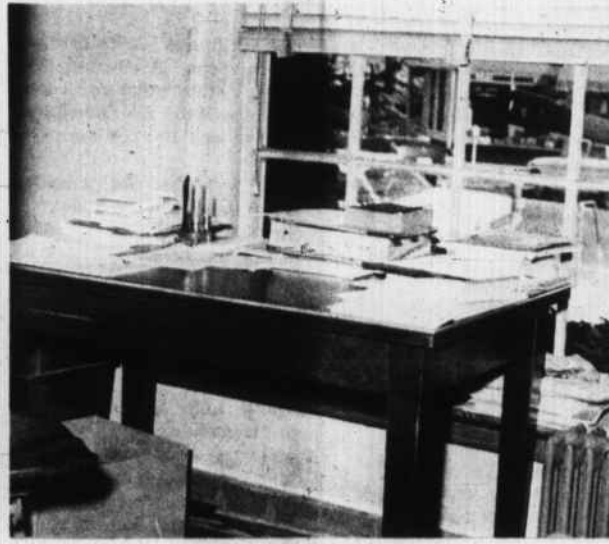


Clerk's Vault



Clerk's Office

Grand Jury, Bar Association Asks More Space For County Offices

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

The space in the Clerk of Court's vault in the Franklin County courthouse is the same today as it was over 100 years ago. Space in the Register of Deeds office is

in almost as critical a state.

The Grand Jury in its report last week said "Investigation has been made on public complaints and we call to the attention of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners the serious lack of space in the Franklin County Register of Deeds' office and Clerk of Court's office, especially. We also suggest that space be provided as soon as possible".

Last Monday a committee from the County Bar Association meeting "in the name of the Public," with the Commissioners, requested some immediate action on the problem. A Bar Association spokesman said, "We asked the Commissioners to employ the services of an architect to determine what can be done. We would like to know if additional space can be added to the present building or if the building can be renovated or if a new courthouse is needed".

One report said that the Clerk of Court and the County attorney were authorized to contact an architect. The minutes of the Board meeting, however, does not show that any action was taken in

the matter. Mr. E. M. Sykes, Chairman of the Board, said it is his understanding that "We left it in the hands of a committee already appointed". This committee was named several years ago and a reliable source identified the members as Clerk of Court Ralph Knott, Commissioner George Harris and attorney W. H. Taylor.

County attorney Charles Davis said that he understood that the Board authorized him, Mr. Harris and Mr. Knott to contact an architect and that Mr. Harris told him for he and Mr. Knott to proceed. Davis said he planned to contact an architect.

Mr. Sykes also said, "We are faced with building a jail and putting the Sheriff's office there, so we can give one of them one side of the courthouse and the other, the other side", in obvious reference to splitting the present offices between the Clerk and the Register of Deeds. "If we can build a vault to take care of Knott (Clerk of Court Ralph Knott) we can possibly get by until we can build a jail", Sykes continued.

The need for additional space is apparent when anyone en-

ters either of the two offices. As one local attorney put it Wednesday, "The Deed's office need is great and the Clerk's office need is critical".

Register of Deeds Alex Wood reports that space in his vault and outer office is grossly inadequate. He explained that when several people are using the space, others cannot get to the books and files needed. Wood does not have a private office and many valuable documents are piled up both inside the vault and in the outer office.

The Clerk's vault is crowded beyond belief unless one has recently visited there. Books are piled four or five high on the only table in the room, in piles of four or five, spreading over much of the work space. Only about six feet of table space now exists inside the vault and none at all in the main office and certainly none under the courthouse steps where Knott has his private office.

"In the summertime we can stack some books on top of the radiator", said Mrs. Betty Lavender, assistant Clerk, "but in the wintertime we can't". We remember thinking of the irony in the fact that the season had such a bearing upon the space in the courthouse.

Knott's office, located underneath the steps, allows just head room, provided a normal size person doesn't stand straight. Three persons can barely get inside and close the door. Knott's desk sits partly inside the window. "Many persons come here to this office", Knott said, "and the majority of them wish to discuss their business in private. This is almost impossible under the present conditions". One observer told of having been in the Clerk's office, recently when an entire family was exposed to the view of all while the husband was being prepared for commitment to an institution. The observer said, "Even I was embarrassed for having been there".

Knott reported that many times he has interviewed distraught families seeking to be made administrators of estates, in the halls of the courthouse because of the lack of space in his office.

The present courthouse was built in 1849-50, replacing the original one erected in 1786. The present building was last remodeled in 1936-37.

The Board of Commissioners levied a three cent tax for

See OFFICES Page 6

Governor Asks Record Amounts To Aid Public Education

Addressing The General Assembly

Governor Dan Moore today asked the 1967 General Assembly to appropriate record amounts for advancement of all areas of North Carolina's public education system. He called for substantial raises for public school teachers, free textbooks, and a feasibility study of public kindergartens.

In his biennial message to the Legislature, the Governor recommended major increases for community colleges and higher education. He proposed a large appropriation for capital improvements.

Details on the budget will be given by the Governor in a second address to the General Assembly next week. At that time, he also will outline his proposals for tax relief.

"Education is the first concern and responsibility of this administration," the Governor said today. He paid tribute to all, especially

teachers, who have contributed to the cause of education. But, he said, North Carolina "still has a long way to go to attain the system we desire."

To move North Carolina toward its educational goal, Governor Moore recommended General Fund appropriations totaling more than \$784 million for the public school system. This is over \$130 million or nearly 20 per cent above the record appropriations for the current biennium.

The Governor asked the General Assembly to strengthen State efforts in all areas of service to the people, including health and welfare, culture, water resources, human relations and highway safety. All recommendations he said, are "designed with a single purpose in mind: to provide the means for a better and more useful life for every man, woman and child in North Carolina."

