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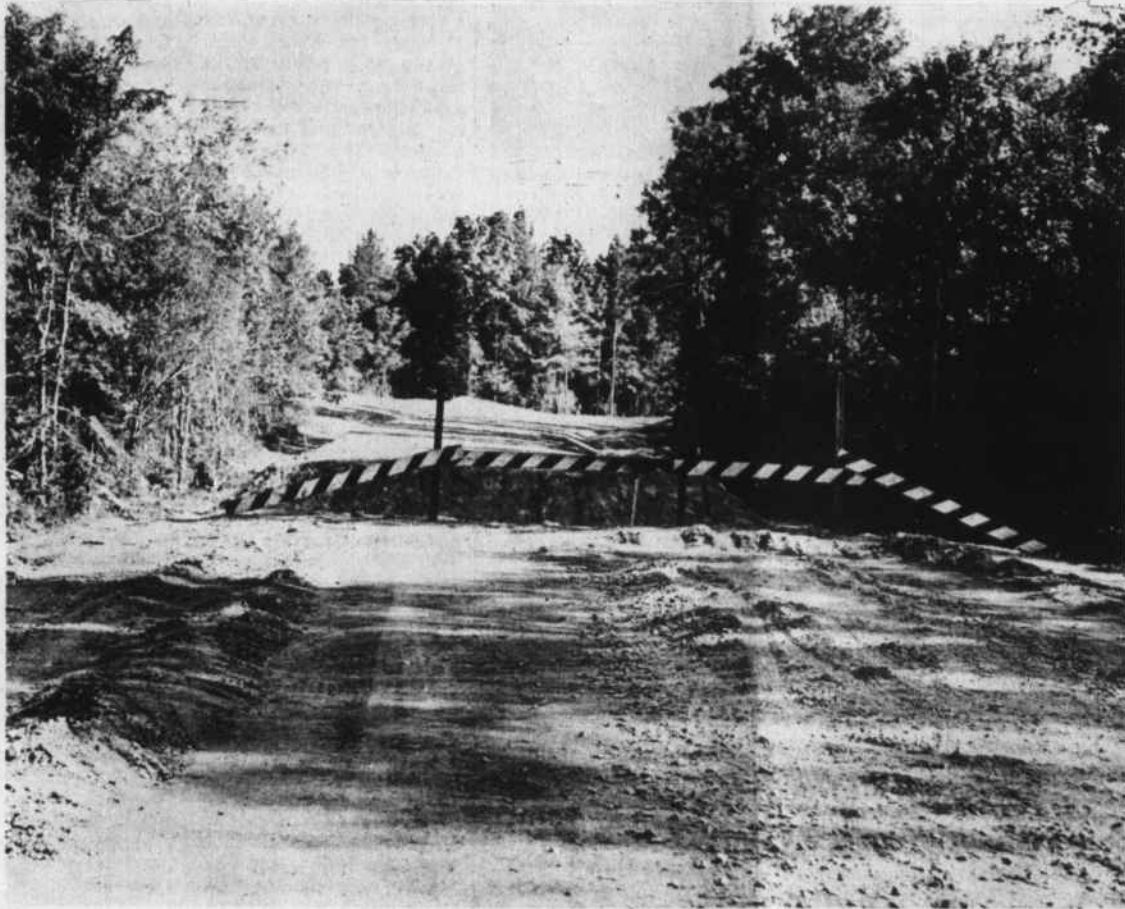
Gen. Griffin Scott Finance Chairman

Major General Edward F. Griffin has been named finance chairman for the Bob Scott for Governor Committee here in Franklin County. General Griffin, Democratic nominee for the State Senate, told The Times this morning that he has accepted the position to "do all I can". Griffin is a lifetime Democrat and has been active in politics for a number of years.

A Franklin native, Gen. Griffin served as commanding officer of the 113th Field Artillery Battalion throughout World War II. He rose in the ranks from private to his post as a Major General. He has served in the State Senate for two terms from Franklin County and has been county attorney, a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee and for ten years was chairman of the County Executive Committee.

He retired in June, 1967 after serving over 13 years as Director of North Carolina Civil Defense. He is married to the former Mildred Scott of Louisburg. They have one daughter, Mrs. Glenn H. Person of Greensboro.

General Griffin has not yet named his committee to assist in the finances of the Scott campaign, but regular party officials and members of the Bob Scott County Campaign Committee are assisting.



