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THE FRANKLIN TIMES

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CHARLES G. STOKES 67, DECAPITATED

"SWEAT" WARD NEGRO LYNCHED FOR CRIME

Ward Also Assaulted Spurgeon Ayescue With Bottle and Sister With Iron Poker Tuesday Morning---Arrested by C. O. Renn and Ashley Fuller and W. E. Neal and Brought To Louisburg---Wrecks Office of Dr. Perry, Was Taken to Jail, Later Moved For Safety When Taken From Officers Moore, Dean and Hight About Ten Miles From Louisburg---Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict---Governor Orders Investigation---Militia and Patrol Ordered To Scene

Knocking a white man in the head with a Coca Cola bottle, frailing his sister over the head with an iron poker, knocking a white man in the head with a rock and cutting his head off with an axe, arrested, wrecking a Doctor's office, taken to jail later to be removed for safety, taken from the officers, carried back to near the scene of the murder and hanged to a tree is the experience of "Sweat" Ward, negro of the Epsom community between 9 A. M. and 12 M. on Tuesday morning.

Tersely told this is the record of one of the most brutal crimes that has occurred in Franklin County within the recollection of its oldest citizens.

Information received at the scene of the tragedy was not entirely clear whether Ward began his activity Tuesday morning by knocking his sister, Otho Kearney's wife, in the head with an iron poker cutting a long ugly gap in her scalp, or by striking Spurgeon Ayescue, a young white man over the head with a Coca Cola bottle. The officers were called in when a warrant was issued for the assault on Mr. Ayescue with the bottle. Upon arriving at the home of Otho Kearney, colored, Ward was found setting in a chair beside a tree in the yard and was arrested. It was at this time the officers were informed that Ward had killed Mr. Charles G. Stokes, a white farmer who was at work in his tobacco field nearby. An investigation revealed the brutal tragedy where Ward had gone to Mr. Stokes' tobacco field, attacked and knocked him unconscious with a rock, and apparently attempted to carry the body to the house where he (Ward) had come from. Finding this inconvenient he went back to the house secured an axe and returning to Stokes' body cut his head entirely off and took it with the axe back to the grove and had placed it near the chair he was occupying when the officers made the arrest, and which was discovered partly wrapped by the officers. Stokes was killed about one hundred yards from the house where Ward was arrested. It was at this time that it was learned that he had struck his sister with the poker.

When first arrested Ward was calm and offered no serious resistance but before he could be removed from the house he gave much trouble painfully injuring a colored man, as well as two deputized officers, before he could be subdued.

Ward was brought to Louisburg by Constable C. O. Renn, of Hayesville township, assisted by Ashley Fuller and W. E. Neal. Upon arriving at Louisburg about 10:30 when they were joined by Coroner R. A. Bobbitt, acting Sheriff, and Chief of Police C. E. Pace. The officers took Ward to Dr. H. G. Perry's office for medical attention to wounds received in his resistance, where he (Ward) attempted an escape, striking Miss Lucy Timberlake, the nurse, breaking out a window and generally strewing things

about in the office until he could again be subdued. He was taken from the Doctor's office to the County jail.

All during this time the feeling of the large number who had gathered and learned of the heinous crime was running high. The officers fearing an attack thought it wise to remove the prisoner to another jail and he was placed in a car with officers John P. Moore, Sheriff-elect, P. E. Dean and J. Ed Hight who headed east on highway 56, evidently starting for Nashville or to circle around and land at the State prison at Raleigh. When they arrived at Mapleville, five miles out, so the officers stated they found the highway blocked. With the idea of evading any trouble the officers took the dirt road to the right going out by Jackson's pond. Upon arriving at Zeb Wheeler's about three miles from Mapleville they again found the road blocked with several automobiles in evidence—the crowd evidently contemplated the movement of the officers. At this point the officers again took a side road to evade the crowd but were outrun and overtaken about two miles below Wheeler's at the old Vaughan place where the superior numbers overpowered the officers, took the negro placed him in a car and sent him off while other cars detained the officers long enough to give a good lead.

It is not definitely known but supposed the car with the negro and its escorts returned to the original community, a distance of about fifteen miles, by way of Edward Best school, Moulton and Kearney's. Upon arriving at a point opposite to the road that leads to Weldon's pond the negro was hanged to a tree about fifty yards from the road and about two miles from the scene of the murder.

