

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

Tel. GY6-3283

Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Thursday, September 5, 1968

(Twelve Pages Today)

99th Year-Number 58



Water Low, But Alright For Now

Scene above of the Tar River at the Louisburg pump station here shows the river at its lowest in years. The long dry spell experienced here is taking its toll of water, but Louisburg Utilities Superintendent George Dennis said this morning, "We're doing alright". Both he and Weatherman G. O. Kennedy say the river is lower than they have ever seen it. Kennedy reports a measurement of 1.3 feet this morning. He says this is stationary and has been the measurement for the past three days. He also said that normally, the measurement is between two and two-and-a-half feet. Kennedy had reported earlier that only three inches of rain were

received here during the month of August this year. Last year's rainfall for the same period was eight inches. Like most weathermen, he expressed hope for some relief, pointing to predictions of 20 per cent chance of rain today, 30 percent tonight and 50 per cent on Friday. Dennis said that his department lowered the pump three-and-a-half feet a few months ago and had this not been done, the area might be experiencing a water shortage. Both he and Kennedy stressed that there is no undue concern at present over the water supply.

Board Wrestles With School Opening Problems Until 2 A.M.

Wrestling with a multitude of problems attendant to the opening of county schools Friday, the Board of Education sat in session until 2 a.m. Wednesday morning. The session which began at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night was one of the longest in the history of the Board.

Problems being worked on were bus routes and an acute shortage of bus drivers, student assignments, and procedures for opening day.

A group of citizens representing the Committee for the Preservation of the Public Schools visited the Board at one point in the lengthy session. The group came to get information on safety measures to be taken and on sanitation

facilities at the schools.

Millard Wester, Freddie Johnson, Archie Bunn and Mrs. Falcon Jones spoke for the group which also included Guthrie Strawbridge and Billy Bowden. Following an exchange of ideas and information the group voiced its support of the Board and received the Board's expression of appreciation for their support. The Committee sponsored a countywide meeting last week in a local warehouse to discuss a boycott of schools. The boycott was not discussed in Tuesday's meeting.

Mrs. Margaret Holmes, Associate Superintendent told the group of the concern for their children held by school officials and the faculties and assured them that "everything possible is being done to give your children the best education we can". She explained some of the many steps being taken and spoke of the dedication of the teachers in these efforts.

The group was also told of regular safety procedures and sanitation inspections carried out in all the schools.

It was disclosed that the Board expects some confusion on opening, particularly in pupil assignments. The office staff has been making assignments based on geographic zones ordered by the District Court and on information each child's census card. Already some errors have been found and others are expected. Some students listed townships other than the one in which they live and some mistakes have been found in location of families.

The Board asked that parents and students take these things into consideration and that adjustments will be made as rapidly as possible. A major portion of Tuesday's session was taken up in going over these problems. Where errors were found, the Board readily corrected them. Another session is slated for Saturday night in the expectation of correcting any other errors found during the Friday registration period.

It was explained that in some cases children were assigned to the wrong school and that these would be corrected as soon as discovered. In cases where students have not received a new assignment this week, the assignment issued on report cards at the close of school last year prevails and children will report to that school Friday at 1:30 P.M.

Winston Addresses Local Lions

The Louisburg Lions Club convened at the Murphy House Tuesday evening. The guest speaker was F. C. Winston, a charter member of Youngsville Lions and the vocational agriculture teacher in Youngsville.

Lion Winston, an agriculture teacher for forty-two years, told of his recent study tour of Europe, using magnificent slides with his talk. He limited his talk to tours of England and Holland. The slides of London were of familiar sites such as Big Ben, London Bridge, Parliament, and the River Thames. Among the Holland slides were pictures of commercial tulips, old windmills, and holstein cows.

Three awards were made. Lion Buddy Beam received a special pen and certificate for recruiting two members for the local Lions. Lion Paul Mullen received a plaque for his tenure as past president. The most outstanding award was claimed by Lion Pete Shearin, who recently celebrated twenty-five years of perfect attendance in Lionism at Louisburg, and was commended highly for being so dedicated to the organization.

One visitor was present: Ernest Bolick, the new Dean of Men at Louisburg College.

Bar Association Requests Courthouse Elevator

The Board of County Commissioners, meeting here Tuesday in regular monthly session, heard a formal request from the Franklin County Bar Association that an elevator be installed in the courthouse. The request was presented on behalf of the Bar by attorneys W. H. Taylor and J. P. Lumpkin.

