

Partly cloudy, windy and much colder today. Wednesday fair and quite cold. Low today, 50; high, in the 50's.

Mrs. T. H. Dickens

In The Cause Of Education - - Forty Years Of Service

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Today, March 7, 1967 marks the 40th anniversary of the date when Mrs. T. H. Dickens (Miss Mamie to her many friends) became a member of the Franklin County Board of Education. She was appointed to the Board following the death of her husband. That was March 7, 1927. . . forty years ago.

Mrs. Dickens has been a member of the Board since that time. She has been chairman of the Board since 1961, succeeding the late Paul Elam of Louisburg as head of the educational system in Franklin County.

Prior to her appointment to the Board, Mrs. Dickens taught school. She taught one session at Pope's; three sessions at Wood; 2 sessions at White Level and 1 session at Baptist Orphanage.

There were sixty schools in the county in 1927, serving 5333 students. Today there are 12 schools in the county system, serving 6106 students. Names of schools operating in 1927 and the early years when Mrs. Dickens served, have long been forgotten by most. She can, however, recall each and every one. Her memory is fantastic when it comes to matters pertaining to the county school system.

Flat Rock, Hickory Rock, Centerville, Ingleside, Justice, Moulton-Hayes, Math Rock; Mountain Grove; New Hope, Pilot, Guildfield, Little Mill, Locust Drive and Little Zion are but a few of the schools consolidated during her years on the Board.

Miss Mamie was born near Franklinton on February 8, 1891. She is the daughter of Jones Menton and Maria Perry Dickens. She is a descendant of the first seven Perry brothers who came over from England and were granted a scope of land from the King of England prior to the American Revolution.

She is a graduate of Franklinton High School (1908); Louisburg College (1911) and she attended the University of North Carolina in 1914. She was married on September 29, 1920 to Thomas Henry Dickens. She has one son, T. H. Dickens, Jr. of White Level.

Widowed in 1927, Mrs. Dickens became overseer of a 380-acre farm operation. In 1940 she joined her son in the operation of a country store.

Mrs. Dickens recalls the years 1916-17 when there were 83 one and two-teacher schools in Franklin County. She likes to tell of the progress education has made during the forty years she has been a part of the administration.

In 1927, there were only 37 buses in the county and Mrs. Dickens recalls the first school bus or truck as they were then called. The average number of pupils transported that year was 966 per day. Today 81 buses in the county system will transport an average of 4,292 students to their classrooms. With 203 teachers in 1927, today's force numbers 234.

Mrs. Dickens has always been an advocate of the best education in accordance with what the people can afford. Her interest lies in the local school, teachers, pupils and parents. She takes pride in the degree of consolidation accomplished during her tenure on the Board and yet, views further consolidation with a cautious eye. She has a keen sense of humor and often illustrates her point with references to past experiences.

She formed the Woman's Missionary Union of her church, (White Level Baptist Church.) She has been a Sunday School teacher there for 30 years. She is a past president of the State Home Demonstration Clubs (1926) and has been county president, as well. She has been an active member of the Democratic Party for a number of years. She likes to fish and to work in her garden.

Miss Mamie points with pride to the growth of the county school system and relates advances made in the area of constructions and other services over the past forty years. Among these are the following: 1927-30, Construction of Cross Roads, Wood, Hickory Rock-White Level, Harris, Rocky

See SERVICE Page 5



Honored

Dr. Cecil W. Robbins, left, President of Louisburg College holds Alumni Citation plaque presented here Monday to Mrs. T. H. Dickens, center, Chairman of the Franklin County Board of Education for her service to education. Clint Fuller, right, Board Vice Chairman, holds plaque presented by the Board, Superintendent Warren Smith and attorney E. F. Yarborough to Mrs. Dickens for "Forty years of faithful and devoted service" as a member of the Board of Education. Mrs. Dickens was honored at a luncheon at Louisburg College given by the Superintendent and Mrs. Smith in celebration of her fortieth anniversary as a Board member.

Board Of Education, College Honors Veteran Educator

The Franklin County Board of Education handled an agenda of routine business here Monday and recessed to the Louisburg College cafeteria where the chairman, Mrs. T. H. Dickens, was honored for forty years of service.

