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10 Pages

Ordered To Submit New Assignment Plan By Monday

'Freedom Of Choice' Portions Of Northampton School Plan Rejected

RALEIGH — Judge John D. Larkins told attorneys for the Northampton County Board of Education at a hearing on Monday, June 16, that he was rejecting those portions of its desegregation plan that involved "freedom of choice" because that system tended to perpetuate the dual school system and that the school board was to be directed to submit by Monday a new plan not involving freedom of choice but instead assigning every pupil to a school so that the school must be indistinguishable as to race.

He placed the burden of making the plan on the board and issued guidelines that it must comply with. The plan cannot allow a choice of schools to the students or their parents.

The board, under court order, had submitted a plan involving seven districts with students choosing the school that they wished to attend within their district, with them being allowed to transfer to another district if the room was available. All of this was disallowed except that the judge indicated that the board could use these districts or other districts or consolidation or pairing of schools as long as it did not use freedom of choice as the basis for assignment.

The board must present its plan to the court by 9:30 a.m. and it must be, in the judge's words, "acceptable to the court." The board met until late Tuesday night with county attorney Angus McKellar and was scheduled to meet on Wednesday night to attempt to finish its new plan.

Attorney for the board, Perry Martin, together with McKellar, attended the hearing and forwarded the judge's instruction to the board on Tuesday. Martin was to return to Jackson Wednesday for court and the board meeting and was to try to clarify some aspects of the judge's instructions on the high schools.

The board had no public comment on Thursday as to the pro-

visions of its plans but it seemed likely that the board would use the districts as drawn in pairing elementary schools, such as grades one, two and three in one school and grades four, five and six in the other.

It is possible that the board might consolidate some schools but since all of the school buildings other than the Woodland Graded School are considered to be in good condition and of brick construction the board has nearly completed a program of consolidation begun over 10 years ago and would need most of the buildings for the current enrollment.

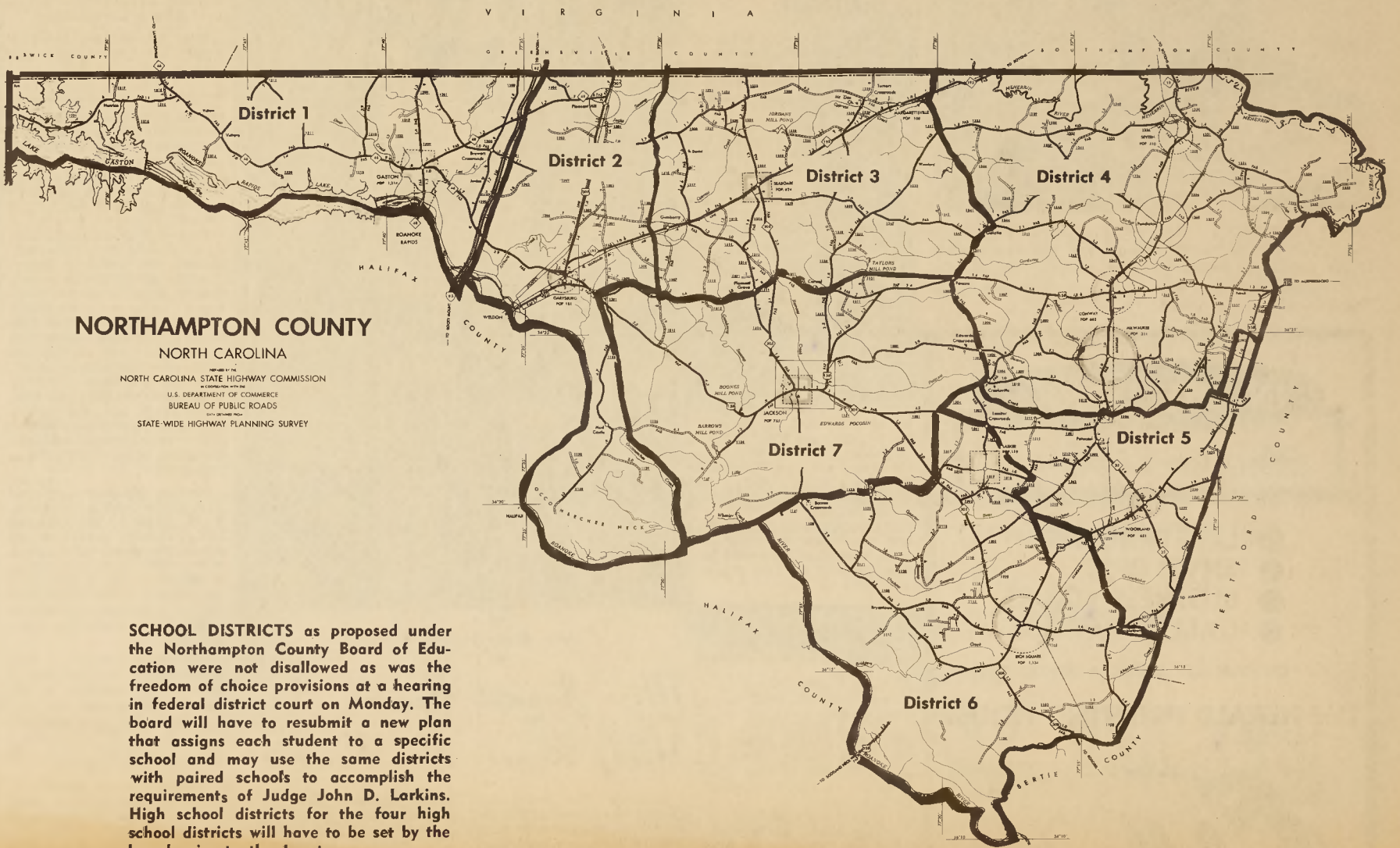
Some rooms and annexes might still have to be improved prior to the opening of school in the fall of this year to handle the new assignments.

