



"Mommie, What's Christmas?" "You Mean Presents For Me?" "Wonder What's In There?" "May I Open It?" "Why Not?" "I Just Wanted To See..." "Who's Santa Claus?" "I Hear Him. He's Coming..."

For Some, Christmas Is A Long Time Coming

Weather
WEATHER
Generally fair and mild today. Friday, partly cloudy and continued mild. Low today, 38; high, upper 60's.

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Ambulance Service Problem Grows Larger, No Solution In Sight

The name of the game is money. And the apparent solution to Franklin County's pressing ambulance service problem is the same. As is the case with many problems, most of them can be solved when and if the money is available.

Franklin, long noted for its frugal Board of County Commissioners, is now faced with paying a dear penalty for this frugality. It seems to be a case of penny-wise and dollar foolishness. On July 20 of this year, as the Board met to give final approval of a budget much like the ones approved for the past several years, the problem of ambulance service was brought up by a newsman attending the meeting. Nothing was included in the budget to cover the emergency, which it was said, would come.

"We'll cross that bridge when we get to it," said one Commissioner. Asher Johnson, WYRN radio news director pointed out that the "bridge" would be here in a few months. He urged the Board to include some funds in the budget for the emergency. The Board did not heed the warning.

This week, one of the Commissioners has pointed out that time is now needed to allow the Board to get into next year's budget and to make some arrangements. He suggested that the funeral home operators continue to serve county citizens with ambulance service for a period of six months to give the Board the necessary time.

A check with a leading local operator disclosed that it is impossible for his firm or any other in the area to continue operating ambulance service after December 31. "Everybody signed an agreement to go out of the business on December 31," he said. "Under no circumstances can any of us continue to offer this service". Strike one possible solution.

Dr. John Vassey, chairman of a committee appointed to study the problem,

said his committee made three recommendations. He admitted that none of the three holds the answer to a permanent solution. He emphasized that without proper financing, none could work.

"The best way to solve the problem," said Vassey, "is to let private enterprise do it". He suggested a supplement to be paid by the county in this event. A second solution, as suggested by the committee, is for the county to set up its own operation and the third was a temporary service by present operators until one of the other two could be put into play.

"It looks like we are at a standstill", the Doctor concluded, "Without the money, I don't know what we can do".

It has been reliably reported and confirmed by at least one member of the Board that there is one private individual displaying some interest in forming an ambulance service firm on his own, with assurance of help from the county. The man, not identified, does not live in a centrally located community and according to the reports, could not give proper service county-wide from his present location.

As far as can be determined, this avenue toward a solution is crowded

with misgivings at this stage and it is doubtful that the way can be cleared before the December 31 deadline. This apparent solution, too can be scratched.

There was a report some time ago that the Louisburg Rescue Service has offered its assistance to the county in the matter. This sounded, on the surface, like a possible answer to the problem, if not permanently, perhaps temporarily. However, a great deal lies behind any move by this unit into the business of ambulance service and regardless of the good intentions exemplified by this outstanding service organization, it is extremely doubtful that it will be able to relieve the situation come December 31.

The Louisburg Rescue Service is just what the name implies. It is a unit of the Town of Louisburg. It is the town tax dollar that contributes most to its support. Its services, however, are said to be about 80 percent to the county and twenty percent to the town.

In past years the Town of Louisburg has budgeted as much as \$7,000 to \$8,000 in a single year for the Rescue Service. This amount represented purchase of heavy equipment such as trucks. However, in the present budget, the Town has appropriated \$4,390 for operation of the unit this year. Franklin County contributes \$1600 to the Louisburg unit. The county gives \$1,000 annually to the Franklinton Rescue Squad and \$600 to the Centerville Rescue Service.

Louisburg taxpayers have not complained about anything given the Rescue Service. Neither have complaints been heard because the service is used county-wide although supported, for the most part, by the town. However, any attempt to burden the taxpayers of Louisburg with a county wide ambulance

A SPECIAL REPORT

Dean Tells About Christmas Trees

Franklin County residents are now faced with that once a year decision on selecting a Christmas tree. Balsam, fir, Fraser fir, white pine, Scotch pine, and red cedar are the species offered for sale in our area according to C.T. Dean, Jr., County Extension Chairman.

Fraser fir is considered the elite Christmas tree. It is symmetrical and has good color, excellent needle retention, good ornament holding ability and a pleasing fragrance.

Balsam fir can easily be mistaken in general appearance for the Fraser fir. The Balsam fir is not as compact, however.

White pines and Scotch pines are also excellent choices. The white pine has good shape and color, but flexible branches. The popularity of this species is on the increase.

The Scotch pine has stiffer branches than the white pine. Most Scotch pines are artificially colored before they are sold.

The red cedar has long been the traditional variety in Franklin County says Dean, but is declining somewhat in popularity. It has limber branches, dries out quickly and usually has prickly needles. However, the tree is noted for its fragrance and needle holding ability.

To find an ideal tree, the County Agent suggests looking for a uniform triangular taper. Check to see that it is well filled out and free of weak, broken or unduly long branches and crooks in the stem.

Shake or bounce the tree on the ground lightly to see that the needles are firmly attached. If only a few needles drop, the tree may be fresh and more likely to retain its needles throughout the holiday season.

Once home, saw off the butt end of the tree about one inch above the original cut so it can absorb water. The butt end should be placed in water immediately, even though there may not be any plans to decorate it for several days.

