

Weather

Generally fair today. Rain likely tonight and Wednesday. Low today, 40; high, 65.

# The Franklin Times

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## Saturday Fire Scene Fire Strikes College Building

Fire, believed to have been caused by lightning, struck the Faculty-Student Apartment building on the Louisburg College campus here Saturday afternoon around 2 p.m. inflicting heavy damage on the ancient structure.

Quick response by the Louisburg Fire Department prevented the loss of the building. Heavy smoke and water damage prevented the use of the quarters following the blaze. A heavy rain and thunder storm hit the area just before the blaze was discovered by nearby students. A huge tree in a nearby yard was hit and had some bark knocked off.

Firemen threw out a smoldering mattress from an up-

stairs window on the south end of the building, which apparently was the cause of much of the smoke in that portion of the building. College students, including the coeds, worked feverishly for a time hauling furniture and other material out of the building. There were no reported injuries and little, if any damage to the contents of the building.

A fire, also believed caused by lightning, was reported at a house owned by Ronald Tharrington near his store in the Hickory Rock Community Saturday afternoon. Justice Volunteer firemen answered the call, but the blaze had been extinguished by the time firemen arrived, according to reports.

### No Decision Reached

## Franklinton School Hearing Recessed

The public hearing involving the Franklinton City School system and the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare was recessed late Monday in Washington without a decision being handed down by the hearing officer.

Hearing Examiner Phillip J. LaMacchia, in recessing the hearing Monday indicated that there would be no further public hearing in the case, but allowed an agreement whereby additional briefs might be filed.

HEW officials contended that the Franklinton system's Freedom of Choice plan of desegregation was inadequate and asked that all federal assistance be cut off from the system.

Franklinton officials and attorneys contended that the plan was effective and sought to have the system removed from the deferred list for federal

funds. Attorneys W. P. Pearce and Irvin Tucker, acting for the Franklinton City Board of Education did not present any witnesses. Supt. Fred Rogers declined to appear as a witness for the government.

A key HEW witness was a Franklinton Negro farmer, Buck Norwood who testified Monday that after placing his granddaughter Mabel Kingsberry in the predominantly white Franklinton High School in 1965, he began receiving threatening phone calls. He said that "someone shot dynamite that threw trash on my house".

Norwood also said that "about a month ago" someone set off a dynamite blast near the home of the girl's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Kingsberry. Reference here was apparently to a blast of undisclosed origin in the yard of

Franklinton Police Officer Leslie Joyner on Friday night, January 20. The Kingsberrys live across the highway from the Joyner's and some distance from the point where

some explosive was discharged near the road. The blast disturbed 88-year old Mrs. Mamie Kearney, Joyner's mother-in-law, his wife and

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## Mathews Address College Audience

The fourth in the special programs commemorating the 180th anniversary of Louisburg College was presented Wednesday evening when Dr. Joseph W. Mathews addressed an interested audience of students and adults on the subject "Changing Patterns in the Practical Revolution of the Post-Modern Church."

Dr. Mathews, Dean of the Ecumenical Institute of the Church Federation of Greater Chicago, held the attention of his listeners in a very entertaining way as he portrayed the changes in the structure of the Church—those, in his opinion, to be expected as well as those already taking place. He indicated that no one knows exactly what the new forms will be. New actions on the part of the Church will determine the structures to be formed.

The speaker described the upheaval through which mankind is living as a cultural revolution in the sense that the thinking and the ways of

## Pilot Man Shoots Two

A 24-year-old Pilot man is charged with the wounding of two other Pilot men in a shooting on N. C. 39 Saturday night. Dale Denton is charged with shooting Ronald Denton, w/m/20, in the leg and Bobby Pearce, w/m/20, in the side. Deputy Sheriff Dave Batton investigated the shooting and said a .22 caliber pistol was used by Denton. Neither of the men were believed to be in serious condition. An unofficial report said an argument had started between the men over a set of hub caps off one of their cars.



DR. J. W. MATTHEWS

## Officers Grab Booze, Car

Sheriff William T. Dement and Louisburg Police Chief Earl Tharrington, cruising in the Mineral Springs area of Louisburg last Friday night, saw a woman standing in the rear door of her home holding two jars. The officers decided to investigate. As they approached the home, the woman threw one of the jars over a nearby fence. The other she kept.

Sheriff Dement and Chief Tharrington arrested the woman for possession of illegal whiskey, the half-gallon she held in her hand. While at the house, the officers also discovered a visitor and upon investigation, found a car containing seven gallons of illegal booze. This discovery led to the arrest of Morris Leonard Perry, c/m, and the confiscation of his 1959 Ford automobile. Perry was placed under \$300 bond awaiting trial. The woman, identified by officers as Daisy Johnson, c/f, is also awaiting trial.

# County School System Headed Back To Court

The case against the Franklin County Board of Education, launched in December of 1965 by a group of Negro parents and joined in January of 1966 by the U. S. Department of Justice, is set for trial in U. S. District Court at Raleigh Tuesday, May 9.

The county school system had been operating under an Interim Court Order handed down by Judge Algernon Butler of Clinton, N. C. last July 27. Judge Butler's order called for a second choice period for Negro children and warned against any intimidation or harassment.

The case is to be heard before Judge Alexander Harvey, II, U. S. District of Baltimore.

The case was originally filed by parents of 31 Negro children following the Board of Education's refusal to transfer these children under the lateral transfer provision of the Plan of Compliance adopted in 1965. That year the Board adopted a plan, later approved by the U. S. Office of Education, calling for desegregation of four grades in the 1965-66 school year. The 31 requests for transfer were to grades not included in the four to be desegregated under the plan.