The board will also have to deal with the problem of drawing up districts to handle the four high schools still in operation in the county. The new consolidated high school near Creeksville is operating at near capacity and could not absorb many students from Gumberry, W. S. Creecy or Gaston schools. On an assignment basis these schools would need district lines.

The problem of districts is especially acute for the high schools since considerable construction over the past 10 years has been oriented toward a dual school system which now limits the choices available to the board. Some mobile units can be transferred to help overloads in any district.

McKellar stressed that the board had little latitude in setting up the plan under the judge's guidelines which were mandatory. They have requested that Superintendent Roy Lowry attend the hearing on Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. at New Bern.

It was expected that the board would have no public comment until after the hearing to see if its plans were accepted.



SCHOOL DISTRICTS as proposed under the Northampton County Board of Education were not disallowed as was the freedom of choice provisions at a hearing in federal district court on Monday. The board will have to resubmit a new plan that assigns each student to a specific school and may use the same districts with paired schools to accomplish the requirements of Judge John D. Larkins. High school districts for the four high school districts will have to be set by the board prior to the hearing.

354 In County Getting Aid To Aged Assistance

(This is the second in a series of articles on public welfare in Northampton County. Today's article begins to explain the services offered. The first article reported that the many public welfare services are divided into three categories — financial assistance, medical assistance and social services. Today's article will explain the first of three financial aid programs — aid to the aged which was formerly known as old age assistance.)

JACKSON — Many of the elder citizens of Northampton County are faced with the reality during their later years that they do not have sufficient income to meet their basic necessities of life. Some find themselves with no income while others have a small amount from social security, retirement, donations from family

members or other sources. The Northampton County Department of Public Welfare administers a program of monthly financial assistance to help needy elderly people who meet certain eligibility requirements with their basic maintenance expenses.

The aid to the aged program is a federal program which is financed with approximately 70 per cent federal funds. The remainder is appropriated from state and county funds in North Carolina.

To be eligible a person must be 65 years of age or older; he must be in need of essential requirements such as food, shelter, clothing and other necessary items; he must not be living in a public institution or a patient in an institution for tuberculosis or mental disease; or a patient in a

medical institution as the result of having been diagnosed as having tuberculosis or psychosis; and he must have been living in North Carolina for the past year. In addition to the above eligibility requirements he must agree to having a lien on any real property he owns or acquires. The said property to be sold at his death and the government refunded the amount paid him during his lifetime.

He does not have to be completely without money to establish his need. If he is living alone, he may have up to \$500 reserve money or personal property. If a couple is living together, they may have up to \$700 reserve.

When people apply for this assistance at the Northampton County Welfare Department, a welfare worker will help prepare a budget for them using the stan-

dard budget allowances established by the State Board of Public Welfare. Local welfare departments cannot allow amounts above these established allowances.

The maximum monthly allowance for one person is \$35.50 for necessities which include food, clothing, medicine chest supplies, household supplies, household equipment and personal expenses.

