

# Leaf Prices Good As Market Opens Here

The chant of the auctioneer was heard loud and clear here this morning as first sale of the golden leaf took place. Prices at the Friendly Four Warehouse, where first sale was held today, were described as extra good by some observers.

County Agent C. T. Dean, Jr., who last week predicted an opening day average of \$72.00, said initial sales this morning were exceeding his estimate. "I haven't seen any sell for less than \$70", Dean said. At the time about four rows had gone by the board. Dean said it was too early to tell if the prices would hold up. He declined to alter his original estimate.

One warehouseman said "Competition is keen between the companies here today". This he added makes for better prices.

Ford's Warehouse is slated for second sale about mid morning and Big Franklin Warehouse will have third sale today.

Traffic was jammed in and around the three Louisburg houses as growers unloaded leaf, sold it or just stood by watching the auction. All three houses were reported to have full sales today. All tobacco seen in the opening warehouse was loose leaf.

Dean had disclosed earlier that Franklin growers would produce around 18,000,000 pounds of tobacco this year. He said the allotment for Franklin growers is 10,135 acres and that 18,074,197 pounds may be sold.

Opening day sales last year reached 300,000 pounds for an average of 70.75. The entire Franklin crop—sold here and on other markets—averaged \$68 last season, according to Dean. Sales will continue through Friday this week and pick up again Monday. There will be no sales on Fridays according to present schedules.



Familiar Scene Returns

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.



CSM SIDNEY FULLER HOLMES

## "Pop" Holmes Gets Top EM Rank

CSM Sidney Fuller Holmes of Zebulon, N. C. who is assigned to the Louisburg, NC National Guard Unit has been selected by the Department of the Army as one of twelve North Carolina National Guardsmen to receive the highest enlisted positions available to enlisted men of the Army's Reserve Components.

CSM Holmes, a 36 year old man in the National Guard, was selected to receive the Command Sergeant Major title and authorized to wear the distinctive stripes of his position, LTC John B. Fleming, Commanding Officer of Hq 5th Bn (HJ) 113th Arty, announced today.

A Command Sergeants Major Program within the Army Reserve Components was recently authorized by the Chief of Staff of the Army. The program is designed to identify and select personnel for the Command Sergeants Major Program for the Army National Guard and the U. S. Army Reserve.

Command Sergeant Major Holmes will serve as the principal enlisted assistant to LTC John B. Fleming, Commanding Officer of the 5th Bn (HJ) 113th Arty, 30th Inf Div (Mech) NC ARNG.

CSM Holmes's main responsibilities will be to advise the commander and his staff on matters pertinent to troop welfare and morale in terms of assignment, reassignment, utilization, promotion, privileges, discipline, training, operations and logistics. He will accompany the Battalion Commander on inspections and visits, and at ceremonies, and will assist in inspection of command activities, facilities and personnel.

Other duties will be to provide counsel and guidance to noncommissioned officers and other enlisted personnel of the command, supervise and inspect duties performed by subordinate noncommissioned officers, assist in reception of visitors to the command and sit as a member of the command promotion board for senior noncommissioned officers as authorized.

CSM Holmes is a road oil supervisor with the State of North Carolina. He is married to the former Lelia Lucy Carroll of Warrenton, NC, and resides at 502 N. Arendell St., Zebulon, N. C. The couple have 2 children.

CSM Holmes enlisted in the National Guard in Louisburg, N. C. of 28 February, 1929 and with the exception of a 4 year period after World War 2 has served as a member of the National Guard.

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## Only Weekend Accident

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

Scene above shows the only reported highway accident in the area over the Labor Day weekend. This one took place on State Rural Road 1627 Sunday morning around 8 o'clock. Two persons were injured. Jesse Branch, c/m/24, was treated and released at Franklin Memorial Hospital and James Butts, c/m/16, was admitted with injuries not believed serious. Louisburg Rescuers reported trouble from Negroes at the accident scene when they attempted to aid the victims and the hospital emergency room was forced to call local police while treating the pair, according to reports.

## To Spend \$282,000 On Franklin Bridges

Governor Bob Scott announced last week that the State Highway Commission will spend \$282,000 in Franklin County in the next few months. The funds will be spent to replace two bridges in the area.

"Schools are opening throughout North Carolina and I believe it is important for us to make sure our

young students arrive to their classes safely," the Governor said. He announced 23 bridge projects in 19 counties, including Franklin.

Slated for replacement in Franklin County is Bridge number 55, which crosses Sandy Creek on State Rural Road 1449, known as the Collins Mill Road and State Rural 1611 where

Bridge number 68 crosses Tar River, known as the Turnage and Sledge Road.

