

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

Gy 6-3283

Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Thursday, May 1, 1969

(Twelve Pages Today)

100th Year-Number 22

Richardson In Council Race

Plummer A. Richardson, a native of Nashville, N. C. and general manager of Richardson Funeral Home here, is the first Negro to run for the Louisburg Town Council in recent history. Richardson filed last week for one of the six seats on the Board.

Richardson attended the Nashville schools, graduating in 1945 from Nash County Training School. He graduated from Tri-State College, Angola, Indiana with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration in 1954.

He served two years in the Navy during World War II and is a member of Galatia A.M.E. Methodist Church in Nashville. He is married to the former Geraldine Cyrus and they have two children, Stacy Alicia, 3 and Herbert C., 2.

Richardson is secretary-treasurer of the funeral home which he manages and holds a similar position with the burial association affiliate of the firm. He is assistant secretary-treasurer of the Nashville Credit Union, a member of the Johnson-Gilliam American Legion Post in Nashville and a member of the Nashville branch, NAACP. He is also a member of the National Funeral Director's Association, N. C. State Embalmer and Funeral Directors Association and a past vice president of the Eastern District Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association.



Jaycees Round Up 8,000 Bottles To Aid Rescuers

Members of the Louisburg Jaycees are shown above viewing their bottle collection following a drive staged here Tuesday night. Pictured, left to right are: Frank Read, Bill Fleming, Chairman of the project, Paul Brewer, Jaycee President, James Grady and Bill Jones.

Fleming reported the organization collected over 8,000 bottles and the collection is expected to bring in over \$150 to be donated to the Louisburg Rescue Service. He also said the canvas of the area would be completed Wednesday night since all homes could not be checked in the planned one-night effort.

Fleming said the Jaycees wish to thank all who donated bottles in the drive and those who made cash donations to the Rescue Service during the bottle campaign.

Many Recall Heated Elections Of 1941

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Next Tuesday is election day in Louisburg and unless some unforeseen action takes place between then and now, it is likely to be one of the quietest days in years. Most municipal elections have been of the non-noise variety over the years. There was, however, one notable exception. In 1941, they had a donnybrook.

Many folks around today vividly remember the year and although the Louisburg elections were soon overshadowed by a county tangle over liquor stores and the threatening war, the Louisburg Town Council held the spotlight for quite a few days that year.

It seems that it all started when somebody wanted to locate a cotton gin here. When it was found that the town electric plant would not be adequate to supply the electric current needed and that the plant—or perhaps more precisely, the engine—was in need of repair, the council and many private citizens lost their cool.

Enterprising outsiders quickly entered the picture. Carolina Power and Light Company expressed a desire to

either sell current to the town wholesale or to purchase the plant and operate as a private business. At least one engine supply company was dominant in the picture in its efforts to sell the Town either a new engine or "modernize" the old one.

Given the alternatives of continuing in the power business or, in some manner, relinquishing the operation to the private power firm, members of the Council and private citizens alike began to choose sides. Some wanted leave matters as they were—change nothing. Others wanted to sell out and forget the whole thing. Still others expressed the opinion that the engine should be fixed and there were some, even then, who wanted to buy a wholesale and let the Town profit from the sale.

The issue came to a head, it was thought, when on April 8, a public meeting was called by the Council on the matter. Of those present 24 voted that the Council employ a "consulting engineer to make an analysis of generated power as compared to purchased power." It was later to come

out that the people believed this 24-3 vote was a mandate to the Council even though no such engineer was ever employed.

On April 14, the Council instead, passed a resolution to purchase an engine and to make needed repairs to the tune of \$41,283.00. Council members F. H. Allen, W. B. Barrow, P. W. Elam and C. R. Sykes voted in favor and councilmen R. C. Beck and W. G. Lancaster opposed the action.

In its Friday, May 2, issue The Franklin Times headlined: The Battle Is On. Thirteen had filed for the Town Council election and Mayor W. C. Webb was being opposed by present-day councilman Jonah C. Taylor for the Town's top post.

Newcomers to the field included N. F. Freeman, W. J. Cooper, W. F. Shelton, who later served as Mayor, Dr. J. B. Wheless, L. O. Tharrington, C. C. Hudson, Wilbur A. Raynor and W. J. Shearin. Wheless and Hudson withdrew from the race on the Friday prior to the Tuesday elections.

