

-What Next - For Franklin County Schools?

by CLINT FULLER

Note: This is the second in a series of articles on Franklin County Schools and the problems confronting them. In Part I last week, the Assurance of Compliance requirements of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D. C. was discussed. Today's article continues the discussion of this subject.

Part II

If Federal funds are to continue to be received by Franklin County Schools after this school year, the County Board of Education will have to do one of these three things:

1. Pledge that federal money will not be used in a discriminatory manner.
2. Submit a plan of racial desegregation.
3. Be under court order to integrate.

David Seeley, legal assistant to the U. S. Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C., has stated, "Title VI of the law (Civil Rights Act, 1964) does not require integration of schools, only discontinuation of discriminatory practices." Seeley added that "a substantial good faith start by next year" should be made. He was speaking to a group of school officials recently in Raleigh.

In a 2,608 word release from Attorney General of North Carolina, Wade Bruton, and prepared by assistant Attorney General Ralph Moody, the state office rules; in part, as follows: "Neither the State Board of Education nor the county and city boards asked for this situation, but they must live with it, and they will have to work with such clay as is handed to them. No form of token compliance, clever schemes, chicanery or subtle or sophisticated plans of avoidance--no matter how crafty or cunning--will in the end prevail. No devices or plans whether 'ingenious or ingenious' will constitute any legal defense to the mandates of this Federal statute."

In short, the spokesman for HEW in Washington soft-peddled the heavy stick that the Federal government holds over the heads of local school boards, while at the same time, the state's law officials pointed out, in no uncertain terms, the meaning of the compliance requirement of the NEW Department.

As one Franklin County Board of Education member put it, "I'm torn between my mind and my conscience." He meant that he feels the sensible thing to do would be to sign the Assurance of Compliance and submit a desegregation plan; but his conscience tells him this might not be what the people who elect school boards desire.

It would take a tax increase of 35 1/2 cents per \$100 valuation in Franklin County, under the present tax structure, to compensate for the loss of the \$89,010.34 in these Federal funds. The County Board at present has a request before the Board of Commissioners for \$600,000 for a long-range building program which would require around \$75,000 per year to accomplish within the next five years. There is a question as to whether or not the county finances can stand even this smaller amount. It would be almost impossible to obtain the \$89,000.00 from local tax sources.

It would appear then that the County Board of Education is faced with the decision to sign a pledge and to initiate a plan or lose the finances for the programs and thereby being forced to discontinue them.

Needless to say, once a plan is submitted and meets with the approval of the State Department and the Federal government, the finances will continue to come in as they have done in the past. Therefore, the problem of finance in this particular area of Franklin County schools will have been solved.

However, it is expected that solving this problem will create an even greater one. Realistic people are aware that it will take a great deal of adjustment on the part of all Franklin County citizens before integration works smoothly in the county schools.

This series of articles will not concern itself with the problems of desegregation, except as it affects the future of the schools. In areas where "freedom of choice" plans have been instituted, it has become impossible for administrative boards to determine where to build new schools, establish school districts, and to anticipate enrollment.

The "freedom of choice" plan has been described as the only plan that will ultimately please the Federal government. Such a plan in Franklin County would do away with present school attendance areas and a parent could send his child to any school in the county regardless of their place of residence. It could conceivably result in a massive exchange of students even among the separate races. A disgruntled parent in one school district could move the child to another for almost any reason or for no reason at all. There is more to this decision than just the prospect of integrated schools alone. More on the "freedom-of-choice" plan next week.

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Council Calls May Elections

The Lou sburg Town Council called for a General Election to be held on May 4, 1965, in their meeting here Tuesday night. The elections will select a mayor and six councilmen to serve for a period of two years.

Lee H. Bell was named Registrar and Mrs. Anne F. Shelton and E. S. Stovall were named Judges for the election. Filing

deadline for candidates was set as April 20, 1965, at 6 p.m. E.S.T. Mayor Pro Tem Robert Hicks presided at the meeting in the absence of Mayor Louis Wheel-

less who is hospitalized following a slight coronary attack a few weeks ago. Councilman V. A. Peoples made the election motion, and Councilman Jimmy Lumpkin gave the motion a sec-

onding. The Board also accepted a bid of \$1954.00 by Griffin Motor Co. here for the purchase price of an 8 cylinder, 3 4 ton truck cab and chassis with utility body.