Controversial Road

Speed Issues Reply To Road Article

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of a statement by Rep. James D. Speed in answer to an article appearing in the Friday issue of The News and Observer. The statement issued Monday arrived this morning. The Times is happy to contribute space in order that Mr. Speed may have his reply placed before the people.

This statement is in response to the article by Jack Childs appearing in the Friday, September 13, 1968, issue of The News and Observer concerning 1.86 miles of connector secondary road in Franklin and Warren Counties which will link a large area of these counties between highways 401 and 58.

I cannot understand the purpose of such an article nor the manner in which it was written and published in such detail and prominence except possibly as an attempt to smear me or the State Highway Commission.

The addition of this formerly abandoned rural highway link is very valuable to the people traveling back and forth between Warrenton and areas of Franklin County and will shorten the distance by from at least six to 15 miles. It also will cut the distance between the forest ranger stations and fire towers in the two counties by perhaps 10 miles. This is a heavily-

forested area and the personnel of these stations work in close cooperation in times of need.

This road has very little significance to me personally. I own no land on the road, and the road will be of no more benefit to me than to the others who travel in the area. It will be a convenience to many people.

It is true that I have rented Mrs. Egerton's land in Warren County. I have never planted any crops on this land but have sub-rented to others. I have done this to help an 83 year old relative, Mrs. Egerton, who has no sons and whose two daughters live a considerable distance away. Many people have expressed regret or surprise that the old road connecting these lands, which was within a few feet of the present road, was ever abandoned. It was abandoned after the bridge across Shocco Creek washed away during the early 1930s, depression years, at which time the counties were attempting to maintain our rural roads and before the state assumed this responsibility.

As a representative in the General Assembly from this district, Franklin, Vance and Warren Counties, and as a member of the House Roads committee, I have had occasion to assist my constituents on a number of occasions. This, I believe, is one of my responsibilities, to see that my district receives its entitled share of highway improvements. For example, I have exerted whatever persuasive powers I had toward getting funds to resurface

Highways 56 and 39 and several other badly-needed projects in my legislative district, and I believe I was instrumental in getting these projects approved.

As for this particular road project, the boards of county commissioners of Warren and Franklin Counties certainly thought re-opening of the connector was needed since both recommended the project before it was brought to my attention.

My files of correspondence and all pertinent data on this road project and other matters in which I have been interested as an elected public official seeking to serve the best interests of my constituents and the state of North Carolina are now and have always been open and available to anyone interested in the facts.

Unfortunately, the reporter for The News and Observer appears to have gone to great lengths to investigate the matter of this rural connector road and my interest in it before contacting me, and then merely interviewed me by telephone. He did not ask to see nor read these files. I gave him verbally all of the information he asked. However, I do not believe he obtained an accurate picture or purposely did not present the facts he did obtain in an objective manner.

Understandably, I do not appreciate any attempt by a newspaper or anyone else to smear me by distorting the facts nor to question my motives by slanting the truth.

Raleigh Times Issues Correction, Apology

The Raleigh Times, in its Saturday issue apologized for an error in its Tuesday edition which made an article on Franklin County school opening read as if it was accompanied, by violence. Franklin Sheriff William T. Dement said Thursday that he was "demanding that the Associated Press retract certain totally false statements that apparently moved on the AP wire Wednesday."

The AP story stated that Franklin County's school opening was attended by rock throwing, with resultant broken glass in patrol cars as the cars moved from place to place breaking up gatherings of young people.

Sheriff Dement stated: "Contrary to the AP story, our school opening for the first time under a totally integrated policy dictated by Federal Court was entirely orderly." The Sheriff continued: "There has not been a single incident of rock throwing or disorder of any type connected with, or in the neighborhood of a single one of our schools. Nor has there been an incident of rock throwing anywhere in Franklin County to my knowledge."

A misplacement of type was made in the AP story when set for publication in The Raleigh Times last Tuesday. After referring to the Franklin School opening and mentioning that 15 percent of the 5800 students expected Monday were absent, the next paragraph read:

"Throughout the evening and into

early morning, patrol cars-- A particular target of thrown rocks--rushed from area to area at each report of a gathering of youths. As police arrived, youths dispersed. Several automobiles, including a number of police cars, were damaged mostly by rocks thrown through windshields. Police said they could not pinpoint a cause for the violence."

The Raleigh Times retraction, published Saturday follows:

"Franklin County schools opened quietly this week under a new integration policy.

There were no incidents of rock throwing or other disorder, contrary to a story published in Tuesday's editions of The Raleigh Times.

