

The Sensational, Simmering, Sock-It-To-Me Sixties

In a few days it will be gone. Not necessarily over. Not necessarily done with. But the saddening, slaughterous, smashing, smoldering sixties will be gone. The end of a decade. The sweet, space-spanning sixties will retire into the history books to make way for the suspenseful seventies.

It has been a decade filled with uncertainty; with turmoil; disruption and fear. In a word, the sixties can best be described as a decade of protest. At every turn, on almost every day of the week and every week of the month, somebody was protesting some thing. While the stewing sixties were noted for involvement it was also a time of non-involvement.

New words came into existence and old words took on new meanings. Relevant and communicate were big in the sixties. Separatism, relating, moratorium, psychodelic the "ins" were in. There were all sorts of "ins". Sit-ins, lie-ins, love-ins, to name only a few. There were hippies, drugs, long hair and beards. Ladies hem lines rose almost as fast as the cost of living—although far less painfully.

There were marches and an untold number of so-called peaceful demonstrations. Peaceful, but nevertheless many people were injured. Draft dodgers burned their draft cards; peace demonstrators demanded peace and just about everybody got into the civil rights act. New rulings by the Supreme Court freed a number of criminals and made arresting others more difficult. Police became the target rather than the protector of the public and politicians played politics as though all was

right with the world.

Crime rose at a staggering rate. So, too, did deaths on our highways. And the nation was struck by three assassinations as a President, a Senator and a Civil Rights leader were slain.

But on the credit side of the sixties, Americans landed on the moon, polio was conquered and in spite of more than because of all the upheaval, Americans continued to go to church, help their neighbors, raise their families and pay their taxes.

And while the country seemed to

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

FIRST IN A SERIES

be circling the whole block, Franklin County at long last, turned the corner. The word was industrial development and Franklin moved decidedly in that direction in the spectacular sixties.

January, 1960 started the decade off with a bang. The big news was the new Mills (Louisburg) High School building. The Board of Education called for bids on the three-quarter mil-

lion dollar project and schools—one way or another—never again got far away from headlines. The political hassle over the new school, its location and its construction at all simmered in the early sixties and even today, as the decade ends, some of the heat is still—now and then—felt. But it was built. Even after a court fight and inadequate financing, it was built and

opened in 1961.

Also at the beginning, road deaths made the news as three persons—a man and his two stepchildren—were killed inside the Franklinton city limits. Before the decade ends, 95 persons would meet similar fates on Franklin highways. Several local men were named to serve on various drives and as heads of various organizations. The same men serve today. Pruitt Lumber Co. suffered a \$20,000 fire loss in the first month of the decade and Franklinton citizens approved a \$250,000 school bond issue to build a gymna-

sium at Person School and renovate a cafeteria at Franklinton High School. Before the decade ends, passage of a school bond issue here or any place else had become as extinct as the buffalo nickel.

Gubernatorial candidate John Larkins—now a U. S. District Judge—became miffed at the late Wiley F. Mitchell, Supt. of Schools, when the school man refused to allow the politician the use of the public address system at the county basketball tournament. Unlike Larkins, Bunn carried home all the honors, winning both divisions that year.

It snowed on March 2 that year and again on March 9 and in the heavy winds and snow, the main building at the former Franklin County Training School burned. All the children had been sent home earlier because of the weather, averting, perhaps, a real tragedy.

In Franklinton as the sap began to rise, grading started on a shopping center along U. S. 1 and Centerville completed its new fire station.

Franklin went for Dr. I. Beverly Lake for Governor. Terry Sanford won keeping the county's record in tact. James Speed upset Ed Yarborough as State Representative and Mayor W. J. Benton called for a concerted effort on the part of county citizens to "turn the economic tide of the county". In November, they did. They voted for an industrial development tax, proving one of the best things to happen locally in the saddening sixties.

John Kennedy won the Democratic nomination as North cast 27 votes for Lyndon Johnson. Franklin County went for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket in November. Bill Benton was Man of the Year for his work with industrial development and other civil projects. And so ended year one of the sixty decade.

The early sixties brought some tragedies and some unusual happenings. A Franklinton town employee was acquitted on some embezzling charges, received suspended sentences in others, settled a civil suit growing out of the charges and then was elected Mayor. A Louisburg banker tried to kill his wife and make it look as though she was injured in an automobile accident. He was caught, jailed, released on bond and committed suicide.

Continued Thursday
Next: The mid-sixties.

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Bill Beckham Is Named Man Of The Year



At Rotary Award Dinner

Pictured above at the Man of the Year award dinner of the Louisburg Rotary Club are, left to right: Bill Lancaster, Club President; William T. (Bill) Beckham, chosen Man of the Year; Mrs. Beckham and Don Hartness, who made the presentation. Beckham received the honor for his work in establishing a little league baseball program here. Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

William T. (Bill) Beckham, Director of Food Services at Louisburg College, was chosen Man of the Year last Thursday night by the Louisburg Rotary Club. The 32-year-old Hartsville, S. C. native was cited for his work with the little league baseball program. Beckham had been the spearhead in establishing a most successful youth summer program here last year and this year.

Beckham, the twelfth man to be so honored, attended Bethel and Thorneville elementary schools, Hartsville High School, Coker College and the University of South Carolina. Beckham came to Louisburg in 1964 and with the exception of a one-year stint as Food Services Director at Davidson College has held his position here at Louisburg College.

Rotarian Don Hartness made the presentation and described Beckham as "A man who has never been known to turn his back when his assistance was needed. He has always been there to help in any way possible."

"When we hear of the long hot summers in other cities," said Hartness, "we will remember the long, cool summers of Louisburg are partly responsible to our Man of the Year."

Beckham was President of his Junior Class in High School, a member of the Student Council, a football player, a trumpet player and an "A" student.