The actual cost of rent or home (See 354, Page 5)

Northampton Commissioners To Keep County Tax At \$1.60

JACKSON — The Northampton County Board of Commissioners held a special budget meeting on Monday night at the courthouse in lieu of its regular third Monday afternoon meeting at which it indicated its intention of keeping the county tax rate for 1969-70 at the current rate of \$1.60 per hundred dollars of valuation with the ratio being 50 of the true value.

It indicated that the accumulated surplus from past years may run over \$250,000 and that no more than \$100,000 of that will be needed to balance income and preserve the current rate. Initial requests had totaled

more than 14 cents above the rate without dipping into the county's surplus but the board rarely ever grants all of the initial requests in any year.

The board did not attempt to set a final rate at this meeting because it has not considered the

school board's request and has decided to wait until the federal court decision is final so as to be assured that no further changes will be submitted.

The board will meet on Tuesday, July 1, instead of Monday, July 7, so that those members attending the county commissioners' association meeting in Asheville can leave that week. The board will set its tax rate for 1969-70 at that meeting.

The board made several cuts in the welfare department's requests. First, it accepted the rates set for a budget level that calls for a 35 per cent increase,

costing the county approximately \$25,000 to cover the minimum state requirements for the new Medicaid programs approved by the state legislature. The other request for maximum coverage would have cost \$56,000 and was rejected.

A one-step increase in wage scales under the new state plan adopted in 1969 was allowed the department. The phone allowance was cut from \$2,700 to \$2,100 and general relief was cut \$4,200 from \$32,915.

The health department requests were also pared with den-

(See TAX, Page 5)

Seven Highway Accidents Include Two Friday, 13th

HALIFAX — Seven accidents occurred in Northampton County in the past week — two of those on Friday, the 13th — was the report from the State Highway Patrol headquarters here.

John Wilson Staten, 34, of Rich Square lost control of his car on South Main St. in Rich Square on Sunday afternoon and collided with a tree. Damages to his 1962 Oldsmobile totaled \$800. Staten, uninjured, was charged with driving under the influence by Trooper B. W. Corey.

One of the Friday, the 13th, accidents occurred near Rich Square and the other was in Garysburg. Charlie Brantley Howell, 55, driving a 1968 Rambler, 55, stopped on U.S. 258 for a barricade in the highway when Cedric Leon Jones, 21, of Chesapeake skidded into the rear of Howell's Rambler. Jones was charged with failure to reduce speed by Trooper G. L. Swanson. Injured in the 4:30 p.m. accident were Jones and his passengers, Carol Buck, 20, of Hampton and Mary Margaret Forehand, 21, of Chesapeake. They were admitted to Scotland Neck Clinic. Damages to Howell's vehicle totaled \$300 and to Jones' car \$350.

The accident in Garysburg occurred at 12:05 p.m. on U.S. 301 in the town limits when William Allen Cooke, 16, of Roanoke Rapids failed to stop for a stop sign and collided with a 1961 Ford driven by Irvin Alex Harrell, 44, of Garysburg as he entered U.S. 301. Trooper B. W. Corey estimated damages to Cooke's car at \$600 and to Harrell's as \$600. No injuries were reported.

Thursday of last week James Anter Tyner, 41, of Woodland made a left turn off N.C. 305

two miles east of Rich Square and collided with the right front side of a car driven by Raymond Hudson Harrison, 47, of Weldon who was attempting to pass. Harrison was charged with failure to give an audible signal and Tyner was charged with failure to see safe movement. Trooper B. W. Corey made the charges. Damages totaled \$100 to Harrison's car and \$200 to Tyner's car.

On June 11 at 5:45 a.m. Nat Taylor Clements, 24, of Roanoke Rapids lost control of his 1965 Ford while attempting to dodge a dog on U.S. 158 within the town limits of Conway. After losing control of the car, it collided with a concrete apron of a private driveway. Trooper B. W. Corey made no charges. Damages to the Ford totaled \$250.

A 1964 Ford driven by Ernest Flowers Tillman, 45, of Siler City was struck by a car, whose driver stopped briefly and continued south on U.S. 258 near Rich Square on June 10. The unknown vehicle pulled across the center of the road and struck Tillman's car before continuing on. Damages to Tillman's car totaled \$250. Trooper J. C. Wood investigated the 12:05 a.m. accident.

