

# Merry Christmas

## The Franklin Times

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### Times Holiday Hours

The Franklin Times will omit the Thursday, December 26, issue next week due to the Christmas holiday. Tuesday's issue will be published as usual with mail delivery on Thursday. The Times office will be closed Wednesday through Friday of next week and reopen on Monday, December 30. The office will also be open on New Year's Day.

### Lower Traffic Toll Predicted

With this season's holidays falling in the middle of the work week, North Carolina's traffic toll should be sharply reduced to no more than nine fatalities for the 30-hour Christmas period and perhaps only six for the similar New Year's period, the N. C. State Motor Club predicted today.

The state will officially count its Christmas holiday traffic deaths from 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 24, through midnight Wednesday, December 25, and its New Year's toll from 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, through midnight Wednesday, January 1. The Christmas count for a 78-hour period last year was 27 killed and 862 injured in 1,481 accidents, while for New Year's it was 17 killed and 515 injured in 879 accidents.

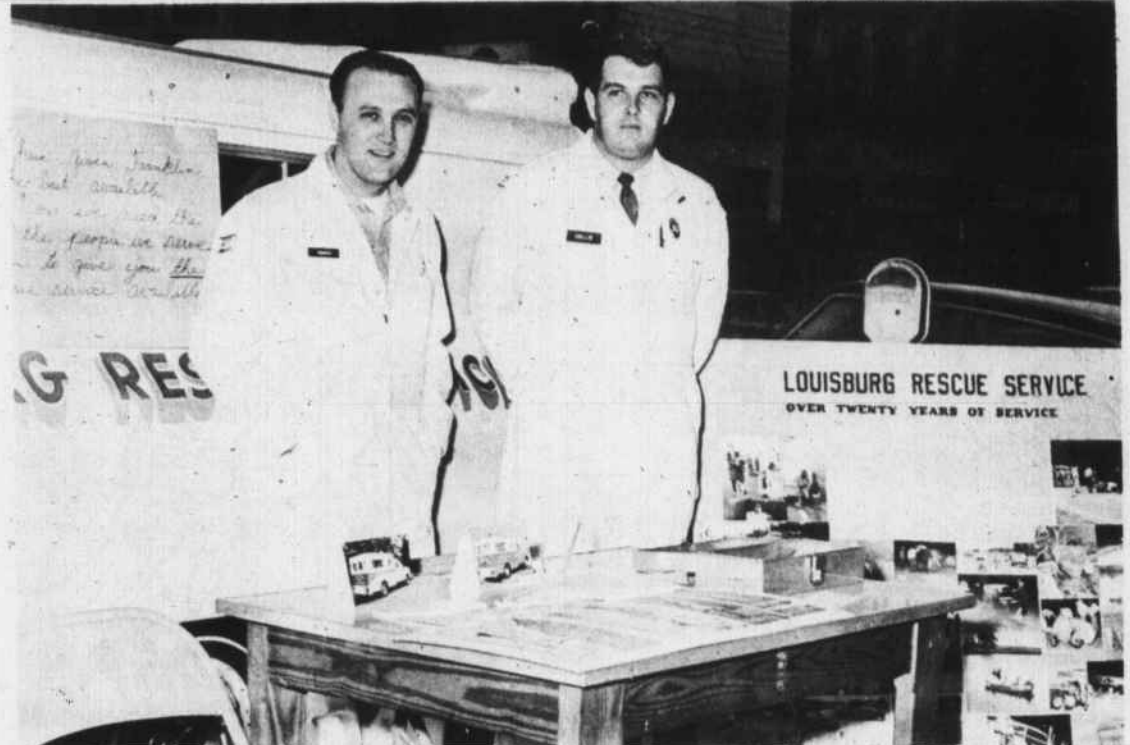
Leading driver violations involved in the Christmas accidents were: speeding, 313; failure to yield right of way, 195; driving left of center, 181; following too closely, 100; and driving under the influence of alcohol, 89. For New Year's they were: speeding, 201; failure to yield, 127; and driving left of center, 119.

"With traffic deaths running about 100 ahead of the 1967 pace, it becomes the direct responsibility of each motorist to drive carefully and exercise his best judgment in avoiding accidents and keeping the final 1968 toll as low as possible," Thomas B. Watkins, motor club president, said.

"Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, but please do your share for traffic safety during the holidays."

### Open Saturday

The Louisburg Post Office will be open all day from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 21, for the convenience of all our patrons, according to an announcement made today by postmaster E. L. Best.



Rescuers Push Drive

David Minnich, left, and Tommy Collie, members of the Louisburg Rescue Service are shown above manning the Service's collection station on the corner of W. Nash and Main Streets here last Saturday. The Service will have the stand open again Friday and Saturday afternoons this week for those wishing to help in the Service's drive to raise funds with which to purchase a new emergency vehicle. The unit costs \$9,100 and the Service is reported to need \$3,000 in additional funds. Rescuers report they were encouraged by last Saturday's donations.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

## Commissioners Accept Courthouse, Move Back Expected Next Week

The move back into the courthouse by county personnel is not expected to be completed until sometime after Christmas, although some furnishings have already been placed in the courtroom following acceptance of the structure by the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board had refused to accept the courthouse as ready for occupancy in a meeting last week, following an inspection tour of the structure. The Board found a number of minor items in need of repair and refused to accept the \$200,000 renovation project as complete.

