

Partly cloudy and continued warm today and Wednesday. Low today, 64; high, 89.

There is no business anywhere that cannot be improved by attention and hard work.

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(Six Pages Today)

97th Year—Number 55

Local Storekeeper Murdered



Scene Of Murder

Local officers, assisted by a team of top State Bureau of Investigation experts, are continuing their investigation of the brutal murder of a Louisburg grocerman Monday afternoon.

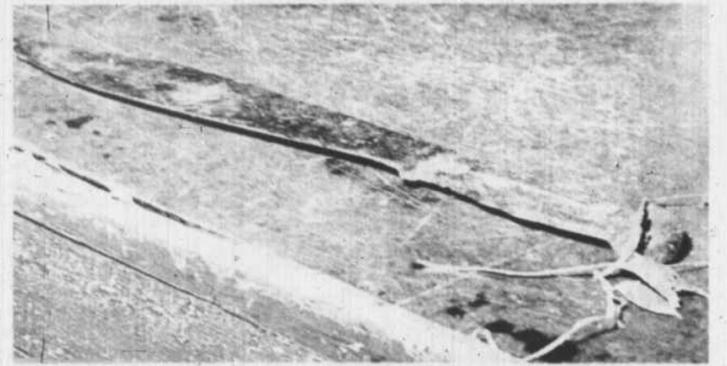
The killing of W. G. Shearon, 62-year-old South Main Street storekeeper by an unknown assailant or assailants around 2 p.m. Monday has been described by one veteran police officer as "the worse crime I've ever seen."

Shearon was alone in the store at the time of the attack. Indications are that the elderly man ran from his assailant in an attempt to save his life. His body was horribly mutilated. Robbery was established as a possible motive in the crime. Shearon's pockets were turned inside out and his billfold was missing along with paper money from the cash registers. No disclosure was made of the amount of money taken.

Officers theorized that Shearon had gone to a drink box to obtain a carton of milk when he was first struck. From there traces of blood show that he ran in a circle through the small meat market, finally being trapped between wall shelving and the counter where he was brutally hacked with a cleaver-type knife. Deputy Sheriff Tom Powell found the murder weapon just outside a side door at the rear of the building where apparently the murderer had thrown it under a bush as he ran out of the building.

Bloodhounds were called soon after the discovery of the crime and began searching for tracks, but this proved to be no avail, although the dogs continued to work into the night.

State Troopers, Sheriff's department officers, and all off duty Louisburg Police were called in to assist in the manhunt throughout the afternoon. At least two Negro teenagers were picked up for questioning but both were later released. One was questioned about several ar-



Murder Weapon

ticles of candy found in his possession and traces of blood found on his forearms. The unidentified youth explained that the candy had been purchased at a downtown store and the blood proved to be a result of his having scratched his arm.

Officers jumped quickly on a trail of blood found a few yards from the scene of the murder, but later found these to have been put there by an eight-year-old Negro boy having cut his foot.

The heinous murder was discovered by Eugene Peace, Negro driver for The Henderson Grocery Company when he arrived around 2:30 p.m. with the weekly delivery. Peace ran to a nearby store and told that he had seen the man with blood on his face. The Louisburg Rescue Service and local



W. G. Shearon

police were notified. Sheriff Joe Champion, acting in the

absence of Coroner James Edwards, set the time of death at about forty minutes prior to the discovery of the body by the Henderson Negro. Later Sheriff Champion said he estimated the time of death as 2:15 p.m. The alarm was sounded at 2:35 p.m.

Chief William Dement of the Louisburg Police Department led the search for the killer which sent officers through a heavily wooded area near the Taylor-Thayer Lumber Company and across Bickett Blvd. near the M. E. Joyner Mfg. Company to the Bunn highway.

An autopsy was ordered early this morning by investigating officers after having worked past midnight, fingerprinting and taking lab samples inside the store. One Louisburg Police officer reported this morning that they are expected to continue today. Many leads and clues were hurriedly checked out by the many officers present at the scene, but none proved of any value.

It was reported that Shearon had planned to sell the business and retire and a "For Sale" sign was attached to the building. A grandson reportedly helping in the store was not there Monday and officers were attempting to discover the identity of two Negro youngsters who also "hung around" the store most of the time helping take out groceries.

A search was also reported. See MURDER page 4

Controversy Rages Over Franklinton School Decision

The possibility of further desegregation of Franklinton City Schools through compliance to recent Office of Education requests brought on a heated public meeting in the school auditorium late Saturday afternoon.

Over 300 Franklinton Township citizens gathered in the school building at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, following disclosure that the School Board was to have a special meeting at that time to vote on moving the seventh grades from B. F. Person-Albion Negro School to the predominantly white Franklinton High School.

