

The Franklin Times

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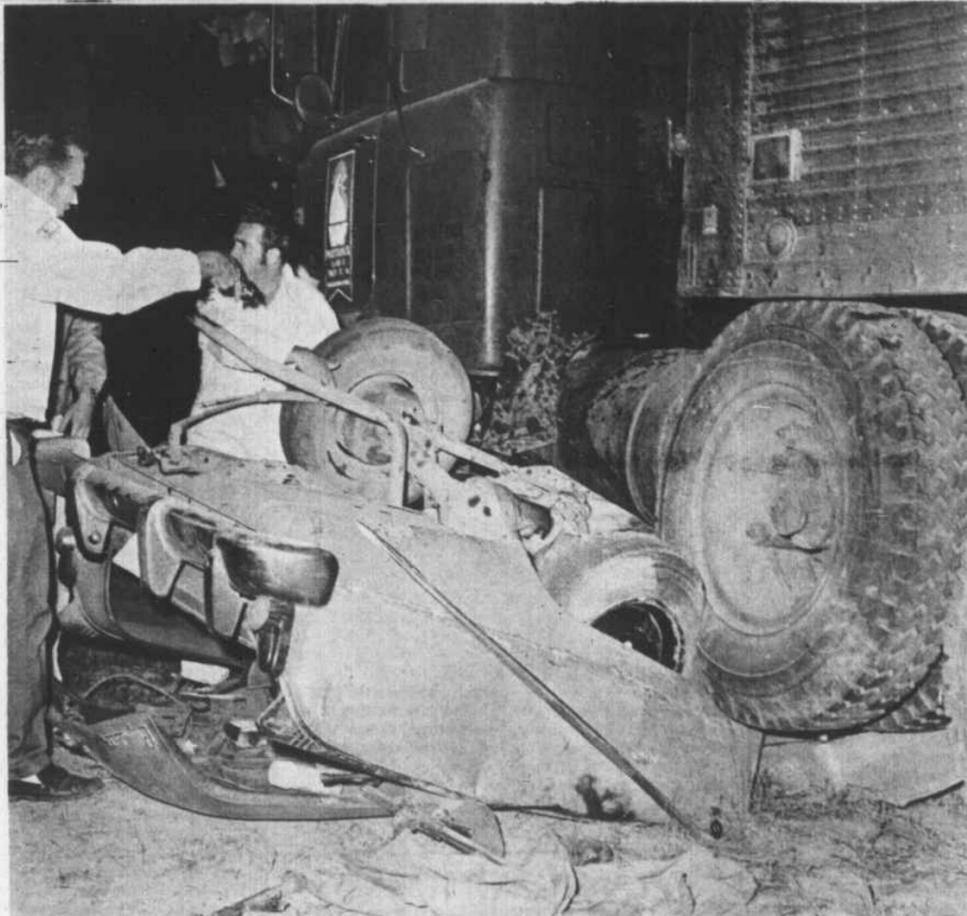
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Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, October 21, 1969

(Six Pages Today)

100th Year-Number 71



Three Persons Trapped Inside



Search For More Bodies

(See Picture Page 4)
Staff photos by Clint Fuller.

Three Die In Franklinton Accident

Three persons were crushed to death Saturday night when the car in which they were riding was struck by a tractor-trailer on US-1 at Franklinton. The three—all Negroes—were killed instantly around 8:15 P.M. as their car left a shopping center parking lot and entered the busy highway.

State Trooper James E. Byrd of

Another Jailed

Woman Barred From Louisburg

A 31-year-old Louisburg, Route 1, woman was found guilty of multiple charges in District Court here Monday and ordered barred from the city limits of Louisburg for five years.

Mary Helen Vaughn, w/1/31, was convicted of using profane language, careless and reckless driving, assault, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. Judge Linwood Peoples of Henderson ordered "prayer for judgment continued for five years on the condition the defendant stay out of the city limits of Louisburg for five years."

In another case, Judge Peoples ordered a local Negro woman jailed for three days. Juliet Harvie was jailed when she said that her husband, Charlie Harvie, had not struck her or pushed her around. She had signed a warrant charging her husband with assault but when she took the stand to testify she refuted her previous claims. Charges against the man were dismissed and the woman was ordered jailed for three days and to pay costs in both cases.

