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Larkins Says Nothing Wrong With Goldsboro Housing Authority Deal

Trenton Elementary School Hit by Fire Tuesday Morning at 8

Luck and quick work by the Trenton Volunteer Fire Department combined to keep damage to the Trenton Elementary School to a very small figure from a fire that broke out at about 8 Tuesday morning.

Superintendent W. B. Moore makes the following report on the fire:

"The gas had given out for the cafeteria range Monday afternoon. Tuesday morning Janitor Gordon Heath went outside to turn on the fresh supply of gas which had been delivered late Monday afternoon. Mrs. Sylvanus Mallard was inside to light the pilot light of the range. She said it appeared as if liquid gas just flowed off the stove and down onto the floor just after she had lit the pilot light. This spread fire to the ceiling, causing damage in the first grade room of Miss Tiny Hammond and some slight damage to the teachers' lounge."

Moore estimates the actual damage as not more than \$300 which is remarkable and due to the fact that a number of recently-purchased fire extinguishers were at the school, pending distribution to the other schools. These were used to put out the gas fire and the firemen arrived quickly and used water to put out the fire that had caught from the blazing gas.

Because the school has a large amount of wooden framework, Moore and School Principal Fred Pippin felt it wise to transfer the pupils for Tuesday classes to Jones Central High School until it was absolutely certain that no fire was left anywhere in the framework of the structure.

Moore says a more protected arrangement will be built around the kitchen so that any future troubles of this kind will be less likely to spread to the rest of the building.

Delinquent Tax Sale Last Week Has Only One Outside Buyer

In an auction at the court house in Trenton last week of property sold for delinquent taxes there was only one bidder on one of the 12 pieces of property sold.

Samuel J. Stang purchased the county's tax interest in a lot in White Oak Township.

All of the other properties were "inherited" by the county, which in most instances has already "had" them for some time.

Marriage License

The only marriage license issued in the past week in the office of Jones County Register of Deeds Mrs. D. W. Koonce went to Alfred Lester Roberts, 28, of Trenton route one and Annette Cox, 19, of Richlands route one.

Land Transfers

Real estate transfers recorded in the office of Jones County Register of Deeds Mrs. D. W. Koonce during the past week included the following:

Frank to Augustus

Trenton Attorney John D. Larkins Jr. says in his opinion there is absolutely nothing wrong with the recently publicized sale of a Goldsboro housing property to the East Carolina Housing Authority.

Governor Luther Hodges issued a statement Monday in which it was stated that Clintonian Emmett Powell was under federal scrutiny for having sold the property to the housing authority while he was executive director of the authority.

Larkins said, "Powell has profited from the federal government's mistake. He took a risk and has made a lot of money out of it. There is nothing morally wrong with what he did because it was all done out in the open. If he is guilty of any technical violation of the law that will be a matter for the courts to determine and not for the governor nor any commission he may name."

Larkins, acting as counsel for the Housing Authority along with D. L. "Libby" Ward of New Bern, had approved the purchase of the property in controversy at a price of \$1,165,000. It is alleged that Powell and several associates formed the Wayne-ReDevelopment Corporation and bought the land for \$39,010.

The federal stupidity referred to by Larkins was the construction of a World War II housing project in East Goldsboro upon land that had been condemned — BUT ONLY CONDEMNED FOR USE — by the federal authorities for the duration of the emergency.

Owners of the property fretting because their land was being retained long after the end of the war at a small annual rental agreed to sell Powell the property if he were interested in buying the land encumbered as it was with the federal condemnation and use.

At that time the condemnation process called for return of the land in the same condition it was at the time it was condemned, which meant, of course, minus the housing that was classified as "temporary".

Powell took the long gamble of

Nick Noble Named to Committee Probing Housing Authority

In a special meeting Monday night called by Chairman Tom Stillely the Jones County Board of Commissioners named Former Legislator George "Nick" Noble as the Jones County member of a committee that will make an investigation of charges recently made against the Eastern Carolina Housing Authority.

Stillely on Monday had attended a meeting of the 10 counties which comprise the housing authority in which Governor Luther Hodges had informed them that federal officials felt something wrong had transpired in the proposed purchase of land by the authority from H. Emmett Powell, executive director of the authority.

Stillely had left the Raleigh meeting presuming that a quiet look would be taken at the problem but found Governor Hodges had a different view of things when it was the lead story in state papers Tuesday morning.

Most observers feel that Hodges has a political motive in making so much noise on this subject; especially is this true among those who have taken the time to read the records of the Housing Authority.

buying the land for a real estate promotion because of the sewer and water lines and streets. He bought it presuming that the law would continue to call for the removal of all housing then on the land. A goodly number of the houses were torn down but then Congress changed the law and said the housing could be retained if it were leased for three years to a public housing authority, which was done and is still the situation as the property is operated by the Housing Authority at an average monthly rental of \$22,000.

There was never any secrecy about Powell's majority ownership of the stock of Wayne ReDevelopment Corporation and the Housing Authority certainly should have known who its executive director was.

