

The Franklin Times

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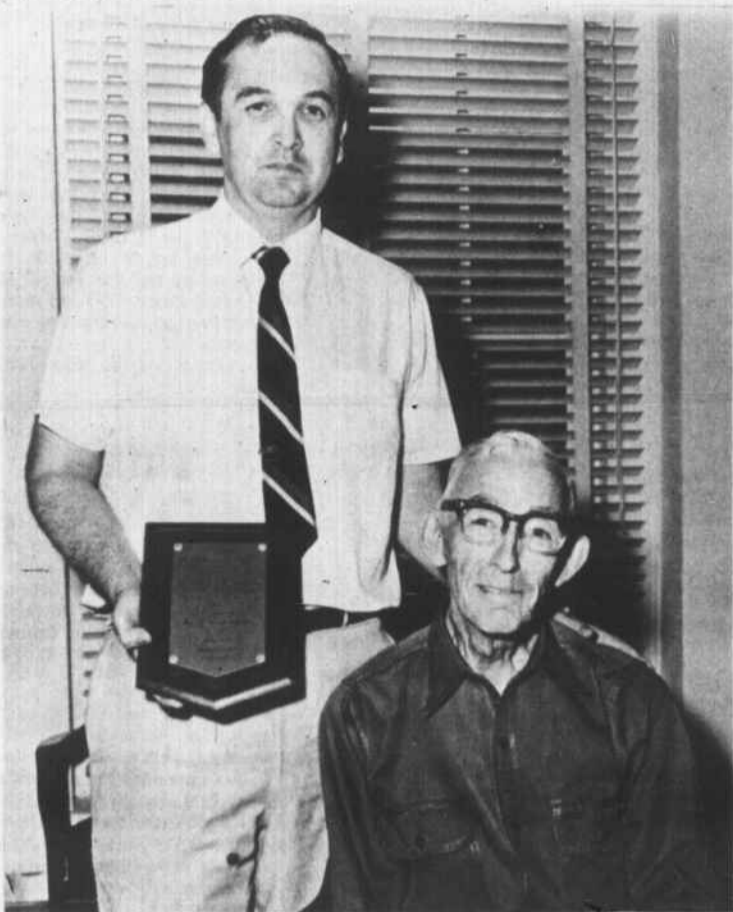
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Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, July 29, 1969

(Six Pages Today)

100th Year-Number 47



After 27 Years Sam Pernel Retires

Clerk of Court Ralph S. Knott is shown above, left, displaying the plaque presented to Sam T. Pernel, seated, upon Pernel's retirement as custodian of the county courthouse here last Friday. Courthouse personnel gave Pernel a surprise retirement party in the Commissioners' Room and Knott made the plaque presentation. Pernel has served in the capacity of custodian for the past 27 years and courthouse personnel often referred to their offices as the cleanest in the state. It was common knowledge that Pernel, despite his age, often worked 12 to 14 hours a day keeping the county facility almost spotless. The Board of Commissioners met in special session here Monday to hire Louisburg Street Superintendent Roy Holmes as replacement in the \$4,435 position.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

That Time Again School Openings Announced

Franklin County Schools will open September 2 this year and Franklinton City Schools will open on August 28, according to announcements this week.

County schools will actually begin the fall term when teachers report for work on Wednesday, August 27. Students will attend Teacher-Pupil Orientation for half a day on Thursday, August 28. The first full day of study will be Tuesday, September 2 in the county system.

Franklinton students will attend from 8:30 A.M. until noon on August 27, with the first full day following on Thursday, August 28. Franklinton will observe Labor Day and resume classes on Tuesday, September 2. Teachers report for work at Franklinton on August 25, according to the announcement.

The county system lists the following holidays: Labor Day, Friday, August 29 and Monday, September 1; Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28; Christmas, Monday, December 22 through Monday, December 29 (six school days); New

Year's Day; and Easter, Wednesday, March 25 through Monday, March 30, 1970. County schools are scheduled to close on Friday, May 29, 1970.