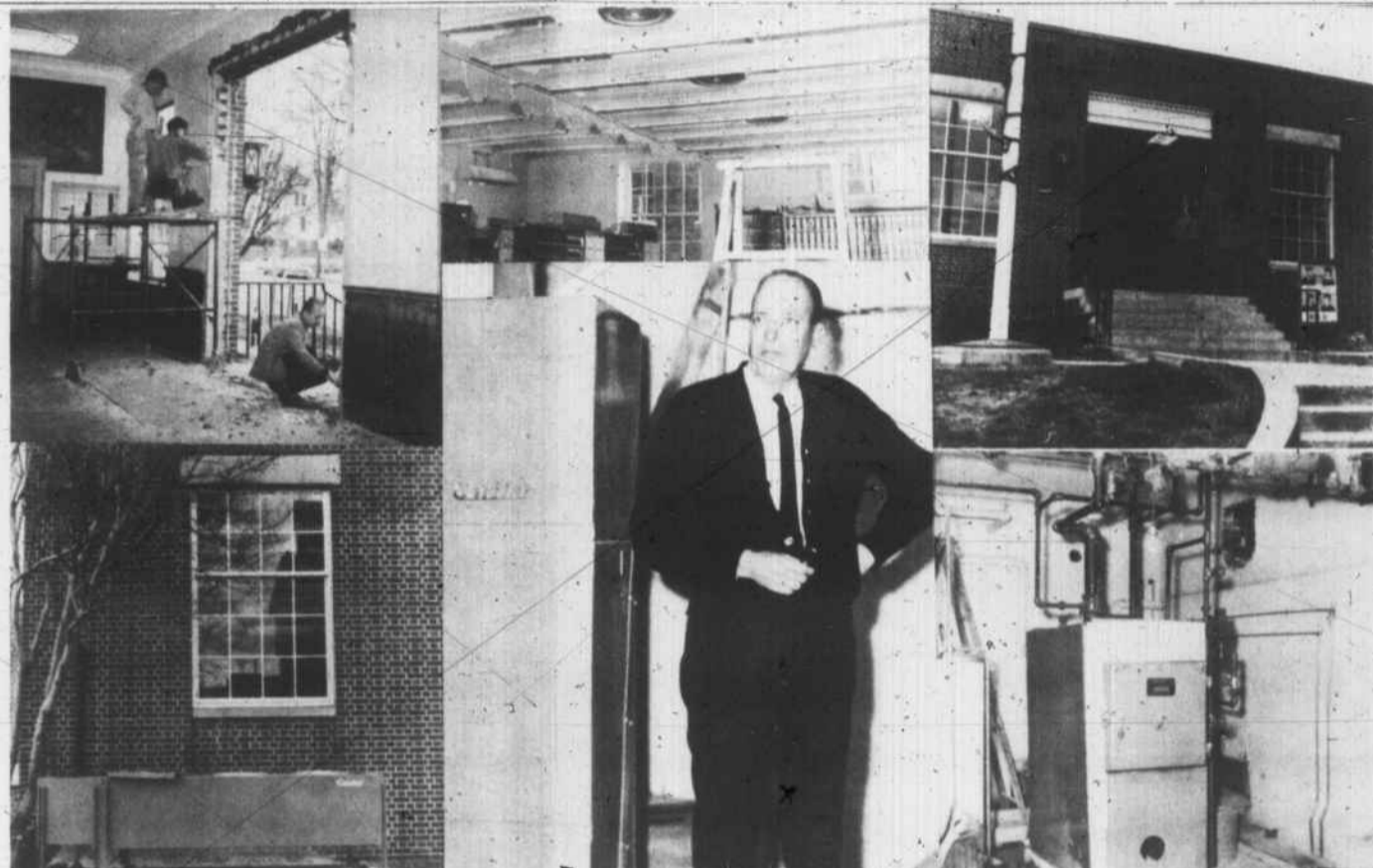
Griffin was the low bidder of three local agencies. Councilman Jimmy Lumpkin introduced a motion authorizing Town Administrator E. S. Ford to advertise for bids on a 2 ton truck cab and chassis, said bids to be opened on Friday April 9, 1965, at 7:00 p.m. Peoples seconded the motion and it was carried.

There have been no announcements by any of the present councilmen as to their intentions to seek another term. Mayor Wheelless said, prior to his illness, that he had not made up his mind whether to run again. He stated, "I am vitally interested in the programs we now have going. I would like to see the progress of the past several years continue."

Several weeks ago, Councilman E. F. Thomas said, "It's too early," when asked if he had arrived at a decision to seek another term on the council. V. A. Peoples, who is Chief of the Rescue Service as well as a member of the council, replied to the same question, "I am not sure. I haven't made up my mind yet. I am pleased with the present progress." Others members, Hicks, E. T. Jones and Jonah Taylor were not questioned. None have made any public statement as to their intentions.