The negro, though raised in that community and was regarded by some as a good negro, bore the general reputation of being an exceedingly mean, troublesome and disrespectful character. He is said to be of average intelligence and about the only reason for his inhuman and brutal wild rampage Tuesday was that he was possibly full of cocaine or some other similar drug. He was of a light ginger cake color and around 25 to 30 years of age. He had been spending much time in the North. His body was

(Continued on page eight)

BETTER HOUSING NEWS REEL WILL BE SHOWN LOCALLY

At The Louisburg Theatre Thursday and Friday, August 1st and 2nd

The first of a series of motion pictures depicting the various phases of home and commercial modernization, as well as home construction, will soon be shown here at the Louisburg Theatre. These pictures carry the general title "Better Housing News Flash" and are released under the auspices of the Federal Housing Administration, Washington.

These "Better Housing News Flash" are not only educational but are also interesting and instructive. Women especially will find them most helpful in gaining ideas and suggestions as to the improvement of their own homes, whether it be the doing over of their living rooms with modern lighting and color schemes, adding an additional bedroom for the over-night guest, installing a playroom in the basement for the children or beautifying the exterior of the home, as well as suggestions for gardening and landscaping.

The business men of "Main Street" will also be interested in seeing on the screen what they may possibly do with their properties in order to attract more trade, stimulating buying and increasing the rental value of their properties.

Mr. Davis, in announcing the showing of these "Better Housing News Reels" states, "I am happy to have the opportunity of cooperating with the Government in its drive to aid national recovery. I know that the citizens of Louisburg and Franklin County are not only desirous of improving their own properties, but also realize that building activity will take men off of relief rolls and put them on pay rolls. I believe that through this Better Housing Program, we can make Louisburg the most prosperous city in the State."

Recorder's Court

Franklin Recorders Court held its regular session on Tuesday morning and disposed of cases as follows:

Clemons Davis was found guilty of larceny and given 60 days on roads. Upon payment of \$25.00 fine and costs execution of road sentence stayed.

Jeff Webb was found guilty of operating automobile intoxicated and given 3 months on roads and not to operate car for 3 months. Upon payment of \$50 fine and costs road sentence stayed.

Eunice Lancaster was found guilty of operating automobile intoxicated, and given 3 months on roads and not to operate car in 3 months. Upon payment of \$50 fine and costs execution of road sentence stayed.

Billie Hopkins, perjury, continued.

Lorenza Brodie, unlawful possession of whiskey, continued.

RETURNS FROM TENNESSEE

Mrs. J. O. May who has been visiting relatives and friends in Nashville and Lewisburg, Tenn., has returned home after a four weeks visit. Ruby, her daughter will remain several weeks longer to visit Muscles Schoals, "The Milk Way," and big Tennessee Stock Farms, also some of the noted caves of that State.

As we get it, though our knowledge of the monetary situation is no great stakes: A 50-cent dollar is the kind that's expected to make business go like sixty.

Program At The Louisburg Theatre

The following is the program at the Louisburg Theatre beginning Saturday, August 3rd:

Saturday—John Wayne in "Desert Trail." Also 3rd Chapter "Miracle Rider."

Sunday—Buddy Rogers and his Orchestra in "Old Man Rhythm."

Monday—W. C. Fields in "The Man on The Flying Trapeze."

Tuesday—Boris Karloff in "The Blackroom."

Wednesday—Guy Kibbee and Aline MacMahon in "Mary Jane's Pa."

Thursday—Grace Moore in "Love Me Forever."

Friday—William Powell and Virginia Bruce in "Escapade."



SEATTLE... The largest air bomber ever built in the United States, powered by four 700 h.p. motors with a speed of 200 miles per hour, has been tuned up here for maiden test trials which include a flight over the summit of Mt. Rainier for altitude ability.

OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION

JUDGE W. C. HARRIS PRESIDING

Attorney General A. A. F. Seawell Assisting Solicitor W. Y. Bickett and Prosecuting Attorney Chas. P. Green—Investigation Gets Good Start Before Noon Adjournment

Judge W. C. Harris, of the 7th Judicial District, assisted by Attorney General A. A. F. Seawell, Solicitor W. Y. Bickett and Prosecuting Attorney Chas. P. Green, acting upon authority and request from Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus, opened a Court of official investigation of the lynching of Govan or "Sweat" Ward, negro, which took place about ten miles northeast of Louisburg on Tuesday, after he (Ward) had decapitated Charles G. Stokes and knocked two others in the head.

Judge Harris, sitting as a committing Magistrate opened court at about 10 o'clock, with quite a large crowd of spectators and witnesses present, and immediately work was taken up.