To prevent the tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard, stand it in a cool place away from radiators, fireplaces and other heat sources.

Lions Hold Christmas Party

The Lions Club of Louisburg held their annual Christmas party Tuesday evening. The group feasted by candlelight and sang carols, but the emphasis was placed upon an inspirational message delivered by H. G. Fisher, an employee at First Citizens Bank and Trust Company in Raleigh.

Mr. Fisher first played a humorous recording entitled "Green Christmas", revealing a commercial Christmas, not a spiritual one. The story was so indicative of how people often spend Christmas. In his message Mr. Fisher pointed out that a man is always invited when his own birthday is being celebrated; however, at Christmas time Christ is too often invited to his birthday party.

"Christmas should be a lesson about Christ because hope and joy is offered to all mankind through Christ. Christmas should be an expression of man's knowledge of, and love for Christ."

See LIONS Page 4



Asher Johnson, left and Kyle Prince, right, members of the Louisburg Rescue Service, are shown above Wednesday night, with George Williams and "Popcorn", a 5-year-old collie which was recovered from a 40 ft. dry well by the three-some. The dog fell through some rotted planks around the well. The plunge, however, did not apparently injure the animal. Photo by Clint Fuller.

Rescuers Go On Mission Of "Popcorn" Mercy

The Louisburg Rescue Service answers around 200 calls each year in its service to the Franklin County community. Some are serious, some are unnecessary and occasionally, some are unusual.

The third call of the day, Wednesday, fell into the latter category. After aiding an attack victim and a lady injured in a fall, the squad was called around 5:30 p.m. to save "Popcorn".

"Popcorn" is a 5-year-old collie dog. He belongs to James Williams of near Royal. "Popcorn" got too nosy, too close to an abandoned dry well in the yard of a Negro woman, Rena Carrington just east of U. S. 401.

"Popcorn" stepped up on the well curbing and the rotted boards gave way. The animal took a forty foot plunge, straight down. How to get him out, then became the problem.

The Louisburg Rescue Service was called. Not usually involved in dog saving, a couple of the hearty rescuers, however, answered the call. Asher Johnson and Kyle Prince went to the Carrington home and with the aid of rescue equipment (rope, lights and ladder) freed the imprisoned feline. James Williams, son of the dog's owner, climbed down the ladder to place the rope around a somewhat startled "Popcorn".

All ended well (no pun intended). Williams, "Popcorn", rope, ladder, lights and Johnson and Prince were no worse for the wear and tear. "Popcorn" just sniffed around as though confused by all the fuss. He probably doesn't realize it, but chances are Johnson and Prince slept just a little better Wednesday night for having contributed to a Merry Christmas for a dog with the unlikely name of "Popcorn."

Dates For Candidates Set

Filing deadlines for candidates in next year's elections have been set, both for state and county offices. According to Taylor W. Boone, Chairman of the Board of Elections, the filing deadline for county offices will be noon March 22, 1968. The final date for filing for state offices is set at noon on February 23, 1968.

Primary voting dates have been advanced for next year and this has caused an earlier filing deadline, according to Mr. Boone.

The first primary will be held on Saturday, May 4 next year instead of on the last Saturday in May as heretofore. The last General Assembly changed the date for the primaries. The date for a run-off primary if necessary is set as Saturday, June 1.

All candidates for county offices. State Senate and State House of Representatives must file with George Champion, Jr., secretary of the County Board of Elections before the March 22 deadline. Candidates for state offices must file with the State Board of Elections in Raleigh.

Fees which vary in the different offices, must be paid at the time of filing.

Thus far, little has been heard in the area of possible candidates for the various races. Franklin County voters will select a two State Representatives, who will represent the three-county area of Vance, Warren and Franklin, and a State Senator (under the rotation system, Franklin will supply the Democratic candidate), who will represent the three-county area of Vance, Granville and Franklin.

Also to be decided in the elections next year is a Register of Deeds, two county Commissioners, one member of the Board of Education, a host of township constables and new district judges and solicitors.

Retired Teacher Passes

Mrs. Ernestine Hayes Inscow died unexpectedly of a heart attack at her home Wednesday night. She was a retired teacher, having taught for many years in the Louisburg and Franklin County schools.

Funeral services will be conducted at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, of which she was a lifelong member, at 2 p.m. Friday by the Rev. Frank E. Pulley and burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Arthur B. Inscow; a sister, Mrs. Lily Killian, of Denver; and several nieces and nephews.

Rains Help Franklinton

(Frk. B.W.) Mayor Joe W. Pearce announced Wednesday that the water has come up 6 inches in the city pond due to the recent rains. He remarked that there could be no better Christmas present for the town.

The city officials are in the process of buying a pump and equipment to "tear up" Cedar Creek and add to the town reservoir. When this project is completed the town will have an ample water supply.

Welfare Meeting Held Here

On December 12, 1967, Operators of Family Care Homes, Homes for the Aged, Specialists on Aging in Departments of Welfare, and other guests attended a Geropsychiatric Consultation at the Murphy House Restaurant.

Dr. Adriann Verwoerd, Director of Training, Geropsychiatry Unit, Department of Psychiatry, Duke University Medical Center, presented the theme, "People and Places: The Older Person in his Environment."

More than a hundred people attended from the following counties: Chatham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Rockingham, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson.