

Partly cloudy and continued cool today. Wednesday fair and warmer. Low today, 48; high, near 70.

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Now It's The Law:

## Runoffs Possible In Commissioner Races

by Clint Fuller  
Times Managing Editor

A SPECIAL REPORT

House Bill No. 555 quietly passed into law last Thursday in the North Carolina General Assembly. Dubbed "a local bill", which means no-

### J. L. Gupton To Attend CAP School

Capt. J. Linwood Gupton of Louisburg and the Franklin County Civil Air Patrol has been selected as one of twenty flight instructors from the fifty states and Puerto Rico to attend a Flight Instructor Orientation Program in Oklahoma this summer.

Capt. Gupton, a veteran leader in the CAP here will attend the week of August 14 through 25, the FAA/CAP Flight Orientation Program at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Applications were received from 114 senior qualified members and Capt. Gupton was one of twenty chosen. He will receive instruction for forty hours on ground operations and 15 hours of in-flight instruction in the Piper C-180s and Cessna 172 aircraft. The local leader is the only man attending the school from North Carolina.

body's interested but those in the county affected, HB 555 can very well mean a major change in the future of Franklin County.

Bunched in with a number of other "local" bills, HB 555 swept through last Thursday and became law.

Introduced earlier by Rep. James Speed of Franklin County, the bill amends Chapter 61, Public-Local Laws of 1931 and changes the reading from the reference "highest number of votes" to read "a majority of votes cast" in races for County Commissioner in Franklin County.

Note simply, the bill allows for runoffs or second primaries in races for the five seats on the county board. In the past the high man - even with a margin of a few votes - was undisputed winner. In the future, to win, a candidate must get a majority or more votes than all others in his race combined.

There is much to be said for the new law. It might very well eliminate a candidate being elected who had actually been voted against by a majority of the people. To this degree, it could change the whole complexion of Franklin County politics and thereby, change the future of the county itself.

Just what it will mean in the 1968 elections remains to be seen. One can go back a few years and see what it would have done in elections past and gain, perhaps, some idea of the magnitude of this change.

Going back to the 1956 elections and counting through the 1966 primary, one finds there were 14 races for seats on the board of county commissioners. Of the fourteen, ten of the contests had more than two candidates running. Of these ten, only three were won by a majority. Under the new law, seven races in the past ten years would have possibly resulted in runoffs.

There is no way of telling, of course, what if any effect a runoff would have had on the ultimate winner. Once during the period, there was a one-vote margin between the high man and the number two candidate in a four-man race. Number two man won when a runoff was ordered after the vote was canvassed.

In 1966, for example, Commissioner Brooks W. Young of No. 1 District won a clear majority over two opponents. District 5 Commissioner Norwood Faulkner, however, received 3,073 votes while three opponents gathered 3169. The second-place man could have called for a runoff, had the present law been in effect then.

In 1964, a six-man race for the No. 2 District seat was won by Commissioner Richard Cash. He polled 2,466 votes while the number two man received 1119. But, the five losers polled a combined vote of 3719 and a runoff would have been indicated under the new law.

In 1962, the year of the Brooks Young-Claude Arnold runoff, Commissioner George Harris of District 3, bested his nearest opponent 2154 to 1622. However, number three man polled 954 and would have caused a runoff under the newly passed legislation.

The same was true in 1962 in the race for District 5 when Commissioner Faulkner downed three opponents, but failed to gain a majority vote.

Winning over a field of four candidates in 1960, W. P. Childers failed by over 1200 votes of getting a majority.

See RUNOFFS Page 8

# Guardsmen Called To Aid In Hunt For Missing Man

A massive search which began Thursday, came to a successful but tragic end in the Alert Community late Saturday afternoon, with the discovery of the body of Edward L.

Burnette, 57-year local resident in a heavily wooded area near his home.

