

### Franklin County's Welfare Department Appropriation Is Woefully Inadequate

Let us remember January 26, 1940! Six inches of snow and ice blanketed the ground! The thermometer was almost down to zero. On this day hunger, cold, sickness and misery, struck with ghouliah glee at our poor and needy people. On this day the following pitiful human problems presented themselves in the Town of Louisburg:

**Family A.** A family of three white women badly in need of food and fuel.

**Family B.** A white family. Members of this family were scantily and inadequately clothed. Some members of this family were sick in bed. No fuel was in this home and very little food was available.

**Family C.** A colored family. This family was found to be living in squalid conditions, without any food or fuel in the home. They had little clothing or bed clothing.

**Family D.** A tragedy. The father of this family is employed on a WPA project. His total income per month is about \$30.00 per month IF he works full time. This family had no money, no food, and very little clothing. A baby in this family became ill, and was finally taken to a hospital. The baby died and the family could not pay for the very cheapest of funerals.

What was to be done for these cases?

Sympathetic friends got busy when these cases came to light. John Doe decided to do something to relieve these families. Our Welfare Department was called upon to help them, and it's answer was, "We have no funds with which to provide relief. We have only some flour that we can give." The Junior Woman's League was called upon, and this splendid organization of public spirited women, gave to the utmost.

And what about the little baby that died? John Doe again passed the hat around, and enough money was raised to bury the baby.

During several days following January 26th, the thermometer fell to BELOW ZERO. The suffering among needy people became more intense,—the cries for relief increased in number. The Junior Woman's League of Louisburg sent food, clothing, and fuel, to several more families. Some few Louisburg citizens gave generously to the relief of suffering families, and other citizens gave lesser amounts. The Town of Louisburg gave money in addition to the \$25.00 that it contributes each school month for the purpose of charity. A total of about forty persons were aided during this emergency in a haphazard manner. This is a picture of Louisburg only. What must have been the suffering and misery throughout our whole County! We wonder how many of our people were unable to find relief from hunger and suffering from our Welfare Department.

This is written as a proof of the fact that we have a shameful condition existing in Franklin County. Our Welfare Department is woefully inadequate and inefficient, BECAUSE IT HAS INSUFFICIENT FUNDS WITH WHICH TO RELIEVE POVERTY AND SUFFERING IN OUR COUNTY. Certain families receive certain foods regularly from the Commodity Store Room, but there seems to be no funds provided for the care of emergency cases. Emergency cases are tossed back into the lap of a charitable public. If an appeal for aid is made to the County Commissioners the

answer is "We are sorry, but it is not in our Budget."

The solution of these problems of hunger, sickness, and misery, lies within the hands of our County Commissioners. Let them appropriate sufficient funds, earmarked for the Welfare Department, and PUT IT IN THE BUDGET. This increase for Welfare Work would raise the county-wide tax rate so little that few of us would feel the slight increase in our taxes. This is a systematic, businesslike solution of a definite public responsibility. If sufficient funds for the operation of an adequate and efficient Welfare Department were secured through taxation, the burden would fall upon the shoulders of those who are most able to bear it,—the people who list the most property for taxation. Huge corporations that own valuable property in our County, would contribute to the relief of our poverty stricken people through taxes levied for that particular purpose.

Another County Budget will be adopted within a few months. Let us hope that our County Commissioners will make an appropriation to our Welfare Department that will suffice, and thereby save us the humiliating experience of witnessing cold, hunger, and misery clutching the throats of our poverty ridden people. Remember that they are human beings like you and me. They are our unfortunate people.

There is no problem more worthy of the thought of our people than the insufficiency of the appropriation of funds for our Welfare Work. We need an emergency fund that is quickly available, and one that is not bound tightly by the red tape of long drawn out investigations.

The Louisburg Chamber of Commerce hereby requests the Churches, the Parent-Teacher Associations, the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, the Junior Woman's League, and citizens of Franklin

County to give this problem your best thought. If you agree with us, write your opinions to the FRANKLIN TIMES for publication. If you do not agree with us, write your opinions to the FRANKLIN TIMES for publication. It is a County-wide public problem, and one that should be openly and thoroughly discussed,—by so doing we can find it's solution.

LOUISBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
By: W. G. Lancaster,  
President.

#### PEARCE INFANT

Willis Gene Pearce, seventeen-day-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dumas Pearce, died Friday, February 2 in Park View Hospital, Rocky Mount. Funeral services were held in the home of his parents on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Burial was in the family cemetery. Surviving are his parents and one sister, Bettie Lou.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced that the Food Order Stamp Plan for distributing surplus agricultural commodities will be extended to Greenville, S. C., and the rest of Greenville County.

#### MRS. MARY BAILEY

Franklinton, Feb. 3. — Mrs. Mary Bailey, 71, died here January 23 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. C. Wright, after two years' illness. Funeral services and interment were held January 25 by Rev. Burnette, of Louisburg, at the Corinth Church.

Mrs. Bailey is survived by three sons, John and Sam Bailey, of Franklinton, and William Bailey, of Stem; one daughter, 14 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and five brothers.

Another solacing thought about trouble is that the more we have, the more skilled we become in dealing with it.

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LOUISBURG, N. C.

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1---1935 Ford Pick-up	195.00
1---1937 Plymouth Pick-up	195.00
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