The Collins Road bridge is slated to cost \$102,000 and the Turnage-Sledge Road bridge is listed at \$180,000.

Gov. Scott said he has instructed the Highway Department to "begin immediately to make these bridges safe for our children."

Saying the bridges selected "were chosen on the basis of immediate

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## From Louisburg To Henderson: NC-39 To Go All The Way

The delay-plagued NC-39 highway project, promised during the Dan Moore administration and halted when bond funds were depleted, has come alive again. Commissioner Clifton L. Benson, Vice Chairman of the State Highway Commission has announced that not only is the project re-advertised for bids, but that plans now call for elimination of the so-called missing link.

"From the Louisburg city limits to the Henderson city limits—we're going all the way", Benson said on a visit here last week.

The Raleigh businessman, who has Franklin, Wake, Durham and Orange counties in his district, said new bids will be advertised this month and contracts will be scheduled for letting in October.

Bids will be called for on that portion of NC-39 originally planned from Louisburg to Ingleside and a similar stretch from Henderson toward Epsom. Benson said he hoped that bids could be obtained and contracts let on the missing link before the original projects were completed.

The project, on which bids were first received on November 26, 1968, called for 6.540 miles of improvement and would have gone to a point near Fuller's Store north of Ingleside. Bids exceeded the funds allotted for the work and on January 7, 1969 new bids were asked after the mileage had been reduced to 4.611 which would end the project a few yards north of Ingleside

at the Rocky Ford Road intersection. When bids were approved an awarded on the reduced mileage, it was found that state road bonds could not be sold at the authorized interest rate and the project was halted.

The project was originally promised the county by former Commissioner J. B. Brame of Durham, who said this was to be Franklin's road bond project. Brame spoke initially about completing the twenty-mile distance to Henderson, but later conceded that funds were not available.

Governor Bob Scott, who carried Franklin County last November by over 1,000 votes, had said during the campaign that Franklin was going to get some attention paid to its highway needs. Commissioner Benson has reiterated this position several times in private conversations with local Scott leaders. Commission Chairman Lauch Faircloth said the same in an address at the annual Democratic Dinner here several months ago. Faircloth also mentioned his concern for Franklin's needs in a speech before the recent General Assembly Appropriations Committee.

In recent months Franklin has received a resurfacing project to US-1 between Franklinton and the Wake County line and work is expected to start soon on resurfacing of NC-561 from Centerville to Louisburg.

Reliable reports indicate that NC-56 east and west of Louisburg are slated for massive improvements during the Scott Administration.

## Youngsville Gets First Rocket Launcher

By Lib Cheatham, Times Correspondent

Battery "B" 5th Bn (HJ) 113th Arty. Youngsville, N. C., commanded by Captain Maylon C. Baker, has received the first Rocket Launcher, 762 MM Truck Mounted issued to a National Guard Unit in North Carolina.

It has been a long wait, exactly ten years since this unit was designated an Honest John Battery and authorized this type equipment. Due to shortages this equipment has not been available before.

Another Launcher is due to arrive for Btry "B" during 1969. Battery "A" Commanded by CPT John L. Strickland, Zebulon, N. C. is also due, to be issued two Launchers during 1969, bringing the total to four in the battalion.

Btry "B" has fired rockets from this type launcher in Fort Bragg, N. C.; Ft. Benning, Ga. and for the last four years at Ft. Sill, Okla.

LTC John B. Fleming of Raleigh is Battalion Commander with headquarters in Louisburg. CPT Dewey L. Brannan is commander of Hq Hq Btry also located in Louisburg.

This new equipment, it is believed, will enable the battalion to train at Fort Bragg, N. C. and will eliminate the long 1400 miles to Ft. Sill each summer.

Bringing the truck mounted launcher from Raleigh to Youngsville last Thursday, Sgt. Bobby Murphy and

Sgt. Spencer Rice had to exercise caution in maneuvering the vehicle and had to be on the lookout for overhead obstructions. It took them about an hour to drive the twenty miles.

Battery "B" already had the six thousand pound rocket, which was issued several years. During weekend

training, guardsmen of the firing section mounted the rocket on the launcher, using the unit wrecker for lifting.

Battery "B" and "A" have Wind Sets which will be used with the rocket for training and firing.



PICTURED BY THE LAUNCHER AND ROCKET IS BATTERY B ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPLY TECHNICIAN DELMAS HUDSON.



Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

## Happy Fans See Rams Win

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Franklin High School cheerleaders whoop up the huge crowd on hand at Franklinton last Friday night for the opening game of the season. The Rams gave the fans their money's worth as they downed a stubborn Gaston eleven, 12-6.