Mary Williams Whitaker, 41, of Rich Square was charged by Trooper R. J. Evans with an unsafe movement after she attempted to make a left turn on N.C. 305 one mile south of Rich Square as Clara Peeble Carey, 22, also of Rich Square, was trying to pass her. Damages totaling \$75 were made to the Whitaker 1962 Chevrolet and damages totaled \$50 to the 1963 Chevrolet driven by Clara Peeble Carey, also of Rich Square.



Shirley Jones

Senior Wins National Competition

GASTON — Miss Shirley Jones, 12th grade student at Gaston High School, has been selected as one of the top 100 among 35,000 students participating in the National High School Contest on the United Nations.

In recognition of her outstanding scholarship, she was awarded a certificate of honor and a subscription to the "UNESCO Courier" which will be presented to the school library in her honor.

Participating in the National High School Contest was one of the many projects undertaken by the history club. A subscription to Vista of the United Nations Association was awarded to Mrs. Barbara Jones, history club advisor.

Miss Jones has the distinction of being the only winner from North Carolina and because of her fine achievement, she has been selected by the United Nations to receive recognition in "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1968-69."

Miss Jones is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Millard Jones of Henrico.

Traffic, Assault Cases Dominate Week's Court

JACKSON — Judge Ballard S. Gay disposed of the following cases in Wednesday's session of District Court:

TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS — James S. Green, driving under influence changed to reckless driving, \$100 and costs; Robert Philip Lawson, failure to yield right-of-way from private drive, nol-pros; Ellis Lassiter, driving under influence, \$100 and costs, turn in license to clerk; Richard J. More, speeding 80 mph in 65 mph zone, granted nol-pros with leave; Joseph M. Stanley, 73 mph in 60 mph zone, nol-pros with leave; Robert Rudolph Carter, 70 mph in 60 mph zone, nol-pros with leave; John Cecil Horn, operate motor vehicle without valid operator's license, nol-pros with leave.

Other traffic violations were Robert Perry Peele, 60 mph in 50 mph zone, prayer for judgment continued upon payment of costs; Kenneth Lewis Smith, 65 mph in 55 mph zone, prayer for judgment continued upon payment of costs; Nonnie King, speeding 83 mph in 60 mph zone, \$50 and

costs; Joseph Grant, speeding 80 mph in 65 mph zone, \$15 and costs, using license plate on vehicle other than one for which the plate was issued, nol-pros; Mary Williams Whitaker, failing to see before turning that movement could be made in safety, \$10 and costs; Charles Nelson Meadows, failure to yield right-of-way, \$10 and costs; Argie Mae Avert, driving under influence, \$100 and costs, not to operate motor vehicle on North Carolina public highways for 12 months.

MISCELLANEOUS — Edward Wilkins, worthless check, payment of costs (\$15) and check (\$25); Joe Peterson, careless and reckless driving of motorboat, payment of costs and sum of \$25 to Jennings L. Story for damages; Merle Blowe, worthless check, case remanded to magistrate's court; David Kenner, operating boat without proper life preservers, nol-pros.

ASSAULT — Halley Flythe, assault while under influence, six

(See TRAFFIC, Page 5)



TOUR RCA FAMILY PROJECT — North Carolina Manpower Development Corporation representatives Bob Smith, program and planning director and staff member Mark Stewart watch John Harrell of Colerain and Roy Scott of Windsor work on an auto motor as part of their vocational training at the family training center for displaced or underemployed farm workers. The corporation coordinates programs designed to provide jobs for low

income families and to supply assistance to the staffs of manpower programs in North Carolina. RCA's counseling coordinator Fletcher Lassiter and director Dr. Charles Moffett explained the working of the project and then a tour of the facilities showed the classes and projects in operation. The observers found that housing for graduates of the project was one of the major placement problems.

County Native's Husband Dies In Viet Nam Action

GARYSBURG — The husband of a Garysburg woman has been reported killed in Viet Nam.

SFC Terrell Gibson, a veteran U.S. Army soldier on his second tour of duty in Viet Nam, was killed June 14 when his company was hit by heavy enemy fire. Sergeant Gibson, a native of South Carolina, was married to the former Miss Odessa D. Gibson of Garysburg. The couple, wed for more than 15 years, has no children.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete pending the arrival of the body from overseas.

Sergeant Gibson left the United States last February 1 for his second tour of duty in Viet Nam. Mrs. Gibson resides here with her mother, Mrs. Semora Swatt.