

Lloyd E. Griffin

Lloyd E. Griffin, one of Edenton's oldest and certainly one of its best-known natives, died Monday, July 6, in Raleigh at the age of 94.

A former state senator, his career extended beyond the role of politician to that of educator, administrator and tax reformer.

Lloyd Griffin was on hand when Gov. J.C.B. Ehringhaus needed help in salvaging the public school system in North Carolina during the depth of the Great Depression. With his assistance in the legislature, the governor was able to secure in 1933 the enactment of the three per cent state sales tax. It was new and ornery, but it supported the establishment of a uniform statewide school system.

But Lloyd Griffin didn't stop there. He helped revise the state's corporate tax structure, thus slowing down the flight of business to states with a more favorable tax climate.

After leaving the legislature, Griffin became executive secretary of the North Carolina School Commission, forerunner of the State Board of Education, from 1935 to 1941. It was in that capacity that he helped resist efforts of the Fair Tax Association to repeal the state sales tax.

He served as chairman of the executive committee of Meredith College's board of trustees. In addition, he was a member of the Baptist State Convention and taught a Bible class in Edenton for 61 years.

He was chairman of the Chowan Democratic Executive Committee, a delegate to the 1952 Democratic National Convention and executive vice president of the North Carolina Citizens Association.

He was an ardent sportsman and an exceptional marksman. In a 1979 interview tucked away in the Chowan Herald, he recalled representing the United States in a marksman's tournament in Paris shortly after World War I.

"The match went on all day long," he said. "The noise was terrific and reverberated in our ears far into the night. My pistol was hot and I was sweating with excitement when the end finally came. The U.S. team had won and I was one of the three top scorers."

General Pershing personally presented medals to the winners.

"He was really proud of us," Griffin said. "As the crowds began leaving, the band struck up the national anthems of the other allied armies, and I shall never forget the emotion I felt when I heard the stirring strains of the Marseillaise."

We along the Public Parade are proud Lloyd Griffin called Edenton home. His long career and diverse accomplishments reflect credit not only on this community but on the state as a whole.

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Assembly Passage Of School Bill Expected This Week

By JEANETTE WHITE

A bill to provide better schools for North Carolina is expected to receive final passage in the General Assembly this week after three other proposals have been examined and rejected.

Local legislators Rep. R.M. (Pete) Thompson, D-Chowan, and Sen. Marc Basnight, D-Dare, said in a telephone conference Tuesday morning that although the bill is not perfect, it is a good one.

House Bill 1155 is designed to create public school building capital and critical school facility needs funding, create a commission charged with determining critical needs in each county, repeal tax on inventories of manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers and reimburse local governments for resulting revenue loss.

Bill 1155 will also increase corporate income tax from six to seven percent of net income require employers to submit withholding taxes on a monthly basis, repeal retailers' discount for tax payment when due and earmark additional local sales and use tax proceeds for public school construction.

Expected funding in Chowan County for 1987-88 generated by the bill is \$221,149, with \$96,141 the following year. Funds earmarked for Chowan's school building fund for the next eight years are expected to be \$105,686, \$115,928, \$127,102, \$139,207, \$152,243, \$166,211, \$181,342 and \$197,870, for

a total \$1,502,879.

If adopted, the bill will provide more than \$800 million for new schools and a total package of \$3.2 billion statewide over the next 10 years.

Sen. Basnight said, "This is the biggest step ever taken for school construction by the state and it's all new money. We're going to reach the people who need it. It's a different form of taxation, we're reaching into the profit factor."

Although much of the new burden will be placed on corporations, both Rep. Thompson and Sen. Basnight said industry and business have overwhelmingly supported the bill because it places tax on profits instead of inventory, which is taxed whether the company records profits or not.

Both legislators said a majority of the state's business community sees this as a positive factor for improvements, which in turn will attract more business.

Along with the increase in corporate tax, funding will come from the two one-half cent sales taxes already dedicated to school construction, windfall revenue and new county funding beginning with the next biennium.

Sen. Basnight said he preferred the new bill over two previous funding attempts to use a state loan pool or school bonds.

"To pay off a bond, you have to increase your property taxes by an average of 22 percent," Basnight said.

Study Nears Completion

A ponderous study revamping Edenton-Chowan school system's capital outlay program is slowly working its way toward conclusion.

The study became necessary after the state board of education requested that a report of facility needs be sent to Gov. James Martin early this year.

The same request went to each of the state's 100 counties so means could be determined to meet a growing need for school construction and renovations.

Superintendent of schools Dr. John Dunn and county manager Cliff Copeland compiled a list of obvious needs to meet the governor's January 31 deadline. At that time, 11 committees were named to complete a more detailed study geared to curricula needs and the new Basic Education Plan, a state project that calls for added subjects and fewer students in each classroom.

State officials have said the BEP will provide more varied curricula at an earlier age and guaranteed more standard classroom studies throughout the state.

The 11 committees working on

the first phase have finished the study and compiled recommendations, which must now go before a committee drawn from parents, teachers, school board members and county commissioners.

