

The Franklin Times

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LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Grateful, Again

Once again the people of Louisburg are indebted to members of their own fire department and members of the rural departments in the county. And this time, they are indebted to the Henderson Fire Department, as well. Quick and efficient action on the part of the men who make up these fire fighting units, saved last week's costly fire here from being much, much worse.

There has been no absence of praise for the firemen by Louisburg Town officials. The Mayor, members of the Town Council and the Fire Chief have all issued words of appreciation and praise for the timely assistance given in the Friendly Four Warehouse blaze last Tuesday night. A lesser effort could have resulted in the loss of an entire city block. Maybe more.

It would seem that Louisburg over the years has had more than its share of damaging fires. In recent months, Green Hill Country Club was severely damaged and less than six weeks ago, the old ABC Store building across Main Street from the warehouse was totally destroyed. Earlier it was Southside Warehouse, By-Pass Service Center, Village Drive-Inn, Joyner's Wholesale Building Supply and a number of other businesses in recent years.

And in every single case, local

volunteer firemen aided by rural volunteer departments have been successful in holding down the losses.

The Central Alarm System, installed a few years ago and the mutual assistance agreement between county and city departments are two of the best things Franklin County has going for it right now. Whenever one department is in need of assistance, the others stand ready not only to go, but to do the job.

And an additional credit is due these men. They are trained and know what to do. They give of their services without charge and without expectations of any rewards. It takes time to attend training sessions and fighting fires is, at best, a dangerous occupation. That there are men willing to serve by doing both is indeed a credit to each of them, their departments and their communities.

As efficient as they are, every department in the county is in need of better equipment. Mayor V. A. Peoples has said he hopes people in the area will remember last week's services when any of the departments put on a drive for funds.

We share in this hope. We believe the people will remember. We know they are grateful.

A Positive Approach

The Courier-Tribune, Asheboro, N. C.

The reason southern senators have fared so poorly against unpopular civil rights legislation which is primarily aimed against this region is their negative approach.

It hasn't been enough to vote 'no' to every bill designed either to speed school integration or mixing of other public facilities or withhold federal money where discrimination exists in some form.

Sponsors of what actually is punitive legislation directed toward one section of the U. S. take into account the opposition they'll encounter among southern senators and congressmen. Their head counts, likely, exclude anyone below the Mason-Dixon line and concentrate on the liberal, anti-south and very much segregated north.

This is where the south's strength lay all along.

School segregation is highly prevalent throughout the north and western industrial tier of states, no matter what their public officials have to say about civil rights. Neighborhood school patterns, prohibited in the south by fiat, persist elsewhere. The pattern is logical, of course. Schools are located in the midst of populated areas and what naturally arises is a system of de facto segregation.

But all legislation is directed toward the south where segregation was shrouded in legality by the states themselves. Thus, while Mississippi is fated to eventually have the most highly integrated school system, New York, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey, etc. will go relatively untouched (and incidentally fall further down the ranks in integrated school population).

Southern senators have targeted the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and its enforcement powers first.

By removing HEW's authority to withhold federal funds from uncooperative southern school districts, their strategy would be to fight a delaying movement which will eventually collapse under the weight of existing civil rights legislation and court pressure anyway.

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., had an extraordinary strategy:

He proposes that the southerners in Congress rally behind a "fallback" measure—one which would demand an end to segregation in the north. By accelerating school integration in northern districts where neighborhood segregation runs rampant now, the theory was that pressure on the south would slacken.

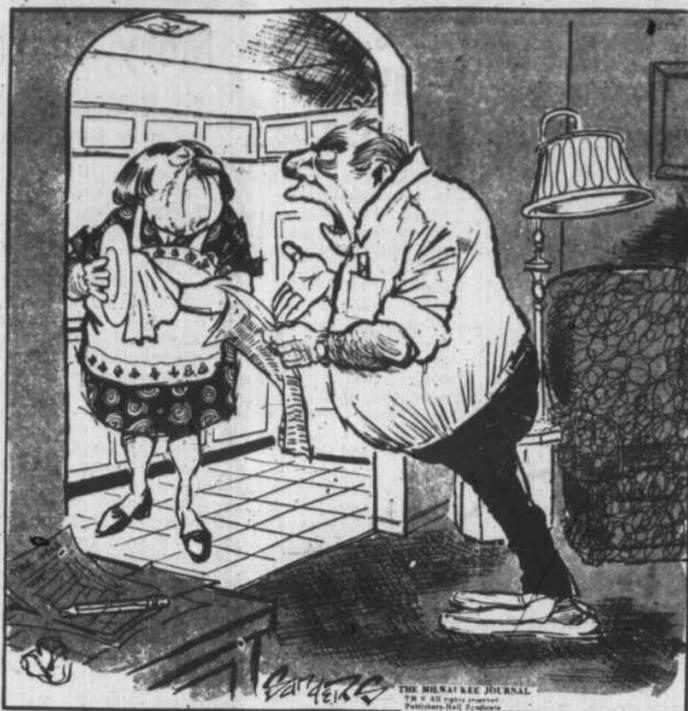
It made sense. The bill merely pledges northerners to a modicum of honesty in their civil rights fervor.

(We suspect a few would immediately lower the mixing banners 'lest their constituencies rebel.)

But even this positive approach by Sen. Stennis failed to garner sufficient backing in the south. Sen. Ervin, as an example, reportedly joined dissidents who preferred not to have their names on any type of integration bill.

