

Weather

Generally fair and cold today and tonight. Low, 24; high, 49. Increasing cloudiness and somewhat warmer Wednesday.

The Franklin Times

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Five Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, December 10, 1963

(Eight Pages Today)

94th Year—Number 83



BurMil Dragon

The 150 foot long fire and smoke breathing Burlington Mills Dragon chases would-be slayers down the parade route to the delight of the many youngsters in what was probably the highlight of the parade. -Times Photo.

Thousands See Franklinton Parade In Perfect Weather

People, young and old, turned out by the thousands in crisp, but near perfect weather Thursday night for the Franklinton Merchants Association's annual Christmas Parade.

Estimates of the crowd on hand for the event ranged from 8 to 15,000, but it was evident that the throng enjoyed the entire procession of over-half a hundred entries.

A spokesman for the Association said that they were more than pleased with the turnout. The mile long cavalcade was led by the American Legion Color Guard and the Louisburg High School Band and was followed up by a float bearing jolly old Saint Nicholas and about 100 fancily dressed members of the Franklinton Saddle Club and their mounts.

Probably the biggest hit of the parade, so far as the spectators were concerned, was the spectacular entry of Franklinton Fabrics. This was a fire and smoke snorting dragon some 150 feet in length which chased would-be dragon slayers down the parade route.

Also a big hit with the children was WRAL-TV's Captain 5 and his Rocket Ship. There was also an attractive float from Long Meadow Dairies and

bands from Oxford, Henderson, Wake Forest and Knightdale as well as Louisburg, and plenty of gaily decorated floats with pretty girls.

The Merchants Association

expressed its appreciation to everyone, participants and spectators, for helping make the event such a success, and stated that they were looking forward to next year's event.



Bruce Honeycutt



Becky Wilson

County Elementary Contest Winners

The Annual Franklin County Elementary Recitation-Declamation Contest was held in the Louisburg High School Auditorium on December 5 at 7:00 p.m. with seven schools represented.

First place honors went to Becky Wilson of Louisburg who recited "A Day at the Beach," and Bruce Honeycutt of Franklinton declaiming Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

Second place went to Mary Gordon East of Franklinton and

Charlie Hobgood of Louisburg, and third place to Rebecca Pearce of Edward Best Elementary School and C. L. Wrenn of Youngsville High School.

Other participants were Linda Jones of Edward Best High School, Betty Bowers of Gold Sand, Deborah Lancaster of Bunn, Alice Lowery of Youngsville, Barry Wester of Edward Best Elementary, Gregory Collins of Gold Sand, and Tommy Best of Edward Best High School.

Santa's Zip Code 99701 At Pole

The Post Office Department is getting together with Santa Claus this year to make sure that children who write to the North Pole get an answer from the best-known citizen up there, according to postmasters at Louisburg and Franklinton today.

"Part of the Post Office efforts to encourage a wider use of ZIP coded addresses assures children that they will receive a message from Santa Claus if they write to him by December 15 at 'North Pole 99701,' and use their own ZIP Codes in their return addresses," they explained.

The enlistment of Mr. ZIP as Santa Claus' newest helper became a familiar fact to children everywhere on Thanksgiving Day when TV network viewers saw the familiar cartoon character in the traditional Macy's Christmas parade in New York, the U. S. Postal officials pointed out.

Santa's reply to the children's note, to be delivered free of any additional charge through

the courtesy of the Postal Service, will be a gaily-decorated card with an appropriate reply to please the children, the local postal head noted. All that is required is the child's note to Santa with regular 5¢ first class postage on the envelope, together with the ZIP-coded address and return address.

The Post Office officials again urged the public to do their Christmas mailing early.

For "Aunt Abby" Series:

Pearce Wins Top Smithwick Award

By Charles Dunn

Raleigh--Thilbert H. Pearce of Franklinton, special writer, photographer and columnist for The Franklin Times, has won the Smithwick Cup Competition for 1963 for the articles on "Aunt Abby House, Angel to the Confederacy."

The presentation of a replica of the Smithwick Cup was made at the 22nd annual meeting of the North Carolina Society of County and Local Historians in Raleigh Saturday. Dr. Blackwell Robinson, president of the society, presented the award to Pearce.

The Franklin County writer won second place in the competition last year.

The Smithwick Award, established by the late Dr. D. T.

Smithwick of Louisburg, is given annually for the best newspaper or magazine article relating to local history or biography appearing in a North Carolina publication between Nov. 15 and Nov. 15 of each year.

The articles submitted are evaluated by a committee. Considered in judging articles are their appropriateness, importance, accuracy, readability, and arrangement.

Second place in the 1963 competition went to Mrs. Margaret McMahan of Fayetteville for articles appearing in the Fayetteville Observer. The third place award went to Lewis Philip Hall of Wilmington for an article in the Raleigh News & Observer.