The trouble started earlier in the week when a four-man team from the U. S.

Office of Education arrived in Franklinton to "aid the school board" in formulating a plan which would meet federal approval. The team was headed by Dewey D. Dodds and consisted of three other members, Annie Lassiter, A. J. Howell and John Bowman.

The team originally, reportedly, recommended that B. F. Person-Albion be made an elementary school to accommodate children of both races and that the Franklinton High School be made a high school for both races. Several meetings were reportedly held between the Board and the HEW officials. The Board reportedly held a special meeting, one of several during the week, on Friday night followed by another on Saturday morning.

The minutes show that at Saturday's meeting, the Board first voted 4 to 2 to accept the HEW recommendation to

move two seventh grade classes from the Negro school to the Franklinton High School. The minutes show that Board members Brodie Green and Rupert Pearce voted against the proposal. The Board ordered Superintendent Fred Rogers to send a wire to Washington verifying that the group was accepting the watered-down requirement. Immediately following the adjournment at 11:50 a.m., Chairman John Moore instructed Supt. Rogers to withhold sending the wire "until the entire Board could be present in order to be sure that each member will have voted on this very important action."

As soon as word of this action reached the street, a petition was circulated and by the 4:30 p.m. meeting 584 persons had signed the paper calling for the School Board to reject the HEW requests. A spokesman for the group later

pointed out that signers were secured in the relatively short time of two hours and that scores more would have signed had they been contacted. Among the signers, according to spokesmen for the petitioners, were several Negro citizens voicing their opposition to the new requirements.

In the Saturday afternoon meeting, Chairman John Moore and attorney for the Board, W. P. Pearce, explained the 1964 Civil Rights Act and brought the group up to date on the visit by the Washington team. Moore also touched on the ESEA funds of \$80,000 which will be lost unless the school plan is accepted and the recent Head Start program at the Franklinton School.

Moore, at one point said, "This has been very difficult. We appreciate the way

See FRANKLINTON page 2

ASC Election Ballots Sent

Community committee election ballots were mailed to all known eligible voters in the county Friday, August 26, 1966. Ballots must be returned to the county office not later than September 9, 1966. Also, producers are reminded to sign the certification on the reverse side of the envelope addressed to the county office. If the certification is not signed, the ballot will not be tabulated.

Producers who are not sure about which community they are eligible to vote in should contact the County ASCS Office so that a determination can be made.

Maps showing community boundaries have been placed at the following establishments throughout the county to assist producers in knowing which community they are eligible to cast their vote: Cedar Rock, Sam Wood's Store; Cypress Creek, A. C. Stallings' Store; Dunn, J. W. Perry's Store; Franklinton, Dorsey's Grocery; Gold Mine, E. M. Manning's Store; Harris, Carl Harris' Store; Hayesville, Rocky Ford Grocery; Louisburg, Ronald Tharrington's.

Sandy Creek, H. T. Edward's Store; Youngsville, J. H. Winston (Youngsville Milling Co.)

Ballots must be returned to the County ASCS Office in Louisburg by September 9, 1966.

Schools Open Wednesday

Over 6,000 Franklin County school students are expected to report for orientation and assignments tomorrow, Wednesday with the first full day of school slated for Thursday.

Speculation earlier that the opening might be postponed due to the lateness of the tobacco crop was dispelled last week when the County School Board announced a policy of no delay but curtailed the attendance hours to 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. to aid in the crop situation. The short schedule is to continue through September 16.

A threat coming out of Saturday's mass meeting of Franklinton citizens that school opening in the Franklinton City system might be forthcoming was also dispelled Monday as teachers and school personnel were busy preparing for the start on Wednesday and Thursday.

In the county system, Supt. Warren Smith announced the following schedule and fees: Monday, September 5, is slated as a holiday with schools closed. Teachers are to report on Monday, August 29. The last day of school for the students in the 1966-67 school term is slated as May 31, 1967. The teachers

complete their work on June 2, 1967.

Unless altered by unusual weather, other holidays are scheduled as Thanksgiving, November 24 and 25; Christmas, December 22 through January 1 (seven school days) and Easter, Wednesday, March 22 through Monday, March 27.

A one-day holiday is scheduled for sometime on October due to a statewide teacher's meeting.

Fees for the opening of the 1966-67 term of school in the Franklin County system have been announced by the school office here. All fees remain the same as those paid for the 1965-66 term except a 25¢ increase in insurance, which is optional.

Fees set are as follows: Elementary Schools: \$2.00 General School Supply Fee, \$2.00 N. D. E. A., \$2.25 Insurance (optional).

Supplementary Reader Fees: No supplementary reader fees will be collected. The General Assembly made an appropriation to provide these materials.