Sen. Stennis had labored for weeks laying the groundwork for his measure which some northern senators would have been hard-pressed to oppose. If he'd been successful, equal exertion would have been demanded nationwide to end the standard pattern of neighborhood school integration which is hardly exclusive to the south.

Had Stennis attracted unanimous southern backing, we suspect red faces would have prevailed among the liberal congressional element which has long taken out its grievances against the Old Confederacy as if the war hadn't ever ended.



The Justice Department claims there are some crooks in the Internal Revenue Service. I've been saying that for 30 years!



Letters To The Editor

To The Editor:

I wanted to write this letter in "honor" of the "Franklinton Fire Dept.," to show my most sincere appreciation and thanks for these most kind and wonderful people for their efforts at making Christmas more complete by giving my two sweet little boys some toys for Christmas. They really enjoyed those cute toys so much, and it was so heartwarming to know that there is some people left in this world that really has a heart, and make Christmas more a reality for those who are less fortunate.

It's not the "value" of any toy or present, that really counts, "it's being remembered," that really touches the heart. Remembering all these children who are born less fortunate and those who are suffering from lack of many things, that we all take for granted. For remembering children who are less fortunate, and in need of many things, for this is the real true

meaning and spirit of Christmas.

So, in closing this letter, I want to thank all those Firemen who remembered not only my children but many more, and may all their efforts be recorded and remembered not only here in this world, but by the angels in heaven. It is so nice and sweet to be "remembered" and not

forgotten. That is the most important gift anyone could ever give. So, with tears in my eyes, and joy in my heart, I thank the Franklinton Fire Dept., for the toys given to my children.

William Louis McGhee
225 North Hillsboro St.
Franklinton, N. C.

First Duty

"Your first duty is to the citizen who buys the paper in the belief that it has character and stability, that it is at all times a defender and protector of the rights and liberties of our people, that does not yield to the pressure of merchant or banker or labor union. There is no known substitute for integrity, and no synthetic has ever been discovered for guts."

— Pulitzer Prize winning publisher John S. Knight, in Editor and Publisher.

As the New Year comes in, we have mixed feelings. Our deepest sympathy goes out to our fine business neighbors who suffered such a terrible loss in the recent disastrous fire.

But at the same time we are thankful beyond words that we can begin 1970 with the same dedicated spirit of service to our customers which has characterized our business for over 60 years.

With grateful hearts we take this opportunity to express our appreciation to our many friends who rendered so much aid and comfort during the fire, and especially to the men of all the fine Fire Departments who served so unselfishly, even risking life and limb, to protect our property. We are well aware that without their unselfish service so gallantly rendered, we might well be unable to continue to serve you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR from all the folks at

McKinne's
Seaboard Stores, Inc.



Boy, I'm glad that's over. Aint you? What if you had to go through it ever week in the year? Of course, there's a whole lot to be said for the way folks seem to be friendlier and the spirit is better, but all that noise and confusion.

I aint exactly glad to see Christmas over. I kinda like it but there's some things about it I cant go along with. It's called presents. I'm in favor of gitting them alright and to git them, I know you got give some. It's some of them I git that troubles me.



Then there's a buddy who got a box of napkins for Christmas. Claimed there wont never none on the table. What's a napkin?

I know one fellow who got a hippie wrist watch from his-guessed it-his mamma-in-law. Surprisingly, the watch works. Sorry I can't say the same for the fellow.

Then one of the slimmest-trimmest fellows I know—he's a doll—got one of the rolling wheels you lay on the floor and roll. It's supposed to reduce him. Since his little woman charged it to him he'll get reduced alright.

One fellow who got several of them said he knows where them wide neckties come from. He says they're making them out of left-overs from mini-skirts. If they git any wider, a fellow wont need no shirts.

And aint that turkey the saddest looking thing you ever seen? No wonder the poor thing died.

Folks are funny, though. Folks I seen stuffing every tree on the lot trying to fine one just perfect done dumped the poor things out on the street. Some of them didn't even have the courtesy of hauling it off for a decent burial. That's they way it is with some folks when they don't need you no more.

Then there was one fellow whose neighbor was playing Santa Claus and come over to his house. When the fellow and his youngins looked out their window and seen Santa's nose against the pane, it nearly scared 'em all to death. Didn't do Santa no good neither. The fellow was one of them that didn't believe in Santa Clause—but his youngins did. They're now trying to explain the whole thing to their papa.

But, wont it quiet every where but inside the house? There wont no creatures stirring down the street. There was some on the highways, though.

I don't reckon nobody lost no present this year. And I'm sure everybody knows exactly what everybody else give them. That's what all them tags is for. Trouble is, you throw away the tag when you unwrap the package and after that, most folks have to guess. That aint so bad unless you decide to start thanking folks for giving you them pajamas when they didn't give you nothing but a ball point pen.

All in all, though, there's a whole lot to be said for Christmas. I hope they keep on having it. I'm having a good time exchanging all them things I got I don't need for some of them things I didn't git and do need. I made a list but it didn't do no good. The little woman can't read.

Now, soon's I git them green pajamas and them red socks exchanged for a green shirt and purple socks and git that white shirt swapped for some red pajamas, I'll be all set for another year. That is, a course, providing I can git somebody to exchange that wide necktie for two regular ones. That aint gonna be easy.

But, I'm still better off than the fellow that got a ladies slip for Christmas. He's too embarrassed to take it back and he aint got the nerve to wear it. Don't some folks have troubles, though?



We look to the New Year with a heartfelt hope that soon the spirit of enduring peace will spread to all men of all nations around the world:

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