

What Next For Franklin County Schools?

by CLINT FULLER

Part III

Note: The third in this series dealing with problems confronted by Franklin County Schools is a continuation of the most urgent problem; that is, a plan of compliance to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The Franklin County Board of Education and the Franklinton City School Board have spent many hours in the past two weeks discussing the Assurance of Compliance to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They have been joined in this effort by every school board in the state of North Carolina and throughout the United States.

This problem is not unique to Franklin County. It is shared by every school district in the nation to one degree or another. There is no yardstick to go by in the presentation of the required plan. Most of the plans which have been sent in by the growing number of school boards complying, have been returned for further action.

Apparently, school officials are having a problem formulating a plan of desegregation which will please the Federal government. If this is true, certainly there will be a problem of devis-

ing a plan which will satisfy the government and local citizens alike in the southern states.

Dr. Everett Miller, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for North Carolina, explains that there are four plans which North Carolina officials are choosing. He indicated that his department does not know which, if any, will be acceptable to the U. S. Commissioner of Education. The plans, with brief explanations, are as follows:

1. Freedom of Choice. Grades 1 through 12. This plan has been termed as "transitional and temporary. A document to help a school system get where it must ultimately go." It would give each parent the right to choose a school which they wish their child to attend. The Education Board would be required to assign that child to that school under most conditions.

2. Zoning. This plan means locating a school on a map and setting up an attendance area which the school would serve. All children, regardless of race, would attend the school in its

immediate attendance area.

3. Freedom of Choice limited to certain grades. A Guideline unofficially from the federal government says that this must start from the bottom grades or top and bottom at the same time and a grade-a-year is unacceptable.

4. Combination. That is a combination of the Freedom of Choice Plan and Zoning. Some systems propose Freedom of Choice in Elementary grades and zoning in the secondary schools.

The problem of compliance with the Civil Rights Act has completely overshadowed and for the time being eliminated thoughts of a long-range building plan for the immediate future. Action must be taken at once on the matter of compliance in order that plans can be made for the opening of school in the fall.

Until a plan is devised and approved, the hiring of teachers for another year will be hampered, registration of students will be impossible and setting up any budget will be unrealistic. There seems to be no question but that the Franklin County

system, and the Franklinton City system will offer some plan of compliance in the near future. The question is not one of continued segregated schools, but a question of how best to begin the process of desegregation. Both bodies seem to prefer a mild plan which will constitute the required "good faith start" as required in the law. Both seem to prefer to do it themselves under Title VI of the law instead of having the Justice Department do it for them under the Title IV section.

At present, State Superintendent Dr. Charles Carroll has directed all units in North Carolina to withhold any plan of compliance until the law is clarified. Those units working on plans, which included most of the 170 administrations in the state, were having unusual difficulty attempting to devise a plan without knowing just exactly what is required of them.

At any rate, the choice now confronting the Franklin County School systems is not whether or not to continue segregated schools, but at what rate of speed and to what degree is desegregation to be required under the Civil Rights Act.

Next: Franklin County's plan of compliance.

Weather

Partly cloudy today with moderate temperatures. High, 60; low, 36.—Friday, partly cloudy and cold.
Louisburg: High Wednesday, 49; low expected today, 38.

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Local Eastern Star Officers

William B. Barrow Chapter Installs Officers

Officers for 1965-66 for William B. Barrow Chapter No. 39, Order of the Eastern Star, were installed in a beautiful installation ceremony on Tuesday night at the Masonic Temple on Jolly Street.

For this occasion the chapter room was decorated with spring

AAUW

Studies The Problems Of The Ageing

Mrs. Annie Mae Pemberton of Raleigh, Supervisor of Services to the Aged, State Board of Public Welfare, spoke to the Louisburg Branch of the A.A.U.W. Monday night at its meeting in the home of Mrs. H. H. Hobgood.

Introduced by Miss Lucy Perry Burt, Mrs. Pemberton stressed the fact that the best place for those of us who are up in years to live is at home with the family whenever possible. This possibility comes about through respect and planning within the family, she stated. The feelings of loneliness, uselessness and disability among the older people create bad relations.

As a preventive measure for some of the problems of the aged, Mrs. Pemberton suggested educating the population to hold on to strong families, breaking away from the lay attitude that the older people can't change.

This talk was given as one of the series on "The American Family in a Changing World." Mrs. James B. Clayton presented the program for the evening.

