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WARRENTON, COUNTY OF WARREN, N. C.

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WHERE TORNADO STRUCK AT BETHLEHEM CHURCH

## Time Of Terror

# Tornado Strikes Near Eaton's Ferry



WIND DESTROYS NAVE OF BETHLEHEM CHRISTIAN CHURCH



BROKEN AND UP-ROOTED TREES IN TORNADO'S PATH



ACROSS THE ROAD, NORTH, WIND SCATTERS DEBRIS

BY BIGNALL JONES

A tornado, which struck first in the Vaughan section around 2 o'clock on last Thursday afternoon and leaped to the Lake Gaston Bridge area, caused thousands of dollars worth of damage to buildings and trees with the greatest damage occurring in a half-mile stretch from Bethlehem Christian Church to a point a short distance south of Eaton Ferry Bridge.

Due to the widespread area anything like an accurate estimate of damage is hard to determine.

The greatest loss occurred to Bethlehem Christian Church whose front part was broken off. A nearby hay barn belonging to A. S. Bugg was blown away. Just this side of the Church Grey's Store had part of its roof and the back part of the building blown away. In the yard of the store at the time was a Pine State milk truck, which had its windshield blown out, and records and money taken away by the wind. Two hundred yards northwest of Grey's Store, part of the roof and the windows of a dwelling house had been destroyed, and a short distance northeast the winds had twisted and torn down a section of pine woods and Friday afternoon it looked like a bulldozer had cut a path some 50 yards wide and two or three hundred yards deep in these woods.

Friday afternoon the writer followed the path of the tornado as well as it could be followed on the highway and other roads and with a short trip on foot. He talked to many of those who suffered loss, who witnessed the tornado, and with those who knew five minutes of sheer terror as the tornado struck the buildings they were inhabiting. It took hardly more than five minutes for the storm to pass over, but they were a terrible five minutes, several of the persons involved said.

The tornado seems to have originated just south of the railroad a half mile west of Vaughan where it damaged several buildings, leaped about a mile and a half where it damaged more buildings and trees and then again touched town near Grey's Store and the timbers bordering Gaston Lake. From there it crossed Gaston Lake lifting a sheet of water 50 feet into the air, according to a man who was fishing beneath Gaston Lake bridge. Heavy rains proceeded and followed the tornado, but witnesses said there was little or no rain when the tornado struck.

At Vaughan the homes of Sam Powell and George L. Bullock on the old Macon-Vaughan dirt road were struck by the twister. At the home of Powell a shed attached to the stable and part of the stable was blown away. His neighbor, George Bullock, had the top of his stable blown away and his smokehouse destroyed.

In nearby Vaughan a resident, who insisted that his name not be used, told of seeing the horizon grow dark and a funnel dipping down from the lowering sky and timbers and tin crumpling in the wind. He was watching the timber and tin from dwellings on the Powell and Bullock farms less than a mile (See TORNADO, page 6)

## Commissioners Consider

# Sunday Sale Of Beer, And Wine Only In ABC Stores?

## Air Strip To Be Built At Old Airfield Site

Plans are underway for a 2,000-foot air strip to be built on the site of the old Airport between Warrenton and Macon, Frank Reams, County Industrial Director, told the board of county commissioners Monday morning when he appeared before that body to request a small amount of financial assistance from the county.

Reams said that the strip would be 100 feet wide and 2,000 feet long which would be large enough to handle all business-type planes and some small jets.

He said that Hal Connell had agreed to sub-rent the property, which he rents from the W. H. Dameron estate, for \$150 a year. The strip would be built and maintained by the local National Guard Engineering Company for only the cost of diesel fuel. In addition the county might be required to pay for drainage pipe between the road and the strip. He estimated that this would cost around \$68 and expressed the hope that the state would pay for this pipe. At the most, he said, building the strip would hardly cost the county more than \$250 the first year, and \$200 each year thereafter for the lease and fuel oil used in maintenance.

He said that the Cochranes, who are presently grading land here for a furniture factory, have their own plane, and many prospects for other industries use their own planes. In addition, he said, it would be a great convenience for many persons visiting the county. At present these persons have to use the airstrip at Oliver Davis' development on Gaston Lake, some 15 miles from Warrenton, the Roanoke Rapids field or the Raleigh-Durham Airport. He said the airstrip would not only be a great convenience to persons now having business in the county, but would be a further inducement in attracting other industries to the county.

The commissioners agreed that the air strip would be a great convenience to the county and is badly needed but said,

unfortunately, the county does not have any money budgeted for this purpose and does not know where they could find the money. They agreed, however, if any surplus was left at the end of the fiscal year to reimburse the Industrial Commission for funds on hand and allotted for other purposes. No minute was made of "the gentleman's agreement," which should insure the building of the strip.

The commissioners placed in the 1969-70 budget the sum of \$1,000 to be used toward the extension of sewer and water lines to industrial sites in the county. Selby Benton, president of Bute Development Company, appeared before the commissioners to inform them that a quarterly payment of \$250 was now due Hal Connell for work at Norlina, and to request that the remainder of the budgeted fund be given first priority and allotted to Bute Development Company for water and sewer lines to Cochran Furniture Plant, where construction is to start soon.

The commissioners agreed after Frank Reams, Industrial Director, had told them that there was no chance that any other funds for this purpose

(See AIR STRIP, page 4)

## Norlina And Warrenton To Play Here Friday

The Norlina Blue Waves, in a re-building program, will be seeking their first win and the John Graham Yellow Jackets will be seeking to again get in the win column following its loss to Louisburg, when the two teams meet on the John Graham Athletic Field on Friday night.