On February 8, 1966, a hearing was held by Judge Butler at Clinton, N. C. on a move by the Justice Department and the Negro plaintiffs to enjoin the Board of Education from preventing the 31 children from transferring to predominantly white schools. This hearing was continued on February 10 at Raleigh.

On February 24, Judge Butler issued an order denying the injunction and ruled that the Board of Education had acted in "good faith".

A pre-trial conference of attorneys was set for April 1 in Raleigh and heated arguments resulted as attorneys for both sides attempted to reach various agreements. The case was set for trial on July 25, 1966.

The trial in July lasted several days and consisted of the taking of depositions from plaintiff witnesses and ended with the issuance of the Interim Court Order by Judge Butler which called for a new choice period for all Negro

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### Postponement Is Temporary

## Furniture Plant Delays Building Construction

Carolina Fine Woods, Inc. announced today it is postponing temporarily construction of its proposed 130,000 square-foot furniture plant here.

Fred C. Lohmueller, President of Carolina Fine Woods, said the company's decision was the result of downward adjustments in production of color and monochrome television sets, and stereophonic phonographs.

Mr. Lohmueller added, "The heavy demand for color television that existed during the past two years has resumed a more normal relationship with supply."

"The outlook is very favorable for the second half of the year and our start-up for production is now scheduled for 1968. However, it will take six to eight months to complete the building after start of construction", Mr. Lohmueller added.

The affable company president said that the structural steel has been fabricated and all equipment has been ordered. He said equipment is scheduled for delivery early in 1968.

Mr. Lohmueller has purchased land here and is busy working over plans for his new house. He hopes to move his family here in late August in time for two of his children to enter Louisburg School. "It looks, at best, as if this August date will be difficult", he stated.

He disclosed that the low bidder at present is Davidson and Jones, a Raleigh firm and that Carolina Fine Woods, Inc. holds an extension on the bid with the firm until May 9.

Industrial Development Director W. J. Benton was on hand this morning for the announcement. Mr. Lohmueller greeted newsmen with the quip, "We are not dead. We are very much alive". Rumors had become prevalent in the area in the past few weeks concerning plans of the company. The delay in the start of the building was explained in today's announcement and Mr. Lohmueller made a special point to express his satisfaction with his decision to move to Louisburg. "I like it here", he said and commented on the warm reception he has received and the splendid cooperation.

## Fleming Gets Edward Best Post, Other Principals Re-Elected

Robert B. Fleming, teacher-coach, has been elevated to

the principalship of Edward Best High School to replace Johnny Alford who resigned to accept a similar post at Wakelon High School. The action came Monday night in a special session of the County Board of Education.

All other principals in the county school system were reelected. They are: Epsom, Talmadge H. Edwards, Jr.; Gethsemane, Rufus M. Darden; Gold Sand, James V. Marshall; Louisburg, Albert D. Fox; Perry's, James E. Wilson; Youngville Elementary, William H. Garner;

Youngville High, Hayne N. Walden; Bunn, W. H. Kelly; Edward Best Elementary, Mrs. Myrtle T. Parrish; Cedar Street, Kenneth Battle; and Riverside, Carl A. Harris.

In other action Monday night, the Board assigned some over 200 more students to schools of their choice, bringing the total now assigned for the 1967-68 school year to 5,820. Supt. Warren W. Smith estimated that this all but concludes the choices expected. He said there might be 10 to 12 more students who have not yet had a choice made.



GROVER HARRIS, JR.

## Harris Enters Race

Grover C. Harris, Jr., 40-year old assistant manager of the Louisburg Theater was last to file in the ten-candidate race for one of the six seats on the Louisburg town council. Harris, also an advertising and office supply salesman, served as assistant town clerk for three years.

A native of Louisburg, Harris is married to the former Beaufort Williams, a member of the Welfare Department staff here. They have three children, Fred 13, Charles 11 and Rachel 9.

In making his announcement Harris said, "I have always lived in Louisburg and have a great interest in all citizens of the town. With the knowledge I received of the town government while employed by the town as assistant town clerk, I feel I will be in a good position to serve its people as they desire to be served".

## Franklinton Gets Fund Approval

Congressman L. H. Fountain has informed The Franklin Times that the federal Farm Home Administration has given tentative approval, pending 1968 approval of funds, to Franklinton's request for \$440,000 loan and \$100,000 grant to build a new source of water supply and distribution system.

Mayor Joe Pearce explained Monday that the approval did not represent exactly what Franklinton officials had requested but he said he was pleased with the announcement. Mayor Pearce said he wanted to check with members of the Franklinton Town Council before making any definite statement on what the town might do now.

Franklinton had originally requested a \$285,000 grant and a \$295,000 loan for the purpose of remodeling the present water plant and piping water from Cedar Creek a distance of about a mile and a half from the town lake. The request was first turned down completely by federal

officials. It was resubmitted and the grant was lowered to \$100,000 and the loan raised to \$440,000. Some question has arisen whether or not Franklinton can accept this approval. A recent bond election was approved by the people for the expenditure of upwards to \$350,000 for improving the water situation. This would leave the community \$90,000 short of what engineers have said is needed.

Whether or not additional tax could be levied is unknown. Mayor Pearce stated that there was a possibility that the plans could be revised to cut the total cost down to within the approved amount.

Franklinton suffered a severe water shortage last summer and officials submitted their request for federal aid last August. The project is set to be funded by Congress effective July 1 and Mayor Pearce explained that "We have some time to work on it."



## College Gets Gift

Pictured above, Mr. Sam Vick, Jr., plant manager of Louisburg Sportswear, Inc., presents a check to President C. W. Robbins for the College Library Building Fund. Mr. Vick has recently moved to Louisburg from Georgia. The contribution is the second made by Sportswear during the past year.