand why anyone would oppose the bill and related town services which would become available to any section annexed. "They would save more than the \$80 per year tax", he said. His assumption was, he said, based on the 80 cent rate in Louisburg on a \$10,000 tax valued property.

"Louisburg's Board ought to be able to enjoy the same privileges enjoyed by Boards in 93 other counties," Jolly added.

Mrs. Whitfield said she felt that Franklinton's growth of what she described as only about 600 since the turn of the century is "pitiful" and added she felt if the bill was passed, "the Franklinton Town Board will act with wisdom".

Schubart commented on the growth of the county in industrial development over the past few years and said he favored the bill. He also told the Committee that his "entire Commission" favors the measure. "It is a very important factor in locating industry", he said, commenting on the growth of the towns in the county.

Pointing out that some of his "finest friends" were present in opposition, David Daniel said he felt passage of the bill is necessary "for Louisburg and Franklin County to

experience the kind of growth and progress it deserves."

"Some of our best and finest people live outside the city", Daniel said. "How much could they bring to make the town a better place in which to live?", he asked and added, "I'm afraid this is nothing more than a dollar and cents issue."

Speaking against the bill, Herman Spencer told of building his home on Jeffreys Drive and the expense of improving the property and said there are 23 wells in his neighborhood, "some of which cost as much as \$2,000". He pointed out his understanding of certain town charges and listed them as \$90 for water connections; \$25 and \$40 for sewer connections.

"If this bill passes—and I hope it will not—", he said, "I hope there will be an amendment to prevent the citizens from having to pay this additional expense". He said that Senator Griffin did not tell "a close friend in our neighborhood" anything about his plans to introduce this bill. "Seems like a sneak on the park of somebody

somewhere", Spencer said. "The majority in my neighborhood do not want it."

Mrs. Clay said "this hearing should have been held in Louisburg. The Town Council could have informed us". She spoke of the privilege of voting on the annexation question and said, "Louisburg can grow now without this bill". She also questioned the number of counties excluded from the bill and Chairman Martin named them from the law and they totaled seven as had been reported by this newspaper.

Harris Spencer said he was not for or against the bill when he took the rostrum, but said he did not agree with a Franklin Times editorial which said "If it's good for 93 counties, it should be good for Franklin County."

Rep. James D. Speed, D-Franklin, was an interested spectator at the hearings and passed out a prepared statement which he read to the Committee. In comments before reading his prepared statement, Speed indicated his opposition to the bill when he explained that there had been so much opposition, he had "been reluctant to act" on the requests to have the bill introduced. In obvious reference to the present law controlling annexation for the seven counties excluded from the bill in question, Speed said that a vote would be "the democratic way of doing things."

Speed also told the Committee, "Opponents are 50 to one against See HEARING Page 4

Gay Products Expansion Announced

The Franklin County Industrial Development Commission announced Wednesday that Gay Products, Inc. of Louisburg will build a 66,000 square foot addition to its present facility in Louisburg.

Clarkton Steel Company received the bid on the building, which will be used as additional warehouse storage space at present and hopefully, another production line in the future.

The building will cost approximately \$150,000 and will measure 220 x 300 feet.

Mr. Roy Workman, company president, states that this addition will extend the production season. He further said that had it not been for favorable local conditions and much work and planning by leaders of the community and the Industrial Development Commission, this expansion might never have taken place.

Special tribute was paid to Manager Ed Pittman and his local staff for making this growth possible.

Sheriff Gets Still

A 1600-gallon capacity still, located 3 miles north of Franklinton, was destroyed Tuesday morning by Sheriff's officers, according to reports. No arrests were made and the still was not in operation at the time of the raid.

Sheriff William T. Dement said he and Chief Deputy David Batten discovered the illegal operation. He reported the destruction of 1500 gallons of mash and the confiscation of a gas operated pump, several tubs and other related material at the site.

Suicide Ruled In Death Of 18-Year-Old

Sheriff William T. Dement reported Wednesday that suicide has been ruled in the death of Marvin Dale Murray, 18-year-old Spring Hope, Route 1, carpenter. Murray reportedly shot himself in the stomach with a .12 gauge shotgun around 1 A.M. Sunday at the home of his step-grandfather, Robert Morgan on Route 2, Zebulon in the Pilot Community.

