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Local Shriners Give To Crippled Children Hospital

Officials of the Franklin County Shrine are shown above with state Shrine officials here Monday night as the locals made their annual gift to the Shrine's Crippled Children's Hospital. Pictured left to right are: Potentate Ed R. Higgins of Durham; N. C. Mullen, Treasurer of the local group; W. B. Joyner, Franklin Shrine President; Jack Cannady of Henderson, Potentate Aide; J. Ed Glover of Raleigh, Chairman, Crippled Children's Fund and Dick Moore of Raleigh, Co-Chairman of the Fund. The local organization contributed \$4400 to the Fund with most of the proceeds coming from its annual fish fry.

Photo by Ross Shuping.

County Attorney Explains Sales Tax Issue To Lions Club

County Attorney W. H. (Jack) Taylor spoke to the Louisburg Lions Club here Tuesday night on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and endorsed the upcoming local and he pointed out that the counties have no way of raising the mopey except through the group his views on the need for additional revenue by the county.

Taylor explained that no new registration is required for the November 4 vote and added that another election on the question could not be held for less than a year.

"Too often", Taylor said, "Locals pass responsibility to other agencies. Legislators from Bumcombe and Mecklenberg, for example, vote on salaries paid in Franklin County. Home rule was passed to encourage local governments to assume this responsibility and to improve the legislature."

The Attorney told of the recent 32 percent increase in the budget of the Department of Social Services brought on by laws passed in the recent General Assembly and he pointed out that the counties have no way of raising the money except through property taxes. He also praised the work of the Department saying, "There are a lot of happy homes in this county because of the fine work these people do."

He told of a 33 percent decrease in revenue received by the county from

beer and wine sales. "Industrial demands have been terrific", he explained and told of water line costs for new plants. "I think the Commissioners have gone overboard in helping industry."

Taylor explained the present county tax structure including the appraisal of property every eight years. He said the tax rate is based on 100 percent appraisal reduced to 80 percent and has a ratio of fifty percent in both the county and the towns. He revealed that Franklin has \$37,000,000 in appraised real property; \$15,000,000 in personal property and \$2,000,000 in excess as determined by the state.

"It is estimated that if all 100 counties approve the sales tax, Franklin County will receive \$257,000", Taylor said. He explained that the sales tax funds would be split with one-half returning to the county where collected and the other half being placed in a pool to be divided among the participating counties on a per capita basis.

Resolutions, passed by the Board of Commissioners, were read to the group. In both the tax issue was endorsed. In the resolution passed Monday, the Commissioners said half of the revenue received by the county will be applied against the ad valorem tax with the other half going for such necessary improvements as schools, fire and rescue services, hospital, law

enforcement and others.

"We have arrived at a point in our county... where people can assert our right to govern ourselves with dignity and intelligence and do it on a local level", Taylor concluded and urged a favorable vote on November 4.

Taylor was introduced by Edward F. Yarborough, Lions Program Chairman. President H. D. Jeffreys presided and Times Editor Clint Fuller was a special guest.

Market Sales Reach \$7.5 Million

The Louisburg tobacco market has sold 7,504,960 pounds of tobacco through sales last week, according to a report by William Boone, Sales Supervisor.

The sales have brought \$5,379,849.00 into the county's economy and sales have averaged \$71.68 per hundred for the season through last Thursday, according to Boone.

Sales here Monday totaled 254,814 pounds for \$180,659.31. Averages varied with the three warehouse. The highest reported was \$71.41 and the lowest was \$69.37 with the third house hitting an average of \$71.16.

Prices declined on North Carolina's Old and Middle belt flue-cured tobacco markets Wednesday but showed some improvement on the Eastern Belt.

The Federal-State Market News Service reported that prices continued to decline on the Old Belt markets as most grade averages were unchanged

District Court Docket

The following cases were disposed of in District Court Monday, October 20th:

You Gain An Hour Sunday

The hour's sleep lost the last Sunday in April this year will be regained this Sunday—or rather Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time will end at 2 A.M. Sunday, October 26.

The idea is to set the old clock back one hour before going to bed Saturday night. Then upon arising Sunday morning you'll be in time with the rest of the world.

Only Arizona, Hawaii and Michigan will not have to bother. Their legislatures exempted them from the program following the passage of a nationwide savings time act by the Congress. North Carolina legislators declined to exempt Tarheelers in 1967 and again in 1969.

At any rate, it's been a long time to wait to collect that lost hour. And even without any interest on the time, an extra hour's shut-eye will come in mighty handy come Saturday night.

Sales Tax Chances Improve

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

How much chance does the Local Option Sales Tax have of passing in Franklin County?

A few weeks ago, one could have borrowed from Dizzy Dean's famous statement: Two chances, slim and none. But what about today?

With the apparent sincere endorsement of the issue by the County Commissioners, followed closely by an explanation of what the Board plans to do with the money, chances for passage have improved greatly. This is not to say, however, that if the vote were held today that Franklin would be among the counties going for the new tax.

Until a few weeks ago, little was heard about the sales tax referendum locally. Then the Board of Commissioners adopted a canned resolution endorsing the tax. Some observers shook their heads and uttered an unenthusiastic so-what. The resolution was probably sent in for the locals to fill in the blanks, sign and publicize. It was a tool of the League of Municipalities and the Association of County Commissioners.

Some local politicians felt that it had about the same impact as the Commissioners' endorsement of the courthouse bond issue last year. This endorsement came about as easy as a dentist pulling a wisdom tooth. And once obtained, the Board—as far as could be determined at the time—just forgot the whole thing.

However, this week, the Commissioners took a step designed to assure the people that their endorsement was real. They agreed on the use of at least half the money that might be coming to the county from the sales tax.