The elderly man, who lived alone, had last been seen by a neighbor around 10:30 p. m.

last Wednesday. He was missed in the neighborhood Thursday and a search was begun. Before the search ended Saturday afternoon at 4:37 p. m.,

hundreds of private citizens, members of the N.C. National Guard, Sheriff's officers, Civil Air Patrol members, the Louisburg Rescue Service and

others were to become involved.

Sheriff William T. Dement, who headed the search reported that his department gave up around 9 p. m. Friday night due to darkness. Dement and his deputies resumed their efforts early Saturday morning and the Louisburg Rescue Service was called to drag a nearby farm pond. By noon, Sheriff Dement despaired of finding the missing man without more help and at 1 p. m. he called for the National Guard.

Efforts to reach the Governor's office proved futile but the Guard, under command of Lt. Col. John Fleming of Raleigh responded to the request. Units from Louisburg, Zebulon and Youngsville joined the search late Saturday afternoon. At 4:35 p. m., lined up a few feet apart for some distance, the Guardsmen entered the thickly wooded area where the missing man's flashlight had been found earlier. About two minutes later came the word that the body had been found about 250 yards from a plowed field where it was believed his footprints had been sighted earlier.

The body was found lying between two trees in a partial clearing a few yards from a path where officers and neighbors had searched earlier and not too far from the spot where his flashlight had been discovered earlier.

Sheriff Dement theorized that the man had been dead since early Thursday morning. The presence of the flashlight indicated that he had entered the woods at night and indications were that it had rained since his death and since it rained Thursday night, it is believed that death came early Thursday morning.

Dement said he believed that the man died from a heart attack and later Coroner James H. Edwards said death was due to natural causes.

Sheriff Dement expressed his appreciation to private citizens, the 1st Rocket Batt. 113th Artillery, N. C. National Guard and the commander, to the Civil Air Patrol, members of the Louisburg Rescue Service and all others for assistance in the search.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 3 p. m. in the White Funeral Home by the Rev. Reid Winstead and the Rev. Marshall Sargent. Burial was in the Ayscue family cemetery.

Surviving are two brothers, John Robert Burnette of Rt. 3, Louisburg and William James Brunette of Rt. 1, Castalia; one half-brother, Floyd Roosevelt Burnette of Rt. 2, Henderson; four half-sisters, Mrs. Pearl Finch of Rt. 4, Louisburg, Mrs. Irene Tharrington of Rt. 2, Louisburg, Mrs. Emma May Patterson of Rocky Mount, and Mrs. Blanche Marie Rouse of Germany.



Guardsmen Line Up, Right, Body Found, Left

## Woman Sentenced In 1964 Murder Case

Annie Ruth Crudup, charged with the fatal stabbing of her husband at their home near Franklinton on December 13, 1964, was sentenced here Monday by Superior Court Judge W. Y. Bickett, to a 5 to 7 year sentence on plea of manslaughter. The sentence was suspended on payment of \$250 fine and court costs and the Negro woman was placed on probation for five years.

The one-week term of Superior Court continues today with six more murder cases docketed for trial. It was learned that David Lee Foster, 15-year old Louisburg Negro youth charged in the fatal hacking of Louisburg grocerman W. G. Shearin last fall, has been committed to the state hospital at Raleigh after being declared incompetent to stand trial.

Others docketed for trial

on murder charges include Douglas M. Evans, James Lee Arrington, Lewis Bulluck, Floyd Williams and McCoy Wiggins. One other case which has drawn widespread publicity is scheduled to be heard this week. The two charges of assault against Franklinton City Schools Superintendent

Fred Rogers are docketed for this week's session.

The list of jurors was exhausted here Monday and the

Judge ordered the Sheriff's department to bring in more jurors as the term got underway.

## Three Youths Charged With Vandalism

Three young men are free under \$500 bond today following charges of destruction of property growing out of a wild spree of vandalism here last Wednesday night. Brian Eugene Bromstead, w/m/19 of 215 Keith Ave., Waukegan, Ill., a transfer student from Duke; William Lee Lewis, w/m/22 of Kilmarnock, Va. and Jerry White Lanier, w/m/20 of 104 Pine Cone St., Oxford, were arrested late Thursday afternoon by Louisburg Police.

