



Principals At Democratic Dinner

Pictured above at last Friday night's Democratic Dinner here are, left to right: Mrs. Betsy Pernel, Chairman of the County Democratic Executive Committee; "Lauch" Faircloth, Chairman of the State Highway Commission and principal speaker at the event; Mrs. E. F. Griffin, State Senator E. F. Griffin who introduced Mr. Faircloth and Mrs. Margaret Harper, Vice Chairman of the State Democratic Party.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Four Negroes File For Louisburg, Franklinton Races

Three Negroes have filed for the race for the Franklinton City Board of Education and one has filed for the Louisburg Council contest as the deadlines for the two municipal elections pass.

Two incumbents and two newcomers also filed for the three seats on the Franklinton School Board and one incumbent and two newcomers have filed for the Louisburg Council. Franklinton's filing deadline passed last Friday and Louisburg closes out its filing today at 5 P.M.

Plummer A. Richardson, Louisburg funeral home director, is the first of his race to file for a Louisburg post. Richardson filed Monday for one of the six council seats. W. T. (Bill) Beckham, Director of Food Services at Louisburg College, and Robert G. Stanley, Business Manager of the College and a member of the Board of Directors of the Louisburg Business Association, also filed. Neither have made the race before. H. D. Tommy Jeffreys, an incumbent, filed leaving only W. J. Shearin, the sixth incumbent, unfilled. He is expected to file before today's deadline.

Incumbents William Avery Wilder and S. L. (Pete) Colbert filed last Friday for reelection to the Franklinton School Board but C. H. Weston, third member whose term is expiring, decided not to run again. Nat Cannady and Clifton Conyers filed for Weston's spot and three Negroes also filed. B. Don Blockson of Mitchner's Crossroads, an accountant, filed as did Thomas O. Perry of the Sims Bridge

Beckham Files For Council

W. T. (Bill) Beckham, Food Services Manager at Louisburg College, filed last Friday for a seat on the Louisburg Town Council. Beckham was, at the time, the fifth to file for one of the six positions. Beckham, a native of Harts-



BECKHAM

ville, S. C., first came to Louisburg in 1963. He was transferred by ARA Slater Corporation in 1965 and after serving at Greensboro, the Beckhams "decided Louisburg was the place that was home to them", as he puts it and returned "to stay" in 1967.

Beckham, his wife, Kathryn, and their five children, William 13, Suzanne 12, Kelly 9, Laurie 6 and Wallace 2 live at 409 Church Street here. He is the past president of the Louisburg Rotary Club and is active in the Louisburg Methodist Church and is organizer of the Rotary Little League for boys. He serves as League President and manager of one of the teams.

In announcing his candidacy, Beckham stated: "It is with a sense of duty and responsibility to serve Louisburg and its good citizens that I seek to become a councilman. I am my own man and if elected, I promise that I will faithfully fulfill my responsibilities in complete fairness and impartiality. It is imperative that we be increasingly progressive and maintain fiscal responsibility."

Prior to Beckham's filing last Friday, four of the incumbent council members had already filed. They are: Mrs. Breattle C. O'Neal, Grover C. Harris, Jr., George T. Bunn and Jonah C. Taylor. W. J. Shearin and H. D. Jeffreys, the other two incumbents had not filed. Mayor V. A. Peoples has filed for reelection and is unopposed thus far.

Section and James R. Jones, Rt. 2, Franklinton barber. Already filed and unopposed are the five incumbent members of the Franklinton Town Board and Mayor Joe Pearce. No contests developed in these races.

At Centerville, Ernest Denton filed for a seat on the council. Mayor John Neal is unopposed and two incumbent council members have already filed. They are L. S. Ward and John Pleasants.

LHS Band Gets Excellent Rating

by Cindy Schubart

On Wednesday, April 16th, the Louisburg High School Band attended the opening of the Annual North Carolina Music Contest-Festival for high school bands.

The competition was held in Aycock Auditorium on the U. N. C. campus in Greensboro, and ran from Wednesday through Friday. Approximately fifty-three bands were included.

The Wednesday event scheduled many of North Carolina's larger bands such as High Point Central, Bladenboro, and South Rowan. Most of these bands have a membership of sixty or more high school students; and a wide variety of instrumentation.

Louisburg presented its performance at 5:15 p.m., opening with a march, "Trombone King" by K. L. King. The second number was "The Good Daughter", followed by the judge's selection for the group, "The Czech Suite".

The L.H.S. Band was presented with a certificate, awarding them a rating of excellent, or "two". In contest standards a "one", denotes a superior rating, a "two" is excellent, "three" is good and "four" is fair.

Out of the twenty bands participating on Wednesday, only one band, North Mecklenburg, was rated superior.

The thirty Louisburg musicians were very satisfied with their rating. Having tripped the difficulty of their music since last year's competition their projected score was a "four".

