

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

(Eight Pages Today)

Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, February 18, 1969

100th Year-Number 1



Guild Makes \$2500 Donation

Mrs. Allen deHart, President of the Franklin Memorial Hospital Guild, is pictured above presenting the Guild's check for \$2500 to Hospital Treasurer J. K. Tharrington of Youngsville. The donation is earmarked for a Cardiac Therapy Group needed by the hospital. M. M. Person, Hospital administrator, said the Cardiac Therapy Group, which will consist of two bedside units and a monitoring station outside the patient's room, is expected to cost around \$7,000. One of the room units was donated last December by Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Lumpkin of Louisburg. Person says that around \$3,000 more is needed to purchase the units. Donations are being accepted at the hospital office. Staff Photo by Clint Fuller.

Board Asks For FBI Reports In Court Case

In a surprise move, the Franklin County Board of Education filed a motion in U. S. Eastern District Court Friday, asking that reports by the Federal Bureau of Investigation be made available for the Board's inspection. The action came in light of a disclosure that FBI agents had visited the county last October to investigate complaints, by persons unnamed, that the Board was operating segregated classrooms.

The Motion filed by Board attorneys asks for an Order "requiring the Plaintiff-Intervenor (the United States Justice Department) to produce and permit Defendants to inspect and copy all reports and memoranda prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation resulting from said Bureau's investigation into alleged complaints against the Defendants". The Motion referred to a letter sent Judge Algernon Butler last October 16 by Stephen J. Polluk, Assistant Attorney General, in which Polluk advised the Judge of the pending investigation.

The Board attorneys contend that the Justice Department has these reports in its possession and that the "documents contain certain evidence relevant and material to a matter involved in this action".

Agents of the FBI have made a number of trips to Franklin County during the course of the school desegregation suit which began in December, 1965. This is the first move on the part of the Board of Education to gain access to FBI files in the case. The Board has labeled as "false" certain charges brought by the Justice Department, presumably following the latest FBI probe.

The Justice Department has asked that the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools be jailed and fined for civil contempt in the case.

ASCS Sign-Up Underway

"Franklin County farmers are coming to the ASCS Office in Louisburg to sign-up in the 1969 cotton, feed, grain and wheat programs," says John R. Davis, office manager. The sign-up began on February 3, and will end March 21.

The Agriculture Department has authorized ASCS offices to make advance payments on 50% of Feed, Grain and Wheat diversion program payments and 50% of the small farm cotton payment, Davis explained.

The County ASCS Committee is meeting regularly to review program applications and checks will be mailed to producers as soon as possible.

The ASCS office will be closed February 21, 1969, in observance of George Washington's birthday, Davis added.

Board Of Education Wants Plaintiffs To Spell Out Complaints

In three Motions and one Objection filed last Friday by the Franklin County Board of Education, more specific information is sought from the plaintiffs in the four-year-old school suit. The attorneys for the Board filed two Motions seeking more detailed information from the United States Department of Justice and the NAACP. A third Motion asks the Court to order FBI reports in possession of the Justice Department be made available to the Board. Board attorneys also filed an Objection to one particular Interrogatory asked by the plaintiffs.

The Interrogatory to which the Board objects is a request for the names of all students attending school under the Board's tuition policy. Board attorneys cite an order of the Court prohibiting publication of the names of any students and contend the Board would be in contempt of the order if it did so. It is also claimed that such information is not relevant to the case.

In respect to that portion of the government's charges which says, "The defendants have...followed a policy and practice within the schools of internal segregation based on race and color", the Board asks that the Court order the government to supply information as to "The policy which the Plaintiff-Intervenor contends the defendants followed in maintaining within the schools internal segregation based on race and color."

The Board also asks for "Each instance which Plaintiff-Intervenor contends is an act of internal segregation based on race and color, including the names of each student, each teacher and each school involved in each instance."

In answer to other complaints, the Board asks the Court to order the Plaintiff-Intervenor to supply "the name of each pupil assigned to a class within a school on a racially segregated

and discriminatory basis, including the name of the school and the class to which assigned". And further asks for the name of each teacher assigned to a class within a school on a racial basis.