In addition to receiving a replica of the Smithwick Cup, Pearce's name will be engraved on the original Smithwick Cup which is retained by the Society.

In announcing the award to Pearce, Charles Dunn of Durham, chairman of the Smithwick Cup Awards Committee, pointed out that almost a year had been spent in research for the story on Aunt Abby House.

He added, "The subject of the story, Aunt Abby, was one of the more colorful and most unique contributions made by Franklin County to the cause of the Confederacy a hundred years ago. An independent and somewhat strange woman, Aunt Abby made the unexpected.

"She crossed enemy lines on deeds of mercy. She was a close friend of Gov. Vance and other leaders of our state during that period of its history," Dunn continued. "Needless to say, Aunt Abby was considered a character and became something of a legend in her own time. However, as the years passed Aunt Abby was all but forgotten.

"Mr. Pearce's articles have undoubtedly brought back some of Aunt Abby's popularity and, to some extent, have restored her to her proper place in Franklin County history," Dunn said.

"Mr. Pearce's painstaking interest in his county's history is admirable," he concluded, "and the result of his work merits him the Smithwick Cup Award for 1963."

In last year's Smithwick Cup Competition, Pearce's winning article was an account of the part played by Franklin County men after the Battle of Seven Pines and included Gen. Jeb Stuart's first ride around McClellan.

At that time it was stated, "Pearce's articles were unique among those submitted for this contest in that they associated history with people living today."

"Mingled with state and Confederate leaders like Vance, Branch, Jackson and Lee were the names of Franklin County soldiers, whose families still live in the county.

"The idea and the effort undoubtedly created a greater family pride among some and certainly it created a greater awareness of Franklin County's contributions to North Carolina history," the citation for Pearce's 1962 award stated.

Pruette Speaks At Wake Electric Dinner

"Transformations" was the topic of the talk Mr. C. Ray Pruette, of Franklinton, presented at the annual Christmas dinner, Thursday evening, for Wake Electric Membership Corporation.

Mr. Pruette, introduced by Mr. J. J. Hart at the meeting held in the Southeastern Cafeteria, Wake Forest, spoke of the transformations that Christmastide makes in man. Generally speaking, man is a chemically put-together mass, daily going about its business, until the Christmas season comes along and transforms man into a more spiritual being that is of infinite worth in the eyes of the Maker. Christmas lifts us out of our every day life and gives a new perspective on life, Mr. Pruette concluded.

Mr. J. L. Shearon, corporation manager, presided at the dinner, giving the welcome and making announcements. Invocation was given by Mr. H. L. O'Brien.

Following introductions of guests by Mr. L. K. Stephenson, Mr. N. C. Brummitt gave the president's message.

Present for the dinner were the eighty-odd directors, their families, employees and families and guests.

Policeman's Child Shows Improvement

The 19 month-old daughter of Louisburg Police Patrolman and Mrs. Charlie Lambert was reported much improved in Rex Hospital in Raleigh today.

The child was stricken suddenly ill at her home early Sunday morning and was taken to Franklin Memorial Hospital. Failing to respond to treatment, she was rushed to the Raleigh hospital about noon by the Louisburg Rescue Service.

Local Student Wins High English Award

Francine Perry of Louisburg High School is one of 870 outstanding students of high school English in the country.

The National Council of Teachers of English has named her a 1963 national winner in its annual Achievement Awards competition.

Last spring a committee of English teachers from the high school nominated Miss Perry to represent Louisburg High School in the competition. The

nation's schools nominated almost 6,800 students for the NCTE citation.

In announcing the winners, James R. Squire, Executive Secretary of National Council of Teachers of English, said that the Council recommends these students for college scholarships in 1964. In previous years, 99% of the Awards winners entered the college of their choice. Approximately 80% of those applying for

scholarships received financial aid.

The NCTE sends to all winners and runners-up scrolls of recognition. It honors their high school departments with certificates of merit. The Council also sends the names of these students to their respective congressmen and governors.

Mrs. Jewel C. Bartholomew, and Mrs. Mamie B. Clayton have been Francine's English in-



Award Presented

T. H. Pearce of Franklinton, left, is shown receiving the Smithwick Cup for the best historical article appearing in a newspaper during the past year from Dr. Blackwell Robinson during the meeting of the N. C. Society of County and Local Historians in Raleigh Saturday.

(Photo by Charles Dunn)

Bureau Prexy States Little Federal Plan Fair For Everyone

The president of the Franklin County Farm Bureau said here this week that it would be "a serious backward step for Franklin County's economy if the state is ever ruled by urban legislators."

President Melvin Nelms submitted that urban rule is a "real and serious threat unless the reapportionment amendment passes on January 14."