After the performance, L.H.S. Band Director, Mr. Bob Watson commented to the band, "I am well pleased with your performance today."

The three judges, chosen from all over the nation for this difficult competition, were: Dr. Karl Halvik, of the University of Northern Iowa, Dr. Kenneth Snapp, Ithaca College and Mr. Robert Barr, Glyn Academy of Georgia. (See Picture Page 6)

Pay Raise Bill For Sheriff, Register Of Deeds Introduced

Three local bills were tossed into the legislative hopper last week as the deadline for such legislation was extended by the General Assembly. Franklin Representative introduced a bill (H-702) "To authorize the school board of Franklinton City School to transfer surplus from capital outlay fund to current expense fund for fiscal 1968-69 and subsequent years". The bill limits transfers to sums not exceeding \$15,000 in any one year.

Two pay raise bills were introduced by State Senator E. F. Griffin. Senate Bill 449 would up the salary of the Register of Deeds and his assistants and allow the County Commissioners to employ an additional assistant next year upon recommendation by the Register of Deeds.

A second bill introduced by Senator Griffin would raise salaries of the Sheriff and his deputies and would

also allow the County Commissioners to hire an additional deputy next year upon recommendation by the Sheriff.

The bills were sent to the local government committee and both are expected to pass routinely through both houses of the General Assembly. The Speed bill was referred to the Education Committee.

Griffin's bills would place the Register of Deeds salary at \$7,130 per year; first assistant at \$4,197.50 per year and second assistant at \$3,852.50 per year. The Sheriff's salary would be upped to \$7,360 annually, the chief deputy would receive \$5,520 and others would be paid \$5,060 under the Griffin bill. All salary increases would become effective July 1, 1969. The present salaries, set by the 1967 legislature, show the Sheriff at \$6,400 and the Register of Deeds at \$6,200 annually.

Attorneys for the Franklin County Board of Education have disclosed that the FBI report sought by the Board in the current legal tangle between the Board and the Justice Department has been received. E. F. Yarborough and Charles Davis, attorneys for the Board have not revealed the content of the documents but copies have been distributed to members of the Board.

The report contains 103 pages of testimony acquired in interviews by a team of FBI agents working in the county last October. Sixty people were quizzed by the agents including a number of teachers, bus drivers, students and parents.

Benoy Speaks To Legion

(Frk. B.W.) Approximately 100 persons attended the American Legion Banquet in Franklinton Friday to celebrate the American Legion's 50th Anniversary, commemorating 50 years of service to God, our Country, and 100% Americanism. Post Commander Douglas Hoyle announced today.

Mr. Jean A. Benoy, Deputy Attorney General of North Carolina, was the guest speaker. Mr. Benoy, himself a veteran, gave a most interesting talk concerning the many activities of the American Legion. He also emphasized the meaning of the term "100 per cent Americanism" - the freedoms of men and women, as God-given rights, but a recognition that every right carries an accompanying responsibility. As Chief of the Consumer Protective Division, Mr. Benoy outlined the duties of his office and mentioned recent cases where the people of North Carolina had been protected from fraud by several major companies doing business in his state.

Mr. Benoy was introduced by Fifth District Commander Bruce Honeycutt also a member of the Franklinton Post 52 of the American Legion.

Highway Chairman Promises Better Fare

(See Editorial Comment Page 4)

D. McLauchlin (Lauch) Faircloth, Chairman of the State Highway Commission, promised Franklin better fare in a speech here Friday night before around 150 Democrats. The Clinton, N. C. Democrat said, "I promise you Franklin County will fare better in the next four years than it has fared in the past four." Under the Dan Moore administration, Franklin received \$900,313.11 for primary road improvements and secondary funds coupled with municipal bond allocations brought the total funds allotted to the county to \$1,843,513.11 during the past four years. Prior to this, Franklin had received just over \$900,000 for primary highways in the preceding 29 years.

"Unfortunately, Franklin is in a district with Wake and Durham counties. They have had the Commissioners; they have had the money and they have had the road work," he said. Faircloth endorsed an editorial in the "Louisburg newspaper" calling for a Commissioner to represent the small counties in the Fifth Division. He said he would recommend to Governor Scott that "counties of equal size and influence be grouped together with a Commissioner."

Faircloth, newly appointed chair-

man by Governor Scott, was introduced by Franklin Senator Edward F. Griffin. He was interrupted several times by the group of Franklin Democrats with applause when he referred to Franklin's road plight over the years. He said he had his aides look back to see what Franklin had received and when he found it had been 19 years since Franklin had a primary road project, he stopped the search. "I started not to come here," he said.