McBride New Legion Commander

Clay McBride, Program Director of WYRN Radio here, was elected Commander of Jambees Post 105, American Legion, here Friday night. Named to serve with McBride this year were: Roger Kornegay, Vice Commander, George Champion, Jr., Adjutant; E. P. Stainback of Bunn, Sgt. at Arms, and T. T. Young of Youngville, Chaplain.



CLAY MCBRIDE

The elections were held in the Legion's regular meeting here at a local restaurant.

Louisburg identified the dead as Junius Burwell, 76; Annie Mae Jones, 55 and Tommy Jones, a nephew of the woman, 10. All lived on Route 1, Franklinton.

Cleveland Griffin Whitley, c/m/40, Rt. 2, Wake Forest, driver of the Watson Poultry Co. truck was uninjured in the accident. He reported that the Burwell car came out of the parking lot headed straight across the highway toward an ice cream stand on the other side. Whitley said he had no chance to avoid the accident and that he did not know that the car was crushed beneath his rig until he brought it to a stop and got out. The weight of the cab and part of the trailer was directly on top of the Burwell car. Both the truck and the car were in a shallow ditch on the right side of the highway.

Hundreds of spectators flocked to the scene and traffic was rerouted through Franklinton on US-1-A for much of the time between the accident and the time when the bodies were removed some three hours later.

Wrecker crews were summoned from Henderson and with the aid of rescue squad members from Louisburg and Franklinton freed the bodies

shortly after 11 P.M. Franklinton firemen were on standby at the scene because of a gasoline leakage in the truck's gas tank and law officers were kept busy keeping spectators from smoking near the wreckage.

The three fatalities brought to ten the number of road deaths recorded thus far this year in the county. This is the largest number of road deaths since 1964 when 14 persons lost their lives on Franklin highways and matches the ten for the entire years of 1962 and 1963.

The toll is also among the third worst in Franklin's history exceeded only by two four-fatality crashes. One occurred on March 8, 1946 when four school children died in a bus accident and the other happened on April 12, 1952 when four Negroes were killed in a wreck at the intersection of US-401 and NC-98, eleven miles south of Louisburg.

There have been three other accidents in which three persons were killed. Two took place in 1957. On April 5 that year, a 16-year-old Louisburg youth, a local nurse and the driver of the car carrying several nurses home from work, were killed or died

later from injuries in an accident on NC-561. And on September 16, 1957, the county coroner and two Negroes were killed instantly in a head-on crash on NC-39 north of Louisburg.

On September 1, 1963, a Winston-Salem mother, her daughter and her mother were killed in a head-on crash

on NC-98 west of Bunn.

The worst wreck in the general area was a seven-fatality school bus accident near Middlesex on October 14, 1949. Six persons were killed just across the Franklin line in Warren County on April 1, 1956 when an entire family was wiped out and the

driver of the second car met death. Five persons were killed near Pilot in Wake County in a head-on accident on October 7, 1955.

The most highway deaths recorded in Franklin County in recent years occurred in 1958 when 15 deaths were recorded.

Commissioners Say

Fifty Percent Of Sales Tax Will Be Used To Reduce Rate

The Board of County Commissioners, meeting in special session here Monday, passed a motion calling for fifty percent of all funds received by the county from the local option sales tax to be used to reduce the ad valorem or property tax in the county.

Commissioner Norwood Faulkner made the motion and Commissioner E. M. Sykes seconded it with all members voting their approval. Also included in the motion was an agreement that "the other 50% (would) be used improving the following services: Hospital, Fire and Rescue Services, Schools, Law Enforcement, Industrial Growth, Agriculture, Health and Social Services".

Attending Monday's session by invitation of the Board were Asher Johnson, WYRN News Director; Clint Fuller, Managing Editor of The Franklin Times; John Ihrie, President, Franklin County Farm Bureau and David Daniel, Director of College Relations, Louisburg College.

Daniel told the group that a sales tax is the "most equitable" of all taxes

and noted that there are "always inequities in property taxation" because of the "human element—judgment decisions". He added that he supports the local option sales tax measure because it will "help us to keep the ball rolling" in local development.

