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# The Warren Record

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WARRENTON, COUNTY OF WARREN, N. C.

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NUMBER 29



**ABOVE GROUND, BE-  
NEATH GROUND**—Workmen  
are shown this week as two  
new structures begin to take  
shape in the Warrenton area.  
At left, the wells of a new  
Catholic church being erected  
on the Warrenton-Norlina high-  
way are almost ready to sup-  
port the roof of the structure.  
At top, workmen pour concrete  
foundations for expansion of  
the Banzet & Banzet law of-  
fices on Front Street. Also  
unders construction here is a  
new warehouse for C. E.  
Thompson on West Franklin  
Street. Workmen are also  
putting the finishing touches  
on a warehouse on the War-  
renton-Norlina highway.  
(Staff Photos)



## Robinsons Awarded \$190,000.00

### Board Adopts Sewer Tax For Water Users

#### Funds To Be Used For Sewage Treatment Plant

The Town Commissioners on Monday night ordered that a sewer tax be imposed upon Warrenton water customers and that the tax be added to their water bills.

The purpose of the tax is to accumulate a fund towards the payment of the costs of constructing a sewage treatment plant here as required by law within the next three or four years.

The amount of the sewer tax imposed in an ordinance adopted by the commissioners will be 25% of the amount of the water bill, with exceptions in a few cases. These are where town water is not dumped into the town sewers, as is the case of service stations washing cars; and where water is not furnished by the town, as is the case of Peck Manufacturing Co., which uses the town sewage system. Special rates will be provided in these cases, but for the great majority of customers, the action of the board will in reality mean a 25% increase in their water bills.

The ordinance will go into effect on August 1 and customers will pay the increase upon receipt of their water bills in September.

Commissioner Hugh W. Holt, chairman of the water committee, which recommended the sewer tax, said that the tax is

expected to bring in \$9,000 or \$10,000 each year.

In the discussion preceding the adoption of the ordinance, Commissioner Holt said that the people have no choice about building the sewage treatment plant. The state law, he said, has teeth in it and if the citizens should turn down a bond issue when it is presented the town would be forced to borrow the money on tax anticipation notes at a rate in excess of that necessary for a bond issue.

Holt said that it is hoped that the town may receive a grant from the Government for some 30 per cent of the cost of the project. This grant, he said, plus funds accumulated over the next two or three years should provide enough funds to make the bond issue more easily paid for by the town.

The town plan for the accumulation of a fund by the imposition of a sewer tax has been endorsed by representatives of the State Water Resources Commission. Holt told the commissioners that each of the four consultant engineers who have appeared before the board had stated that the building of a reserve was a wise move.

No objection was raised by the commissioners to the

A Warren County jury may decide whether a sum of \$190,000 is just compensation for a considerable amount of timber and 533 acres of land to be flooded by the Gaston reservoir.

The huge sum—representing the largest figure ever awarded in a Warren County condemnation suit—has been awarded Nannie P. Robinson and heirs of the late J. R. Robinson by three Warren County court-appointed commissioners.

Virginia Electric and Power Company, plaintiff in a condemnation suit heard here last week, noted an exception and appealed the case to Warren County Superior Court. The power company which is constructing a mammoth hydroelectric dam on the Roanoke River, brought the condemnation proceedings to acquire the 533 acres to be covered by waters of Gaston Reservoir.

The earliest that the Superior Court jury could hear the case would be at the October

term of Superior Court. However, a number of older civil cases crowding the docket makes it doubtful that the case will be heard then.

VEPCO, which is reportedly planning to close the floodgates of the Gaston dam on October 1, has given the Warren County Clerk of Court a check for \$190,000, payable to the defendants in the suit. This allows them to flood the property prior to the airing of the case in Superior Court.

The award of \$190,000 was made by Hugh W. Holt, M. P. Burwell, Jr., and W. B. Ellington, commissioners appointed by the court for the purpose of appraising the 533 acres and timber which is part of a 1500-acre tract owned by the defendants.

In a judgment addressed to the Clerk of Court, the commissioners held that the just compensation and damages should be \$190,000 and that the defendants will receive no benefits from the construction of the Gaston Dam.

Before making the award, the three commissioners spent three days touring the lands, hearing witnesses and listening to arguments by attorneys. The award was made on last Wednesday night.

VEPCO, in its appeal, claimed that "the award is grossly excessive, not justified by the facts and considerably more than the real damages incurred by the defendants."

Attorneys for the power company also based their appeal on their contention that "the award is speculative, based upon conjecture, and so far exceeds the present fair market value of the land as to indicate bias or prejudice."

During the proceedings conducted in the courtroom here, VEPCO presented five witnesses who testified concerning the value of the timber and land. The defendants—listed as Nannie P. Robinson, George C. Robinson, Virgie H. Robinson, Willie T. Robinson, J. B. Robinson and all heirs, devisees and successors in title of J. R. Robinson—offered eight witnesses in rebuttal.