Board attorneys also are seeking "the name of each Negro pupil who is or has been required to sit at the rear of a school bus, including the number of the bus, the school and the pupil in each instance."

The Board also wants to know the name of "each agent of the defendants who threatened a Negro pupil or pupils with suspension as alleged," including the name of the pupil, the school and bus number in each instance.

The Board terms the allegations by the Justice Department and the NAACP as "vague and ambiguous" and says that the Board "cannot frame a responsive pleading to said Motions until supplied with the requested definite statements".

Attorneys ask for a hearing on the Motions and Objections at the "earliest practicable date and time as set by the Court".

Youth Held On Murder Charge

An 18-year-old Franklinton Route 1 Negro youth is lodged in the Franklin County jail today facing murder charges stemming from an affray at a Negro night spot near Franklinton early Sunday morning. Dead is Sylvester Jeffreys from gun wounds allegedly inflicted by Buddy Jones.

Thurman Yarborough, also a participant in the incident, is in Duke Hospital in critical condition and Robert Ed Parrish, Rt. 1, Youngsville Negro is free on bond charged with assault with intent to kill against Yarborough, according to the Sheriff's Department.

The incident took place around 12:30 A.M. Sunday at Green's Place, located on old US-1 near Franklinton.

Bunn Voters Approve Water Bond Issue

Voters in the Town of Bunn went to the polls Saturday and did what voters in a number of other North

Carolina communities have been declining to do in recent months. Bunn voters approved a \$160,000 water

bond issue by a margin of 84 to 33.

The Bunn water project is expected to cost around \$270,000 with \$110,000 grant from the federal government anticipated in light of Saturday's favorable vote. The Economic Development Administration has been awaiting results of the vote before accepting application for the grant, according to reports.

All commercial and residential locations in Bunn will receive water from the proposed system once the project is completed.

County industrial development officials were supporting the issue with Bunn in mind for some future industrial plant location. A gravity type water system has been proposed with deep wells as the primary source leading to a 200,000 gallon elevated tank.

County Misses Snow

The much-heralded snow storm which covered much of the state over the weekend excluded Franklin County from its icy grip. A mixture of freezing rain and sleet covered most of the highways in the area early Monday morning forcing the closing of county and Franklinton City schools, but the snow never came.

With some points in the state reporting heavy snowfall-Charlotte had 11 inches, Asheville had 15-the Louisburg area measured only .005 inches of precipitation, according to Weatherman G. O. Kennedy.

Kennedy reported some low temperatures of 15 degrees Sunday and 17 degrees Saturday, but these failed to match the year's low of six recorded January 6. Nine degrees was the low this time of the year in 1968.

One accident was reported due to icy highways and five persons were injured in the wreck, although not believed seriously. No other accidents were reported and no damage from the winter storm was reported here although some areas of the state reported damages from ice ranging into the millions of dollars.



Mrs. Louise Mullen of The Times production staff sits at the old Model K Linotype machine purchased in 1912. While still operational, the old machine is no longer used. The Times marks the beginning of its 100th year with today's edition. Staff Photo by Clint Fuller.

Ninety-Nine, Going On One Hundred

The Franklin Times is ninety-nine going on one hundred today. With this The Times closes its 99th year of publication, first as a weekly and in more recent years as a semi-weekly.

In 1870 Andrew Hall and James A. (Dolly) Thomas purchased The Franklin Courier from George S. Baker and began today's Times. In 1879, Mr. Thomas purchased the Hall interest and changed the name of the newspaper to The Franklin Times. He was editor of the newspaper until his death on August 24, 1909.

At the time of Mr. Thomas' death, Mr. Asher F. Johnson, Sr. and his wife, a daughter of Mr. Thomas, took over operation of the newspaper with Mr. Johnson becoming editor. He served in this capacity until retirement due to declining health in 1952.

Prior to his death in 1954, four Johnson children purchased the newspaper, forming a corporation since known as The Franklin Times, Inc. Miss Elizabeth Johnson was named editor and business manager of the Times. Asher Johnson, Jr. was managing editor until his retirement in 1964 to accept another position. Since February, 1964, Clint Fuller has been managing editor.

The Times was first set by hand and in 1912 a Model K linotype machine was purchased. It is pictured above and is still operational although no longer used.