Hicks led the list of council candidates, in the May 7, 1963, elections with 439 votes. He was followed by Peoples with 427; Lumpkin with 422; Asher F. Johnson, Jr. with 411; Jones 394 and Taylor 392. Johnson resigned in January of 1964 and E. F. Thomas, who polled 242 for seventh place in the election, was named as his replacement.

W. H. Allen, Jr., long-time town employee, Raymond Tonket, local department store proprietor, and D. C. Phillips, local barber were defeated in the race in 1963. Mayor Wheelless was unopposed. In the same election, voters approved fluoridation of town system, 422 to 114.



Local Post Office Remodeling

Lou sburg Postmaster Edward L. Best is shown above standing in the midst of massive renovations nearing completion at the local post office. Upper left and upper right, workmen are pictured preparing to install new aluminum vestibule which replaces an old one made of wood; top center, new overhead

lighting fixtures; lower left, outside cooling tank for new air conditioning system and new aluminum framed windows; and lower right, a new oil fired boiler replaces old hand fired coal burner. Best stands beside the huge air conditioning unit, located in the basement. —Times Staff Photos.

Renovations To Post Office Nearing Completion

Renovations and remodeling work is nearing completion at the Lou sburg Post Office, according to Postmaster Edward L. Best. The massive project, costing over \$50,000, started with the awarding of bids last November 3 and is expected to be completed within the next three weeks.

The improvements, under the direction of the General Services Administration, include the replacement of wooden doors and windows with aluminum fixtures, a completely new front vestibule, new light fixtures throughout, plus a new oil-fired boiler and air conditioning system.

The building, erected in 1937, had been heated with coal requiring constant trips to the coal pile by the custodian and had not heretofore been air conditioned.

Included in the work is a complete rewiring of the structure, new plumbing throughout and an interior paint job. The local post office is designated as a First Class office and employs twenty people which includes a postmaster, an assistant postmaster, 3 clerks, 2 city carriers, 3 substitute clerks, 4 rural carriers, 4 substitute rural carriers, and 2 custodian employees. General Services Administration announced last September that plans were being made for the Lou sburg renovations and estimated the cost at between \$40,000 and \$65,000. Bids opened on October 13, 1964 in Atlanta, Ga. The actual cost according to Best is \$52,753.00.

Weather

Generally fair today and partly cloudy Friday, with little change in temperature. High today, 50; low, 25.

Recorder's Court Has Heavy Docket Tuesday

The following cases were disposed of during a session of Recorder's Court on Tuesday, March 9th:

Nathaniel P. Davis, w/m, unlawful possession of whiskey. \$25.00 fine and costs.

Alton Glenn Leonard, w/m/21, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Arthur Alston, c/m/32, motor vehicle violation. \$25.00 fine and costs.

Willie Willis Crudup, c/m/38, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

George Hatch Holmes, w/m/58, operating auto intoxicated. Pleads guilty to careless and reckless driving. \$25.00 fine and costs.

Walter R. Cuthrell, assault. \$10.00 fine and costs.

David Joyner, x c/m/54, assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, resulting in serious injury. Probable cause found. Bound over to Superior Court under \$1000.00 bond.

James McArthur Jourigan, non support. 12 months in prison to work under supervision to State Prison Dept., to be suspended on payment of \$50.00 per month beginning today and monthly thereafter, plus costs of court. Notice of appeal. Bond fixed at \$500.00.

Ernest Cleveland Smith, Jr., w/m/44, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

John Staley Baker, c/m/32, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$12.00 fine and costs.

John Badcock Wimer, w/m/19, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$15.00 fine and costs.

Sarah Bryant Raynor, w/t/48, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$13.00 fine and costs.

William Thomas Sweet, c/m/50, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Willie Russell Edwards, w/m/40, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

John Henry Perry, c/m/40, assault with deadly weapon. \$25.00 fine and costs.

Thomas Perry, c/m/18, non support, Not guilty.

James Harrison Allen, c/m/46, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

George Burney, Jr., c/m/31, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Harry Nelson Dupree, w/m/20, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Elmo Edward Cash, w/38,

speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Walter Mayberry, Jr., w/m, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$15.00 fine and costs.

Clyde Lester Waiser, w/m/51, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Dianne Gay Moore, w/t/19, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

John Cooley Altrocchi, w/m/36, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

William Thomas Sweet, c/m/50, speeding. Pleads guilty under waiver statute. \$10.00 fine and costs.

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Richard Cecil Waters, w/m/41, speeding; motor vehicle violation. \$15.00 fine and costs.

Clarence Cameron Alston, c/m/40, speeding. Pleads guilty. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Virgil Ennis Duncan, w/m/72, speeding. Defendant enters a plea of holo contendere. Prayer for judgment continued upon payment of costs.

