

Clearing and colder today. Low, 32; high, 45. Wednesday, sunny and continued rather cold.

# The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

Win \$100.00

Register every day for Mystery Merchant Grand Prize.

Tel. GY 6-3283

Five Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, February 11, 1964

(Eight Pages Today)

94th Year—Number 101

## Jury Acquits Wheeler In Murder Trial Here



Plane Gets New Engine

"Tiny" Shaw, First Class Mechanic, from the Norfolk Air Station replaces the propeller on the Navy plane that landed last week at New Hope. The plane, with a new engine installed, was flown out on Saturday afternoon.—Times Photo.

### Navy Plane Leaves New Hope

#### Safe Take Off From Rural Road Saturday

The Navy T-28 airplane, that caused hundreds of spectators to visit the scene near New Hope, finally was flown out Saturday afternoon. The plane had been forced to land in a rural paved road last Tuesday noon. Lt. W. M. Westerfelt of the Norfolk Air Station piloted the craft into the air at 1:20 p.m. Saturday.

Engine trouble had caused Lt. Ross Cafaro, from Tampa, Fla., to land the ship in a hurry last week. Cafaro and his crewman-passenger were flown back to Norfolk by helicopter earlier in the week. Lt. J. G. Carl Mullens of Wesley, Iowa and his crew were sent to New Hope to install a new engine and to make the plane ready for takeoff.

The crew completed their work on Friday night and checked the plane out as ready to fly. The takeoff was scheduled for 8 o'clock Saturday morning, but snow at the Norfolk station caused a delay. The flight was rescheduled for 2:30, but the pilot arrived by helicopter early and the takeoff was moved up. A large crowd witnessed the takeoff in a narrow straight stretch of Highway 1708, and a number missed the event, when it was moved to an earlier time. The State Highway Patrol blocked the road and the takeoff was uneventful. The pilot dipped his wings in salute to the crowd as he became airborne.

Other crew members sent from Norfolk were: "Tiny" Shaw, First Class Mechanic; C. E. Williams, Jr., AE 1 of Louisville, Ky.; David Dionne, Airman from Idaho; John Downs, Airman Apprentice, Birmingham, Ala. and E. D. Evans of Buffalo, N. Y.

### The Soviet Note

Washington, D. C.—The Soviet Union delivered a long note to the United States and apparently every other country proposing the renunciation of force in all territorial disputes. The State Department said its information was that all countries, Communist and non-Communist had received the Soviet proposal. The United States has traditionally been wary of all such proposals. Washington has maintained that it could not renounce the use of force in Europe as long as there existed a danger of aggression against West Berlin.

### Industrial Group Attend Meeting

Three local men attended the Executive Industrial Development Conference held in Raleigh last week. W. J. Benton, Industrial Director for Franklin County, C. A. Paine, Franklin County Chairman of the Franklin County Industrial Commission and J. M. Allen, Jr., a Director in the Lenoir-Franklin County Development Corporation, attended the meeting held in the Sir Walter Hotel.

The two day meeting was held to discuss certain aspects of obtaining industry to North Carolina and was attended by representatives from throughout the state. Benton said, "I am sorry that more from our county could not attend. It would have been of interest to our officials and business men. It was a most informative meeting."

Subjects discussed at the meeting were: Industrial Sites, Prospect Information, Labor Availability Surveys, Financing, Industrial Education Centers and Working with Prospects.

### Preyer To Visit Louisburg



Richardson Preyer

Richardson Preyer, Democratic candidate for Governor, will visit Louisburg Tuesday, February 18, on his 100-county tour of North Carolina. It will be the fourth week of the tour.

He will make his appearance at 4:30 p.m. at the court house to meet his supporters and to discuss informally with the citizens of Franklin County his platform for the Governorship. Preyer will visit Louisburg after stops earlier in the day at Henderson and Warrenton. Preyer will be the first candidate to appear in Franklin County.



Alvin Wheeler

### Business Asso. Plans Promotion

The Louisburg Business Association announced they are planning a town-wide George Washington Birthday Promotion again this year. In a meeting held last week, Raymond Earl Burnette, President appointed Clay McBride, Tom House and John Godfrey Chairmen of the Trade Promotions Committee.

Plans for the sales event have not been announced. Burnette

made other committee appointments for the year with Wallace Tippet and D. R. Saunders as Membership Chairmen. Tom East was named Legislative Committee head; Robert Stanley, Chairman Transportation; and J. P. Timberlake, Jr., was named Finance Chairman. The Directors agreed to seek co-sponsorship with a local civic club, for a Welcome Wagon program for Louisburg.

### Harding To Speak To Democrats Here

Rep. James D. Speed, Chairman of the Franklin County Democratic Executive Committee, announced this week that the Annual Democratic Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 28. The meeting will be in the Louisburg College Cafeteria.

Edmund H. Harding, the "Tar Heel Humorist" will be the



Edmund H. Harding

featured speaker. Mr. Harding is from Washington, N. C. and is known widely for his story telling and homespun philosophy. Since 1940 he has made an average of 160 speeches a year in all the states except Hawaii. He has spoken in Mexico and Canada.

