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This Is The Tar River Below Bickett Bridge

Precious Water Running Out

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Folks in this area who are planning to do some things "if the creek don't rise" might as well firm their plans. It is extremely doubtful that any "criks" are going to rise anytime soon. There has been almost no rain here in the past forty-five days. For those weather watchers, it can be said that .20 inches fell on Friday, September 6, in the Louisburg area. That was the only precipitation since August 16.

While the public continues to wash cars, water lawns and flowers and soak leisurely in their hot baths, the Tar River is slowly but visibly drying up. Today a small child can walk the bottom of the river without getting its feet wet. Fresh green grass is growing where fish bedded a few weeks ago. Even the mud has turned to sand.

Last year, eight inches of rain fell in the area during the month of August alone. This year from August 1 through August 16, only 3.17 inches fell. This is the driest period suffered in this area since current records have been kept beginning in 1961.

Glenn O. Kennedy, Louisburg weatherman, reports that the River is holding at 1.30 feet. It has been at this exact reading since August 28, except for three days when it read 1.35 feet. By comparison, the Tar in other dry periods stood at 1.62 in September, 1961 and from 1.50 to 1.55 in October, 1963. In 1961, for 35 days the River measured between 1.40 feet and 1.60 feet.

The area has also received the least rain of any month in the seven year recorded period. August, 1961 rainfall measured .61 inches. In October, 1963 it measured .45 inches and the River stood between 1.50 and 1.55 for 25 days.

The driest month among those listed in Mr. Kennedy's current records is December of 1965 when the area received only .36 inches of rainfall.

Louisburg Mayor V. A. Peoples reported Wednesday that "We're holding our own. We are not in any dangerous stage yet." He reported that Town crews lowered the intake pipe at the River two feet about six weeks ago and "this has so far solved the problem."

Peoples said the two Town tanks and the reservoir are about two-thirds full, which is normal. He also said that consumers are using more water presently than during similar periods in the past. He did not have an explanation for this, he added.

Beneath the Tar River bridge on Bickett Blvd, the water, while still flowing, is nothing more than a small stream. If relief doesn't come soon, many may turn the Faucet one day only to find nothing happens.

Mayor Peoples has said, "We'll have to have restrictions

unless relief comes soon" He had explained that there are no plans at present for restrictions. One spokesman said, "We have enough water for two weeks". He did not elaborate. A private citizen asked, "What happens if we have a big fire". He then attempted to answer his own question by saying, "We'd be in a fix, wouldn't we?"

The possibility of fire is ever pre-

sent and should a "big" one break out, the water stored in the tanks and reservoir would probably be adequate. What would happen to regular users under these conditions can only be guessed.

The matter is beginning to take on serious connotations. While officials discount the urgency of the matter, one has only to look at the River. When Tar River is dry, so are the "criks". And when all is dry, there will be no water. It could become serious.

NAACP Attorney Hits Tuition, Buses, Classrooms In Franklin

J. Lavonne Chambers, NAACP attorney in the Coppedge, et al vs. The Franklin County Board of Education case, has charged in a letter to Board attorneys E. F. Yarborough and Charles Davis that "classes in the various schools are being segregated".

The Charlotte attorney also contends that students are being segregated on the various buses. Chambers says it has come to his attention that "approximately 250 to 300 Negro students have been denied admission to the various schools because their parents reside outside the administrative unit".

He asks that "all of these children be allowed to attend school without the necessity of paying tuition". He also wrote that he will be glad to discuss this matter... in an effort to resolve the problem".

School officials have reported that all children have been assigned the various classes according to test scores, given last year in grades 1 through 8. High school students are assigned according to the schedule they chose at the first of the year. This is controlled by the subjects required and the times of day when such subjects are available. The officials say there is no discrimination in any classes in any of the schools to their knowledge. First graders, who were not tested last year have been assigned after observation by their teacher and "working with them" a few days, according to a school spokesman.

Buses were routed by the State transportation department and pick up Negro and white alike on the same routes. A large number of whites have not allowed their children to ride buses and this has resulted in some buses being predominantly Negro, although the buses were desegregated under the August 5 court order, according to the officials.

The Board's tuition policy, which has been under fire of late, was established under a 1958 ruling of the State Attorney General's ruling and school officials say this has nothing to do with the federal court order or school desegregation. Students of both races are equally affected by the policy, they say.

Supt. Warren Smith reported Wednesday that around eighty students are in school under the tuition system at latest count. The County Welfare Department reported early this week that out of 250 cases under its supervision, only three families were found unable to pay the fees and that four children, including whites were affected. Tuesday, it was reported that one of these

Coastal Plains Commission Sets Program To Spur Growth

By Dr. E. Walton Jones

EDITOR'S NOTE--Dr. E. Walton Jones, a former professor of economics at North Carolina State University, is North Carolina Field Director for the Coastal Plains Regional Commission. He is assisted by Joe Grimsley, a native of Wilson.

The face of Eastern North Carolina is changing.

New industry is creating more opportunities and higher-paying jobs in many areas. Tourism is increasing and mechanization is making the farmer's job easier and more profitable.

And yet, the development potential of Eastern North Carolina has barely been tapped.

Consider these possibilities for bringing about further development of these potentials:

--a major coastal highway intersected by primary east-west roads to provide access to resources and markets.