Franklinton City system holidays were not announced. Franklin County schools are under a federal court order with a hearing in the case expected soon. Court rulings resulted in a delay in opening last fall and it is possible a similar situation could arise this year although school officials discount the possibility of any delay in the fall start.

Account Under Consideration

Clerk of Court Ralph S. Knott reports that Franklinton Mayor Joe W. Pearce met the Friday deadline set for filing an account as guardian of Pearce's minor daughter. Knott said the court has the account, as filed, under consideration. It has not as yet been accepted, he explained.

Pearce was jailed on June 24, charged in an order filed by Knott, for contempt of court for failing to file an acceptable account of his daughter's estate. He was freed several hours later on a writ of habeas corpus, signed by Superior Court Judge William Y. Bickett of Raleigh.

In a hearing before Judge Clarence Hall in Oxford on July 14, Pearce was returned to jail. Two days later, Pearce was released by Knott in order to give Pearce time to prepare an accounting of his daughter's estate. The order set Friday as the deadline.

Pearce filed an account and a personal check for \$5,613.97 with the Clerk's office prior to the deadline.

Weather Rainy

G. O. Kennedy, Louisburg weatherman, reported today that the area has received 3.18 inches of rainfall in the past six days. He says from July 2 through July 21, an additional .71 inches fell.

The precipitation has come mostly from late afternoon and evening thunder showers and while heavy, falls short of the eight-day period in June when 6.59 inches fell.

Kennedy says the Tar River is up two feet today and that heavy rain activity in the Oxford area yesterday is expected to cause more rise within the next few days.

On May 23, 1968, workmen began moving office furniture and fixtures out of the county courthouse preparatory to the massive renovation and enlargement of the ancient structure. Among the items out and not moved back in when the job was completed were 15 window air conditioners.

Asked recently what ever became of these air conditioning units, a high county official replied: "The chickens got them."

This may be as good an answer as the taxpayer is going to get. Locating all these taxpayer-owned air conditioners is comparable to padding down Tar River with a fly swatter. There is a lot of treading water and very little forward motion.

Louisburg Fire Department Engineer Gray Moon and Veteran Service Officer George Champion, who were in charge of removing the units, both agree that they placed 12 units in storage in the old Griffin Motor Co. building near the Louisburg Fire Station when the courthouse was being emptied last year.

Clerk of Court Ralph Knott, who says he finally got around to buying an air conditioning unit last week from a local dealer, figures there were 15 units removed from the courthouse. He says he believes there were six in the old courtroom upstairs, two each in his office and the office of the Register of Deeds and one each in the following: Sheriff's office, Veteran Service office, Accountant's office, the law library and the Commissioner's room. This adds to 15.

On July 10 this year the County of Franklin advertised for sale three used window air conditioners. They could be seen, the ad said, in the old Griffin Motor Co. building along with some other items to be sold. The sale was set for July 11 at noon.

This sale was postponed when no county official showed up to point out what in the old building actually belonged to the county and what was to be sold. The postponement came on actions by County Attorney W. H. Taylor, according to reports.

Six days later, shortly before sale time, the postponed sale was canceled.

Courthouse Air Conditioners

Did The Chickens Really Get Them?

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Taylor and County Commissioner Norwood Faulkner were present at the time, according to reports. A reliable source says that the cancelation was brought about because the sale had not been properly advertised. No additional date has been set for the sale.

This weekend, apparently the "chickens" got back into the act and informed sources report that now there is only one used air conditioner remaining in the old Griffin building.

A limited investigation by this reporter reveals that the Family Counseling and Education Center purchased four of the units at a price of \$300 in a private sale. Two more units are located in the upstairs meeting hall of the Louisburg Rescue Service and a seventh is installed in the office of the county ambulance service, located in the old Griffin building.

Kenneth Braswell, County Accountant and Secretary to the Board of County Commissioners, verified that he had received \$300 for the four units. He says other than that, he has no record of what happened to the others.