The amendment -- popularly called "Little Federal Plan" -- would reduce house membership from 120 to 100, giving each county one member. The Senate would be increased from 50 to 70 members, with all seats being allotted on a population basis.

"This plan gives fair representation to everybody," said Nelms, "and provides for neither urban or rural control. Basing one house on area and the other on population is nothing other than a fair solution."

Nelms cited the fact that Franklin County's estimated agricultural income for 1962 was \$18,910,414. This includes

government payments and income from sale of farm products. Economic specialists, he said, report that each agricultural dollar is multiplied seven times as it moves through the economy.

"This is too important a part of our economy to be entrusted to people who don't understand or care about farming," The Franklin County Farm Bureau president said.

North Carolina's estimated agricultural income for 1962, he noted, was \$1,362,080,554. It increased \$90,089,917, over the 1961 figure, he said.

In Franklin County, the increase was \$2,458,400.

Nelms submitted that this progress "would have been erased if we had been depending on legislators who had only urban interests at heart."

Nelms, quoting agricultural Extension Service estimates, cited the following 1962 income figures from some of the major farm commodities produced in Franklin County: Tobacco -- \$13,923,300; Cotton -- \$824,024; Hogs -- \$700,000; Poultry and Eggs -- \$938,000.

"Producing and marketing these crops is a specialized and complex business," Nelms said, "and legislators must understand our problems if Franklin County's farming is to stay on a firm economic footing."

Greeting Issue

The annual Times Christmas Greetings issue will be published on Monday, December 23, this year. Although the issue will carry a Tuesday, December 24 dateline, the issue will be actually printed and mailed the day before.

The absolute deadline for holiday greeting and all other advertisements for this issue is 12 noon Friday, December 20.

The Thursday, December 26 issue will be suspended and the Times office will be closed December 24, 25, 26 and 27 in order that employees may enjoy the Christmas Holidays at home.

Awarded Air Medal In Vietnam

Army Capt. Benard S. Pergerson, Jr., whose wife, Jane, lives at 406 Mitchell Avenue, Franklinton, N. C., received The Air Medal during ceremonies in Vietnam, in late November.

Captain Pergerson received the award for meritorious achievement while engaged in aerial combat support of ground forces of the Republic of Vietnam.

The captain entered the Army in 1955 and arrived overseas in February 1963 on this tour of duty.

He is a 1950 graduate of Franklinton High School and a 1954 graduate of North Carolina State College in Raleigh.

His parents live in Franklinton.

NEWS BRIEFS

Approved

The Louisburg City Council Friday night voted to enter into a contract with the County of Franklin to operate the county-wide alarm radio control center for a period of one year.

Wanted Quiet

Rochester, N. Y.--A city employee, inspecting a water main in a 25-foot-deep manhole, found a man sound asleep.

Ralph Harris, 40, climbed out of the manhole and sat down by a tree and proceeded to fall asleep again.

When questioned by police, Harris said he had a fight with his wife and "wanted to get away from her for awhile."

Catches Baby

Albany, Calif.--It was the quick thinking of Bass Gaddie who saved a 19-month-old baby from what might have been a fatal fall.

Walking home with his arms full of groceries, Gaddie looked up just in time to see Christopher Cotton fall from the ledge of a 36-foot-high window. He jumped a 6-foot fence and caught the baby.

Eat Marijuana

Los Angeles--County clerks found that mice had eaten their fill of narcotics stored as evidence when they made a routine check in the storeroom. So hyped-up were the mice that they turned on the men and growled.

They sought advice on how to prevent the rodents from destroying valuable evidence, and, after several remedies they decided to call the county exterminator. Poison was applied and the problem was solved.

Church-going is one of the hallmarks of a proper community spirit, among other things.

Commissioners Name New Asst. Agents

The County Commissioners Thursday filled vacancies on both the Farm and Extension Agency staffs.

Harold Alton Stegall, of Warren County, was appointed to the post of Assistant Farm Agent at a starting salary of \$5,800 annually, and Mrs. Bernice Stone Harris was appointed Assistant Home Economics Agent at a starting salary of \$5,300 annually.

Both of the new appointees were recommended to the posts by the District Extension Service.

Board Chairman W. P. Childers appointed Commissioners Norris Collins and Claude Arnold to meet with the official boards of the towns of Franklinton and Louisburg with reference to the state statute providing for breath tests for intoxication.

The Board also voted to extend the Christmas holiday for county employees through December 27 and set another meeting for December 18 to discuss the Surplus Food Program.

Contributions

Louisburg Rescue Service Chief V. A. Peoples acknowledged the receipt of several more contributions to the Rescue Service this week.

The Service, he said, received \$100 from an anonymous contributor and another \$25 from Mr. and Mrs. William C. Dent.



Francine Perry