

The 1967 Session is off to a good start, and the "legislative pot" is beginning to boil with hot issues. The presiding officers of each Body have announced all committee assignments, several special study commissions have released reports and recommendations, and Governor Moore has made two addresses to joint sessions of the House and Senate, in which he outlined his recommendations for legislative changes as well as presenting the proposed budget for the next biennium. The budget: As compiled by the Advisory Budget Commission, the Department of Administration and approved by the Governor, provides for substantial increases in services to the people of our State and displays evidence of prosperity and continued good government in North Carolina in the years ahead. The present revenue structure is sufficient to provide the proposed 18.3% increase in spending as well as permit the Governor's proposed tax cut of \$23,300,000.

There are many controversial issues to be settled in this Legislative Session, including Congressional redistricting, highway safety, revisions in the present ABC laws, raising interest rates on certain loans, granting university status for East Carolina College, revision of State Election Laws, further regulations to protect the supplies of water, a proposal to abolish capital punishment, lowering the voting age and many others, but the brightest side of the picture lies in the fact that the necessary expansions in services to the people of our State can be provided without a tax increase.

There are many new faces around Capitol Square--More freshmen members than in many years, if not the most on record. Only 25 (or one half) of the Senators who served last session are serving in this Session; fifty-nine (less than one-half) of the present House members served in the 1965 Session. Thirty-three Republicans and one hundred thirty-seven Democrats are now serving as compared to fifteen Republicans and one hundred fifty-five Democrats who served in the 1965 Session. Four women are now serving as compared to five last session.

Many bills are now being introduced, and the various committees are at work examining every phase of them to determine how they relate to present laws and the possible effects that they may have in a pattern of regulating and guiding the people of North Carolina. Some of the bills will be killed--some amended by both committee and floor action. Let us hope the good ones survive, and the ones with questionable advantages are put to sleep by a painless method.

Throughout the Session, I shall report to you the latest developments on Legislative events, my personal views and voting record. The several newspapers and radio stations which serve our area have offered their cooperation and assistance in doing this. For this, I am especially grateful.

As usual, I welcome visits, letters, telegrams, and telephone calls from citizens of our State and especially from people from my Legislative District. My seat in the Hall of the House is number 3, my office is number 15, post office box number 7245 and telephone number is 829-3153. Sessions are held in the House and Senate Chambers each Monday night at 8:00 p. m. and each day thereafter beginning at 12:00 noon. Committee meetings are held each morning and most afternoons after the Session.

Officers Take Two Stills

Franklin Sheriff William T. Dement reports the capture of two whiskey stills this week. One, a 600-gallon submarine type was hit in the Franklin Township near Pocomoke. The second was captured in Gold Mine Township Monday night. Four men were arrested in the Monday night raid.

Those facing a hearing in Recorder's Court on March 14 are: Frank Read Richardson, N/m/29, Rt. 1, Castalia; and three brothers, William Har-

dy, N/m/27, Rt. 1, Nashville, Nick Artis Hardy, N/m/33, Rt. 3 Whitakers, and Earl Hardy, N/m/22, Rt. 2, Whitakers.

Sheriff Dement reported that the Gold Mine operation had a new twist in liquor manufacturing. He said there were nine large holes dug in the ground, lined with a plastic covering and being used to store mash.

Sheriff's officers and ATTU agents made the arrests and destroyed the stills.



In Gold Mine, A New Twist

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

98th Year-Number 2

Louisburg, N. C., Thursday, February 23, 1967

(12 Pages Today)

Ten Cents

Fire Hits Downtown Area

Three Louisburg businesses suffered thousands of dollars in damages Tuesday night when fire struck the old Boddie building on the corner of Main and Nash Streets.

The blaze, confined to the second floor where massive renovations were underway, was brought under control by the Louisburg Fire Department and departments from Centerville, Bunn, Epsom, Franklinton and Justice, before it reached the businesses below.

Hold Special Meeting

The Board of County Commissioners held a special meeting here Wednesday to discuss the proposed water line to the new Carolina Fine Woods plant site on NC 39 west of town. J. Harold Talton, Chairman of the Industrial Development Commission appeared before the Board for the discussions.