--a manpower development program that would train everyone who needs a skill and provide assistance in matching each individual's talents with a job suited to his interests.

--an all-out effort to develop the full potential of coastal resources--recreation, fishing, transportation and new uses of products from the sea.

--a positive alliance among units of local government to tie rural and urban areas together into viable communities to support high technology industry and provide a full range of services.

--a program that will speed full

families had enrolled a child in school and that only three children are now out of school.

It has been widely rumored here that a larger number of students have joined their parents out of state and are attending schools there. School officials discount the 250 to 300

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mechanization of tobacco and vegetable production.

--A positive program to attract high technology industry with good paying jobs.

--new corporate organizations to link small farming units into aggressive business enterprises.

--full application of science and technology to meet the challenge of

industrialization and urbanization.

These are a few of the program ideas being considered by the Coastal Plains Regional Commission.

Right now, the Commission, a Federal, State and local government partnership for economic planning and development, is engaged in major studies to identify the appropriate programs to raise the standard of living

for citizens in 159 counties in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Pattered after the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Coastal Plains Regional Commission gives the governors of the three states equal voice in decision-making with a Federal Co-chairman appointed by the

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University Offers Apologies Reid Not Instructor At State University

N. C. State University extended its apologies this morning to the people of Franklin County for "any troubles" that remarks by an employee of the University might have caused. Hardy Berry, Director of Information at the University, told Times Managing Editor Clint Fuller by phone this morning that the institution is "sorry for any troubles caused by Harold Reid's statements in the Raleigh News and Observer."

The Franklin Times disclosed in its Tuesday issue that Reid, who had been extensively quoted in The News and Observer's article denouncing Franklin's tuition policy for schools, was sentenced to prison from Cumberland County in 1958 and was paroled in 1966.

Berry said the University is investigating the matter. He also said he wanted to make it clear that Reid is

not an instructor as reported in the newspaper article. He said that the Negro parolee is employed in a "clerical type position" and that he was hired by Dr. Jim Mattox to gather information on U. S. Department of Agriculture food distribution programs. He said this included Food Stamps as mentioned in The News and Observer article, but that Reid had made no study of the Stamp program for State in Franklin County.

"His duties consist mostly of looking information in the library", Berry stated. He also said that Reid, "Is still not frank with them", in reference to attempts by University personnel to gather information on Reid himself.

Berry said that Reid failed to report his prison record when he was hired and that he felt that Reid was under the impression that he came under the Youthful Offenders Act and that once rehabilitated, the record would be wiped clean. Reid was sentenced in 1958 to two terms of 6 to 8 years and 6 to 10 years in prison for Common Law Robbery. Berry said it was his understanding that the Youthful Offenders Act had not been passed into law at that time. He conceded, however, that Reid might have come under the act once it was passed. He stated that Reid says he was 16 years old when

the crimes were committed.

WRAL-TV, Raleigh television station highlighted The Times disclosure in its Wednesday night Dateline News. Sam Beard quoted Times Editor Fuller's article in the Tuesday edition and portions of an editorial which appeared on page four of the same edition.

The report, aired by Dateline reporter Joel Lawhorn, reported that Reid would not answer questions put to him by Dateline and that he remarked, "Don't call back or I'll curse you out."

Berry remarked that Reid might be discharged but was
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Petition Seeks Impeachment Of District Judge

A petition, calling for the impeachment of U. S. Eastern District Judge Algernon Butler of Clinton, N. C., is being circulated in Franklin County. It is addressed to Second District Congressman L. H. Fountain and is described as "the latest effort on the part of the Franklin County Citizens Committee for the Preservation of Public Schools".

"The petition is being well received by county residents anxious to show their displeasure with Judge Butler" says Millard Wester, President of the Committee.

Fountain is asked in the petition to institute impeachment proceedings against the jurist in the Congress of the United States and sets forth a number of reasons why the signers believe him to be unfit to hold his office.

The petitioners say they "believe that Judge Butler has gone far beyond the intent and letter of the law in his decision" and that "he is guilty of gross discrimination against all the children of Franklin County by refusing to allow them the right to attend the school of their choice."

It is also claimed in the petition that the Clinton jurist's decisions against Franklin County "have been much stricter than those handed down by any other District Judge in the entire country". It is also contended by the petitioners that "Contrary to the basic concepts of justice, he accepted as factual any and all claims against citizens of the county brought by Justice Dept. agents and others

even though these complaints were brought without proof".

The petition continues by saying the signers "Believe that his actions have been against the best interests of all the children of Franklin County and that he rendered his decisions without considering the welfare of the children of the county and with no thought as to the adverse effect it would have upon the educational system."

In conclusion, the petitioners say, "We believe that his decisions have been rendered solely out of his desire to do the bidding and follow the wishes of the Department of Justice and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and that he has become in effect nothing more than a 'rubber stamp' for these agencies giving no thought or consideration to the rights of the individual."

A spokesman for the Committee said Wednesday that petitions are available at a number of businesses throughout the county and with individual members of the Committee.

Asked what effect he thought the petition might have, Wester said he wasn't sure. "It will certainly let Congress and Judge Butler know that the people of Franklin County object to the virtual destruction of the public education system and that they feel they have been treated in a high-handed and unfair manner."

He added that the right to petition Congress seems about the only re-

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