Stated in form of a resolution,

Local Guard Gets Praise

The 5th Battalion 113th Artillery of the 30th Infantry Division (Mechanized) returned from Fort Sill, Oklahoma last Saturday aboard two C-124 Globemasters aircraft assigned to the Oklahoma Air National Guard, after completing two weeks of active duty training at the United States Army Artillery and Missile Center located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The Battalion underwent extensive field training making day and night movements, occupying firing positions and actually firing four live Honest John Rockets, hitting the target with pinpoint accuracy. Regular Army Evaluators gave high praise to all units of the Battalion for their outstanding performance. "Can Do" attitude and high esprit de corps and gave all units Superior ratings for their performance.

The three Batteries number 200 men and are located in Louisburg, Youngsville and Zebulon.

Cautioned On ASC Ballots

Farmers were reminded today of a very important part of the election process for Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Community committees, especially where ballots are mailed in to the ASCS county office. In North Carolina, Franklin County, the ballots will be mailed September 6, 1968, and the deadline for returning ballots in the community elections, is September 16, 1968.

C. C. Perry, Chairman, Franklin ASC Committee, points out that two envelopes will be mailed with the ballots sent to all eligible voters of record in the county office. One envelope is plain, and the other has a statement printed on the back which the farmer needs to sign. A witnessed mark will also qualify as a signature.

The ballot should be marked and sealed inside the plain envelope; voters are cautioned not to enclose any other material. Also, voters should not write on the plain envelope. This assures the secrecy of the vote.

The plain envelope should then be put inside the envelope with the statement on the back. This statement is a certification that the ballot was marked by the farmer personally without undue influence by any person. The envelope should then be mailed or otherwise delivered to the ASCS county office.

originally moved by attorney Charles Davis and seconded by W. M. Jolly, the request states, in part, the purpose is "for the convenience of the public, it being understood that many of our citizens and particularly the elderly members of the community experience difficulty attending necessary county functions held in the court room and that an elevator would be of great benefit to the citizens of Franklin County."

The Board ordered that the matter be investigated as to cost and the J. M. Thompson Construction firm is to be asked for a price. The firm is presently renovating the courthouse.

Another request from the Bar Association was also received. This was a request for fans and an amplifier to be used in the temporary courtroom in the Louisburg Armory. The Board called in Louisburg Mayor V. A. Peoples as a consultant on the amplifier, which was estimated will cost around \$500 and can be moved to the courthouse when the courtroom is completed.

State Senator nominee Gen. Edward Griffin and State Representative nominee James Speed appeared before the Board for a general discussion on county finances and revenues. William Place was awarded the audit of the Accountant's office and the Welfare and Sheriff's departments. Lonnie R. Shuping was awarded the audit of the Register of Deeds office, in other reactions of the Board.

The next meeting of the Board is slated for 3:30 p.m. Friday, September 6.

Constitutional Question To Be Raised

Board Appeal Hearing Set For October 9 At Richmond

The Franklin County Board of Education's appeal of the August 5 ruling by U. S. Eastern District Judge Algenon Butler has been set for Wednesday, October 9, in Richmond, Va. The appeal will be heard by the full seven-member Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Board attorney Edward F. Yarbrough said Wednesday that the School Board will contend before the entire tribunal that the District Court overstepped its authority in ordering the complete reorganization of Franklin schools.

The Board hopes to have the Butler ruling overturned and to be allowed to desegregate the school system under a plan developed by the Board.

A three-judge panel of the Circuit Court denied Franklin's request for a stay of the Butler order on August 27, while granting similar requests for school systems in Beaufort County and Edenton-Chowan County. The stays for these two units were overruled two days later when U. S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black acted at the

request of J. Lavonne Chambers, attorney for the NAACP in these and the Franklin case.

An appeal by the Franklin Board of an order of August, 1967 by the District Court which killed freedom of choice, was denied last April by the Richmond-based tribunal. The case was heard on February 5, 1968 and the ruling affirming the Butler order came down on April 9 of this year.

It is expected that the Board will raise the question of time in the October hearing. It will contend that the District Court erred in compelling total desegregation in one year and

that a reasonable time should have been allowed. The arguments will probably also touch on the fact that the Butler order goes far beyond the authority of the courts in that Franklin is required to do more in a shorter period of time than that required of other school systems.