There appeared a full-page advertisement, sponsored by The Citizens Committee, signed by M. S. Davis as Chairman. The ad charged the Council failed to respond to the will of the people and asked a number of questions of the Council members such as (1) If the Town had made a profit from the sale of electricity, why had not the engine been kept in repair and paid for? and (2) If the money was spent for other expenses, why had not taxes been reduced?

It is difficult to describe the bitterness during the weeks of the heated campaign but The Times reported that by late afternoon of the voting day it had dwindled to an atmosphere of friendly competition.

The Council at one time was restrained by court order from improving the electric facilities and when the restraining order was lifted by Judge Leo Carr of Graham, N. C., the action was appealed to the State Supreme Court.

But, back to the election itself. There were 568 people voting that day although a large number of others were turned away because they were registered in the county, but not in Louisburg. When the smoke settled, nothing was proven by the elections. P. W. Elam had not sought reelection and of the five incumbent council members, all were reelected except C. R. Sykes. The new members were W. J. Cooper and W. J. (Pete) Shearin. If the incumbents had displeased the voter with their actions on the power question, the impact had been missed at the polls. W. C. Webb was renamed Mayor, downing his opponent 337 to 217. Then, as now, personalities entered the picture. The voter had a list of 13 known business leaders in the community and more than likely, things other than the power issue played a part in their decisions.

The new Board, after several meetings, killed a resolution on July 11, to allow the people to vote and to decide the issue. Beck, Cooper and Lancaster favored the move. Allen, Barrow,

Campaigning Quiet

No New Records Expected Tuesday

It is unlikely that any voting records will be set in the four municipal elections Tuesday. Campaigning in Louisburg, Franklinton, Youngsville and Centerville has been quiet and with the absence of any heated issues in any of the four towns, a light voter turnout is being predicted.

Based on past elections, Louisburg is likely to have, at best, around 600 people to go to the polls. Franklinton is expected to have in the neighborhood of 600 and Youngsville will probably vote around 125. Centerville is expected to attract less than a hundred.

The largest vote in a municipal election in recent years—and perhaps, in history—in Louisburg was the 735 cast in 1961. Second highest was counted in 1959 when 721 people voted. In 1963 there were 558, in 1965 there were 592 and in 1967 a new record was set as only 501 citizens voted in the elections.

In 1957, 557 voted at Franklinton in the Mayor's race. There were 565 voting in 1965, 597 in 1963 and 608 in 1961.

Youngsville voted only 43 people in 1967 when the Mayor and Town Council members were unopposed. In 1965, 109 went to the polls and in 1963, 151 cast their ballot.

Centerville has had only one election. In 1967, 72 persons voted there. Town officials were appointed in 1965, the year Centerville became incorporated.

There has been no public effort to get out the vote for next Tuesday's elections. Little interest is being shown in any localities and it will be surprising if any of the four municipalities exceed the predicted turnout. Many observers feel the vote will fall short of the 1967 turnout.

"AT THE BOTTOM OF ALL THE TRIBUTES PAID TO DEMOCRACY IS THE LITTLE MAN WALKING INTO THE LITTLE BOOTH, WITH A LITTLE PENCIL MAKING A LITTLE CROSS ON A LITTLE BIT OF PAPER"

— SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Tuesday's Election Lineup

LOUISBURG

For Mayor
V. A. Peoples

For Town Council
(Vote for six)

Bill Beckham
George (Jolly) Bunn
Grover C. Harris, Jr.
H. D. (Tommy) Jeffreys
Breattie C. O'Neal
P. A. Richardson
Bob Stanley
Jonah C. Taylor
Mrs. Thomas O. Wheless

YOUNGVILLE

For Mayor

Marvin Roberts

For Town Council
(Vote for five)

James T. Allen
David Cyrus, Sr.
Monnie D. Hoyle
W. Tommy Moss
E. J. Pearce
John W. Pearce
Jesse E. Preddy, Sr.
Russell N. Strickland

FRANKLINTON

For Mayor
Joe Pearce

For Town Council
(Vote for five)

John F. Green
John Henry House
Charlie Hight, Jr.
Henry Franklin Holmes
James S. Joyner

For Board of Education
(Vote for three)

B. Don Blockson
Nat Cannady
S. L. (Pete) Colbert
Clifton Conyers
James R. Jones
Thomas O. Perry
William Avery Wilder

CENTERVILLE

For Mayor

J. D. Gupton
John W. Neal

For Town Council
(Vote for three)

Ernest H. Denton
John W. Pleasants
L. S. Ward



ARCH WILSON

Death Claims Arch Wilson

Arch N. Wilson, 62, Louisburg tobacco warehouseman, died shortly before 1 P.M. today in Franklin Memorial Hospital following a lengthy illness.