Talmadge Edwards, Counseling Director, said his agency purchased two GE units last year and paid \$100 each for them. He says the agency bought two Philco units from the Sheriff's office and Clerk's office about "three to four months ago" and paid \$50 a piece for them. The GE units, he said are 11,000 BTU capacity and he believes the Philcos are between 8,000 and 11,000 BTU's. He said he talked with Richard Cash, former chairman of the Board and present Commissioner E. M. Sykes and that they had the deal approved by the Board.

David Minnich, Chief of the Louisburg Rescue Service, reports that "they" let us have two units. He said "they" have the serial numbers and that the units still belong to the county. Bryant Best, operator of the ambulance service, says he just asked Moon to "stick one in here" when

they were being removed.

The Counseling Agency, the Rescue Service and the Ambulance service are all county associated agencies and it is within the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners to move such items as air conditioners from one place to another as apparently was done in these cases. The law also allows private sale as was apparently done in the case of the Counseling Agency deal.

Rumors have run wild as a number of locals attempt to identify the "chickens" who have evidently walked off with the remaining five or eight depending on whose count you like.

Sheriff William Dement and Clerk of Court Ralph Knott have both emphatically denied that either have had anything at all to do with the conditioners. Knott says he installed a unit last week purchased from a local dealer at his home. Both men say they do

not know what happened to the missing units.

Meanwhile the whereabouts of the units—however many there are—remains a mystery. Nobody seems to have been responsible for these and perhaps some other items of value taken from the courthouse and never returned. There may be some consolation in the knowledge that there is only one more unit left and then the "chickens" can take a rest.

"County Government in North Carolina," published by the Institute of Government says of surplus county property: "Such property may be sold at public auction, on sealed bids, or at private sale, or it may be traded."

But then, it also says: "Good business practices ought to suggest which of these approaches should be employed in particular cases."

While sweltering here in the July sun, taxpayers might wish to look around for a cool "chicken". He might be getting that way at their expense.

Three Members Of White Level Family Die In Plane Crash

Tragedy struck the White Level Community family of Mrs. Henry Jack House Sunday afternoon when a plane crash in Pennsylvania killed her son, a son-in-law, and a grandson. The three men had been on a visit to the home of Mrs. House prior to taking off from the Rocky Mount Airport, headed north.

Killed in the crash of the twin-engine Beechcraft, seven-passenger privately owned plane were: the pilot, Bert Brooks, 47, formerly of Rocky Mount and husband of Gladys House, formerly of the White Level Community; Thurman House, 40, brother to Brooks' wife and formerly of White Level and his son, Tommy, 18, who had recently won a four-year scholarship to New York University where he planned to enter this fall.

The Houses lived in Jamestown, N. Y., and the Brooks resided in Willowsby, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. According to reports Brooks was returning the Houses back to Jamestown at the time of the crash. The plane reportedly took off from Rocky Mount at 4:05 P.M. Sunday afternoon. The crash occurred about two hours later in an open field at Jersey Shores, Pa., near Williamsport. Authorities said their investigation of the crash would be completed Monday night around 10 P.M. No report has been received here

as to the cause of the accident. It was reported, however, that there was a severe storm in the area at the time of the crash.

It was also reported that Brooks and the House youth were thrown from the aircraft while the elder House was trapped inside. The plane caught fire and was destroyed. All three were believed killed instantly.

Funeral services and burial for the father and son will be conducted from the Lynd Funeral Home in Jamestown Thursday afternoon at 1:30 P.M. and funeral and burial for Brooks will take place at 2:30 P.M. Friday in Willowsby, Ohio.

In addition to his wife, Brooks is survived by a daughter, Wilma Jean, who lives with her serviceman husband in Korea and a son, Reginald, 28, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Thurman House is survived by his wife, Barbara, a son, Jeffrey, 4, both of Jamestown, N. Y.; his mother, Mrs. Katie Leonard House, Rt. 2, Louisburg; three brothers, Julius and Nelson, both of Rt. 2, Louisburg and Cleary of Raleigh; two sisters, Mrs. Ruby Gupton of Rocky Mount and Mrs. Bert Brooks of Cleveland, Ohio.

Tommy House is survived by his mother, one brother, Jeffrey and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Katie Leonard House, Rt. 2, Louisburg.

