

# The Franklin Times

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## Man Loses \$555 In Holdup Here

Police Chief Earl Tharrington said it wasn't exactly a flim-flam act, but that the holdup of a Negro man here Wednesday afternoon was close to it.

Tharrington and Police Officer Ned Lloyd told of the robbery this morning. Fred Evans, c/m/35, of Rt. 2, Louisburg was stopped on the street corner here Wednesday by an unidentified Negro man described as being in his sixties. Evans was holding a tobacco warehouse check in his hand at the time. The man asked Evans directions to a lawyer's office and they had a short conversation, according to Chief Tharrington.

A short time later as Evans was walking in the alley at the rear of Dr. B. L. Patterson's office on North Main Street, Evans says two Negro men came up behind him and stuck what felt like a gun in his back and told him not to turn around, but to hand over his money.

Lloyd says that Evans told him one of the men ran his hand in his, Evans' pocket and pulled out \$555.00 and both the men made their getaway down the alley leading to Spring Street, which runs behind the stores facing East Nash Street.

Tharrington reports that Evans says he got a look at the men and could identify the older of the two if he sees him again. The second robber was described as being about 45 years old. One of the men, Evans told Tharrington, has a scar across his face.

A similar robbery reportedly took place in Franklin last week. This time the victim had cashed his check and placed the money in the glove compartment of his car, which he locked. Someone broke open the compartment and made off with some \$100, according to the report.

## ASCS Ballots Go Out

Ballots for the voting on the county's ASCS elections were mailed this week. John R. Davis, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service office manager said eligible voters are encouraged to vote for the nominees they think will represent them.

Ballots must be postmarked or returned to the county ASC office by September 16, 1969, Davis said.

A voter may vote for five nominees, he explained and listed the nominees for each community as follows:

1. Willie Conn, O. T. Fisher, Johnnie Floyd, Copland House, Ashley Jenkins, Willie F. Jones, G. D. Long, R. S. May, Hubert Wilder.
2. Charles Bass, J. S. Collie, Thomas Gay, Jr., Bonnie Harris, Jr., George Murray, A. C. Stallings, Durward Wilkins.
3. Harold Alford, Henry K. Baker, McKinley High, William Festus Jones, E. Reginald Lewis, O'Deyne Mullen, Lawrence D. Perry, Melton White, Bennie B. Williams, B. A. Yeargin.
4. Roy Allen, Clifton Conyers, N. G. Gales, R. J. Journigan, Carl Kearney, Jr., Howard Pearce, Raymond L.

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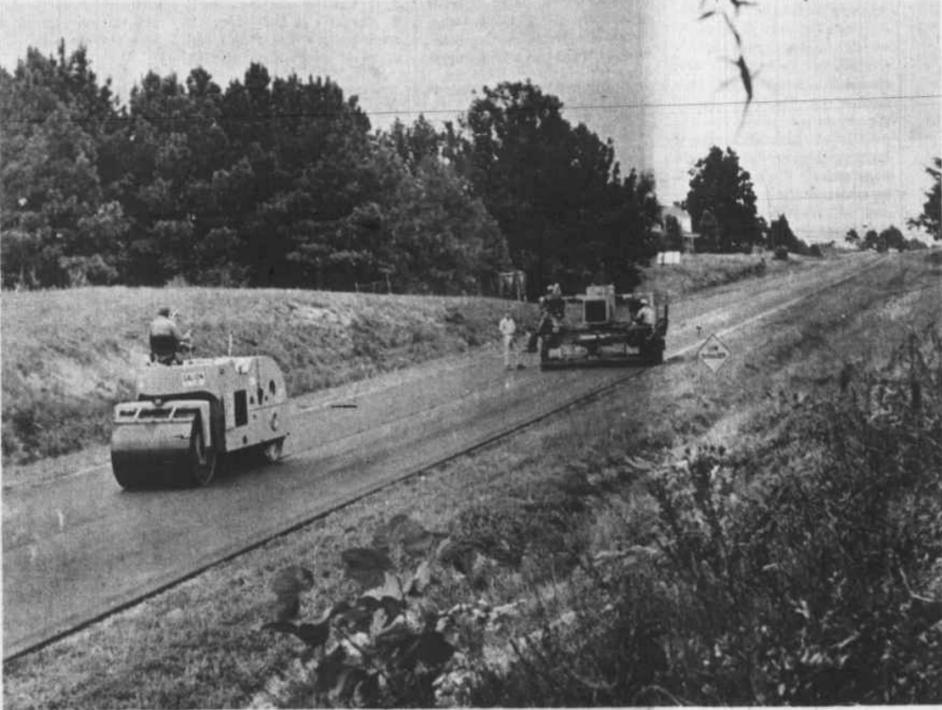
## New Plant To Locate Ten Miles From Centerville

W. J. (Bill) Benton, former Industrial Development Director here and now serving as Director for Halifax County, informed The Times today that he has been successful in locating a new plant in Halifax which will be within ten miles of Centerville and closer to other parts of Franklin County.