During the brief business session presided over by Miss Elizabeth Johnson, president, Mrs. John Parnell read the minutes of the previous meeting and Mrs. John Matthews gave a Legislative report.

flowers. Installing officer for the evening was Mrs. Gladys V. Perry, Past Matron of Wellons Chapter. She was assisted by Mrs. Maxine Boyd, Past Matron of Henderson, as Installing Marshal; Mrs. Emma Debnam, Past Matron of William B. Barrow Chapter, as Installing Chaplain, and Mrs. Dot Chesson as Installing Organist.

Officers installed for the ensuing year were: Mrs. Helen W. Dickens, Worthy Matron; James A. Johnson, Worthy Patron; Mrs. Annie Mae Griffin, Associate Matron; George M. West, Associate Patron; Mrs. Carol F. Johnson, Secretary; Mrs. Marian Sykes, Treasurer.

er; Mrs. Fannie Remick, Conductress; Mrs. Miriam Finch, Associate Conductress; Mrs. Florence Wells, Chaplain; Mrs. Mae Shearin, Marshal; Mrs. Susie Fuller, Organist; Mrs. Lanthé Joyner, Ada; Mrs. Alice Godfrey, Ruth; Mrs. Estelle Joyner, Esther; Mrs. Florine Leonard, Martha; Miss Annie Belle Murphy, Electa; Mrs. Bonnie Gupton, Warder, and John Godfrey, Sentinel.

The new Worthy Matron gave a most inspirational message, in which she outlined her plans and aims for the year. The new Worthy Patron pledged his assistance to the worthy matron and to the chapter and

assured them that he looked forward to serving them this year.

Following remarks by the newly installed Worthy Matron and Patron, Mrs. Dickens asked her brother, Lloyd West, to offer a prayer and her brother George West, to sing "I Believe."

Refreshments, using a St. Patrick's Day theme, were served in the lobby following the ceremony, with guests from Franklin County, Henderson, Oxford and Zebulon.

Seniors Present Play

The Senior Class of Louisburg High School will present its annual class play Friday and Saturday nights of this week in the local school auditorium.

The production this year, "Judy Pulls the Curtain," will be presented each evening at 8 p.m. Mrs. Claude Arnold, class sponsor, announced the cast and parts as follows: Bill Williamson, Buddy O'Neal, and Henry Jones are three teenage boys who detest the theatrical ambitions of their girl friends played by Toni Merritt, Jean Zealand and Rudie Gupton.

Kate Huggins plays the part of a former actress and mother who encourages the girls and Ralph Brie plays her husband, a college professor who attempts to discourage the girls in their acting ambitions.

Bo Allen is a tramp, hired by the boys to pose as a motion picture director. Paulette Mullien is a persistent reporter and Anna Collier and Susan Lloyd play the part of twins, also interested in a Hollywood career.

Becky Simpson, a sophomore student at Louisburg College, is the director; Ken Barnes is the technician; Wesley Sloan, stage hand. Mrs. Arnold expressed her appreciation to these people and to Bob Versteeg, Director of Drama at Louisburg College, for their assistance in the production.

Commissioners Reject School Project Funds

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners, sitting first as the Board of Equalization and Review last Monday, convened as the county governing body long enough to reject a request for \$600,000 from the County Board of Education.

On a motion made by Commissioner Richard Cash, a former member of the County Board of Education, and seconded by freshman Board member E. M. Sykes, the Commission-

ers voted unanimously to "reject the request of the County Board of Education for the fiscal year 1965-66 for additional capital outlay for the sum of \$600,000."

Actually, the request was for \$600,000 over a five-year period and no specific amount was asked for in the coming budget. Should the amount have been equally divided over the five-year period, the request for this year would have been \$120,-

000 or an increase of \$40,000 over what is now available for new buildings.

The action by the Commissioners, while unexpected at this time, came, however, as no surprise. Members of the Board had individually expressed their reluctance to increase taxes for school purposes in several joint meetings of the two bodies and at the time of the official request presented to the Board by Superintendent

of Schools Warren W. Smith. When asked for his comments on the action, Superintendent Smith said Wednesday, "I have not been officially informed of the rejection." He said his office was not contacted prior to the Monday action by the Commissioners. Mrs. T. H. Dickens, Chairman of the Education Board, was not available for comment.