Associate Superintendent James Kinion said this week that a full report of findings would be presented to the board of education and a planning session would be scheduled for October or November.

The session will look at recommendations and long-range building plans before the proposal submitted to Raleigh in January is upgraded and priorities for construction and renovation are established.

Kinion said the BEP is set for full implementation in 1993. The plan will provide additional resources to school systems, but resources on the county level must be reallocated to move some curricula, such as arts programs, into primary classrooms.

Facility needs in Chowan County are listed as \$6.5 million for replacement of obsolete facilities, \$6 million for renovation of buildings suitable for long-range

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Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, father of the bill, said money generated by the changes will be placed in state-level trust funds, one earmarked for each county on a proportional basis, the other for critical needs in counties needing additional monies.

Criteria has been established to determine the amount of money each county receives from the Critical School Facility Needs Fund.

The criteria includes per pupil adjusted property tax base in the county and per capita income, since each county must be able to

appropriate from its budget one dollar for each three dollars received.

For the trust fund earmarked for proportional sharing, local boards of education must submit long-range plans for school facility needs to the state board of education by January 1, 1988, and each five years thereafter.

A Commission of School Facility Needs, comprised of five members nominated by Lt. Gov. Jordan and five nominated by Speaker of the House Liston Ramsey, will determine critical and continuing needs from those

reports and make final recommendations to the state board of education.

One other feature of the bill is that the state will undertake the responsibility for paying school clerical workers and vocational teachers.

This provision under the Basic Education Plan will unleash another \$739.5 million over the next 10 years.

Chowan County school system is working now on determining needs for the county to meet the state's BEP.



EXPENSIVE SNEEZE—The driver of the tractor-trailer in the background said he sneezed and lost control before the vehicle plowed across a ditch, fence and open field and struck the house and landed to the side and rear of the structure. The truck crossed a driveway where the children of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Parrish usually play. The family above was one of many friends and neighbors who eyed damage Monday and Tuesday when debris lay strewn about the yard and part of the porch roof could be seen atop the trailer. (Related story and picture on Page 4-A)

Residents Request Relief From Traffic

By JACK GROVE

A sparse crowd was in attendance at Tuesday night's regular town council meeting. Some on the council might have been surprised in light of a certified letter received by each member.

The letter, addressed to Mayor John Dowd and signed by 22 residents living on or near Granville St., asked council to take action on "Loud, speeding, polluting and unlawful traffic on No. Granville St."

Residents there are concerned about cars without mufflers and all sizes of trucks that use Gran-

ville to avoid stoplights on Broad and Queen Streets.

"There is nothing to impede the roar of traffic on No. Granville St...no stop lights...no stop signs...no police supervision to enforce the law against through-trucks (even though No Thru Trucks signs are posted at Rte. 32 and at Queen St.) and against speeders and drivers of mufflerless vehicles," the letter stated.

Requested was a traffic light at Albemarle St. "and at least one four-way stop sign at some other cross-street as well as police

vigilance in stopping the truck traffic and catching the speeders."

While not on the agenda, council took up the matter during the session. In answer to a question from Councilman Allen Harless, Police Chief J.D. Parrish said that he had tasked his department with greater vigilance on Granville.

Mayor Dowd, in referring to a traffic light at Albemarle St., asked, "Would this not slow that traffic down?" Parrish suggested that a request to the state be made for a traffic count at the intersection. He also observed, "They (state officials) don't like to put up traffic lights." Council then passed a resolution to request the traffic study.

Councilman Steve Hampton, chairman of the finance committee, proposed the following actions which were approved by the full council:

- Disposition of a 1945 Ford fire pumper through sealed bids;
- Institution of a \$50 charge to fill private swimming pools with town fire equipment plus a charge for the water;
- Disapproval of an offer of Shelby Freeman of Applied Fiberglass Technology to buy town property next to his business;
- Disapproval of a fee for police personnel who assist motorists with stalled vehicles after complaints from service station operators who charge a fee for the service and are losing the business;

The following recommendations of the public works committee, chaired by Councilwoman Marina Crummey, was ratified by council:

- Establishment of a 35 mph speed limit on Old Hertford Rd.;
- Establishment of a no parking zone for a distance of 70 feet on the south side of the intersection of Hicks and Granville Streets to allow better visibility for emergency vehicles;
- Issuance of a reminder to merchants that they are responsible for the removal of trash from the sidewalks in front of their businesses.

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VEHICLE FIRES—Edenton firemen have been called to two vehicle fires recently. The first occurred Friday when a car owned by Gardner Jackson ignited spontaneously. Fire Chief Lynn Perry said the car had not been driven for 24 hours when wiring under the hood ignited, causing several hundred dollars in damage. The second fire occurred Tuesday when WZBO radio personality Pat Flanagan's car caught fire near his home on Country Club Drive. Firemen responded but were unable to save the vehicle. Firemen were called to a brush fire Wednesday, but details were unavailable at presstime.

Meanwhile, the N.C. Dept. of

After the General Assembly approves DOT's budget, additional funds are promised for secondary road work for fiscal 1987-88.