Ihrie disclosed that the state Farm Bureau Directors had gone on record favoring the tax and said that the Franklin Directors are also behind it. "We have endorsed the County Commissioners' resolution and are heartily in favor of it and we are going to work for it", Ihrie said.

One estimate made at Monday's

meeting indicated that 50% of the county's first half—that portion collected and returned here—could result in a minimum of a 15 cent cut in property tax rate. When 50% of the county's second half—based on population—is applied the reduction in the county rate could be much greater. The application of the remaining fifty percent to other county needs could prevent an increase in the tax rate over the next several years and result in an even greater savings to local property owners, it was explained.

All 100 counties will vote on the local option tax on Tuesday, November 4, two weeks from today.

Mrs. Pernell Named To Group

Mrs. Betsy Pernell, Chairman of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee, was named last week by Governor Bob Scott, as a member of the Study Commission appointed to analyze the Democratic Party structure in the state.

Serving with the Franklin leader, the Governor said, "Will be former governors and former chairmen of the Party, lawyers, educators, and students, labor leaders and businessmen, young Democrats and old Democrats, black Democrats and white Democrats and business women and housewives". Wilson attorney James Hunt was named chairman of the 60-member group.

"In brief, those chosen come from all walks of life and represent a number of political philosophies. This is how it should be, for the proposed Study Commission's work surely will be doomed if all the people are not represented in such an important undertaking."

Scott pointed out the group was large because he wanted to insure a broad base of representation at each of four regional hearings which will be held across the state by the Commission.

Then he turned to the Party's current Plan of Organization and made some observations:

"I am for change," he said, "but

not just for the sake of change. Someone noted recently that there has been only one major change in our Plan of Organization in the past 50 years. I, for one, look on that as an indication that our current Party plan can't be all wrong."

The Governor went on to say this did not mean that a thorough study

See GROUP Page 4

Cafe Owner Shoots Customer

Jack Leonard, n/m/55, operator of a local pool room and restaurant on Bull Run Alley near the Louisburg Police Station, shot a customer allegedly giving him trouble here Monday night.

Leonard hit John King, n/m/45, in both legs with a .45 caliber pistol around 7:30 P.M. Monday night. King, of Rt. 3, Louisburg, was taken to Franklin Memorial Hospital by the Louisburg Rescue Service. Police Chief Earl Tharrington indicated that he would probably charge Leonard with assault in the case.

Jones Gets 15 Years

Franklinton Pair Gets Suspended Sentences In Kidnapping

A Franklinton Negro couple received sentences of nine months in jail suspended for two years in superior court here last week as an outgrowth of charges of kidnapping lodged against them in April, 1968. Queen Esther Perry, 36, and Eddie Parker, Jr., 20, were placed on probation by Judge Clarence W. Hall and ordered to pay court costs and \$175.00 for attorney fees in the case.

The twosome were arrested on April 9, 1968 after they allegedly stopped a Franklinton school bus and prevented the school children from continuing to school. The pair reportedly said the children had no business going to school on that day which was the day of the funeral for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The charges, lodged by the State Bureau of Investigation said the offense was kidnapping by detaining and seizure.

Buddy Jones, n/m/18, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and received a term of imprisonment as a youthful offender for a maximum of 15 years. He was accused of murdering Sylvester Jeffreys at a Negro night spot on the night of February 16, 1969.

Five Bunn area Negro youths were given from 2 to 3 years suspended sentences on charges of breaking and entering and larceny. They were Latry

George Davis, 17; Henry Davis, 17; Clyde Neal, 17; Michael Davis, 16 and Anthony (Tony) High, 17. They were ordered to pay \$19.40 for restitution, attorneys fees and costs of court.

Other cases disposed of before

See CASES Page 4

Escapee Captured, Bound Over On More Charges

Larry Keith Sommersett, 27, who escaped last Thursday morning from the local jail after overpowering jailer W. L. Faulkner, was recaptured around 1 P.M. Thursday by Deputy Sheriff Lloyd Gupton. In District Court here Monday, Sommersett was bound over to Superior Court facing a host of new charges.

The Charlotte man, sentenced to 40 to 50 years in a 1966 armed robbery of Thompson's Hardware and Feed Store at Franklinton, now faces charges of armed robbery, assault, theft and escape. He had been returned to Franklin County from Central Prison for a post conviction hearing slated for Superior Court held here last week.