All three were students at Louisburg College and are charged with hurling rocks through two glass doors at the new college library and breaking a plate glass window

in the front of Louisburg Dry Cleaners on Church Street here. They are also charged with breaking glass in automobiles belonging to T. A. Patterson, Dean of Students; Miss Sarah Richardson, Professor of English; Whit Shearin, Advisor to Men Students; Rev. Wade Goldston, Director of Religious Life and Butch Stein, a student.

Bond was set at \$500 and the three men spent several hours in jail before being released. Damages have been estimated by Louisburg Police Chief Earl Tharrington at between \$1500 and \$2000. Trial is set for Recorder's Court here on May 16.



Tree Down On US 401

## Wind, Hail Hit Area Sunday

Hail, the size of quarters, was reported in the Mapleville area Sunday afternoon and unconfirmed reports say that some fell in the Flat Rock community. The extent of damage to the young tobacco crops has not been disclosed.

Accompanying winds, estimated to range from 40 to 50 miles per hour during some

parts of late afternoon, blew trash, signs and trees but otherwise caused little reported damage in the Franklin County area.

One huge tree was blown down across busy US 401 a few miles south of Louisburg around 5 p. m., halting traffic for a short while. Youngsters from Garner, returning from an outing at Kerr Lake in

Vance County, took to their camping tools and hacked the tree in half allowing one lane traffic until state maintenance crews could arrive. There were no accidents reported.

Tornado warnings were announced for the area during the afternoon Sunday, but none were reported in the state, although some heavy winds did cause damage in other areas.

## Franklinton Water Problem Headed Back To The People

Mayor Joe Pearce disclosed today that the Franklinton Town Council moved last week to take the local water problem back to the people as soon as possible. The town officials has sought to gain a grant of \$285,000 and a loan of \$295,000 from the federal government with which to renovate and upgrade the present town pump station and to run a line from Cedar Creek to the present town lake, a distance of about a mile and a half.

Following several months of negotiations, the announcement was made last month from Washington that the Farm Home Administration was approving a grant of \$100,000 and a loan of \$440,000.

This, according to Mayor Pearce, placed the town \$90,000 short and the Council acted to take the issue back to the people by way of another bond election. Franklinton voters approved a \$350,000 water improvement bond last December 3 by an overwhelming vote of 295 to 14.

Mayor Pearce also explained that under conditions of the grant, the \$440,000 must be spent first. The bonds approved in December have not yet been sold and Pearce expressed the hope that another

election could be called within 30 to 90 days to bring the total approved to the \$440,000 level.

Franklinton suffered a serious shortage of water last summer, one of the most severe in many years and town officials, concerned over the situation, have been working on the problem.



Planters Abused & Used

Last week, the new planters placed along the downtown business district by the Louisburg Garden Club were shown here. Pictured above are the same planters a few days later. At left, is what remains of the one on South Main Street after vandals attacked it. Shown at right, is one being used by an

up Louisburg's efforts during clean-up month with Mrs. Breattie C. O'Neal named chairman and councilmen George T. Bunn and Grover C. Harris, Jr. members.

The Council also authorized the Town Administrator to advise the firm of Booth-Jones Associates, Inc., engineers for the town to proceed with certain paper work in preparation for planned improvements to the town's electrical system. In 1964, the system was upgraded from a 2400 volt system to a new 4200 volt WYE system and the newest planned renovations will move it up to a 7200 volt system.

Invoices in the amount of \$5,916.66 were approved and ordered paid.

### One Way At Franklinton

Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards reported today that Front Street from South Main to Mason St. will become a one-way throughfare for northbound traffic only beginning Friday morning of this week.



energetic group here Saturday afternoon. Other reports have it that most of the \$22.50 (not \$250 as erroneously reported last week) planters are being used as trash receptacles. The Garden Club really plans to plant plants in them. Seems like, the sooner, the better.