The prepared statement, released today by Benton's office follows:

The Hollister-Essex Garment Corporation, an affiliate of Sharyn Fashions, Inc. of New York City, announced Wednesday it will open a plant here to manufacture children's dresses. The announcement was made by Bob Wallace, president of the local garment corporation. Wallace said he hoped to be in operation by November and that his Company would employ up to 150 workers within the first year.

The building for the new plant will be constructed on a seven acre site between Hollister and Essex by the Hollister-Essex Development Corporation according to James H. Qualls, president of the local non-profit development corporation. He said financ-



### NC 561 Getting New Coat

Resurfacing of NC-561 from Louisburg to Centerville is underway this week and by Wednesday afternoon over two miles of the project had been completed on both sides of the highway. The S. T. Wooten Construction Co. is doing the work. The highway, built in 1951, was resurfaced from the Halifax-Nash line to Centerville last year. When completed, this latest project will make NC-561 one of the best primary highways in this section of the state.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

### Child Had Franklin Background

## Accused Slayer Of Jackie Stone Goes On Trial At Wallace

Jury selection was expected to be completed by today for the trial of Vernon Miller, 23, of Rose Hill, N. C. accused in the kidnap-slaying of Jackie Stone, 13, of Wallace, N. C. The girl's father, Leon Stone, a Wallace radio announcer, is a former resident of Franklin County. Her grandmother, Mrs. Irene Nelms Stone, now lives on Route 1, Henderson. Her father and grandparents lived near Sandy Creek Church along NC-561 for many years, moving there in 1946.

The child was abducted while on her way home from school last March 25 by "a stranger in a black and white car". The man reportedly told Jackie her mother wanted her to accompany him to the hospital. He told the child her mother had been injured and wanted her.

Jackie's body was found the following night in a small creek off a rural paved road 16 miles from Wallace following an all out search of the area by authorities. A dog found her pocketbook and its owner flagged a highway patrolman. Around 400 people converged on the scene to search for the missing child. Two state troopers found the body.

Miller was picked up for questioning the day following the kidnapping and was later charged with the crime.

Seven jurors were seated Tuesday and the panel was expected to be completed by today. When Judge George M. Fountain recessed court

Tuesday 97 prospective jurors had been excused. Twenty-six, according to reports, said they had formed an opinion in the case, 43 were opposed to capital punishment and others were excused for age and hearing defects. Seventy-five additional jurors were summoned from Wayne County to report Wednesday morning. Wallace is in Duplin County.

Solicitor Walter Britt of Clinton exercised three of his six pre-emptory challenges by Tuesday. Miller's court-appointed defense attorney Hubert Phillips of Kenansville, used twelve of his fourteen.

Prosecution witnesses, including FBI and SBI agents, were told to report Wednesday afternoon.

Miller wearing a blue sport shirt and dark trousers, chewed a fingernail during most of Tuesday's proceedings. His wife, Faye, held his other hand.

The defendant's mother, Mrs. Roger Miller, seated beside her daughter-in-law, wept as Britt questioned potential jurors about the death penalty.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Stone of Wallace, parents of the victim, conferred with Britt at the prosecution table before the state accepted a juror.

Miller, a textile worker, is charged with slaying the girl after she was abducted while walking home from school with two younger sisters. Her body was found the next day in a creek 16 miles north of Wallace following a countywide search.

Robin Stone told the court Wednesday that a man stopped a group including herself, Jackie and a six-year-old sister and told them their mother had been injured in an auto wreck and he was to carry Jackie to the hospital.

The nine-year-old witness said all of the group attempted to get into the 1964 white and black car and the man, whom she identified as Miller in court, stopped her and told her to go home with her younger sister.

Mrs. Stone testified in court that the children were very surprised to find her at home and told her of the incident. Mrs. Stone said she called the police.

Thirteen other witnesses testified during the afternoon session, including two school friends who said they saw Jackie and a man whom they identified in court as Miller riding from the school.

A school lunchroom employe testified that she saw the man she identi-

fied in court as Miller sitting in the white and black car waiting near the school. The witness, Mrs. Effie Mobley, said she also saw the same car in the town about 5 p.m. on the same day.