Jones County is one of the 10 counties which comprise the East Carolina Housing Authority and its representative on the authority is C. P. Banks.

Jones Politics Quiet

The recent past has been a mighty good time in Jones County for sitting close to the fire and plotting thick political intrigues, and much of this sport may have been indulged in but precious little news of it has escaped to warm the frigid February breeze.

So far Sheriff Brown Yates and District Solicitor Robert Rouse are the only elective officials who serve Jones County that have expressed any willingness to serve another term.

There was a slight ruffle on the placid waters of the Jones County political millpond recently when a negro came in and expressed a desire to file for the County Board of Education. He was Lot Henry Green of Trenton route two and he was put out until things got a little warmer and the filing books were opened by Election Board

Franks 102 acres in White Oak Township.

Walker Houston to Floyd Houston two tracts in Cypress Creek Township.

Chairman W. F. Hill of Trenton Superior Court Clerk Murray Whitaker has not said officially if he will seek another four-year term but the consensus is that his name will be on the ballot when voting time rolls around.

County Representative John Hargett is also in this category. He is completing his third term at present and will be seeking his fourth if he seeks reelection and the feeling is that the Hargett name will also be on the ballot.

Congressman Graham Barden's, whose third Congressional District includes Jones County, is not likely to have any competition; or at the very most he is not likely to have any serious competition.

Jones County is also a part of the Seventh North Carolina Senatorial District which includes Greene, Lenoir, Craven, Onslow, Carteret and Jones counties. The incumbent senators from this district are Luther Hamilton of Morehead City and John Dawson of Kinston. Neither has paid a filing fee

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Frigid Weather Brings Rash of Uncontrolled Fires to Lenoir Co.



The "cloud" which is being watched by the curious gathered above surrounds the home of Oppie Harris on the 200 block of Mitchell Street in Kinston. A fire at about 9 Wednesday morning had spread over most of the three-room house when firemen arrived

and applied high pressure fog spray to the interior, effectively smothering the fire in a few minutes. The steam which resulted from the fog and fire has covered the house in the "cloud" pictured here. Damage was estimated at several hundred dollars to the house and its furnishings.



This is the fin-sided shack just west of Kinston in Happersville where three members of the James L. Eubanks family came within minutes of losing their lives Wednesday morning from a fire that had begun in the kitchen-end

of the shack. Firemen arrived in time to get the mother and two children from the building but all three were almost overcome by fumes from the fire. Adrian, a son, suffered facial burns that were classified as "painful but not serious".

As temperatures drop the number of fire calls answered by the Kinston Fire Department have risen, and practically all of them are more or less caused by the unusually cold weather.

Wednesday morning two alarms were going at the same time and within sight of each other and in one of these three members of the James L. Eubanks family came within minutes of losing their lives.

The fire located just west of the King Street Bridge across Neuse River in a tiny shack started in the kitchen section and Mrs. Eubanks and two children were asleep in an area used for a bedroom. When firemen arrived they described the family as "nearly unconscious".

The other fire on the 200 block of Mitchell Street resulted in heavy damage to the frame house and furnishings of its resident, Oppie Harris.

Other alarms answered by the Kinston department this week include the following:

Lewis Mumford 11:20 a. m. Monday on the Wooten Moseley Farm north of Kinston. House destroyed, furnishings damaged an estimated \$700.

Lynn Simmons at 6:40 p. m. Monday in Neuse Township \$100 damage from a fire that started from an attempt to thaw out water pipes.

J. D. Hudson, an employee of the Caswell Training School, had damage estimates of \$200 from a defective flue fire at 11:50 p. m. Monday.

At 9:50 a. m. Monday Mansfield Creech at 505 Hines Avenue had considerable damage from a water heat fire caused by the freeze-

ing weather.

At 12:35 p. m. Monday the Herring-Curle Tractor Company at 315 South Heritage suffered an estimated \$70 damage from a fire that got started from thawing water pipes.

The home of Joshua Dawson at 601 Pollock Street suffered several thousand dollars damage from a fire of the same origin at 3:15 p. m. Monday.

And at 12:15 a. m. Tuesday a fire of undetermined origin did about \$100 damage to the home of Russell Hall at 608 Harvey Street.

Fire department spokesmen urged extreme care upon all citizens in the use of any kind of fire to thaw out frozen water lines.

Jones Countian Sues Lenoir Countian for Auto Accident Injury

Robert Elbert Smith of Jones County lost no time in filing a suit for \$5,000 damages in Jones County Superior Court against Jack Leo Taylor of Lenoir County.

Smith in a suit filed February 17th alleges that he suffered a broken arm, cuts about the head and face and a broken hand while riding in a car with Taylor on February 5, 1958 about 10 miles south of Kinston on the Richlands highway.

Smith says the accident was called by willful, wanton and heedlessly reckless driving of Taylor since no other car was involved and they were on a straight stretch of road near Clayton Whaley's store, when the car went out of control and ground looped. The accident took place at about 1:15 a. m.