The error resulted from misplacement of type in the page and the report of rock-throwing should have been a part of a story from Syracuse, N. Y., which was adjacent to the story concerning Franklin and Warren county schools.

Franklin Sheriff William T. Dement reported: "There has not been a single incident of rock throwing or disorder of any type connected with, or in the neighborhood of a single one of our schools. Nor has there been an incident of rock throwing anywhere in Franklin County to my knowledge."

The Times regrets the error and any embarrassment it may have caused law enforcement officials or other citizens of Franklin County."

Raleigh Newspaper Hits Speed's Road Interest

Franklin Rep. James D. Speed was taken to task in a by-lined front page article in last Friday's issue of the Raleigh News and Observer for his participation in securing a connecting dirt road in northeastern Franklin and southeastern Warren counties. The article, written by staff writer Jack Childs, implies that only Speed will benefit from the 1.86 mile gravel base road.

Childs quotes Mrs. Anna Bell Egerton of Warren County, an 83-year-old cousin of Speed's as saying, "To tell the truth he's (Speed) the cause of us getting this road." The road in Warren County, according to the Child write-up, leads only to the Egerton residence.

It is also pointed out in the article that Speed leases the Egerton land for his farm uses and that the land lies some 11 miles from Speed's home in the Gold Sand School area. The new road, according to Childs, will cut Speed's driving distance about five miles, in going to and from the two farms.

Childs says that Highway Commission files reveals that Speed contacted Fifth Division Chief Engineer M. T. Adkins by letter which "indicated that the legislator was pressing for action on the road." Speed, contacted by the Raleigh newspaper, is quoted as saying his only interest in the Egerton land is in "trying to get her (Mrs. Egerton) enough money to pay her taxes."

Childs stated, "But Speed was armed with all sorts of answers when queried as to whether his own interests spawned his enthusiasm for the road." "That is absolutely incorrect", the article quotes Speed in reply.

A check into the matter by The Franklin Times reveals that on June 21, 1967, Fifth Highway Commissioner J. B. Brame and three district highway officials met here in an afternoon session with the County Commissioners. At that meeting highway officials made recommendations on secondary road priorities for the county and these were approved by the Board. The Commissioners were told, in open meeting, that Warren County Commissioners had approved an extension of the Egerton Road, then called the Rob Alston road to the Franklin line.

The officials and the Commissioners were aware that Rep. Speed held an interest in this particular project and expressed the belief that the road would "open up" that area of both

counties. At that meeting following the highway officials explanation and without any dissent from the Commissioners, a resolution was duly made and approved for this road work.

The Resolution reads as follows: "RESOLVED; that Franklin County Board of County Commissioners realize the need for the extension of State Road No. 1444 from its present northernmost point to the Warren County line connecting a road leading South from Licksillet in Warren County, to the Warren-Franklin line; and be it further RESOLVED that the people in Warren and Franklin Counties living in the general area served by said road will benefit if said road is added to the State of North Carolina Secondary Road System for grading and stabilization. Done this 21st day of June, 1967."

The Times also found that from the Speed home near Gold Sand School there were 45 residences before reaching the controversial piece of new road. The distance is 6.8 miles and the breakdown of homes along the route shows that 20 families live on the Gold Sand road; 18 live on the paved portion of State Road 1407 and seven families live on the unpaved portion of No. 1407 to where it meets the new State Road No. 1444. Also along the way there are at least three major paved connecting highways and several connecting dirt roads.

The News and Observer article claims that Speed will save about five miles by traveling the new road instead of riding N. C. 58 or U. S. 401. Conditions of the unpaved portion of highway and the heavy gravel on the new portion make the choice of this road over the paved thoroughfares most dubious. In its present condition, one could likely make better time on the longer route, although the new road is not completed.

The project is said by Childs to cost \$32,000 including a \$12,000 bridge not yet under construction. The funds for the major part of the road are deducted from Franklin's secondary road program, according to reports.

Speed is quoted by Childs as saying, "Sure, I was interested in it... I wouldn't deny that, but I would have done the same for any road project in my district. Speed represents the three-county Sixteenth District with Henderson businessman Rep. John Church. The District consists of Franklin, Warren and Vance Counties.

Bob Morgan To Open Democratic Party Headquarters

Harnett State Senator Robert B. Morgan, Democratic candidate for Attorney General, will officiate here at the opening of the Democratic Party Headquarters trailer on East Nash Street Friday afternoon, according to an announcement by Mrs. Betsy Pernel, Party Chairman.