C. O. Renn, Constable of Hayesville township, who with assistance made the arrest at the beginning, was the first witness. He reviewed the circumstance and happenings as he found them, going to the home of Otho Kearney's, arresting Ward, learning of and investigating the murder of Chas. G. Stokes, and the assault on Otho's wife, the resistance of Ward when he was being taken to Louisburg, attentions given in Louisburg, the wrecking of Dr. Perry's office, and the delivery of Ward to the County jail. At this point Renn returned to the scene of the tragedy and from there to his home to return again in the evening. Upon returning he learned the negro had been taken from the officers and lynched. He went to the place where the negro was hanged. He saw many people at both places but could name only a few.

Mr. Renn was corroborated by Ashley Fuller and W. E. Neal, who assisted him in the arrest, except that Mr. Neal returned from Louisburg to his filling station and saw no more until in the afternoon when he went to the scene of the lynching.

L. O. Frazier who issued the warrant for the arrest of the negro for assault on Spurgeon Ayescue told of going to Otho Kearney's for the purpose of assisting Renn if need be since he had not returned with the negro in a reasonable time and of finding the gruesome scene described by the officers. He could not name those at the scene unless he name the entire community as he thought all were there.

Spurgeon Ayescue told of the assault and of phoning to the Sheriff about the murder and going to the scene. From there he went to Henderson to have his wounds dressed and was there when he heard of the lynching.

Dr. Perry told of the trouble with the prisoner in his office and was of the opinion he was full of cocaine.

Sheriff J. E. Hamlet of Vance County told of hearing of the trouble and going down to render what assistance he could. Saw the deceased and learned of the arrest and returned to Henderson. In answer to a request from the Governor he returned to Franklin to assist the officers and found the negro had been lynched. He told of the crowd and appraised an expressed suggestion to burn the negro.

At this point Judge Harris ordered a recess for dinner. The investigation will continue through the evening or longer but the TIMES' report will have to close with this in order to get to press.

Wealth isn't everything, says Maurice Holderby. You wouldn't enjoy owning the whole earth if you were the only person on it.

The girl out our way with the terrible looking riding habit has got worse ones than that.

Some of the best stories Father takes home he hears at the round table conference.

What the average woman wants is a strong, inflexible man who can be wrapped around her finger.

The girl out our way with the terrible looking riding habit has got worse ones than that.

Some of the best stories Father takes home he hears at the round table conference.

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FARMERS CLUB MEETS

At Franklinton Friday Night — Many Speeches Made — Officers To Be Nominated and Elected Next Meeting — Many Present

The second monthly meeting of farmers was held in Franklinton on Friday night at the New C. C. Camp and a bountiful barbecue supper when representatives from all sections of the County was present and enjoyed a pleasant evening.

The Louisburg Kiwanis Club and the Franklinton Business Men's Club were guests and were represented by G. M. Beam, for Kiwanis and Col. C. L. McGhee for the Business Men, both of whom made splendid and timely remarks.

W. H. M. Jenkins had charge of the music and America was sung at the opening. E. J. Morgan explained the objects of the meeting and acted as master of ceremonies.

T. W. Boone, chairman, representing the Board of County Commissioners made a splendid talk and Bob Moore spoke on the subject of roads. The objects, plans and advantages of the N. C. rural rehabilitation was discussed by Festus Mitchiner.

F. Clifton Winston, the new vocational teacher at Franklinton who fills the place made vacant by the resignation of G. L. Winchester, was introduced and made a nice and timely response.

M. T. Lamm read the program and by laws for the Farmers Club which were adopted.

Supt. W. R. Mills, Franklin County's new Superintendent of Schools, gave a nice little talk on co-operation. Supt. G. B. Harris, of the Franklinton Schools, made splendid remarks, and Fred Jones explained the Rural Electrification.

The nominating committee composed of Howard Griffin, C. T. Hudson, and Fleming Fuller was appointed and requested to report nominating at the next meeting.

W. H. M. Jenkins introduced Mr. L. A. Caster, the speaker for the evening. Mr. Caster is from High Point and is Assistant Forester in the Soil Erosion work. He explained the value of Soil Conservation and said this program was "to help the farmer help himself." The work was explained as a Cooperative proposition.

The meeting was a most enjoyable and entertaining one.

GET YOUR SURVEY

The TIMES is requested to state that all unsurveyed communities in Franklin County desiring an electrification survey are urged to immediately get in touch with your County Agent, Mr. Morgan or Asst. County Agent, Mr. Fred Jones and secure the necessary preliminary survey blanks. These blanks must be filed with the N. C. Rural Electrification Authority before final survey for that community can be made. A survey must be made in each community to determine the feasibility of electrification before it can participate in any State or Federal program.

