

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Thursday, September 26, 1963

Clue To Lack Of Progress

Representatives of more than a half-dozen governmental agencies journeyed all the way to Louisburg Monday to meet with local businessmen and governing officials to discuss how their agencies might be of help to the community.

The meeting was something less than a success, however, as more visiting agency officials were present for the meeting than were local businessmen and officials.

Although invitations were sent to all county and town officials, and many business leaders as well, except for a handful of local agency connected officials, only the Mayor and Town Administrator of the Town of

Louisburg showed up for the meeting.

In the last year or two the very agencies represented here Monday have poured grants and financial assistance totaling over \$225,000 into projects in Franklin County--yet our local folks couldn't take the time to listen to how they might be able to get some more.

Maybe we don't need any further assistance--if that is the case, well and good, but, on the other hand, the indifference on the part of local officials and business leaders illustrated here Monday may be a clue to the lack of progress in Franklin County.

MOUNT OLIVE, N. C., TRIBUNE 9-24-63

Firemen Never 'Refuse' Services

At Louisburg last week the homes of three residents just outside the city limits burned to the ground while members of the Louisburg fire department stood by and watched. At Greenville some time ago the same thing happened. Over the years the scene has been duplicated many times in various parts of the state.

Almost invariably headline writers have accused the firemen of "refusing" to be of service to the unfortunate homeowners. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As a pretty poor member of a danged good volunteer fire department, we know for a fact how much it goes against the grain of a fireman, paid or volunteer, to see property destroyed by fire. That's one of the reasons a person is a fireman--to save property rather than watch it destroyed.

In each of the cases where departments have stood by and watched these homes consumed they were prevented by law from trying to put out the blaze. Their areas of responsibilities were within the city limits. Their equipment, and salaries, if any, were paid for with city tax dollars. Their insurance covers only action within these limits. Quite frequently, too, the

homes destroyed were built just outside city limits to escape any financial responsibility for fire departments and other city services. Yet the poor fireman is accused in big black headlines of "refusing" to be of service.

It makes the firemen sound like monsters. Well, for whatever it's worth we want to raise our voice in protest. Firemen, and especially volunteer firemen, will go to any lengths, work any number of hours, and travel any distance to help put out fires, provided they are permitted to do so.

When the laws of any community prevent their firemen from working outside the city limits, let the news stories say so, instead of insinuating the firemen hard-heartedly "refused" to put out a fire. It just ain't so! --CB

The Franklin Times

Established 1870
Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by
THE FRANKLIN TIMES, INC.
Bickett Blvd. Louisburg, N. C.
Dial GY 6-3283
A. F. Johnson, Jr., Managing Editor
Elizabeth Johnson, Business Manager

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEMBER
Advertising Rates Upon Request
— SUBSCRIPTION —
Rates \$3.50 per year; \$6.00 for 2 yrs.
Sales Tax .11 .18
Total \$3.61 \$6.18
\$4.50 per year Outside State
Single Copy 5c

Entered at the Postoffice at Louisburg, N. C. as second class mail matter.

Views And Reviews

Barry Goldwater, Senator (R., Ariz.):

"The Republican party must seek the minority group vote in the only sensible and honorable way open to us . . . We should avoid making any sort of special appeal based upon race or creed."

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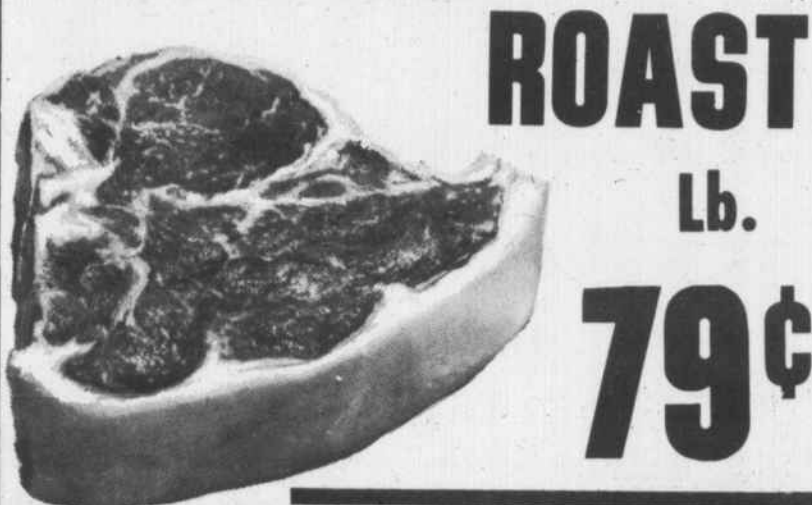
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