Mrs. Dickens was presented a plaque in recognition of her years on the board by the present board and Superintendent Warren Smith and attorney E. F. Yarborough. Board Vice Chairman Clint Fuller made the presentation. Dr. Cecil W. Robbins, President of Louisburg College, presented an alumni plaque to Mrs. Dickens on behalf of the College.

"I think we must ask Mrs. Dickens to look at the thousands of faceless, unidentifiable children, whose very lives have been touched by this service, for the proper recognition," Fuller said. "If I am to speak for those of us here today, I believe it will be adequate to say, Mrs. Dickens, we deeply appreciate all you have done in all these years."

he added. "Because all of us here deeply interested in education are aware, at least in part, of the many sacrifices you have been called on to make during this long tenure of service."

Mrs. Dickens responded to Fuller's presentation, thanking her associates and recalling some of the progress the schools have made during her time on the Board.

Dr. Robbins spoke briefly, recalling some early experiences which coincided with those mentioned by Mrs. Dickens. "We here at the College are very proud of you and the services you have rendered not only to the public schools, but to higher education in general and Louisburg College

in particular," Dr. Robbins said.

Mrs. Dickens, who became a member of the Board of Education on March 7, 1927, is marking her fortieth year today.

Mr. E. F. Yarborough expressed his pleasure of having served as attorney to the Board during part of Mrs. Dickens' years and pointed out that it was not "the length of service, but the service itself" that was important. Mrs. T. H. Weldon, former Board member, remarked that she had served longer with Mrs. Dickens than any other Board member present and expressed her praise for the

See HONORS Page 5

Direct Dialing Coming

Henderson--Telephone subscribers in Henderson and six nearby exchanges are scheduled to have an exciting new service at their fingertips when Direct Distance Dialing is inaugurated on May 26, 1967.

With this new service, telephone subscribers will be able to dial most of their own station-to-station calls to points in 48 states and Canada.

Exchanges scheduled to receive this revolutionary new long distance dialing are Henderson, Oxford, Centerville, Franklinton, Louisburg, Norlina, and Warrenton.

The announcement was made this week by Howard T. Pitts,

local manager for Carolina Telephone, who said that the company will spend more than \$250,000 in providing Direct Distance Dialing for this area.

Carolina Telephone introduced the first D.D.D. service in North Carolina at Washington in 1957 and has subsequently provided Direct Distance Dialing in 80 additional exchanges.

"The establishment of a standardized nationwide telephone numbering system and development of intricate new equipment has made D.D.D. possible and marks an important milestone in communications progress," the manager said.

See DIALING Page 5

Locals Show Inventions At Trade Fair

Two local exhibitors are among the some 85 exhibitors signed up for North Carolina's first Tobacco Growers Trade Fair to be held at the Raynor and Forbes Warehouse in Greenville Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, March 8, 9, and 10, according to C. T. Dean, Jr., County Extension Chairman.

James May, Louisburg, N. C., Route 1, plans to show his "Tote-a-Line" irrigation aid which facilitates the handling of irrigation pipe. Joe Lane of Louisburg plans to show his basket method of curing tobacco. Both items are in production and will be ready for the 1967 crop season, said Dean.

The purpose of the fair is to bring together under one roof all of the labor-saving ideas and profit making practices that are available to tobacco growers. The fair will feature supplies and services needed by growers in handling their crop from the tobacco seed bed to the warehouse basket.

There is no charge. Doors to the Trade Fair building will be open at 12:00 noon and close at 10:00 p.m.

Dean said the fair has been planned especially for farmers. It is a non-profit effort to pull together under one roof the latest and best ideas on the production of tobacco. It could be your door to increased profits in 1967!

Commissioners Hold Closed Session With District Representatives Monday

The Board of County Commissioners asked Register of Deeds Alex T. Wood, who acts as Clerk to the Board, and WYRN News Director Asher Johnson to leave the regularly scheduled monthly meeting here Monday and went into closed session with Sixteenth District Representatives James D. Speed and John T. Church. The nature of the closed door discussions were not disclosed.