The Yellow Jackets have a record of three losses and one win. They have losses to Park View, Weldon and Louisburg, and a high scoring win over William R. Davie. Park View, Weldon and Louisburg are undefeated and are leading their conferences.

## Peeler Tells Procedure After Pupil Withdrawal

Supt. J. R. Peeler of Warren County Schools has written parents of Warren County school children entered in Vance County Schools and then withdrawn, explaining procedure that followed. The letter follows:

It has been brought to my attention that a number of parents whose children have recently been denied admission to Vance County Schools are stating that I was responsible for the action taken by the Vance County Board of Education. The purpose of this letter is to present the facts in the case. They are as follows:

1. The superintendent of schools and/or the Warren County Board of Education had nothing to do with the children being assigned to the Vance County schools and to the subsequent denial of enrollment by the Vance County school authorities. The entire decision was that of the Vance County schools.

2. The students who went to Vance County were released under a policy which would permit any one who requested a release of assignment to obtain one without actually specifying where they planned to attend school or without the Board of

Education being responsible for their attendance in a school.

3. Vance County school authorities did not ask the Warren County Board of Education for an agreement on assignment of pupils; therefore, any exchange of teachers between the two units was impossible. Teachers are allotted by the State Board of Education. The controller of the State Board of Education informed me (without inquiring if we had a surplus of teachers) that the State could not legally allot Vance County additional teachers because of the court order of Judge Algernon Butler, (See PEELER, page 4)

### CORRECTION

Malvern Hathcock, Jr., president of "Concerned Citizens of Warren County" said that the account of the delegation's appearance before the Board of Education last week was misleading in that the Concerned Citizens did not oppose free lunches for school children as was stated in the newspaper account. He said that the delegation opposed free lunches without a thorough investigation of the needs and ability of the child receiving such lunches.



LEDELL

## Policeman Replaced By Town

William Ledell, 36, of Roanoke Township, has been appointed Negro policeman for the Town of Warrenton by the Board of Town Commissioners. He succeeds Theodore Williams, who has served in this capacity since July 1.

Williams resigned to accept a position as Deputy with the Warren County Sheriff's Department, succeeding Theodore Vaughan, recently released by the county.

Ledell has had two years police experience with the Military Police in Germany. He has recently been self-employed as a carpenter. He is a graduate of John R. Hawkins High School.

Ledell is married and the father of five children. Mrs. Ledell is employed at the Jay Too plant at Littleton.

## Youth Program To Be Combined Here

The youth program in four churches of Warrenton will be combined.

At a special meeting in the basement of the apartment house of First Baptist Church on Monday night, youth counselors from the Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist Churches, along with some of the youth leaders, met and voted to combine the program in the four churches. To be known as the Community Youth Fellowship CYF, the program will involve some 70 young people, ages 12 through 18.

The group will be divided into two sections with ages 12 through 14 meeting at the Methodist Church and 15 through 18 meeting at the Baptist Church. Counselors from all churches will help to coordinate the program and lead in the activities.

The first meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 6 p. m.

## Vance County Board Refuses To Change

A number of parents from Warren County appeared before the Vance County Board of Education at a called meeting last Tuesday night requesting that their children remain in Vance County schools.

The board took no action to reverse its policy that students involved must return to Warren County by Oct. 1, or must establish residence in Vance County.

Nearly 200 Warren County students were enrolled in Henderson and Vance County High Schools, Middleburg and Arden last month when Warren County schools did not open on schedule.

Whether wine sales should be restricted to the ABC stores and whether beer should be sold in the county on Sunday may be determined by the Board of County Commissioners at their November meeting.

Off-premises sale of beer in the county on Sunday has been permitted for some time in Macon as well as at Middleburg in Vance County.

Tommy Blanks, operator of Blanks' Minute Mart on the Norlina Road, told the commissioners at their meeting here Monday morning that this works a hardship on country merchants. He said that it is not so much the loss of profits from beer sales as it is the loss of sales on other products. Customers buying beer often buy gasoline, bread, luncheon meats and other merchandise. Knowing that he does not handle beer they do not stop but go to Norlina, he said.

Charlie Williams, who operates a store in the Snow Hill Community, was before the commissioners at their Sept. meeting asking that the commissioners permit the sale of beer on Sunday, and using the same arguments used by Blanks at the Monday meeting. Williams was also present at the Monday meeting and added his support to Blanks' plea.

The commissioners told Blanks and Williams that the county commissioners had no authority over the sale of beer in incorporated towns of the county, and agreed to table any action until the next meeting so that more thought could be given the matter. Williams' request at the September meeting of the board had also been tabled for the same reason.

After Blanks and Williams had left, John Britt of Henderson, State ABC officer for Vance and Warren County and Sheriff Clarence Davis appeared before the commissioners to give their views at the request of the commissioners.

Britt told the commissioners that Sunday sale of beer would greatly simplify the enforcement of the ABC laws, as both beer and wine is being illegally sold in the county on Sunday. Law enforcement officers know this, he said, but it is very difficult to catch the violators. He recommended that should beer sales be permitted in the county on Sunday that it should not be permitted during church hours and that only off-premises permits be issued.

Britt further recommended that all wine sales be restricted to the ABC stores. Sale of cheap wine is one of the county's biggest problems, he said. He explained that most of the cheaper wine is made from residues of whiskey manufacture with enough alcohol added to bring it up to 20 per cent alcohol. This makes a mean type (See BEER, page 4)



NEAL

### To Preach

Dudley Neal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Neal, pastor, ministerial student at Campbell College, will conduct the morning worship service in 11:00 o'clock Sunday Oct. 12 in the First Christian Church.