He quoted Clarence Stone in saying

Judge Peoples Critical But Improving

Reports say that Judge Linwood Peoples of Henderson is improving and resting comfortably in Duke Hospital following a serious heart attack suffered at his home last Thursday night. Judge Peoples was taken to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson but was transferred to Duke after suffering a second attack. His condition was listed as critical at Duke Monday, according to reports, but it was said that he is improving.

a Chinaman could look at a North Carolina map and tell where the Highway Commissioners live. He pointed out that since 1958 Wake and Durham received \$70 million in primary highway funds and that Wake received over \$2 million in urban street improvements while Franklin received \$90,000. He said that Wake and Durham should receive more because of their population, but he added, "Damn if there should be that much difference."

He said that "Traffic Counts are no basis for setting priorities" in highway construction and told of criticism launched against him by the large daily newspaper for his position that small counties should receive consideration.

He made a pitch for the proposed two cent increase in gasoline tax as he told the gathering, "If you're going to have the roads, you've got to have the tax."

He said North Carolina's road system is the largest of all the states. "We have 74,000 miles of state roads," he said.

He told the group that representatives of the "Poor People's" march had called on him earlier Friday asking that he hire 15,000 Negroes in the

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School Board Receives 103-Page FBI Report

It is expected that the FBI report will play a major part in the trial of the case scheduled for late June or early July. It is doubtful the contents of the report will be made public until after the trial, if at all. Board members were given sealed copies in a meeting here Monday night and the contents were not discussed. The Board held a special meeting at Louisburg Elementary School with members of the local Advisory Councils from across the county to discuss the "hiring, retention and assignment" of teachers for the coming school year.

Board attorneys also received answers to their interrogatories as ordered by Judge Algernon Butler in a hearing at Clinton earlier this month. In most of the answers, the government stated the names of pupils involved in allegations were unknown and referred the Board to information contained in the various interviews in the FBI report.

The interrogatories did disclose, however, that "complaints were initially received from the following individuals: (1) Luther Coppedge, Ral-

eigh, N. C. and (2) Julius Chambers, Charlotte, N. C." Frank E. Schwebel, Justice Department Attorney also states in the interrogatories: "In order to determine the validity of the allegations, plaintiff-intervenor requested that teachers, pupils and citizens be interviewed." He also says that the "Plaintiff-Intervenor believes that these statements (FBI report) corroborated the allegations of Mr. Coppedge and Mr. Chambers."

The Board had sought to obtain the instructions given the FBI agents by Schwebel but the request was denied by Judge Butler.

Board attorney E. F. Yarborough confirmed a report this morning that a new motion has been filed by the Justice Department and a hearing has been set before Judge Butler in Clinton, N. C. at 11 A.M. Thursday. The Justice Department is now seeking to obtain additional information on pupil assignment which was not granted by the Court in the earlier hearings.

Yarborough said the information now being sought is the identity of the "section, class or other grouping in

specific grades and the name and race of the teacher in these grades." Previously, the Court had ordered the Board of Education to supply the name, race and test scores of pupils and Yarborough said school office personnel and his staff are in the process of collecting such information today.

Denton Files At Centerville

Ernest H. Denton is the latest to file for the Centerville Town Council according to a report today. Denton fills the three position race where two incumbents have already filed.

L. S. Ward and John Pleasants filed earlier to succeed themselves on the Board. Mrs. Robert (Agnes) Leonard is the third incumbent and has not made public her plans. Mayor John Neal has filed for reelection and is thus far unopposed.

The filing deadline for the May 6 balloting at Centerville is Saturday, April 26.



Scene Of Saturday Tragedy

Pilot Man Is Drowning Victim

Members of the Louisburg and Wendell Rescue Services are pictured in photo above searching for the body of Eugene Edward (Buddy) Perry, 46-year-old Pilot man who drowned while fishing late Saturday afternoon. According to reports at the scene, Perry was standing in a boat fly casting when he lost his balance and fell into 10-foot deep water in the D. L. Privette farm pond about a mile from Perry's home in the Pilot Community. The accident occurred around 5:30 P.M. and members of Wendell Rescue Service recovered the body at 7 P.M.

This was the first drowning of the year in Franklin County. Last year three 14-year-old Negro youths lost their

lives by drowning. One died in a pond on the Don Joyner farm pond five miles east of Louisburg just off NC-39 and two drowned in the Graham Ball farm pond at Justice. Eleven persons have drowned in the county since 1964.

Funeral services for Perry, a bookkeeper with a Wendell automobile sales firm, were held Monday at 11 A.M. from the Pilot Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. Donald Wagner. Burial followed in Gethsemane Memorial Gardens with Masonic rites. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Justine Hicks Perry; his mother, Mrs. Flossie Ray Perry of Rt. 2, Zebulon; a sister, Mrs. Elsie Perry Brantley of Zebulon; a brother, Hardon Perry of Zebulon.