Border Belt Prices Hit \$70 Mark

North Carolina's eight Border Belt Tobacco markets succeeded Monday in opening with a full turnout of buyers and good prices.

Warehousemen and sales supervisors estimated the general average price at \$70 to \$71 per hundred pounds.

At Fairmont, the largest market in the belt, a total of 1,256,724 pounds was sold at an average of \$71.25 per hundred pounds. Last year's opening day average at Fairmont was \$68.45.

John H. Cyrus, tobacco marketing specialist for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, had predicted a record price of more than \$70 per hundred pounds would be reached.

On opening day last year the markets sold 4.6 million pounds of tobacco for a \$67.92 average.

Cyrus said this year's crop was of higher quality than it was on opening day last year.

North Carolina's border markets

had tried to stage their formal opening Wednesday, but several halted sales after about 30 minutes because of a scarcity of buyers.

A total of 1,260,000 pounds was sold at an average of \$66.79 per hundred pounds.

Border markets are at Fairmont, Chadbourne, Clarkton, Fair Bluff, Fayetteville, Lumberton, Tabor City and Whiteville.

Cyrus said at least 80 per cent of the crop in the border area has been harvested.

He said it generally is a medium to thin bodied crop.

"I look for the tobacco to run a little lower in nicotine because of the excessive rains which caused the crop to grow fast," Cyrus said.

"When it grows fast it always comes off the stalks fast," he said. "The longer it stays on the stalk, the more nicotine there is."

Negro Sets Fire To Home Injures Police Chief

A 25-year-old Louisburg Negro parolee was returned to Williamston, N. C. to complete his term over the weekend following a wild spree at his home here Friday afternoon.

According to reports, William Yarborough, angered over the fact his mother had failed to prepare his food, set fire to his home at the corner of South Main Street and River Road last Friday afternoon. When firemen arrived, Yarborough would not allow them to enter the house to fight the blaze. When officers arrived, Yarborough reportedly assaulted them. Chief Earl Tharrington is said to have received a cracked rib in the scuffle. Officer Larry Gilliam was uninjured and finally subdued the parolee and took him to jail.

Yarborough, according to court records, was sentenced here last April on a public drunkenness charge to "not less than two nor more than six months." In addition to the revocation of his

parole, the man now faces charges of arson and obstructing firemen in the performance of their duty.

Doused By Spray Starch

What might have been a disastrous fire was averted here early Monday morning by—of all things—canned spray starch. Louisburg Fire Chief R. G. Person, Jr., reports that an air conditioning motor caught fire at the local IGA Supermarket in Ford Village here and set fire to a nearby case of spray starch.

Person reports that the starch exploded and smothered the fire. The blaze was reported by a Louisburg policeman on routine patrol around 1:30 A.M. Damage was limited to the motor, the starch and a store filled with smoke.



Splashdown

The almost indistinguishable picture of the splashdown of Apollo 11, shown above, was taken from television locally. The picture was first taken from aboard the USS Hornet when it was some nine miles from the scene by use of a telephoto lens. The image was sent via satellite from the Pacific to the U. S. mainland and thence via television into millions of homes. The photo completes The Times record of the blastoff, the moon walk and the splashdown, with all pictures being taken from the television screen here.

Hawkins Held In Slaying

Percy Hawkins, auxiliary policeman of Franklinton, was bound over to Franklin Superior Court without privilege of bond Monday when he waived preliminary hearing in District Court on a murder charge.

Hawkins, 50, is charged in the shooting death of Maureen Davis Canady, 32, of Route 2, Franklinton, on July 15.

Hawkins, described by Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards as "a very good police officer," reportedly picked the Canady woman up in Franklinton and took her to the Sour Wood Mountain section of Franklin County. Her body was found five days later, hidden under bushes off a dirt path, by Linwood Davis, 47, and Sol Perry, 56, both of Franklinton.

Hawkins was arrested July 23 following an extensive investigation of the case.

Hawkins was not on the city payroll. He policed ball games and dances at night spots.

The bullet from a .38-caliber police special pistol hit the woman in the heart.