Since the close of the first survey last fall, several communities have made requests to Prof. D. S. Weaver, director, for a survey. In regards to these requests Mr. C. W. Burton, survey director for the N. C. R. E. A., stated this week that they must fill in the preliminary blanks just the same as all other communities.

There are several hundred communities throughout the state desiring surveys and the appropriation for this work is very limited. Delay will more than likely mean a sure possibility of some communities being left out. See to it that it isn't yours.

"Love Me Forever"

Starring Grace Moore at The Louisburg Theatre Thursday, August 8th

Music takes flight on the wings of song to inspire a great love in Columbia's "Love Me Forever," starring Grace Moore, at Louisburg Theatre Thursday, August 8th.

The magic in the voice of a lovely top-hat daughter of luxury starts the flame of romance burning in the heart of a man who can never have her. He faces disaster with a smile—for he cherishes an ideal—an ideal that will never die.

Thrilling drama, coupled with the glorious singing of Grace Moore, makes of "Love Me Forever" the record-breaking entertainment it is.

Featured with Grace Moore are Leo Carrillo, Michael Bartlett and Robert Allen. Victor Schertzinger directed.

J. P. MOORE ELECTED SHERIFF

MISS WEAVER ELECTED HOME AGENT

Commissioners Adopt Budget for 1935-6 — Give Building to School — Adopts Resolution In Memory Late Sheriff F. N. Spivey.

John P. Moore, Constable for Louisburg township, was elected to fill the unexpired term of the late F. N. Spivey Sheriff of Franklin County on the third ballot at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on Monday. Others applying were J. W. Harris, D. W. Spivey, H. C. Kearney, S. W. Tharrington, F. W. Justice and P. E. Dean.

Upon motion Miss Louise Weaver was elected Home Demonstration Agent, subject to the resignation of Miss Anne Benson Priest. The formal resignation of Miss Priest to take effect August 15, was later handed to the Board.

It was ordered that the hospital bill for Willie Perry at State Sanatorium be paid for two months.

A motion as follows prevailed: "That building located on corner of cross and Persimmon Tree Street in Youngsville and known as the Tall Cheatham Bros. prize house be with the permission of the town of Commissioners of Youngsville be given to the Youngsville school for gymnasium same to be located on the Youngsville School grounds."

A settlement was made with M. S. Davis for plans for remodeling Court house on basis of \$300 complete with an additional \$100 if plan goes through.

Applications for Sheriff were received and on third ballot J. P. Moore was elected to fill unexpired term of F. N. Spivey, deceased.

Three hundred dollars was added to the health budget to be used for increased salary of nurse.

The resignation of J. P. Moore as Constable for Louisburg township was received and accepted.

The Franklin County School budget was passed as tentatively approved.

Upon motion resolutions as published elsewhere, were adopted relative to the untimely death of F. N. Spivey Sheriff.

The following budget appropriations were made for the year 1935-36:

General Fund	
Commissioners	\$ 3,000.00
Listing taxes	2,400.00
Sheriff's Office	2,500.00
Tax Collector	4,025.00
Accountant's Office	3,580.00
Court House and Grounds	900.00
Register of Deeds	3,480.00
General Elections	1,000.00
County Jail	1,750.00
County Home	6,000.00
Welfare Dept.	1,450.00
Poor Relief	4,500.00
Superior Court	3,950.00
Clerk Superior Court	3,775.00
Recorders Court	3,400.00
Juvenile Court	100.00
Coroner	200.00
Home Agent	825.00
Farm Agent	1,580.00
Emergency	1,000.00
Auditing	1,000.00
Total	\$ 50,420.00

Health Dept.	\$ 3,800.00
Interest and Exch.	28,079.94
Bonds and Exch.	2,023.75
Total	\$ 50,103.69

Roads	
Dunns	\$ 1,844.60
Harris	5,714.25
Youngsville	2,045.10
Franklinton	3,248.10
Hayesville	4,468.15
Sandy Creek	2,947.35
Gold Mine	3,729.80
Cedar Rock	1,543.85
Cypress Creek	3,007.50
Louisburg	4,869.35
Total	\$ 33,417.55

Schools	
Current Expense	\$ 2,911.13
Capital Outlay	9,133.76
Debt Service	25,232.43
Total	\$ 37,277.32
Franklinton School	\$ 1,351.35
Grand Budget Total	\$ 176,369.91

Baseball Today

Franklinton and White Level will play ball Friday, August 2nd, (Today), at Louisburg in the Louisburg College Park. The game is advertised to begin at 4:00 o'clock. This game promises to be very tight and interesting.