One-half will be used to hold the line—or even reduce—the overburdensome ad valorem or property tax in the county. The other half will be used for a host of things, all listed by the

Board.

The action on the first half will be attractive to property owners who have felt for some time that they were carrying too much of the local load. With this assurance from the Board, a number of heavy taxpayers will undoubtedly take a favorable stand on the sales tax. They will influence others and thereby enhance the chances of its passage.

In some counties, Boards have promised to use all or a major part of the funds to improve schools. Not so, here. Schools come in the second list which includes just about everything except pay raises for county employees—which could have gained a few votes—and renovations to the Old Griffin Motor Co. building.

Schools represent more potential voters than any other agency in the county. A clear cut plan for schools to benefit from the sales tax could have almost insured a favorable vote. However, schools are listed below the hospital and fire and rescue services—both popular agencies among county voters.

Even though the package does not necessarily appeal to parents and teachers as a group, other aspects may attract some of these same people to the polls to mark "Yes" on November 4.

Conspicuously absent at this late hour is any endorsement of the sales tax by the municipal boards in the county. All would benefit from the passage by the county. All would receive a per capita share of the revenue. Why, no endorsement?

One theory is that some have revenue from ABC stores and don't need more money. In the case of Louisburg, there is the ABC revenue,

parking meters and a very lucrative electric power sales bonanza.

Another theory is that the town leaders don't want to go on record as favoring any tax in a time of anti-tax phobia. Some may believe it unwise and may be content to continue passing the buck—literally and figuratively—to the state.

The Board of County Commissioners—however energetically it may work—is unlikely to be able to swing it alone. There is too little time and too much hostility to all taxation to sell the goods. It will take a monumental effort by a great many people to spread the word in the next 12 days. The issue is extremely complicated—a legislator's nightmare—to be explained briefly. At best, it is a guessing game as to how much Franklin or any other county will get from its passage.

But one thing seems definite. Franklin County, with retail sales of \$27,417,000 in 1967-68, will receive half of the \$274,170 these sales will bring in in sales tax. The other half will be placed in a pool and divided among all counties participating in the tax program and the municipalities therein on a per capita basis.

It could be a real boom for Franklin. If it is one of a few small counties to vote for the tax and there are several large counties doing the same, the division of the second half could be most profitable. The additional revenue can surely give the County Commissioner—and Town Boards—some funds for industrial growth and expansion of public services which are more increasingly in demand.

Regardless, there is no denying that a sales tax is the most equitable tax. Here and only here does everybody become a first class citizen. It is here that everybody pays their share of the load. This could be the best thing going for the issue here in Franklin.

Town Council Cracks Down On Litter

The Louisburg Town Council has adopted two new ordinances designed to end the practice of abandoning automobiles within the town limits

and to prevent the practice of allowing vacant lots to grow crops of weeds and grass.

The ordinance providing for the removal, storage and disposition of abandoned motor vehicles, provides that any car left unattended for as much as seven days can be removed from the street or private property and after proper notice sold unless the owner pays costs of moving the vehicle.

This applies to any car left unattended on a public street for 24 hours or left unaccompanied on property owned or operated by the town for a period of forty-eight hours.

A vehicle cannot be removed from private property without the written consent of the property owner or

renter unless it has been declared a health hazard.

A second ordinance, providing for the prevention and abatement of public nuisances caused by the uncontrolled growth of noxious weeds and grass and the accumulation of refuse, has also been adopted.

This ordinance provides for inspection by the Town Manager and proper notice given to the land owner. When the owner fails to act to correct the situation, the Town will do so and charge the costs to the owner of the property.

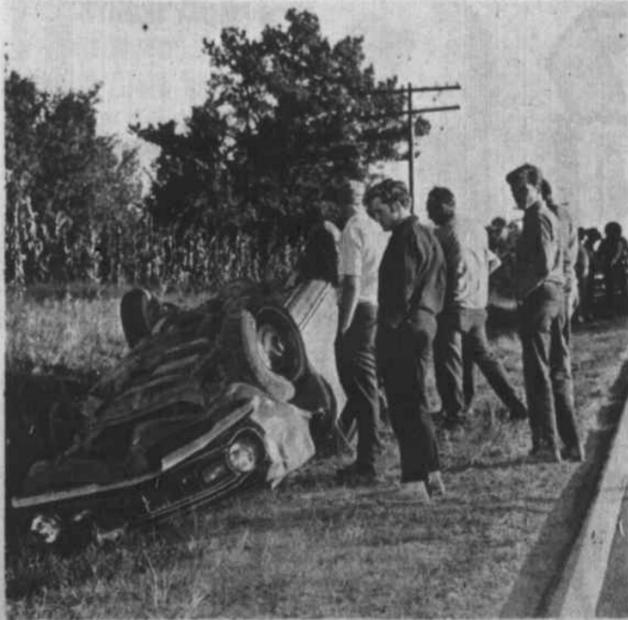
This ordinance pertains to all types of litter generally found on vacant lots in the area and describes such as being prejudicial to the public health.

Both ordinances became effective with their adoption on October 10.



C.T.A. Speaker

Dr. David Reveley, head of the Education Department at Meredith College in Raleigh, N. C. was the speaker for the Franklin County Classroom Teachers Association meeting held at the Bunn High School Cafeteria Tuesday, October 21. Dr. Reveley spoke of the main duties and responsibilities of teachers and the importance of them budgeting their time in order to get to their most important job - teaching students. He summed up his address by saying that "teachers are the most important people in a community, state, and nation."



Injuries Light

Scene above shows accident on US-401 three miles north of Louisburg last Friday afternoon. Samuel Thomas Pearce, Jr., w/m/58, Andrews Ave., Henderson, escaped with minor head lacerations when his car ran off the road and overturned. Staff photo by Clint Fuller.