He informed the Commissioners that the company had purchased the water tank for the site. However, all the details of the water line construction had not been worked out and no action in the matter was taken by the Board.

Mrs. Kay Hunt, acting County Accountant, appeared before the Board requesting an increase in salary due to extra work being done by her in the absence of County Accountant Kenneth Braswell, who has been out several weeks recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident.

The Board granted Mrs. Hunt an increase of \$51.50 per month for the duration of Braswell's absence.

The Board also discussed possible locations for county offices in the future and the purchase of certain properties as needed. No action was taken in this matter and no investigation of possible sites were made.

The Board has requested an architect to give a bid on the cost of a study of present courthouse facilities in an attempt to arrive at some decision on enlarging present facilities or building new ones.

O'Neal's Pharmacy suffered the heaviest damages from water and smoke, with water standing several inches deep on the floor of the store. Rowe's Mens Shop adjacent to O'Neal's on Main Street suffered very minor water damage but some smoke damage. Cash and Carry Grocery, located next to the Pharmacy on Nash Street also suffered considerable smoke and water damage. The entire upper story was described by firemen as a total loss.

Smoke, billowing from the building, was sighted by Louisburg Police officer Gerald Eury, who turned in the alarm around 12:40 a. m.

Louisburg Fire Chief R. G. Person said, "We had discussed this building a number of times and when the alarm came in, we knew we had trouble". He said he immediately requested the aid of all available fire units in the county. All responded except the Youngsville department, which stood by in case they were needed in Louisburg or in the event that a fire might have broken out elsewhere in the county.

Chief Person said he had pinpointed the cause of the blaze to a particular area on the second floor where a "drop-cord" had been in use. He said this area was the hardest hit by the blaze and that three wires came together at one point. Firemen had difficulty getting to the source because of the tremendous amount of smoke which could be

Student Council Asks Help

The Student Council at Louisburg High School has written to Louisburg Police Chief Earl Tharrington requesting that a police car be stationed at the intersection of North Main Street and Allen Lane during the school lunch hour.

The letter, signed by Council President, Anne Avent, stated, "The Student Council and administration of Louisburg High School and the nearby residents are concerned about traffic problems caused by students going home for lunch at 12:30. Many students leave the campus too fast and cause some disturbance."

Louisburg Police are stationed at the intersection every morning and afternoon as school takes in and lets out.

Chief Tharrington reported that he would have a patrolman stationed at the intersection starting today.

Speed Introduces Bill

Rep. James D. Speed of Franklin County, representing the Sixteenth District composed of Vance, Warren and Franklin counties, introduced a bill Tuesday in the House designed to change the date for filing forms for gasoline tax refunds.

Rep. Speed stated, "The bill will change the date for filing for gasoline tax refunds from a fiscal year basis to a calendar year basis, which will permit applicants to file for a refund at the same time that applicants file for federal gasoline tax refunds."

He explained that the bill applies mostly to farmers, adding that there are 30,000 farmers affected in North Carolina and concerns off highway use of gasoline.

Rep. Speed reported that the bill introduced by him was cosigned by several other House members, including Sixteenth District Representative John T. Church of Vance County.

seen spilling out from between the buildings and even through cracks in the brick outside walls.

Twenty degree temperature made the task of fighting the fire difficult and uncomfortable for the host of firemen and others aiding in the battle.

Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Wood-

lief, operators of the grocery moved much of the merchandise to an adjoining store with the help of several spectators. Mr. Fenner Rowe and son, Mike, operators of the men's shop moved some clothing from their store, but as it was determined that the damage was subsiding, stopped

these efforts. Mrs. Breatie O'Neal, operator of the drug store had prescription records removed from the store and some other drug items. She reported "right much" water damage in some areas of her store Wednesday morning.