Attorneys for the Board and attorneys for the Justice Department and the NAACP are preparing the necessary papers for the hearing. The three-judge panel, in denying the request for a stay, moved the hearing date up to October. No reason, however, was given for this action.

Notice Given To Students

Superintendent of Schools Warren Smith issued an announcement Wednesday to all county school students, pertaining to Friday's registration. School buses will run Friday, picking up children in time to have them at their schools by 1:30 p.m.

Smith advised all students to board the bus serving their area. In some instances, some students may be transported to a school to which they have not been assigned. Any such errors will be corrected as soon as possible, he said.

Due to the shortness of time in which assignments had to be made, census cards of students were used and some errors have been discovered. These are being corrected as rapidly as possible, Smith said.

He asked for the cooperation of all citizens in making the Friday registration and the Monday opening as orderly as possible. He said that every step is being taken to eliminate confusion, but that there is not enough time to study all cases prior to registration.

He added that the Board of Education will hold a special meeting Saturday night to correct any errors in assignments found in Friday's registration. Students will remain at school until 3:30 p.m. Friday and classes will be held from 8 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. beginning Monday;

Market Average Drops

The \$68.18 average registered on the Louisburg tobacco market Wednesday was below the reported \$70.25 average of opening day, but the quality of offerings was also lower.

William Boone, Sales Supervisor of the local market, said figures on Tuesday's opening sales were not available this morning, but he added some over 300,000 pounds of leaf was sold here on opening day. The \$70.25 average is his estimate of the sales on Tuesday.

Figures were given, however, for Wednesday's sales. Mr. Boone reported 269,064 pounds of tobacco was sold Wednesday for \$183,423 and an average of \$68.18.

Middle Belt sales Tuesday totaled 4,629,083 pounds and averaged \$69.48 per hundred. This was \$2.35 higher than last year's previous opening day high of \$67.13.

Some 11.7 per cent of the Middle Belt's opening day sales went to the

Stabilization Corp. under the government price support program as compared with 12.5 per cent on opening day last year. On the Old Belt, 4.8 per cent of the opening sales went to

See MARKET Page 6

Enrollment Increases

(Frk. B.W.) Enrollment in the Franklinton City Schools has increased from 1022 on the opening day, August 28, to 1307 students.

Franklinton High School now shows an enrollment of 745 as compared with 612 on August 28.

B. F. Person-Albion School now has 562 students as compared with 410 on August 28.

Leaf Group Sets Sales

The industrywide Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Committee Wednesday night recommended schedules for tobacco auction markets in the Carolinas and Virginia to follow for the

Judge Hobgood Names Court Reporter

Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood, of Louisburg, N. C., has appointed Mrs. Rebecca Duncan Dickerson of Oxford, North Carolina, as the Official Court Reporter for the Ninth Judicial District, commencing 2 December 1968. The Ninth District is composed of Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren Counties. The Court Reporter's term of office is at the pleasure of the Senior Regular Superior Court Judge of the Ninth District.

Mrs. Dickerson has been Court Reporter for Granville and surrounding counties since 1955. She has been President of Webb High School PTA, and Granville County Cancer Society, and is a member of Enon Baptist Church. She is a native of Granville County, was formerly married to Luther Currin, deceased, and has two teenage daughters, Teresa and Becky Lynn Currin.

next two weeks.

It proposed that for the week of Sept. 9-12, markets of the South Carolina-Border North Carolina Belt operate three hours a day for four days; that the Eastern North Carolina Belt operate five hours per day for four days; that the Middle Belt and nine markets of the North Carolina-Virginia Old Belt operate four hours a day for four days.

For the week of Sept. 16-19, the committee recommended that Eastern, Middle and Old Belt markets operate four hours a day for four days. For South Carolina-Border North Carolina markets it proposed the following schedule: one-sale markets, two hours a day with one set of buyers; two sale markets, four hours a day with one set of buyers; for three-sale markets, three hours a day with two sets of buyers; and four-sale markets, four hours a day with two sets of buyers, all for four days.

The schedule adopted was proposed by Howard Cone of Richmond, Va., spokesman for the sales committee of the Tobacco Association of the United States, a buyer group.

Growers and warehousemen from the South Carolina-Border Belt made repeated efforts to amend the schedule to give their markets more selling time, but they were outvoted.

Rep. Alton A. Lennon, D-N.C., whose district includes the Border Belt

See SALES Page 6