Clint Fuller, Vice Chairman of the Board, said, "I am disappointed that the Commissioners could not find some solution to this problem of finance. The State Department survey team recommended certain building programs in our county. It was estimated that such programs would cost over \$3 million and would bring our schools up to the minimum state requirements. The request for \$600,000 over a long period certainly would lower this minimum requirement status of our schools, but in my opinion, the people in the county are willing to pay for this amount of improvements. The Board may now elect to do as the Commissioners previously suggested, and call for a bond issue."

Alex T. Wood, Register of Deeds of the county and secretary to the Board of Commissioners, reported that he has been instructed by Chairman George Harris on Tuesday, to inform Mrs. Dickens and Fuller of the Monday decision.

In other action the Board drew jury lists and appointed Walter J. Debnam as deputy tax collector with authority to collect delinquent personal taxes.

Violent Storm Hits Area, Little Damage Locally

A violent storm, which brought considerable damage to some parts of the state, hit Franklin County last night. There was no extensive damage reported, however, in the general area. The storm, bringing high winds, thunder and lightning and over an inch of rain in a short period of time, knocked out telephone and power lines in some areas of the county. No injuries have been reported.

It was reported that winds reached 35-40 miles per hour intensity in the Centerville area bringing around 2 inches of rain. Telephones were out in the Centerville area for 3 hours. In the Justice section of the county, reports were made that no damage was evident, but lights were off for about 2 1/2 hours.

Burn reported no damage in the area. Louisburg weatherman G. O. Kennedy reported a 56-inch rainfall Wednesday afternoon and an inch fell during the early evening storm. The low temperature today is expected to be 38 degrees; the high Wednesday was 49.

The county-wide fire communications network was off the air for around 3 1/2 hours during the storm due to light-

ning damage at the transmitter in Louisburg. Volunteer rural fire departments throughout the county went on standby duty at their stations for the duration of the emergency. Contact was kept between stations during the time, in case of emergency anywhere in the county.

Extensive damage was reported in nearby counties including small tornado damage in Wake and Nash Counties.

Lions Club On Boy's Home Tour

Fifteen Lions Club members chartered the Louisburg College bus last Tuesday and visited Boy's Home at Lake Waccama. North Carolina Lions also assists in the support of Boy's Home, and the local club was interested in the progress being made there.

During the trip Al Fox, principal of Louisburg High School, was received as a member into the Lions Club by Lion Paul Stewart. Also, Lion Buddy Bean received the usual "ribbing" and handed out a little himself.

Franklin Co. Sales And Use Taxes Up

Franklin County had an 8.25 percent increase in collections of sales and use taxes last year over the previous year, according to a report made by the N. C. Department of Revenue this week.

The collection of these taxes are normally used as an index of business activity. Franklin County's increase was somewhat higher than the 7.88 per cent average for the entire 100 counties in the state. The comparison was made in a report submitted this week by Acting Revenue Commissioner, I. L. Clayton, to Governor Dan K. Moore.

The report shows that collections rose from \$466,331 for the period, February 1963 through January 1964 to \$504,796 for the same period this year. This constitutes an increase of \$38,464.

In the general six county area, Franklin's increase was second only to neighboring Wake County, which had a 12.99 per cent rise. Other adjoining counties showed increases as follows: Vance, 7.66; Granville, 3.19; Nash, 7.52 and Warren, 5.42.

Clayton warned that caution should be used in attempting to base definite business conclusions on data contained in the report "because the sales volume of non-taxable items is not

included, and county collection does not necessarily reflect county economy since trading areas do not always follow county lines."

Net collections for 1964 for Tar Heel counties amounted to \$163,307,531, and increase of \$11,921,599 over 1963 collections. All counties experienced an increase in gross collections except Montgomery and Transylvania. The lowest increase, .33 percent, occurred in Bladen County.

Only six counties in the state had increases of more than 15 per cent. They were Person, Jackson, Jones, Lee, Scotland, and Swain.

Retail sales taxes contributed 91.98 per cent of the total sales tax levy last year, while wholesale licenses contributed .09 per cent of the total.

Sales tax on food was the largest single item in the retail grouping, with \$43,189,128, or 27.89 per cent of the total retail collections of \$154,848,838.

Boxscore

Raleigh—The Motor Vehicles Department's summary of traffic deaths through 10 a.m. Monday, March 15:
Killed To Date 250
Killed To Date Last Year 282



Senior Play Cast