Beckham was credited with establishing the Rotary Little and Junior Leagues, which this past summer numbered six teams in each. The program affected a number of young men in several communities in the county as well as Louisburg.

Hartness also disclosed that Beckham has been asked to address the International Rotary Convention in Atlanta, Ga. "to explain how a town the size of Louisburg, with the aid of only private donations and the cooperation and working togetherness of fellow Rotarians could establish and support a baseball program."

Beckham is married and the father of five children. He and his family reside here on Lumpkin Blvd.

The Man of the Year award was set up by the local Rotary Club in 1958 as a means of honoring the one man doing the most for the community in any given year.

Following are those selected for the honor over the years: 1958: H. C. Taylor, Jr.; 1959: A. F. Johnson, Jr.; 1960: W. J. Benton; 1961: Dr. Cecil W. Robbins; 1962: Bland B. Pratt; 1963: Willis W. Nash; 1964: Harold Talton; 1965: F. F. Yarborough; 1966: Clint Fuller; 1967: Hoke H. Steelman and 1968: Warren W. Smith.

New Parking Set At LES

C. A. Harris, Principal of Louisburg Elementary School, announced last week, a new system for handling the growing traffic problem at the school. Harris stated that the new regulations will "forestall injury to our pupils and embarrassment to grown-ups."

Among the changes, Harris explains there will now be only one entrance to the school grounds and two exits. Motorists will unload passengers in the first parking lot and teachers and students will walk the remainder of the way to the buildings.

Buses will continue "to the top of the grade in the driveway turn left and park on the right side of the curved driveway. Students will be unloaded at a spot adjacent to the hall entrance to the grammar grades building."

Harris said "positively" no passenger cars will be allowed in the bus area. Teacher parking has been moved from the grammar grades building area to an area near the old bricklaying building.

Harris, who said his local School Committee had approved the plan, said, "We earnestly solicit the whole-hearted cooperation of parents, patrons and friends."

College Gets Ancient Palestinian Artifacts

Louisburg College has received a shipment of ancient Palestinian artifacts which Charles Joseph Farmer, Associate Professor of Religion says he hopes will be just the beginning. Farm-

er says, "It is the hope of the department that in the ensuing years a reasonable collection of such artifacts can be obtained."

The collection consists of four oil lamps and two oil vases and the oldest piece dates back to 1800 B.C. According to Farmer, the items will be used by the faculty and students "in an attempt to confront and appreciate Palestinian life in the historical periods covered by the Old and New Testaments". All items so far acquired are earthenware and Farmer states this "pottery is of particular importance as it best reflects the various aspects of the material culture in a given era". He adds that "the mere knowledge that you are handling an object that was created and used by people who lived the Biblical history causes a sense of awe and hopefully motivation to understand the loftier meaning of that history".

An oil lamp (No. 1 in photo above) was excavated at Jericho and is dated to approximately 1800 B.C., the general era of patriarch Abraham. A second oil lamp (No. 2) was excavated at Hebron and dated to the era 1375-1225 B.C., about the time of the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites following their wandering in the Sinai peninsula, explains Farmer.

A third oil lamp (No. 3 in photo), Farmer notes, was also excavated at Hebron and dates to 1050-1080 B.C., the time of Saul, first king of Israel. The fourth oil lamp (No. 4 in photo), also acquired from excavation at Hebron dates to 930 B.C. or thereafter. This, says Farmer, was the time of Solomon and subsequently the divided kingdom.

Items No. 5 and No. 6 in photo are small vases used to store oil for the lamps. Both are dated to the era 1050-1000 B.C., says Farmer.

The valuable artifacts are not presently available for public inspection. Farmer says it is hoped that the public can view them in the near future. Right now, he says, the department is in need of some type of display case for such storing and showing.

Anyone having such a case which would be suitable for this purpose and desiring to donate it to the College should contact Mr. Farmer or this newspaper.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF RELIGION CHARLES JOSEPH FARMER LOOKS OVER ANCIENT PALESTINIAN ARTIFACTS JUST ARRIVED AT LOUISBURG COLLEGE.

Hop To It!

Only 7 More
Shopping
Days 'Til
Christmas



Boulevard Wreck Scene

Pictured above is last Thursday night's wreck scene on Bickett Blvd here. Louisburg Police Chief Earl Tharrington reported that a car driven by Maria Arrington Perry, c/f/51, Route 2, Louisburg pulled out from the IGA Supermarket at Ford Village into the path of a car driven by Raeford Hunt, w/m/34. Tharrington said that investigating officer Larry Gilliam has charged the Perry woman with failing to yield the right of way. Her car received damage estimated at \$500 and damage to the Hunt car was set at \$1,000. Hunt was taken to the hospital by the Louisburg Rescue Service with injuries not believe serious. Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Armed Bandit Gets \$1500

Sheriff William T. Dement reports that his department and agents of the SBI are assisting Youngsville Police Chief Jack Green today in investigation of an armed robbery which took place at Youngsville last Friday night.

Dement said that L. W. Pearce, a clerk in the Corner Grocery at Youngsville, was held up at his home around 8 p.m. and robbed of \$1500 in cash and checks belonging to the store, which is operated by James Murphy.

The Sheriff reported that Pearce said he arrived home and was entering his back door when a masked man jumped from behind some nearby shrubbery, flashed a sawed-off shotgun and demanded the money in the bag. Pearce was carrying the money in a grocery bag, leading officers to believe that the crime was committed by someone with knowledge of Pearce's operation.

The bandit was said to be wearing a red toboggan-type cap with holes cut out for his eyes and long gloves. One suspect was checked out but was out of town at the time of the robbery, it was reported.

Dement said bloodhounds were rushed to the scene following the report of the robbery but that no trace of the bandit was found.