William Hill, c/m/33, speeding. \$20.00 fine and costs. Notice of appeal, bond set at \$200.00.

Abner Tant, w/m/24, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

James Clyde Alston, c/m/47, no operator's license. \$20.00 fine and costs.

James Edward Kearney, w/m/32, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Hal Boone Perry, Jr., w/m/32, speeding. \$5.00 fine and costs.

Otha Boddie, c/m/21, no operator's license. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Willie Junior Smith, c/m/27, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Clemon (Burrell) Richardson, c/m/19, no operator's license; motor vehicle violation. \$25.00 fine and costs.

Robert Richards Manh, c/m, motor vehicle violation, \$20.00 fine and costs.

Doris Berriger Shue, w/t/35, speeding. Not pros.

Edwin Sonstain Bryson, w/m/59, speeding. Prayer for judgment continued upon payment of costs.

Floyd Wood, c/m/40, unlawful possession of whiskey; unlawful possession of whiskey for sale. 6 months in jail, assigned to work under supervision of State Prison Dept., suspended on payment of \$25.00 fine and costs.

Willard Earl Hill, w/m/19, speeding. \$50.00 fine and costs.

Douglas Tyrone Goodwin, w/m/18, exceeding safe speed. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Hubert Thomas, c/m, non support. 6 months in jail, assigned to work on roads, suspended on payment of costs and \$10.00 per week into C.S.C. office for support of children.

Home Chapel, conducted by Rev. Aubrey Tomlinson. Burial will follow in Duke Memorial Church cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Adell Inscow Brown, two sisters, Mrs. Fannie Wilson, Apex, N. C., and Mrs. Viola Layton, Raleigh, N. C.; two brothers, Willie, of Oxford, N. C., and Weldon of Lou sburg.

Heart Attack Fatal

The Lou sburg Rescue Service answered a call around 1 a.m. this morning to the home of Luther Brown, w/m/55, in Hickory Rock. Brown had suffered a heart attack and was dead when the Rescuers arrived.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. from the Lancaster Funeral

Home Chapel, conducted by Rev. Aubrey Tomlinson. Burial will follow in Duke Memorial Church cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Adell Inscow Brown, two sisters, Mrs. Fannie Wilson, Apex, N. C., and Mrs. Viola Layton, Raleigh, N. C.; two brothers, Willie, of Oxford, N. C., and Weldon of Lou sburg.

Youngsville Board Sets Elections

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Youngsville set Tuesday, May 4, 1965 as the date for the election of a Mayor and five Commissioners, in a meeting held at Youngsville last week.

The Commissioners appointed Mrs. Estelle E. Pearce as Registrar and named E. M. Carter and W. O. Roberts as Judges for the elections. The action directed the Registrar to open the books for registration on April 15 and to keep them open for seven days, excluding Sundays. April 24 was set as challenge day.

The Town Hall at Youngsville was designated as the official polling place and April 17, at 12 noon was set as the deadline for filing for the offices. Wiley M. Roberts is presently Youngsville's Mayor.

Former Lou sburg Girl On Handbook Staff

An Oxford student at the University of North Carolina, Miss Carolyn Plott, Managing editor of Yearbook Yack, the UNC annual for the past two years, now is a member of the staff of Carolina Handbook.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Plott, of Oxford, formerly of Lou sburg, has been tapped for other campus honors this year. She was recently chosen Maverick Maid, one of three coeds picked to represent Maverick House, a man's residence hall on the campus, in its activities throughout the year. Miss Plott is also one of 21 girls selected for the organization, Carolina Sweetheart, a welcoming committee.

Conservation Plan

Washington, D. C. -- President Johnson's program to clean up the nation's waterways and air was greeted warmly in Congress. While in sympathy with the program, some members raised the question of cost.

School Officials Gather At Franklinton For Annual Meet

School Board members from throughout this section of the state are gathering in Franklinton today as the Sixth District organization holds its annual meeting.

Dr. Richard Whitfield, a member of the Franklinton City Schools Board is President of the association and will preside at today's meeting. The featured speaker for tonight's banquet meeting is Dr. W. Amos Abrams, editor of "North Carolina Education".

The afternoon program has four speakers scheduled, including an address by Dr. Everette Miller, Assistant State Superintendent, who is slated to talk

Anti-U. S. Mobs

Washington, D. C. -- Attacks on United States buildings abroad are at a new height despite statements by the President and Secretary of State calling for respect. More than a dozen assaults have damaged American embassies and other U. S. Government property.

On Bombings

Washington, D. C. -- Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara testified before the Armed Services Committee that the new U. S. jet bombings in S. Vietnam were a change of tactics. He defended the President in not negotiating with the Reds at this time.