Earlier this year, another condemnation suit ended when commissioners awarded a sum of \$147,500 to Mr. and Mrs. Hal Connell of Warrenton. This sum, which at the time constituted the largest condemnation award ever made in the county, represented the commissioners' opinion as to the value of a 30-acre fish breeding plant on the Roanoke River, also to be flooded by the reservoir.

### School District Program Ends

The John Graham High School District Recreation Program ended on last Friday after four weeks of operation. Coach "Preacher" Parker, director, this week said he considered it very successful.

Parker said that a total of 1132 attended the program during the four weeks it was in operation. Attendance the first week was 305 and the last week, 263. He said he feels that this indicates a continued interest.

During the day time programs of recreation and fun were directed for boys and girls attending, and twice each week square dancing and six hope were held for the high school and college age groups.

Halthcock Reunion  
The 15th annual Halthcock Reunion will be held at the old Whirt Halthcock homestead near Liberia on Sunday, July 29. All Halthcocks and related kin are invited to participate and help provide the picnic dinner.

### Budget Is Adopted

## Town Tax Rate To Remain At \$1.15

The Board of Town Commissioners on Monday night adopted the tentative budget for the fiscal year 1962-63 and made it the official budget of the town with no change in the tax rate.

The tax rate will remain at \$1.15 on the \$100 valuation. Of this rate 70c will be for the general operation of the town

and 45c will be used for bond purposes.

The rate is based on 90 per cent collections on an estimated total assessed valuation of property for purpose of taxation of \$2,640,670.

A poll tax was adopted calling for payment of \$1.00 by all males between the ages of 21 and 50.

The privilege tax is the maximum amount permitted under Schedule B of the Revenue Act.

A tax of \$10.00 was levied on all dealers of wine, whether fortified or unfortified.

The commissioners ordered that the tax of \$1.00 upon all motor vehicles resident in the Town of Warrenton be continued.

### Board Accepts Resignation Of David Dickerson

David Dickerson, former manager of the Warrenton office of Home Security Life Insurance Company who was transferred to Rockingham, on Monday night tendered his resignation to the Board of Town Commissioners.

The resignation was read by Mayor W. A. Miles and accepted by the board "with regrets," and expressions of sorrow that Dickerson was to leave Warrenton.

Mayor Miles said: "I hate to see David leave Warrenton. He was a good commissioner and a good citizen."

No action on the election of a successor to Dickerson was taken by the board.

Thurston Brown appeared before the board relative to permission to operate an additional taxicab in Warrenton, but the board took no action on the request.

Ernest Turner and Mrs. Robert Ransom appeared before the board with a request that the commissioners increase the town's annual donation to the Warren County Negro Library. They pointed out the needs for more money with which to pay the librarian and for other library purposes. Commissioner H. W. Holt pointed out that while the board was sympathetic to both the value of the work of the library and its needs, the donations of the town to both the colored library and the Warren Memorial Library are only token donations. Their operation is a county responsibility, he said. The board deferred any action upon the request pending further study.

The opportunity to save funds for the town taxpayers caused the commissioners to change their minds about paying for parking meter mechanisms at the rate of a dollar down and a dollar a month. Instead they voted to accept a 5% discount for payment of (See BOARD, page 10)

"Open House"  
"Open House" will be held at the Warren Methodist Charge Parsonage on Eaton Avenue in Warrenton on Sunday, July 22, from 3 to 6 o'clock. All members and friends are invited to attend and also inspect the new addition to the parsonage, which has recently been completed.

Representing Warren County in the State Health Pageant will be the County King and Queen of Health, George Holtzman and Margaret Ann Paschall.

## Couple Told Not To Run Business

A man and woman appearing in Warren County Recorder's Court on Friday may find themselves back in court if they operate a Norlina business firm during the next two years.

Judge Julius Banzet continued prayer for judgment in a case involving possession of whiskey for purpose of sale provided the two defendants ended their operation of the Norlina Drive-Inn.

James and Josephine Minor were told that the judgment of the court would be postponed if they refrained from operating their place of business.

A man sentenced to two years on the road for assault with a deadly weapon took an appeal to Superior Court.

John Henry Alston, found guilty on the charge Friday, was placed under a \$500 appearance bond by Judge Banzet.

Also on Friday, a six-month road sentence was given Robert Lee Mills, tried on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

The State took a nol prods in the case of Claude Edward Mabrey, charged with no operator's license, but Mabry was fined \$100 and costs on a drunk driving charge.

Harvey Tunstall, charged

with drunk driving, pleaded guilty to reckless driving and was fined \$100 and costs.

Other cases on Friday's docket included:

Arthur Brewer, reckless driving, \$50 and costs.

