

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

Vol. III, No. 15

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.

Saturday December 11, 1976

Single Copy 20¢

Chief Recommends Firing Officers

White Policemen Charged With Shooting Cats and Dogs In Black Community

by Rudy Anderson
Staff Writer

Winston-Salem Police Chief, Thomas A. Surratt in a public statement recommended early this week that five officers involved in an alleged unwarranted shooting incident last month be dismissed.

The shooting incident reportedly occurred in the Morningside and Columbia Terrace areas. No one was injured, but there were reports that pets, such as dogs

and cats were killed. The five police officers were together at the time of the shooting, witnesses say, and their patrol cars left unattended. All the officers were white.

An investigation of the incident was conducted by Major J.E. Masten, Commander of the Operations Bureau. The investigation revealed that there had been misconduct on the part of the five officers. The five officers are C.M. Culler, D.N. Royal, S.D. Vernon, T.W. Spainhour, and D.E. Wheaton.

The statement said, "These officers did engage while on duty and in uniform in certain activities which were directly in violation of city personnel policies and departmental rules and regulations." It said personnel policies and depart-

mental rules and regulations." It said also that due to the sustaining of the alleged activities and the gravity of the misconduct, it becomes necessary for me (Surratt) to concur with the recommendations to dismiss the officers.

The officers were suspended for ten days without pay to allow sufficient investigative time for "official certification of the appropriateness of the proposed dismissals and for the appeal process to be invoked, should the officers so choose."

Whether the officers actually killed any animals has not been determined nor why the incident ever took place. If the officers decide to appeal the recommendation for dismissal answers to some yet unresolv-

See Police, Page 2

Pomrenke Defends Integrity of Public Safety Department

by Rudy Anderson
Staff Writer

In an apparent attempt to stave off the growing public concern over police professionalism and integrity, after this latest disclosure of police misconduct by five officers in a shooting incident, Norman E. Pomrenke, Asst. City Manager for Public Safety, said Tuesday he "would not stand by and have the entire force (police) demeaned "for the action of a few in the department.

Pomrenke said that he was proud of the department and proud to be associated with the men and women on the force. He said the department was not running from the truth and at the same time carrying on the "business of providing professional protection and service without complaint."

Pomrenke said that this



Norman Pomrenke

incident should be brought into focus, that this was "but one incident to which our Public Safety Department responds in a year's time."

The Police Department has also been linked to alleged improprieties in the Madge Roberts case and to taking pictures of people in front of the courthouse as well as this latest incident. All these occurred during this year.

Pomrenke said, "It has

See Pomrenke, Page 2



Santa Takes Orders

Youngsters Delterry Rice [L] and brother Carlos are all smiles as they sit on Santa's knee and make requests for Xmas.

First Black County Commissioner

Mrs. Woodruff Is Sworn In

by Rudy Anderson
Staff Writer

Mrs. Mazie S. Woodruff, after being sworn in Monday, became the first black and only the second woman ever to serve on the Forsyth Board of County Commissioners.

Also taking the oath was Fred D. Hauser, the retiring personnel manager of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Hauser was elected to serve as the board's new chairman, replacing Dr. Julian Keith. Hauser had served as the board's chairman for four years before losing his bid for reelection in 1968. Dr. James N. Ziglar, the third new board member, was also sworn in, thus rounding out a solid Democratic sweep of the board. All will serve four year terms.



Mrs. Woodruff

Superior Court Judge, William Z. Wood, who swore the three in, said of Mrs. Woodruff's election to the board, "We've come a long way since the time I started practicing law here 25 years ago."

In a recent meeting two weeks ago of the Beta Alpha Chapter of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority at Reynolds Health Center, Mrs. Woodruff, as guest speaker, again called on

all parties concerned to help make the community schools the best possible. This however is only one of the areas in which Mrs. Woodruff plans to concentrate her efforts on the board.

She has repeatedly called for health care for all the citizens of Forsyth County, saying, "It seems that only the very rich or the very poor can get adequate health care. That must be changed." She said, I'm going to be very active in searching for industry for Forsyth County that will provide decent employment for the county's citizens, and at the same pay attention to our environment and help us keep it safe."

Mrs. Woodruff also said she would be pushing "to stop spot zoning." She was

See Woodruff, Page 2

Mrs. Kurtz Recommended to be Fired

Last week the Superintendent of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board, Dr. James A. Adams, initiated dismissal procedures against Mrs. Judith C. Kurtz, a teacher at Hall-Woodward Elementary School, after "careful investigation" of the facts

surrounding an alleged incident between her and several of her students on Nov. 22, 1976.

The alleged incident in question involved the slapping of at least two of her students during periods of what was termed uncontrollable violent rage.

The incident took place almost three weeks ago and since then the parents of two known children have filed warrants for Mrs. Kurtz' arrest. She has been sighted with assault on a child under 12.

If she desires, Mrs.

See Kurtz, Page 2