Attempts to reach Chairman E. M. (Buck) Sykes and Louisburg District Commissioner Norwood Faulkner by telephone this morning were unsuccessful. Mr. Speed and Mr. Church are on a junket with the legislature today inspecting mental institutions and could not be reached for comment.

Johnson reported that he was told by Mr. Sykes that Mr. Speed and Mr. Church had requested the closed session. Wood said he did not hear this, but was asked by Sykes to leave the meeting. Wood said no reason was given.

In the open session, the Board heard a number of routine reports from county agencies, listened to a request by ASC office manager John Davis for additional office space and heard a request from John King, Clerk to the Board of Elections, for office space to replace the burned out office previously used in the old Boddie building on Main Street. No actions were taken on either request.

A delegation from the County Firemen's Association, L. M. Ward, Kenneth Fuller, Robert

Champion and Arthur Hall, were before the Board asking for an increase in the \$10,450 annual allocation by the Commissioners to the rural fire departments. No action was taken on this request.

Macon Morris and K. G. Weldon were reappointed to three-year terms on the Industrial Development Commission. The vacancy created by the expiration and moving to Louisburg of Jackie Dean was not filled. Dean had represented Cedar Rock on the Commission.

A report was received from Jesse M. Page and Associates, Raleigh architects, recommending a three-phase plan of development for the courthouse study. Phase I would consist of determining the conditions of present facilities at a cost of \$3,360; Phase II Schematics of present facilities and construction estimates would cost \$4,800 and Phase III, dealing with design, plans and contract awards, would be priced based on the AIA standard fees. No actions were taken on this report.

Franklin No. 5 In State In New Plants

W. J. Benton, Industrial Development Director disclosed this week a letter from the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development which places Franklin County in fifth place in the State in the number of industrial plants locating here.

The letter, from Mrs. Gladys B. Merritt, Research and Statistics, stated that a check had been made and that Franklin County had five plants to locate here and this placed the county in fifth position.

Benton said, "Considering the population and rural nature of our county, I think it is a record to be proud of. All of the counties ahead of us had more than double our population."

The five new plants, locating in Franklin County in 1966 are: Diazit, Inc., Tre'Jay and Ben-Bar Electronics at Youngsville and Carolina Fine Woods and Composite Structures Corporation at Louisburg. In addition, four local industries expanded in 1966, two moving into entirely new quarters. Sterling Mills at Franklinton and Justice Manufacturing Co. at Justice expanded and the M. E. Joyner Manufacturing Company and Dean Farms moved into new modern plants. The potential employment of

the five plants locating here last year has been estimated at 1,030. No estimate was given on the effect of the expanding businesses and employment.

To Hold Spring Sale

Mrs. Juanita Pleasants, Executive Secretary of the Louisburg Business Association announced today that the organization is planning a town-wide Spring Sale for March 16, 17, 18.

The annual event, sponsored by merchants in Louisburg comes this year in time for the Easter buying season and Mrs. Pleasants reports that a large number of businesses will participate in the sales event.

Newspaper and radio advertisements will appear next week pointing up the many values being offered by local merchants.

The old man who walked five or six miles to school, many years ago, has grandchildren who need an automobile to travel a few blocks.

Five Are Gov. School Nominees

Five students from Franklin County Schools have been nominated for the Governor's School in 1967 in the Academic Areas.

Academical criteria for nomination include a minimum I. Q. score, an acceptable over-all grade average, a scholastic rank within the upper 2-percent of his class and demonstrated intelligence, interest, and aptitude. All schools within the county were entitled to participate. Final selection for those who attend will be made by the State Department of Public Instruction.

The five nominees from Franklin County include Jane R. Johnson of Edward Best, Phyllis E. Kerley of Louisburg, Paula R. Gupton and Kathy E. Gupton of Gold Sand and Thurston R. Alston of Riverside.

In the past three summers, Franklin County has had four students to attend the Governor's School.



Youngville Fans Were There -- (See Story Page 8)



-- And So Were Bunn's (See Story Page 8)