In other areas, the Governor re-emphasized his support for the one-university concept, called for a strengthening of laws against bombings and intimidation of citizens, urged a Constitutional amendment to allow the General Assembly to set the minimum voting age, stated his opposition to the sale of liquor by the drink and asked

that the brown-bagging custom be legalized, if control can be maintained.

The Governor's first recommendation to the General Assembly was for "a major increase" in salaries for public school teachers. He asked for an average increase of 8.73 per cent in 1967-68 and an additional 8.85 per cent in 1968-69, for a biennial total increase of 17.58 per cent. This was the recommendation of the State Board of Education.

"When added to the 10 per cent raise given teachers during this biennium, it will mean more than a 27 per cent salary increase in four years," the Governor said. This, he added, would be "the largest (increase) given during any administration in the last twenty years."

The increases proposed by the Governor would raise the minimum annual salary for an

Cancer Clinic

The Cancer Detection Clinic for February will be held at the Franklin County Health Center on Wednesday, February 15th, starting at 1:00 p.m. This is a free service and anyone wishing an examination may obtain an appointment by calling Miss Esther Andrews at GY6-3553.

"A" certificate holder to \$5,004.25 in 1968-69. "North Carolina can now reach its long sought goal of a \$5,000 minimum annual salary for beginning teachers," the Governor said. To the basic State salaries, local supplements "can and should be added," he said.

Noting that the 1965 General Assembly had approved his

See GOVERNOR Page 6

80-Year Old Building Succumbs

The 80-year old Beck building at the corner of E. Nash St. and Spring St. here finally gave up its valiant effort to remain standing this week. The west wall caved in scattering brick and mortar over the inside of the building now housing Quality Auto Supply Co.

Fearful that any attempt to bolster the ancient structure might cause the entire building to cave in, R. C. Beck reportedly plans to have the building torn down.

Workmen have put barricades around the structure to protect the public and soon the old landmark will be no more.

Telephone Co. Issues Warning

Louisburg-- Carolina Telephone today cautioned local business subscribers not to make payments to a Los Angeles firm in the belief that such payments will apply to telephone directory Yellow Page advertising.

Howard Pitts, area commercial manager for Carolina Telephone, stated that a large number of local business firms have recently received mail resembling bills for "classified directory" listings. "These mailings are not from Carolina Telephone," he warned, "and we hope none of our subscribers or advertisers will send the requested \$57, believing this material to come from us."

Pitts added that the telephone company has heard from Hill Directory Company, publisher of many City Directories in this area, and that they are quite concerned about the possibility of a misunderstanding also.

The mailings involved carry a return address of Classified Directory Publishing Company, P. O. Box 25967, Los Angeles, California, and they invite checks to be made payable in that manner in the amount of \$57. The telephone manager said that the matter is being called to the attention of Postal Authorities, Better Business Bureaus, and Chambers of Commerce.

Masonic Notice

There will be a stated communication of Louisburg Lodge 413 Tuesday evening at 7:30 in the Masonic Temple on Jolly St. Work will be in the Fellowcraft Degree. All Fellowcraft and Master Masons are cordially invited.

Target 2

Livestock Income To Grow

By C. T. Dean, Jr., County Extension Chairman and Staff

Franklin County is a deficit livestock producing area, as is the whole state of North Carolina and the southeast in general. However, in planning Target 2, key livestock leaders and agricultural workers of the county see a great potential of added agricultural income from well managed livestock enterprises. Several factors seem to indicate that livestock production should become a greater part of the county's agriculture. A few of these factors are: the ever-increasing population; nearby markets; the crop situation and the already available "know-how" in livestock production.

The outlook for livestock production in general and beef cattle production in particular is good for the next several years. If Target 2 goals are

met, Franklin County's beef cattle production will increase by approximately 14 percent each year for the next five years. Total gross sales of beef cattle were estimated at \$720,000 for 1965. Target 2 has a goal of \$1,625,500 by 1971.

As the trend towards larger farm continues, more farmers will find it profitable to add beef cattle enterprises and to expand already existing beef cattle herd. However, since Franklin County is also a deficit grain producing area, the expansion in beef cattle numbers is expected to be increased through the cow-calf program, the stocker calf program and to a limited extent, the "grain on grass" finishing program. The income from swine in

Franklin County is expected to increase 30% from 1967 to 1971. This would be an increase of 6% each year. If this goal is reached, income in Franklin County would move from \$910,000 to \$1,188,250 from the production of market hogs and feeder pigs.

The Target 2 committee in Franklin County believes, based on recent developments, that swine production will become increasingly important as an enterprise to increase farm income.

Emphasis for the next five years will be placed on efficiency of production in the three major swine systems, such as - feeder pig production, market hog production and purchasing and feeding out feeder pigs. In addition to the above, special

emphasis will be placed during the period on disease and parasite control, feeding, housing and general management.

Poultry enterprises, as a result of new local markets opening, are becoming increasingly important as an added source of income in Franklin County. This trend is expected to continue. The county has a potential income of \$2,000,000 from poultry enterprises by 1971.

The county agricultural Extension staff will provide the latest in livestock feeding and management practices as recommended by North Carolina State University. This will be accomplished through educational meetings, educational tours, personal contacts and news media.



Speakers At Welfare Meet

—Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Principals at the Welfare Department public meeting are shown above. Left to right: N. Archie Brown, Chairman of the Welfare Board, George Harris, County Commissioner; Mrs. Jane M. York, Director of Welfare; Mrs. Donna Russell,

State Welfare official; Norwood Faulkner, County Commissioner and Superior Court Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood. All but Harris and Faulkner took part in the program explaining the various programs conducted by the local department.