Morgan will speak briefly at the ribbon cutting, which will be attended by Mrs. Pernel and Louisburg Mayor V. A. Peoples. He will be escorted while here by Clint Fuller, Chairman of the Second Congressional District Campaign Committee. Preparations for Morgan's appearance are being handled by Party officials and members of the Bob Scott Committee.

Morgan, state manager of the campaigns for Dr. I. Beverly Lake, is a popular figure among Franklin citizens where Dr. Lake gained a wide victory margin in both his races. Morgan is attorney for the Harnett County Board of Education and is currently experiencing some of the problems similar to those here. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of East Carolina University and a Lt. Commander in the Naval Reserve.

He is a graduate of Wake Forest Law School and is a former Clerk of Court in Harnett County. He has served in the State Senate since 1955 and was president pro-tem in 1965. He defeated incumbent Wade Bruton in the Democratic primary last May.

The ceremonies here Friday will begin at 5 P.M. at the trailer headquarters across from Murphy's Super Market on East Nash Street. Following the ceremonies Morgan will meet with supporters at a local restaurant and if time allows is expected to attend the Franklin-Louisburg football game here at 8 P.M.



BOB MORGAN

Franklinton Chamber Meets

(Frk. B.W.) The Franklinton Chamber of Commerce met Thursday evening at the Town Hall with Mr. "Red" Johnson presiding.

A steering committee was set up to make plans for the Christmas Parade which is to be the first week of December.

Anyone who desires to have an entry in the parade should contact either Mr. Everett Moore, Mr. Ralph McGhee or Mr. A. J. Perkinson. Complete plans for the parade will be published at a later date.

The local group discussed the parking situation in Franklinton. It was announced that a parking lot had been opened where a former cotton gin had operated.

Resident, Two Sons Found Dead

The bodies of an Army warrant officer and his two small sons were found Monday in a car in a wooded area in Cumberland County and authorities ruled it a double murder and suicide.

They were identified as Ronald Collins, 34, formerly of Louisburg, and his sons Rocky, 8, and Terry, 5. Collins was attached to the military intelligence branch at Ft. Bragg.

Cumberland County Coroner Alph Clark, who ruled in the deaths, said the bodies were discovered on a dirt road just off 1-85 in Pope Park by a brother, Bob Collins, who had been searching for them.

Clark said the father and two sons had been missing since Saturday, and that the brother suspected they had gone to the park.

The coroner said a garden hose had been run from the exhaust of Collins' car to a vent window at the driver's side. Collins and the older boy were dead in the front seat, the younger boy in the rear seat.

Water Restrictions Back At Franklinton

Franklinton Water Commissioner Charlie Hight announced this morning that "regretfully" water restrictions must go into effect Thursday morning at Franklinton.

Hight said that Cedar Creek, the source of Franklinton's water supply was about dry and pumping there was almost impossible. He said there is still a good flow of water, but it is necessary to pump an hour and wait several. He also said the shallow water makes pumping extremely difficult.

There is an adequate supply of water at present in the town storage lake, but Hight said precautions were

taken following a special session of the Town Council, because with the creek dry once the lake water is used there will be none.

He asked the cooperation of Franklinton users in curtailing water consumption. Under the restrictions, no water can be used for washing cars or watering lawns and any other waste water is prohibited.

He said old-timers in the area have said they have never seen Cedar Creek as low as it is now. There was no estimate as to when the restrictions might be lifted, however, Hight said he is hoping for rain soon.

White Named Prosecutor

Charles M. White III, 42, Warrenton attorney, has been appointed prosecutor for the new ninth judicial district court, it was announced today by resident Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood of Louisburg. It is the judge's prerogative to make the appointment under the new State judicial system.

The ninth district comprises the counties of Vance, Franklin, Warren, Granville, and Person.

White is an attorney and is currently serving both as solicitor of Warren County Recorder's Court and assistant solicitor of Warren County Superior Court. He is a native of the Drewry community of Vance county. He attended high school in Middleburg and later graduated with an A. B. degree

and subsequently a law degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

As prosecutor, White will assume his duties Dec. 2 for a term of two years and one month. Commencing Jan. 1, 1971, the position of prosecutor will be eliminated under the new court system and the ninth judicial district will elect a new superior court solicitor for the five counties.

White is a Presbyterian, currently serving as a deacon and Sunday school teacher in his church. He is married to the former Sally Alston Tarry of Mecklenburg county, Virginia. They have three children, Charles M. White IV, Mary Tarry White and Alice Bowen White.