Dement said that Coroner James Edwards made the official ruling Tuesday.

Funeral services were held for the youth Monday at 2:30 P.M. from the Hunt-Murray Funeral Home in Spring Hope conducted by Rev. C. E. Knowles and Rev. Reuben Moseley. Burial followed in Spring Hope Memorial Gardens.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin B. Murray of Spring Hope; two sisters, Linda Gayle and Janet Sue, both of the home.

First?

H. Darnell Tant of the Pine Ridge section of the county reported Wednesday that he barned what is believed to be the first tobacco of the season Tuesday. According to reports, Tant, a tobacco grader and fertilizer dealer, barned 364 sticks from 2.2 acres. The barning came 62 days following the setting of the plant, the report said.



New Airport, Half Franklin

Scene above shows new Wake Forest Airport which is situated halfway into Franklin County. The facility, owned by Frank Swett, Jr. of Wake Forest, while privately owned is for public use, according to reports. The new field was opened Sunday and will feature flight instruction, charter flights and other services. The runway, which is half in Wake County and half in Franklin, is 2200 feet in length. The airport is located one mile south of Youngsville.

Photo by Ross Shuping, Courtesy of Wake Forest Airport.

Franklinton Mayor Jailed For Contempt

Franklinton Mayor Joseph W. Pearce spent several hours in county jail Tuesday after being arrested on charges of contempt of court. Pearce, according to charges by Clerk of Court Ralph S. Knott, had failed to file an annual report as guardian of Pearce's 11-year-old daughter. Sheriff William T. Dement arrested Pearce Tuesday afternoon around 4 P.M. at Franklinton.

The Franklinton Mayor was released around 11 P.M. Tuesday night on an order signed by Superior Court Judge William Y. Bickett of Raleigh. Bond was set at \$1,000 and was posted.

According to reports, the law requires that a guardian file with the Clerk of Court, a written report annually. Knott appointed Pearce guardian of the estate of Jo Dorcas Pearce on January 4, 1968 following the death of the child's mother, who at the time of her death was divorced

from Pearce. The report, according to Knott, was due on January 4, 1969.

The charges against Pearce state that he was served with "an Order to file the account by Deputy Sheriff John Deal on May 20, 1969 and to show cause within twenty days as to why he should not be attached for contempt of Court and removed from office as Guardian."

The charges also state that Pearce appeared before the Clerk on June 18, failed to file the report but asked to be given until June 20 to do so. When Pearce again failed to file the report on June 20, Knott issued the contempt order.

The Times has learned that papers will be filed today by the Clerk removing Pearce from the position of Guardian of his daughter's estate.

A hearing on the contempt charges has been set for July 14 before Superior Court Judge C. W. Hall in Oxford.

Hart Is Youngsville Lions Prexy

Youngsville - Lion Earl Hart was installed as President of the Youngsville Lions Club at a meeting held at the community house Monday night, June twenty-third. A long time member of the club, Lion Hart has previously served as club secretary and in various other capacities. Interested in civic affairs, Mr. Hart has recently been active in the Booster Club where he has been serving as secretary, and has given active support to athletic events associated with the school.

Lion Arthur E. Hall conducted the Installation Service. At present Talltwister in the local club, Lion Hall has served as club president and other offices of leadership. In District 31-G,

he was Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer and has held other offices of responsibility; with an active interest in Lionism on all levels.

Officers installed with Lion Hart were First Vice President Richard Timberlake, Second Vice President E. J. Pearce, Third Vice President W. Tommy Moss, Talltwister A. E. Hall, Lion Tamer L. Jervais Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer James T. Allen. Directors are Davis Hill, J. K. Tharrington, J. W. Weather, Jr., R. E. Cheatham and C. R. Edwards.

Outgoing President Claude Edwards spoke to the club expressing appreciation for cooperation of members during his term of office.

Welfare Department

Now It's Department Of Social Service

A rose by any other name will most likely still be subject to the punsters and critics but the Department of Public Welfare, here and elsewhere in the state, will become the Department of Social Services on July 1.