High School Fees for all students: \$2.00 General School Supply Fee, \$2.00 N.

D. E. A., \$2.25 Insurance (optional), \$5.00 Book Rental. The following fees apply to high school students taking courses that are listed: \$13.50 Typing, \$2.00 Home Economics, \$2.50 Agriculture, \$1.00 Science.

Negro Held In Saturday Murder

Benny Fogg, 43-year-old New York Negro, is being held in Franklin County jail without bond, in the Saturday night slaying of Haywood Crudup, 27-year-old Bunn Negro.

The incident reportedly took place Saturday night around 9:30 p.m. at a Negro night-spot near Franklinton. No details of the murder were reported.

Fogg reportedly left the scene and eluded officers until he turned himself in Sunday around 12:30 p.m. to Sheriff's officers. Fogg had reportedly been injured when he gave himself up and was taken to Franklin Memorial Hospital for treatment and later jailed.

Market Opening Set Sept. 8th

The local tobacco market will open a week from Thursday, on September 8. The date was set in a meeting of the Middle Belt Association in Raleigh last Saturday.

Some speculation had it that the Middle Belt markets might be delayed due to the lateness of the crops, but officials dispelled this by setting the opening date for September 8.

Fred Royster, director of the Bright Belt Warehouse Association said, "We expect full or near-full sales during the

first twelve days of loose leaf sales. Probably there will be some reduction after that."

He added, "We have some drought in the belt, but the rains began on July 31 and the crop staged a miraculous recovery. It will be of excellent quality and yields will be above 1965."

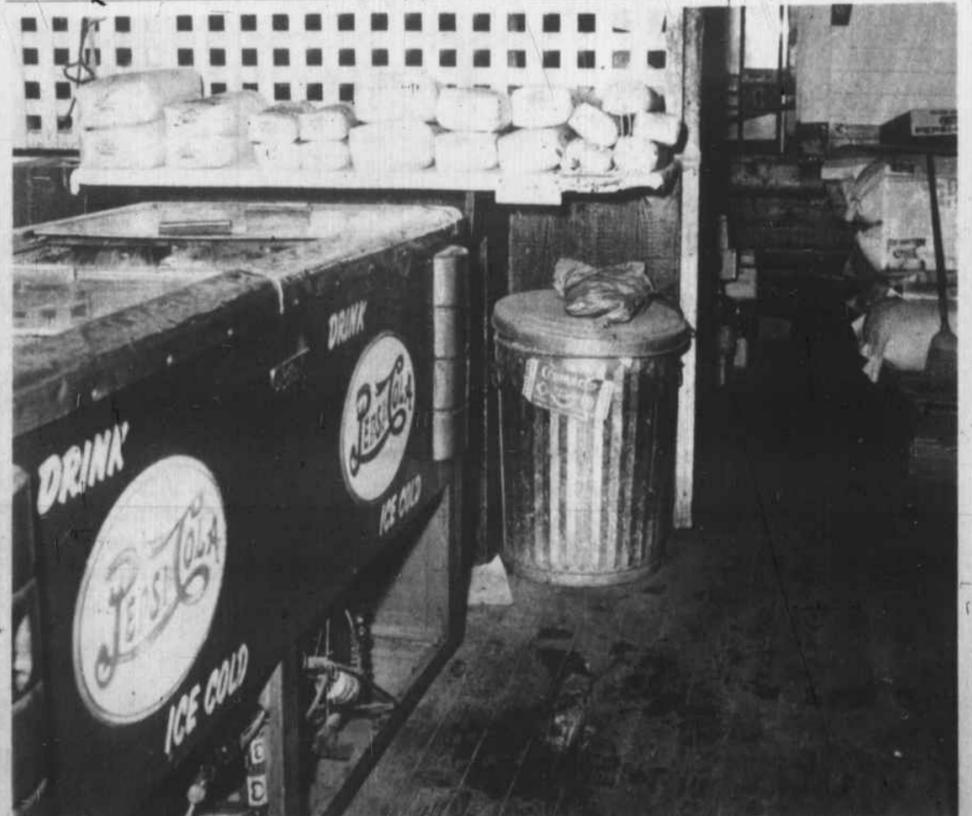
The local harvest of the crop is well underway. However, much leaf still remains in the fields. Some growers have estimated the crop to be as much as two weeks behind

last year in its present stages.

Included in the Middle Belt are Louisburg, Aberdeen, Carthage, Durham, Ellerbe, Fuquay-Varina, Henderson, Oxford, Sandford and Warren-ton.

Three local warehouses will operate here this fall. Ford's Warehouse on Industry Drive, now repairing damage to an addition suffered last week by heavy rains toppling a wall and some portion of the roof;

See MARKET page 2



Where Victim Was Believed First Struck