



HARVEY R. STROTHER

"Now A Little Fishing"

After Forty Years, The Long Hikes Are Over

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

After forty years, the long hike is over for veteran mail carrier Harvey Ray Strother. Retirement came on November 3 from a position held faithfully since March 14, 1929. Strother began his postal career on May 11, 1927 here in Louisburg.

"I'm going to put in a little time fishing," he said, "I don't want to ever catch up with my fishing."

Strother, 62, will be honored by his co-workers at the Louisburg Post Office Friday night with a supper.

He began his career with the Postal Service with a temporary appointment in 1927. Soon thereafter, he went to Raleigh to take a test for a permanent position. This was followed by the offer of a post with the service in Raleigh, which he accepted. He worked in Raleigh seven months before returning to Louisburg.

On March 14, 1929 he became a substitute carrier on Louisburg City Route 2, which covers the northern section of town. On April 1, 1929 he was named regular carrier. He liked the long blocks from that time until the end of business on November 3 when he hung up his bag, parked his cart and stored his uniforms.

"I've been bitten a dozen times by dogs that wouldn't bite," he says in remembering, "A couple of times I was told a dog wouldn't bite after he had already bitten me."

"The thing I remember, perhaps, is the tremendous change in the volume of mail and the length of the route," Strother relates. "When I started the

route ended at Earl Murphy's house at Halifax Road. It's about twice the size today."

"We had two deliveries a day until sometime in the fifties," he recalls, and only one a day since they cut out the afternoon delivery. The route grew longer when the deliveries were cut back.

"The nice things people have done for me over the years are too numerous to mention," Strother says.

Troy Parker who joined the Post Office in 1958 and who has served as substitute carrier, will replace Strother. Karl Pernell, veteran Louisburg fireman recently resigned his position to become substitute carrier in Parker's place.

"I'd love to have a picture giving Troy the old bag," Strother said.

The likable veteran, known in this area for his ability with a fishing pole, lives at 301 King Street with his wife, the former Minnie Conyers of Franklin, whom he married in 1928.

They have four children, Mrs. Joyce Peoples, wife of the Louisburg Mayor; Mrs. Betty Fuller of the Moulton Community, Harvey Ray Strother, Jr. of Franklin and Robert Henry Strother of Raleigh. They have nine grandchildren.

As one observer put it, "Harvey must like dogs. There was always a gang of them following him around. They're going to miss him." After thinking about that for a moment, the man added, "So are the people he has served so long and so well."

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CAP Search Mission Planned

The Franklin County Civil Air Patrol will be in charge of an air search and rescue practice mission here Saturday and Sunday, according to a report from Major J. Linwood Gupton. The operation will be one of the largest ever staged here.

Participating in the operation, in addition to the local unit will be units from the entire Group 7 area and the 30th Battalion, Air National Guard from Raleigh-Durham. Included in the 7th Group are units from Henderson, Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Rocky Mount, Wilson and Louisburg.

The operation will get underway here Saturday with much of the time being spent on ground work and planning. A practice mission could be staged Saturday afternoon but the main search and rescue practice will come Sunday.

The two-day event will start at 1 P.M. Saturday and conclude at 1 P.M. Sunday, according to Major Gupton. Sixteen airplanes are expected to take part in the practice. Targets have already been placed throughout the Franklin County area and surrounding counties.

Gupton says he expects that some pilots will fly in and camp at the Franklin Airport overnight Saturday in readiness for the Sunday morning search. Major Allen, local unit Chaplain will conduct Sunday services at the field Sunday morning.

Gupton, who said the public is invited to view the operation, explained that the airplanes taking part in the search and rescue will be called "Mad-dog" while the mobile ground unit which will be in constant contact with the aircraft, will be known as "Blue-dog". The base station will be called "Red-dog".

This is the second major event at the local air field, staged by the CAP in recent weeks. The organization sponsored a fly-in last month which brought a number of planes and hundreds of spectators to the local facility.