Other than the name change, which will appear on the building, stationary and other articles of identification, things are expected to remain very much as in the past. Medicare, a new federally co-sponsored program is being added here as elsewhere but this has nothing to do with the change in the name.

"The image of an agency or a group can be formed from what a person sees, hears, or reads," says Mrs. Jane York, Director of the Franklin County agency. "Public Welfare has long been associated with its public assistance program only, or generally known to many persons as the place to get your pension or dole," she continues.

She says, too often the agency is viewed as "A place that breeds dependency which in turn makes everyone's taxes increase and depletes the labor market." Mrs. York explains that any program as large as public welfare will continue to receive criticism and will

be abused to some extent. "However", she adds, "If each person in Franklin County could work one month in the agency, they would be amazed at the many services available to all socio-economic groups." "Public assistance", she says, "is only one key in the wheel".

The name change is the fourth since its beginning in 1868 when it was called the Board of Public Charities. Its duties, at that time were limited to charitable and penal institutions and reporting annually to the Governor.

In 1917 and 1919, the General Assembly rewrote the welfare laws and established the state supervised and county administered public welfare program. The name was changed to the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

In 1937, in conformity with the requirements of the Social Security Act, North Carolina adopted legislation making the State eligible for Federal financial participation in public welfare programs. Again the name was changed, this time to the State Board of Public Welfare. This has been the name of the agency until legislative action this month made the latest

Youth Bound Over In Knifing Incident

A 15-year-old Negro boy waived hearing before District Judge Julius Banzet last Friday and was bound over to Superior Court on charges of felonious assault against a 15-year-old white youth on the final day of school.

Michael Evans of Route 1, Castalia, was freed under a \$2500 bond. The charges stemmed from the alleged knifing by Evans of Warren Boone at Edward Best High School on June 3, the final day of classes of this school year. Fifty-eight stitches were required to close the wounds on Boone's back and arm. The two youths, according to Sheriff William T. Dement reporting at the time, became engaged in an argument on the ball field and a short time later, Evans reportedly slashed the Boone boy across the back and arm with a pocket knife.

One In By 9 P.M.

Boys Lose Pool Room Privileges

Two teenage boys had their pool room privileges removed by Judge Julius Banzet in District Court here Monday, a third was ordered to be home each night at 9 P.M. unless he held a written permit signed by his parents and a fourth youth drew a 90-day jail sentence.

Three of the boys faced charges of damage to property after a bottle-throwing spree in which they allegedly broke windows in Duke Memorial Church in the Justice Community. The fourth boy was charged with breaking and entering a cabin on a lake in Franklinton.

Judge Banzet ordered Robert Allen Blake, w/m/17, to two years of probation, not to go in any pool room in North Carolina for 2 years and to report to the probation officer at such times as required by the officer. Danny Marcus Smith, w/m/19, received prayer for judgment for two years and was ordered not to violate any criminal laws of North Carolina for two years and to pay into the Clerk's

office the sum of \$36.63 for damage to property. He was also ordered not to go in to any pool room in North Carolina for two years, day or night. Both youths were charged in the bottle-throwing incidents.

A third youth also charged with bottle-throwing and damage to property, William Herman Murray, w/m/18, received a 90-day jail sentence. He appealed and bond was set at \$200.

Joseph Earl May, w/m/17, charged with breaking and entering cabins on the Ronda Gupton lake at Franklinton received prayer for judgment for two years, is not to violate any criminal laws of North Carolina for two years, is to pay \$15.00 for partial damages and is not to be away from home after 9 P.M. at night without written permission of his parents. Two juveniles were also charged in the breaking and entering cases but were turned over to juvenile authorities earlier.

See More District Court Page 5.



Brown Honored On Retirement

Archie Brown, Chairman of the Franklin County Welfare Board, is pictured, right, being presented a plaque by Mrs. Jape York, Director of Welfare upon his retirement from the Board here Wednesday. Others shown, left to right are: Laverne Gupton, Miss Lucy Burt, Clyde Walden and County Commissioner John House, all members of the Board. Brown was named to the Board in 1963 and made Chairman in 1964 has served six years. Under present law, he cannot serve longer. Mrs. York was high in her praise of Brown's services, saying, "He's been just marvelous".

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

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