Today, The Times is composed on the most modern IBM machines and printed through a complicated photo-chemical process. Neatly dressed young ladies have replaced the strong-backed men who once labored with hot lead and dirty ink to get out an issue.

In recent years, The Times has been cited for journalistic excellence by both the North Carolina Press Association and the National Newspaper Association. Circulation, numbering around 2600 in 1964, is now nearing 4,000 issues twice each week. Subscribers may be found in most of the fifty states and a number of issues are mailed overseas.

The Times is healthy, happy and ready to head toward a hundred. It's good to be ninety-nine but it's better to be a hundred.

School Supporters Hold Sunday Meet

Some over 200 persons met here at the Louisburg High School Sunday afternoon to hear current school problems discussed and to decide on continuing the Citizens for Public Schools organization begun last week.

Mrs. Lucy Taylor Allen presided at the meeting which heard Schools Superintendent Warren Smith tell of the many advantages now available in the two Louisburg schools. Thomas Rigan, Principal of Louisburg High School, also spoke, telling of conditions in the school.

Smith said the two schools now offer a variety of advantages not offered in the past. He told of the added teacher positions, the special education classes, the trade and industry departments and others. He explained that each child in the science department has a microscope to use during class and listed a number of projectors, slide and overhead and record players among other things now available in teaching in the two schools.

He spoke of two activity buses, greatly improved library facilities including around \$90,000 worth of

books and about \$50,000 worth of other equipment in the two schools. He valued both plants at over \$2 million dollars.

Rigan told of some of the difficulties he has faced this year and asked for continued cooperation. He declined. See SCHOOLS Page 2

Guardsmen Alerted, Released

Units of the National Guard at Louisburg, Youngsville and Zebulon were alerted last Thursday night for possible service in Durham or Raleigh. Racial disturbance at Duke University was believed to have caused Governor Bob Scott to have the local units placed on alert. A group of Negro marchers from Hyde County were due to arrive in Raleigh on Friday, which is believed to have contributed to the Governor's decision.

Guardsmen spent the day at their local armories awaiting further orders which never came. They were released around 10 p.m. Friday night.

Man Held On Charges Of Incest

Sheriff William T. Dement reported this morning that a 38-year-old Zebulon, Route 2, man is being held in county jail charged with incest and assault with intent to kill his mother. Sheriff Dement identified the man as Wesley Madison Pearce and said that Pearce is being held under \$10,000.00 bond.

According to reports, the man attacked his mother at her home in the Pearce's Community Saturday night.

A hearing has been set for Pearce on Monday, February 24th, in District Court here. Dement said Pearce was arrested in Raleigh, where he works, early this morning and brought here to face the charges.

Ice Causes Auto Crash

Slippery highways have been credited with causing a two-car smashup near Franklinton Monday morning sending five persons to the local hospital.

James Hudson, w/m/69 of Franklinton, operator of one of the vehicles, suffered facial injuries and a passenger in his, F. A. White, w/m/75 also of Franklinton, received head and leg injuries when the Hudson car skidded into the path of a car being driven by Mac Jordan, c/m/21. Jordan of Rt. 2, Franklinton suffered leg injuries and two passengers in his car were also injured. They were identified as Joan Jordan, age 11 and Warren Jordan, age 13. None were believed seriously hurt.

The accident occurred two miles east of Franklinton on NC-56 around 8:30 a.m. Ice covered most of the highways in the area early Monday morning. The Franklinton Rescue Service put two ambulances in use to transport the injured to Franklin Memorial Hospital.



Local Firm Goes Bigtime In Advertising

Robert Preddy, President of The Gospel Recorded, Inc., a Louisburg based firm is pictured above, center, signing an advertising contract for intensive television and radio coverage of the firm's product. Looking on are Dr. Clay Frank of WHNC Radio, Henderson and Mr. Nathan Frank, owner-operator of WNBC-TV in New Bern. Preddy entered into an agreement for 300 television spot commercials and an undisclosed number of radio commercials promoting the sale of a 20-record album of The New Testament. The firm now sells the album in 13 states and is owned, for the most part, by local citizens. The upcoming advertising campaign in the Eastern North Carolina area is the most ambitious yet attempted by the company.

Staff Photo by Clint Fuller.