The building, owned by

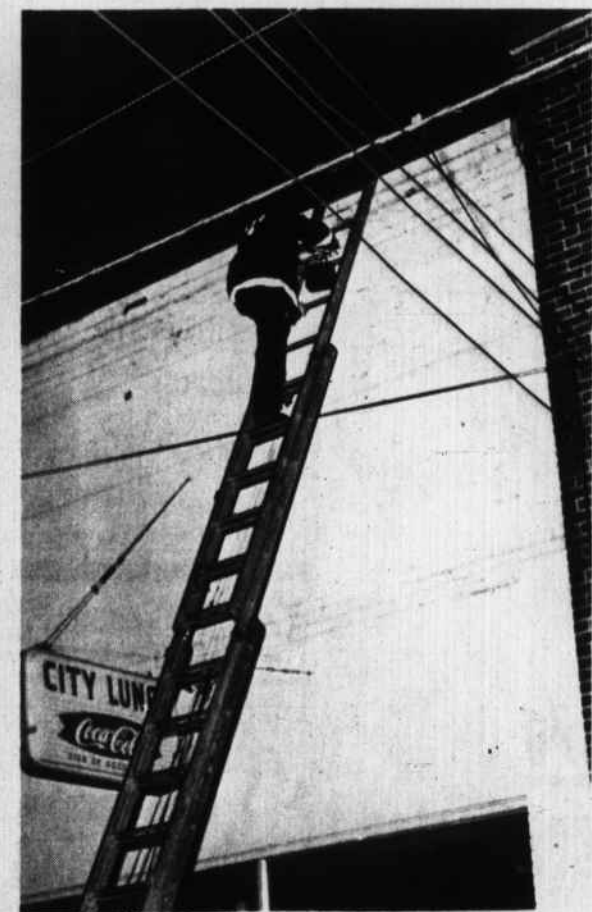
Louisburg attorney Wilbur Jolly, and the contents of the three businesses were all partially covered by insurance. All concerned reported that coverage was not total. Jolly said Wednesday that a decision on the building had not been

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SMOKE POURS FROM ROOF AND WALLS OF BODDIE BUILDING AT HEIGHT OF FIRE TREAT EARLY WEDNESDAY MORNING.

More Fire Pictures On Page 7



LONE FIREMAN CLIMBS LADDER IN EFFORT TO REACH CAUSE OF FIRE, AS TEMPERATURES HIT THE 20-DEGREE MARK.



FORMER LOUISBURG FIRE CHIEF W. J. SHEARIN HOLDS WIRE WHICH HE AND CHIEF R. G. PERSON IDENTIFIED AS THE CAUSE OF BLAZE.

Does Local Sales Tax Loom In County Future?

A spokesman at the Bunn PTA Monday night predicted that small counties, in the future, would find it necessary to combine into a single governmental district. Dr. Garland Hendricks of Wake Forest referred to it as redistricting of county governments.

His comments, based on prospects for the year 1980 and beyond, concerned the expanding needs of local governments and the migration of populations in certain eastern counties.

While he did not comment on the necessity of new tax sources for counties such as Franklin, his comments point to a situation which might well

arise before the General Assembly adjourns later this year.

Few people are talking about the 1% local option sales tax proposal by the Governor's Tax Study Commission and which was included in his

Masonic Notice

There will be a stated communication of Louisburg Lodge 413 on Tuesday evening Feb. 28 at 7:30 in the Masonic Temple on Jolly Street. Work will be in the Entered Apprentice Degree. All Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraft and Master Masons are fraternally invited.

recommendations to the General Assembly. Nevertheless, those in county government here and elsewhere are quietly discussing the need for a new source of revenue with which to accomplish some of the many things needed.

The local option, when and if passed by the General Assembly, would in its present form, allow the Board of County Commissioners to levy a county-wide sales tax. The 1% on the dollar tax would be collected by the State as it now does the 3% state sales tax, and would be returned to the county, giving a proportionate share to each municipality in the county.

Based on present sales in Franklin County and according to the Tax Study Commission's report, the 1% optional sales tax would bring in \$138,040.00 to Franklin County annually. Add to this, amounts which would be received by the various towns. For example, Louisburg would receive \$9,689.00; Franklinton, \$7,746.00; Youngsville, \$1,918 and Bunn, \$469.00. Centerville's share was not listed. All municipal shares would be based on local property and not on local sales.

No one has yet advocated the local tax in Franklin County but there is a growing complicity in the county.

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