A letter from Board architect Harry J. Harles of Rocky Mount, dated December 14, informed the Commissioners that the building was then ready for occupancy and listed a number of items to be fixed after occupancy.

Some items, discovered by the Commissioners upon inspection turned out not to be the responsibility of the building contractor.

Some of the things listed by Harles as not yet finished were painting in some rooms, additional cleaning of some brickwork, repair to damage in the corridor due to installation of a water cooler, installation of certain door locks and room thermostats.

Telephone crewmen are at work today to restore telephone service to the various offices to be housed in the courthouse and none of the county officials are making any plans for moving back into the building until late next week. The Sheriff's department has been assisting in moving furnishings into the courtroom in the hope of having it ready for Monday's session.

extreme cold weather had chased the District Court out of the temporary courtroom in the Louisburg Armory the last two weeks.

The Board approved some additional expenditures for the courthouse Wednesday, including \$420.45 to M. G. Wilder for 19 venetian blinds and awnings for the structure; around \$450 for a plaque and installation on the front of the courthouse; \$42.07 for Flexalume Two-nighter blinds for the Clerk of Court and Sheriff's office and approved a binder on present insurance by Hodge Insurance Agency to cover the building temporarily with \$300,000 insurance. The measure was taken awaiting a final decision by the Board on insurance coverage for the building.

In other actions, the Board approved a request by the Board of Education for permission to purchase 10 additional acres of land on the west side of Edward Best High School. The land is to be purchased from B. G. and C. T. Dean, Jr. at a cost of \$1,000 per acre. A donation of \$20 was approved for Caswell Training School and the Board met at length with the newly appointed tax listers.

## Highwaymen At Large

A car load of highwaymen continue to elude local police today following multiple reports by motorists Wednesday night. According to reliable reports, a 1968 Thunderbird, containing three white men and one Negro man were stopping motorists in the Franklin area last night.

As Franklinton police investigated, reports were made that the foursome had fired at a motorist near the county fairgrounds on River Road west of Louisburg. In all instances, the highwaymen had vanished when officers arrived.

## Justice Plant Entered

Sheriff William T. Dement reported this morning that the Justice Manufacturing Company plant was entered by thieves early today. Dement said that the janitor reported the break-in when he arrived for work early this morning.

Two drink boxes were reportedly entered and an adding machine and typewriter were reported missing. Dement said he is continuing his investigation today.



From All Of Us  
To All Of You

## District Court Continues To Handle Full Docket

The following cases were disposed of in District Court on Monday, December 16th:

Donald Jones Hagwood, w/m/47, speeding. To pay costs.

Ulysses H. Perry, n/m/57, operating auto intoxicated. 8 months in jail, suspended for 2 years on payment of \$100.00 fine and costs; defendant not to operate a motor vehicle in N. C. for 12 months; to remain of good behavior and not violate any of the criminal laws of N. C.

James Oscar Rogers, Jr., n/m/24, speeding. Judgment suspended on payment of costs.

Josephine Eliza Yarborough, n/f/32, speeding. Prayer for judgment continued on payment of costs.

Jimmy Lee Eaton, Jr., n/m/19, reckless driving; no operator's license. 4 months in jail, suspended for 1 year on payment of \$50.00 fine and costs and defendant remain of good behavior for 1 year and not violate any criminal laws of N. C.

Silas (NMN) Monroe, n/m/39, operating auto intoxicated. 4 months in jail, suspended on payment of \$50.00 fine and costs and defendant to remain of good behavior and not violate any of the criminal laws of N. C. for 2 years.

Perry (NMN) Moore, n/m/64, operating auto intoxicated. 8 months in jail, suspended on payment of \$100.00 fine and costs; not to operate motor vehicle in N. C. for 12 months; to remain of good behavior and not violate any criminal laws of N. C.

Claudia Lee Culpepper, w/f/22, speeding. \$30.00 fine and costs.

Richard Braxton Bumpers, n/m/42, operating auto intoxicated; resisting officer. 1st charge: 2 years in jail, suspended for 40 months and defendant placed on probation for 3 years on condition that he pay \$100.00 fine and costs; not to operate motor vehicle in N. C. for 12 months and remain of good behavior and not violate any criminal laws of N. C. 2nd charge: 12 months in jail, suspended on above conditions; in addition defendant to submit self to Sheriff of Franklin County for 30 days beginning 12/16/68 after which he is to report to Probation Officer. Jail fee to be paid under supervision of Probation Officer.

Curtis Lee O'Neal, w/m/16, improper muffler; speeding. Prayer for judgment continued on payment of costs.

Wallace Howell Richards, w/m/46, speeding. Prayer for judgment continued.

Robert Lee Harris, c/m, worthless check. 30 days in jail, suspended for 6 months on condition that defendant pay amount of and costs.