A farmer, James T. White, said he saw a car of the same make, model and color outside of Wallace on March 25 traveling in the direction where the body was found the following day. He was unable to identify the driver.

Another witness, Mrs. Elizabeth Varker, testified she passed an automobile on March 25 matching the description of the Miller car. She said she was going to visit a friend who lives several hundred yards from the creek where the body was found and saw the car stopped on the bridge.

Mrs. Varker was unable to identify Miller but did describe the clothing the man on the bridge near the car was wearing.

Miller sat in the courtroom wearing sport clothes Wednesday and was biting his nails, according to witnesses.

## Bunn Opens Water Project Bids Today

Bids were due to be opened today at the Bunn Fire House at 2:30 P.M. on the long awaited water project there. Franklin Industrial Development Director Ken Schubart said that "everything has been done so that after the bids are received, they can be awarded if that be the case." He explained that all necessary papers, including those filed with the federal government have been completed.

Bunn received a federal grant of \$135,000 last June and a loan of an equal amount. Bunn voters approved a \$160,000 bond issue several months ago to aid in the financing of the project.

Schubart said last June that if there were no unforeseen circumstances, the new water facility would be in operation by next February or March.

The project will consist of one or more wells located northwest of Bunn and a 200,000 gallon water tower, to be located to the southwest in the vicinity of the church on NC-39 at Bunn. Water lines will be run the distance of NC-39 through the town limits to Old Bunn and will consist of a ten-inch pipe. Six-inch pipes will be laid to serve connecting streets and lines will be laid to the industrial park near the Bunn High School and Bunn Elementary Schools.

"It has been established", Schubart said last June, "that no tax increase will be required this year." He further explained that the \$160,000 bond approval by Bunn voters will cover the project's final payment. "In the event the federal government withholds the

final payment for any length of time, the remainder of the bonds could be sold in order to satisfy the contractors," he said. He pointed out that the government does not make final payment until the project meets its requirements and that this is sometimes delayed.

The effect the water project might have on future industrial development at Bunn was commented on by Schubart. "There has been a renitency among industrial developers-state and utilities-because we did not have approval of this loan. Now that the loan is approved and funds set aside, we will be able to talk from a slightly different point of view. I am sending the necessary information and listings are being submitted to appropriate agencies."

## Food Stamp Numbers Drop In Franklin

The number of families participating in the federal food stamp program declined again during the month of July the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported today. In June of this year, 2,778 families received food stamps but the July number dipped to 2,696. The county also showed a decline in June over the month of May.

Food programs aided 196,113 needy persons in North Carolina during July, 17,694 persons less than the number that received food assistance in June but 48,314 persons more than the number that took part in the programs a year ago.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service said that 67,838 persons in 38 counties took part in its food stamp program and received \$453,066 in bonus coupons.

FNS' family food distribution program aided 128,275 persons in 59 counties. The foods distributed had an estimated retail value of \$1.4 million and included dairy products, canned and dried fruits and vegetables, canned meat or poultry, grain and cereal products, as well as other items such as peanut butter and scrambled egg mix.

In North Carolina, the food distribution program is administered by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, and the food stamp program is administered by the North Carolina Board of Public Welfare, both in cooperation with the Food and Nutrition Service.

## Locals Attend CD Director Swearing

Franklin Civil Defense Director George Champion, Jr. and Louisburg Mayor V. A. Peoples attended the swearing in ceremonies for the new State Civil Defense Director in Raleigh Wednesday.

James Denning was sworn to the new position at 11:30 A.M. in the old House chambers. About 200 Civil Defense Directors were present, according to reports. Former State CD chief Gen. Edward F. Griffin and Mrs. Griffin of Louisburg were also present for the ceremonies, it was reported. General Griffin retired from the post about two years ago.

Following the ceremonies the group had lunch in the Emergency Preparedness Room in the new Administration building in Raleigh.



### Serving Hospital Patients

Mrs. Neva Fuller, a Hospital Guild Volunteer, is shown above preparing to visit patients at Franklin Memorial Hospital with the Guild's hospitality cart. The Guild held its regular meeting this week and Mrs. Connie Meddars announced that more volunteers are needed to help with this project. She asked any interested persons to contact her or Mrs. Fred Lohmueller.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

## Enrollment

(Frk. B.W.) Mr. R. B. Gordon, superintendent of the Franklinton City Schools, announced today that 1,394 students had been enrolled. At the Franklinton Elementary School, there are 576 students and at the Franklinton High School, there are 818.