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Easter Prediction

Twenty-Two To Die On N. C. Highways

The tranquility of Easter will be shattered by nearly a thousand traffic accidents on North Carolina's streets and highways that may claim at least 22 lives during the extended weekend, the N.C. State Motor Club said today.

The state will count its traffic deaths for the holiday which traditionally opens the spring travel season from 6 p.m. Friday, April 12, through midnight Monday, April 15.

North Carolina's Easter holiday toll last year reached 20 fatalities, same as the previous year, and another 557 persons injured in 897 accidents. Ten of the 20 traffic deaths occurred on Easter Sunday.

Leading driver violations reported were: speeding, 178; driving left of center of the road, 121; failure to yield right of way, 118; following too closely, 67; and driving under the influence of alcohol, 56.

Seeks Total Integration This Fall

HEW Says Franklinton School Plan Unacceptable

Board Has Not Agreed To Demands

The U.S. Office of Education has declared the Franklinton City Schools plan of further desegregation for the coming year unacceptable. In a letter to Superintendent R.B. Gordon, Lloyd R. Henderson, Education Branch Chief said, "You are aware we are requiring school districts to submit comprehensive plans which will eliminate the dual school structure by September 1968. Your plan extends far beyond that time and we can see no administrative reason why your system cannot be completely desegregated student-wise and faculty-wise by this date."

W.P. Pearce, Jr., attorney for the Franklinton Board said Wednesday that the Board "has not agreed with this"

and that "we will be going to Washington in a few days" to confer with HEW officials.

He said the plan submitted by the Franklinton Board has called for further progress in desegregation but total integration was mapped out over a five year period. Washington officials contend that this is too long a time.

Henderson's letter continued, "As can be shown by the progress that your district has made until now freedom of choice is not serving to desegregate your schools. Your Board should be considering some other alternative so that you can complete the job by September 1968".

Then the Washington official issued See PLAN Page 6

After Trip Over N. C. 56

Scott Calls For Shake-Up Of Highway Department

It probably had nothing to do with it, but Lt. Gov. Bob Scott took a ride over N. C. 56 in Franklin County Tuesday and 24 hours later issued a statement calling for a shake-up in the state highway department.

Scott sent Times Editor Clint Fuller a note following his trip in the county which said, "I rode over several miles of N. C. 56 and I sure agree it needs improving. It's so rough I can hardly write as I ride along." Fuller has spearheaded efforts to gain road improvements in the county.

The Lt. Gov. began his campaign whirl in Franklinton Tuesday morning after a breakfast meeting in Henderson. He made the rounds of downtown, shaking hands and seeking support for his gubernatorial candidacy. "It's a bad day for politicking," he told Fuller, when he stopped by The Times office. His reference was to the people's preoccupation with the violence.

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Businesses To Close Monday

Mrs. Juanita Pleasants, Executive Secretary of the Louisburg Business Association announced today that downtown merchants will be closed all day Easter Monday, April 15. No announcement has been made of businesses in other sections of town, but most places usually observe the traditional holiday.



Guard Returns As Things Quiet

First Sgt. Paul Mullen is shown above calling the roll of local national guardsmen as the Louisburg unit returned late Wednesday from their six-day mission in Raleigh. The unit, with others, was called out last Friday by Governor

Dan K. Moore to put down riots in the capital city. Scattered acts of vandalism and disorder in Franklin County subsided over the past two nights and things are getting back to normal here and elsewhere in the state.

no business going to school today. You are not showing the proper respect for Dr. Martin Luther King." Agent Crocker said the combined Franklinton High School and Grammar School bus, driven by Gordan Wilder, 17, was making its normal morning stops on Loop Circle outside of town in a section called North End when the incident occurred.

The bus had stopped to pick up two children. The driver saw them playing in a yard and asked if they were going to school. The children said no. Wilder started to drive away when

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Lions Aid Rescue Service

Bill Johnson, President of the Franklinton Lions Club, is shown above presenting a check from his organization to the Franklinton Rescue Squad. The check, for \$200, is being accepted by A. J. Perkinson, right, Chief of the Service.

Photo by Mrs. Bert Whitfield.

Court Chides School Board For Not Offering Protection

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, in its seven-page ruling which upheld the District Court in knocking down Franklin County's freedom of choice school desegregation plan, hit at the Board of Education for not offering protection to Negroes.

The ruling, which arrived here late Tuesday, reveals that the Appeals Court placed emphasis on Ku Klux Klan activities in the county and what the court termed inaction on the part of the Board.

Referring to alleged acts of violence, the opinion states, "The School Board did nothing to counter or alleviate these conditions. It took the position that it was not responsible for the threats and acts of violence . . .". The ruling called the Board's response to the court order to encourage teachers to transfer to across racial lines "wooden and little calculated to procure the result the Court envisioned."

"The School Board took no steps to alleviate the threatening conditions," the ruling states, "It offered no special protection. It gave no assurances. It did nothing," the Court adds.

Local schools officials, withholding comment until the legal aspects can be studied, are saying privately that the Board complied in every instance to the exact letter of the law and the court orders. Officials are also saying that it is not the function of a school board to afford protection, but that of other agencies.