Hurley Wilkins, n/m/19, speeding too fast under existing conditions. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Henry Foster, w/m/35, threaten to kill. Nol pros.

George Bobby Johnson, c/m/19, public drunkenness. 20 days in jail, suspended on payment of costs.

James Bragg, public drunkenness. 20 days in jail, suspended for 6 months on payment of costs.

Jasper Perry, public drunkenness. 20 days in jail, suspended for 6 months on payment of costs.

Otis Raymond Williamson, driving under influence. 8 months in jail, suspended for 2 years on payment of \$100.00 fine and costs; not to operate (See COURT Page 4)



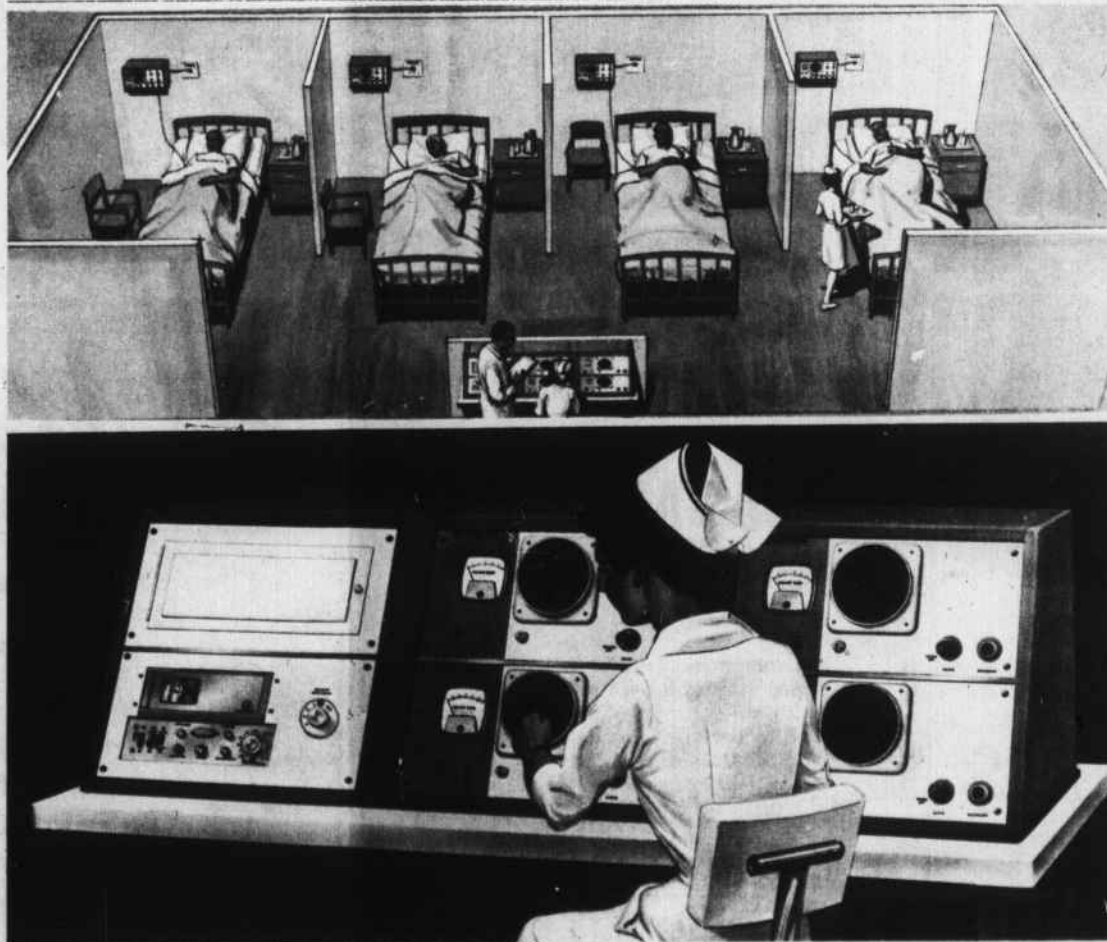
EARL SMITH

## Smith Finishes Patrol School

Earl Smith, former Louisburg police officer, graduated from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol School at Chapel Hill last Friday following a 14-week training period. Smith, 25, was one of 38 graduates and will be stationed at Kinston.

The training course is given by the Institute of Government and this was the 43rd such school. Another gets underway on January 5.

Smith, who was a member of the local police force for 19 months, resigned to join the State Patrol last September and began his training on September 8. He is married to the former Donna Weaver of Louisburg and they have one son, Wade Anthony, age 5. The Smiths will move to Kinston as soon as suitable quarters are found. He reports for duty on December 26.



Proposed Intensive Care System

Artist's drawings above show the two Bed Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and the Nurses Station Console which officials at Franklin Memorial Hospital are planning to install. A drive to raise some \$5,000 in funds was launched last week, with one of the room units being donated by a Louisburg couple. M. M. Person, Jr., hospital administrator, says the intensive care unit is needed to properly care for heart patients at the local hospital. Donations may be made at the hospital office.