Legion Gives Flags To School

(FRK. B.W.) Tuesday morning, The American Legion, Franklinton Post # 52, presented a set of flags (the United States Flag and the North Carolina Flag) to the Franklinton High School.

Commander Bruce Honeycutt made the presentation to the school before an assembly in the school auditorium at 9:30 A.M. He gave a brief history of the United States Flag and what it is symbolic of to the 190,000,000 people who owe allegiance to the Flag.

Commander Honeycutt asked the student body to support Americanism and always respect the Flag in honor of those citizens who have advanced it and heroes who have died for it.

Principal Wesley Jackson accepted the Flag on behalf of the Franklinton High School. He expressed appreciation to Commander Honeycutt and stated that he would display the Flag with pride.

Local Tobacco Market To Close November 28

The Louisburg tobacco market will close for the season on Tuesday, November 28, according to an announcement made here by William Boone, Sales Supervisor. The local warehouses will observe five hour sales days next Monday and Tuesday and again on Monday and Tuesday of the following week.

Five of the 10 markets on the Middle Belt have announced closing dates or have closed for the season.

The Henderson market has set a closing date for next Tuesday. Final sales for the Ellerbe market were held the past Tuesday. The Carthage market closes this Thursday and Sanford next Tuesday.

Markets that have not announced closing are Oxford, Durham, Warrenton, Fuquay-Varina and Aberdeen.

Minor gains were reported in flue-cured tobacco sales on the Eastern and Middle North Carolina belts Wednesday with gains and losses about even in North Carolina-Virginia Old Belt sales.

Pet Division

(FRK. B.W.) Any child, ages 5 through 14, wishing to have an entry in the Franklinton Christmas Parade should contact Mrs. Paul Philpott at 494-2422.

Pets; two, three or four wheeled vehicles are allowed and costumes are permitted. No motors will be allowed to enter the Pet Division.

The Federal-State Market News Service reported most Middle Belt gains were only \$1 a hundred pounds in light trading.

The bulk of sales was low and poor leaf, low smoking leaf, fair lugs and nondescript.

Eury Joins Fire Dept., Prince Returns

Today is the day of change at the local fire and police station. A police officer dons the fireman's badge and a former policeman returns after an absence of over a year.

Louisburg police officer Gerald Eury is resigning from the force, effective today to accept the position of engineer with the fire department. Eury replaces Karl Pernell who joins the post office here full time tomorrow. Kyle Prince, a former officer who has lived in Apex with his father since the death of his wife over a year ago, is returning to take the post vacated by Eury.

Eury joins engineers Joe Perry and Gray Moon as a three-man full time force at the fire station. Prince becomes the seventh member of the local police force.

Flim-Flams Take Woman For \$3,090

A Louisburg Negro woman has been flim-flammed out of \$3,090 by three other Negroes, according to reports from Raleigh police. The incident took place in Raleigh last week.

Mrs. Raymond (Mary Harris) Thomas, 110 Halifax Road told officers she had been shopping on Fayetteville Street when she was approached about 3 P.M. by two Negro women. They struck up a conversation, she reported, and she was told that the two women had invested \$1,000 for which they would get back \$8,000.

Mrs. Thomas told police that she said to the women that she would like to get in on something like that and they went outside where they were joined by a Negro man. All four came to Louisburg where Mrs. Thomas withdrew her money from the bank and picked up what she had saved at home. They returned to Raleigh where the man dropped them off and left. One of the women left a short time later, the Louisburg woman told police, then the second woman started to leave on the pretense of calling the man to see what had happened to him.

At that point, Mrs. Thomas told police, she became suspicious and asked the woman her name. Other than what she was told then, she said she heard no other names called during the entire incident. She gave police a description of the trio, however.

Following the incident, the Louisburg woman fainted and fell on the street. She was taken to Wake Memorial Hospital, according to reports.



At Football Banquet

(See Stories Page 8)

Principals at Wednesday night's Tar River Football Conference banquet held here are pictured above. Left to right, Helena High School Coach Dave Hodge, selected Coach of the Year; Franklinton Coach Hiram Guedalia, who introduced the main speaker; Louisburg principal Al Fox, president of the Conference; Ray Rhodes, Director

of Physical Education, N. C. Department of Public Instruction, the featured speaker; and Simon Terrell, Executive Secretary of The High School Athletic Association of North Carolina. The event was the first such meeting of the conference formed last year, and twenty three players were honored as All-Conference selections. Photo by Clint Fuller.

County Courthouse Bond Election: Questions And Answers

Editor's Note: On November 25, voters in Franklin County will decide whether or not to approve a \$200,000 bond issue to improve the county courthouse. Since this election is deemed a most important one by this newspaper, we publish here, in the public interest, a series of questions and answers on the subject.

Q. Why is additional space needed?

A. Every office in the courthouse is in need of more space. The situation is especially critical in the Clerk of Court's office and the office of the Register of Deeds and the Sheriff. When the new court system goes into effect on December 1, 1968, all courts and all court records in the county will be moved into the courthouse.

Q. Could the county finance these improvements without a bond issue?

A. No under present North Carolina laws, Franklin cannot borrow this much money.

Q. How much does the present 3 cent tax levy for courthouse improvements bring in?

A. \$12,418.50. This will increase as property valuation increases.

Q. How is it proposed that the bonds will be retired?

A. One suggestion has been that the bonds be retired on a ten-year basis. At six percent interest this would require an annual payment of \$27,200.

Q. Where will this money come from?

A. According to figures, approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the money will come from a variety of sources, mostly from the State of North Carolina.

Q. What does the state pay?

A. Under the new court system, the State will pay rent to the county based on the number and type of court cases; salaries for the Clerk and employees of his office, salaries of the Judge of Recorder's Court, Vice Recorder, Solicitor, Court Reporter and Jurors will no longer be paid by the county.

Q. How much will this save the county annually?

A. According to figures obtained from the Clerk's office, the afore mentioned salaries, not including the Clerk's office, amounts to \$15,200 saved annually.

Q. How many criminal cases were tried in local courts last year?

A. 3143

Q. How much does the State pay per case?

A. \$2.00. Last year this amounted to \$6,286.00.

Q. What other payments are made by the State?

A. \$15 for Superior Court cases; \$2.00 for estate and special proceedings; \$5.00 for Superior Civil cases and \$5.00 for Civil cases before Justices of the Peace.

Q. How much is this expected to bring in annually?

A. Based on last year's cases, the total would have been \$10,036.00.

Q. Is this expected to increase?

A. All indications are that crime is on the increase. Yes.

Q. What is the total the county can expect to collect from the state and the present 3 cent tax levy?

A. Based on last year's court cases and property valuation, the total income for the county would have been \$37,654.50.

Q. Is this more than is required to retire the bonds?

A. Yes. According to figures endorsed by the Commissioners, the bonds will require \$27,300.00 annually for the next ten years. Under the current income estimates, this will leave the county a net of \$10,454.50.

Q. Can the county receive this money from the state without renovating the

courthouse?

A. Some of it. However, rental from the state will have to go to some private citizen or firm who can furnish suitable space for the courts.

Q. Is a bond issue required by the State?

A. No. But the General Assembly, in passing the court reform made it the responsibility of the Board of County Commissioners to make available adequate space for the new offices.

Q. What happen if the bonds fail?

A. The Superior Court will order the Board of County Commissioners to supply adequate space. This will require the Board to find quarters outside the present courthouse.

Q. Will the State pay rent for such quarters?

A. The State will pay the same rental fees, based on the number and types of cases. The amount of income from this source may or may not be sufficient to pay the total rental fee that might be charged by a private concern.

Q. If the State rental does not meet the payments, who pays it?

A. It will have to be paid by the county.

Q. Will approval of the bond issue, cause a tax increase?

A. The present Board of Commissioners say not.

Q. Will \$200,000 be enough to adequately renovate the facility for the future?

A. The architect and the Courthouse Planning Committee say it will be.

Q. Can anyone register for the election now?

A. No. The books closed on November 11.

TO BE CONTINUED