The petition presented by Henderson attorney Linwood Peoples on behalf of a group of Negro parents seeking to intervene with the Board to preserve freedom of choice was not allowed by the Fourth Circuit.

In summation of the ruling, the document says, "Indeed, it would have

been very derelict in its duty had it permitted the School Board to proceed on in its indifferent way after its less than half-hearted compliance with its faculty desegregation order and the abundant evidence that the intimidating activity had indeed had a chilling effect on the Negro residents of the district."

Judge Albert V. Bryan, concurring specially in the decision states, "I do not want my assent to be construed as approving these portions of the District Court's decree: (1) The transfer of pupils with an eye to a racial balancing of students in any school . . . (2) The restriction upon the newspaper publication of the names of the transferring pupils, for it violates the First Amendment. This is official public information, and no matter the motive of the publisher, it cannot be suppressed."

-Judge Bryan also states that "The task of the District Judge was not enviable and he acted conscientiously to meet the outrageous and cowardly acts of the criminal element."

The ruling places the matter back into the hands of District Judge Algernon Butler, who now has the court ordered plan of the Board under consideration. He may approve the plan which calls for an increase in integration this fall and total integration and consolidation within two years, under a \$3.5 million bond program, subject to the approval of the people. He may also refuse to approve the plan and order whatever amount of desegregation he wishes for the coming fall opening.

The Board of Education is expected to meet with its attorneys in a few days to discuss the ruling and to set what future actions that may be indicated.



Registration Poster Winner

Miss Carolyn Chadwick, winner of the League of Women Voter's registration poster contest at Louisburg High School, is shown above displaying the winning entry. The League sponsored the contest in efforts to publicize the new registration now going on in the county. Everyone must re-register in order to vote and books are now open Wednesday through Saturday in Louisburg, nightly, Wednesday through Friday and all day Saturday at Franklinton and for the next two Saturdays in all other precincts. First three places received cash prizes. Other winners included Bill Taylor, 11th grade, second place and Deborah Holmes, 8th grade, third place. Honorable mention went to Robin Kerley, 8th grade; Gwen Stainback, 7th grade and Bennett Steelman, 8th grade. Judges were Mrs. R.A. Kornegay, art instructor at Louisburg College and George Champion, Secretary to the Board of Elections.

Photo by Clint Fuller.

Registration Picks Up As Midway Point Nears

As the massive re-registration project nears the half-way point of the four weeks set for the new registration ordered in the county, the tempo is picking up somewhat, according to a scattered report from some of the precincts.

Louisburg registrar Lee Bell reports that around 300 persons registered last Saturday to bring the total last week to about 1200. The first Saturday of registration in Louisburg resulted in about 1000 persons signing up with 80 percent of those doing so, Negroes. Last Saturday, the race margin was about fifty-fifty, said Bell.

Youngsville reported 216 persons registered there last Saturday with 197 of these being white. Gold Mine had 135 persons to re-register and Sandy Creek had 95 bringing the total there to 315 since the books opened. Of these 119 were Negro voters.

In Harris precinct, 143 whites registered last Saturday and 72 Negroes. At Cedar Rock the count was 313 whites and 45 Negro and at Franklinton the estimate was that fifty percent of the 570 registering last Saturday were white. Pearce reports 60 persons registered there last Saturday.

Louisburg books are open today and Friday as well as all day Saturday. Franklinton books are open from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and

all day Saturday. All other precincts are open only on Saturday. However, Sandy Creek eligibles may register at Jasper Parrish's Store at Oswego anytime the registrar is there and of course, all day Saturday.

Board of Elections Secretary George Champion has been kept busy delivering needed forms to the various precincts and in encouraging citizens to register. Leaflets have been distributed by local Democrats urging re-registration and the League of Women Voters in Louisburg have had remind-



ers placed on automobiles each Saturday in addition to sponsoring a poster contest to draw attention to the re-registration drive. The county chapter of the NAACP has been conducting a drive to get Negro citizens to register during the four week period.

Books will be open this Saturday and next Saturday, April 20 will be the final day of registration. April 27 will be Challenge Day and May 4 is Primary Day.

Franklin Road Bids Received

Raleigh--Bids totaling \$6,645,836.06 were received last week by the State Highway Commission at its regular monthly letting. All apparent low bids were reviewed by the Commission in Raleigh, N.C., Friday.

There were thirty-four projects in thirty-three counties involving more than 164 miles of road construction. The list of projects and apparent low bids, include the following in Franklin County.

WAKE- FRANKLIN--0.807 miles of grading, coarse aggregate base course, bituminous concrete binder and surface on improvements on city streets in Bunn, Franklinton, Youngsville and Rolesville. \$68,727.40, T.A. Loving Co., Goldsboro, North Carolina.

Post Office Closed Monday

An announcement by Louisburg Postmaster Edward L. Best discloses that the windows at the local establishment will be closed Monday "in accord with the local custom of closing Easter Monday."

Best explained that city and rural deliveries will, however, be made as usual.