Isaac Samuel Edwards, reckless driving, \$25 and costs.

Theodore Lee Davis, reckless driving, costs.

Bruce Silver, speeding, costs.

Samuel Jones, possession of home brew, \$10 and costs.

Zeb Ransom Denny, reckless driving, not guilty.

Ronald Junior Spry, speeding, costs.

Clarence Seward, Jr., allowing an unlicensed person to operate motor vehicle, costs.

Bessie Williams Seward, no operator's license, \$25 and costs.

Lester Charles Crane, speeding, \$10 and costs.

Herbert Gerald Evans, Jr., speeding, \$10 and costs.

Christine Lenora McSwain, speeding, \$15 and costs.

Charles D a v i d Looney, speeding, \$15 and costs.

Clarence Arthur Barbour, charged with speeding, found guilty of following too closely, costs.

Floyd Franklin Fowler, speeding, \$10 and costs.

Roy Lee Bobbitt, non-support, costs.

### Local Firemen Elected To State Offices At Meet

Two Warrenton men have been named to posts in the N. C. Colored Volunteer Firemen's Association.

Cleveland Anderson was elected financial secretary and McCarroll Alston was named assistant treasurer, member of the auditing committee and dean of instruction, during the 72nd annual convention of the association held in Greenville last week.

In addition to having two of its members named as officers, the Warrenton Volunteer Fire Department won more than \$75 in prize money during competition with other fire companies. The local department won second prize in the 100-yard hose and reel race, the 50-yard grab hose and reel race, and in the fire truck race. Alfred Davis, representing the local company, took third place honors in the foot race.

J. Baker Plummer of Warrenton was presented as the oldest member of the association during a public program attended by Mayor Charles M. King of Greenville and Elwood Insoe, state fire service instructor.

Training classes were held and a rescue demonstration was given by the Greenville Rescue Squad, United States champions. The championship Silver Belt was won by the Wilson Fire Department. The convention ended with a fireman's dance and barbecue dinner.

### Response Good

Response to a request that surplus vegetables be donated to Warren General Hospital has been excellent, F. P. Whitley, hospital administrator, said yesterday.

Whitley asked that those who have thus aided the hospital be publicly thanked. He said that he would not try to list the donors as there were so many.

The vegetables are being put to good use and Whitley said that the hospital will welcome further contributions.

At the suggestion of J. B. Boyce, Warrenton druggist, an article was printed in this week's edition of this newspaper asking that citizens donate surplus vegetables to the hospital and the public's response has been gratifying.

This will be a part of the sesquicentennial celebration of the church and Methodist in Warren County.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

## Ministers Disagree On Court Ruling

### Seaver Says Court Wrong In School Prayer Case

A retired Methodist minister currently conducting a temperance survey in Warren County has called on a number of area citizens to support a Constitutional amendment which embodies the principle of religious freedom, but which does not force any religious practice upon anyone.

Jesse Seaver, president of the Carolina Christian Union, told members of the Men's Sunday School Classes of the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church on Sunday that "the enemies of our Christian customs have apparently overplayed their hand."

He said that the patriotism of Christian citizens in this country had been aroused and that the proposed Christian Amendment is "practically on its way into the Federal Constitution."

Seaver told the men's classes that since the Christian Union was founded, it had had as its goal such a constitutional amendment and a crusade against intoxicating beverages.

Seaver read numerous correspondences from a host of government officials, including Tar Heel Congressmen and Senators thanking him for his interest in behalf of religious freedom.

He said he was concurrently preparing an article on the subject of non-sectarian religious devotion and Bible reading in our public schools, which will be sent to all members of Congress, the N. C. General Assembly, all state governors and many public officials.

### Davis Reunion

The annual Davis Reunion will be held this year on Sunday, July 22, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Davis in Ines.

### Link Says Court Rendered Right Decision

A Warrenton minister has endorsed a recent Supreme Court decision removing formal state-sponsored prayer in public schools.

The Rev. John Link, pastor of the Warrenton Baptist Church, said Sunday that "it is no part of the business of government to compose official prayers for any group of the American people to recite as a part of a religious program carried on by the government."

In a sermon to his congregation here, the Rev. Mr. Link said "required prayer becomes an absurdity." He said required prayer differed completely from "people praying in freedom under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the church of their own choice."

He said the teaching of religion and prayer is the responsibility and privilege of the home and the church. He warned parents who would like for the school to assume the responsibility of the home and church to give greater attention to the teaching of religion in the home.

"One of the wholesome effects of this Supreme Court decision would be to make parents and churches more aware of their responsibilities," he said.

### Mrs. Burwell To Give Organ Recital

Mrs. John C. Burwell, organist at Wesley Memorial Church for over thirty years, will present a program of organ music on the evening of July 22 at 8:00 o'clock.

This will be a part of the sesquicentennial celebration of the church and Methodist in Warren County.