He is a Kentucky Colonel, an Arkansas Traveler, a Texas Ranger, a Tennessee Volunteer, an officer in the Confederate Air Force and an honorary chief of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Indians. Governor Terry Sanford has appointed him North Carolina's Ambassador of Good Goodwill, an appointment he has held under seven N. C. Governors.

Speed announced that tickets for the dinner will go on sale February 20th and remain available through March 20th. Tickets may be purchased from any precinct chairman. The meeting was moved to the college cafeteria in order to accommodate the expected increased crowds. The Annual Meeting has grown in popularity in the past few years and this is expected to be the largest.

### To Build Cafeterias

Warren W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools, announced this week that the Franklin County Board of Education plans to build two new cafeterias this year. Final plans for a new cafeteria at Gold Sand School have been drawn and preliminary plans for the Riverside cafeteria have been approved.

The Board built a new unit at Bunn last year at a cost of \$61,019. The new building at Gold Sand is to be located north of the present cafeteria site. The final working plans have been completed, and work is now underway on final specifications. When the specifications are completed, they will go to the Department of School House Planning in Raleigh for

the State Department's approval.

Architect Ralph Reeves, of Hollaway-Reeves Architects, Raleigh, has said he hopes to have the Gold Sand plans ready for the Board's final approval by their March or April meeting. After final approval by the County Board of Education, bids will be taken on the project.

The Riverside preliminary plans have been approved by the Riverside Advisory Committee, the Louisburg District Committee and the County Board of Education. Work is now underway on final plans for this building. Smith said he expected both buildings to be ready for use by the end of the year.

### Deliberates 22 Minutes In Reaching Verdict

A verdict of "Not Guilty" was returned by the jury Friday night in Franklin County Superior Court, in the case of Alvin Wheeler, 41-year-old Franklinton man, charged with the death of his brother-in-law. The murder trial had taken most of the week of criminal court, in the selection of the jurors from a special venire and the presentation of evidence. It took the twelve man jury just 22 minutes to return their verdict.

Wheeler had been charged with first degree murder in the May 6, 1962 shooting of Matthew C. Askew, 40, of Franklinton. Askew and Wheeler married sisters. The shooting occurred in the middle of the street in front of Wheeler's home. The state had contended that it was intentional. The defense declared it was an accident.

Askew was shot in the left chest by a .38 caliber pistol accidentally, when Wheeler knocked a shotgun Askew was holding to the ground, according to defense witnesses. The blow against the shotgun caused the pistol to fire, they said. Askew was dead on arrival at Franklin Memorial Hospital.

The State presented twenty-four witnesses and the defense presented 13 plus several character witnesses. Superior Court Judge Henry A. McKinnon, Jr., of Lumberton presided.

The State rested its case at 4:45 Friday afternoon and Judge McKinnon granted a five minute break to the jurors. After the period, Judge McKinnon charged the jury with six verdicts that they were to consider; First Degree, First Degree with Mercy, Second Degree, Voluntary Manslaughter, Involuntary Manslaughter and Not Guilty.

The case had caused widespread interest, with the court room filled every day. Many students attended the trial as part of their studies. The jury had been kept in a local motel overnight throughout the time.

Solicitor William G. Ransdell headed the prosecution with local attorney John F. Matthews assisting. Attorneys W. L. Lumpkin and Hill Yarborough represented the defense.

Askew was an employee of

Home Oil Co. in Louisburg prior to his death. Askew and Wheeler lived across the street from each other in Franklinton. Witnesses said the trouble started when Askew came to the Wheeler home on that Sunday afternoon threatening Wheeler's life.

### Youngsville Gets New Fire House

The new \$12,000 Youngsville Fire Station and Town Hall is nearing completion and the Fire Department has moved their equipment into the new home. Fire Chief J. T. Allen said the No. 2 Tanker would remain on the west side of the railroad tracks while the new truck and tanker will be stationed in the new building.

The 50 x 50 foot building, when completed will house the Town offices as well as the Fire Department. Youngsville's department is volunteer and has 29 active members. The Town people voted a \$7,000 bond issue last spring to help finance the new structure.

Suppers, shows and local contributions are expected to raise the necessary funds to complete the project. The firemen receive their town license tags free each year, as their only pay for their services.

The Fire Department will be housed in a 30 x 50 section of the building with the Mayor's office and Police Department in the other section.

### Light Snow

A light snow fell over the county early Saturday morning. The precipitation started around 2:30 a.m. and left less than an inch of covering. Most of it was gone by noon, as a bright sun came out to warm the ground.



### Escape Attempt Discovered

Louisburg Police Chief William Dement is shown, pointing to the hole whittled out with the leg of a cot, discovered last Saturday night at the Franklin County Jail. Garland McGriger, 40-year-old Negro prisoner, had attempted to cut his way out of the jail. He also had attempted to bore around the lock. McGriger is being held on five counts of breaking and entering and larceny.

—Times Staff Photo.



New Bunn Cafeteria

Shown above, the new Bunn Cafeteria, just recently completed at a cost of \$61,019. The County Board of Education plans to build two new cafeterias this year. One will be built at Gold Sand School and the other at the Riverside School in Louisburg.

—Times Staff Photo.