Wilson was a popular tobaccoist in Louisburg for a number of years, being connected with the Big Franklin Warehouse, which he helped found. He was a past President of Green Hill Country Club and a member of the Board of Directors for several years.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Home Rule Could Bring Big Changes

By Clint Fuller Times Managing Editor

or obtaining their approval, the Board, under the new bills, could set the salary of every county employee. This includes, presumably, the Sheriff, the Register of Deeds and other elected officials. The Board may also decide on the number of employees needed by the county and fix fees and allowances.

And finally, the Board may now set the time and place for its own meetings and the bill permits a majority of the Board members to call a meeting. These are the general areas of change allowed by the new legislation. A study of the laws themselves is needed to reach an understanding of the full impact likely to come.

The majority of the lawmakers obviously favored returning to the local governmental authorities some of the powers enjoyed by the legislature over the years. Local legislation had become a headache for the lawmakers in recent years, however. Much of it was unnecessary and often led to a wide variance in laws among counties with

similar interests.

It is not expected that the Franklin County Board will begin changing things right away but with the passage of the home rule package of bills, they can.

Without having read the laws themselves one would be at a loss to consider what could take place if the Commissioners suddenly decided certain county officials are unnecessary. Actually, holding the purse strings over the years, the Board already had more power than most citizens realized. The new laws spell out and actually give them a great deal more.

Now that pay raises and fees, hiring and firing and election changes no longer have to be taken to the General Assembly, it will probably cause increased interest in the activities of the Commissioners. One thing is certain, those seeking salary increases will now know where the bread is buttered. And the people now know where the power lies.

Court Handles Host Of Traffic Cases

The following cases were disposed of on Monday, April 28th:

Jimmy Allen Fuller, w/m/26, operating auto intoxicated; no operator's license. Guilty of driving under influence; not guilty of no operator's license. \$100.00 fine and costs. Appeal; bond set at \$150.00.

Wardell Harris, c/m/50, operating auto intoxicated. \$100.00 fine and costs.

Wardell Harris, c/m/50, fail to yield right of way. To pay costs.

Rickey Ray Champion, w/m/15, driving without license. Nol pros with leave.

Rickey Champion, w/m/15, hit and run; fail to reduce speed to avoid collision. Nol pros with leave.

Robert Earl Strickland, n/m/25, fail to see movement could be made in safety. Not guilty.

Clem Pearce, w/m/38, non support. 60 days in jail, suspended on payment of \$30.00 per week for support; defendant not to go on premises of Mrs. Sarah Pearce for 2 years.

Ted Ray Young, w/m, arson, 3 cases. Bound over to May 12 criminal session of Franklin Superior Court.

Jerry Allen Rogers, w/m, arson. Bound over to May 12 criminal session of Franklin

Superior Court.

Arthur S. Person, speeding; passing in no passing zone. Prayer for judgment continued on payment of costs on first charge. State takes nol pros as to improper passing.

John Wesley Smith, n/m/28, driving under influence. 60 days in jail, suspended for 2 years on pay-

See COURT Page 5.

See 1941 Page 6

CP&L Chief To Speak At Alumni Banquet

Shearon Harris, president and chief executive officer of Carolina Power and Light Company, will be the featured speaker at the Louisburg College Alumni Banquet Saturday evening, May 17, at 7 o'clock.

The 185 graduating students of the college will be hosted and formally initiated into the Alumni Association by Dr. Thomas Manning Daniel of Smithfield, president of the association. Special guests for the occasion will be members of the Golden Agers, alumni who left the college 50 or more years ago.

Mr. Harris, son of a Baptist minister and prominent lawyer, came to Carolina Power and Light Company in 1957, after having practiced law in Albemarle for eighteen years. He is a native of Vance County. His undergraduate and graduate degrees were earned at Wake Forest University. Mr. Harris holds the Army's Bronze Star and Legion of Merit for service in the European Theatre during World War II. His many activities include leadership responsibilities in the Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, trustee of Wake Forest University, Board of

Associates of Meredith College, and Board of Visitors of Wake Forest Law

See BANQUET Page 6



SHEARON HARRIS