

Operation Uplift: An Attack On Poverty

Warren Citizens Seek Million Dollar Boost From North Carolina Fund

A four-pronged attack on poverty and ignorance in Warren County was outlined to officials of the North Carolina Fund Monday as a group of Warren citizens made a bid to receive assistance during a five-year \$14 million effort to break the "cycle of poverty."

Warren County's effort to be included among ten North Carolina counties sharing in the state-wide program took the form of a 53-page comprehensive study presented to North Carolina Fund officials by L. C. Cooper, Warren Negro farm agent.

Cooper, a member of the four-man committee drafting the report, secured endorsement for the proposal—entitled "Operation Uplift—Human Resources"—earlier Monday from the Warren Board of County Commissioners. The study was turned over to George Esser, director of the North Carolina Fund late Monday,

placing Warren County as one of 63 Tar Heel counties requesting aid. "Operation Uplift" grew from meetings of the four-member Negro drafting committee, who met with county officials in an effort to find ways to "originate and sustain a program of cooperative development, growth, and advancement of Warren County."

If Warren County's proposal is accepted without change, the North Carolina Fund would allocate \$1,054,237 for four local projects outlined in "Operation Uplift."

Included among the four projects are a creative training program a vocational training program, a folk school and a family industries program.

Most costly of the programs would be the family industries program—a \$600,000 item in the budget of "Operation Uplift." The committee

drafting the study reported that they felt that "an expanded agricultural program is a major tool to break the poverty cycle in Warren County."

Survey data, recorded by a 47-man committee who aided in the study, indicated that Warren farmers "are willing to expand into livestock production as a major source of income. . . that farmers have land, labor and other resources."

The proposal revealed that many farmers are unable to qualify under present conditions or financial regulation to borrow sufficient capital to enter any phase of livestock production by way of volume to increase farm income. The committee proposed an expansion program for a selected number of farmers.

"Operation Uplift" is aimed primarily at assisting farm families which constitute 90 per cent of Warren County's population. The study

committee estimated that 75 per cent of these families are in the poverty group and that 90 percent of the poverty-stricken families were non-white.

Survey and statistical data compiled by the committee indicated that "low farm income is recognized as the underlying factor, as well as the major factor, contributing to continuation of poverty in Warren County."

Cooper, who, with Mrs. Bertha Forte, Mrs. Eva Clayton and Charles Cheek, compiled the completed study, said North Carolina Fund officials would visit the county before April 1 to learn if the county would qualify as one of the ten North Carolina counties gaining assistance in the assault on poverty.

He said an official committee would be formed to consult with officials of the North Carolina Fund.

Four Children Die In Flames



A child's wagon lies upended before the ruins of a rural farm house near Churchill where four young children died when fire destroyed their home Wednesday afternoon. (Staff Photo)

House Is Destroyed Wednesday

Four young Warren County Negro children burned to death Wednesday afternoon when flames levelled a frame farm house two miles east of Churchill.

Dead are Mac M. Harrison, 4; George Lee Harrison, Jr., 3; Alice Jean Harrison, 2; and one-year-old Dorothy Lee Harrison, children of Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison.

Three of the children were asleep on one bed when fire quickly enveloped the two-story house shortly after 3 p. m. A fourth child was trapped on another bed by the flames.

The victims' mother, 25-year-old Hattie Pearl Harrison, said she was asleep in the same room with the four children when she awoke to find the room filled with flames. She said she was unable to reach her children and escaped by jumping through a window.

Coroner N. I. Halthcock ruled that the deaths were accidental. He quoted the mother as saying she thought the fire spread from a combination wood-fed cook stove and heater.

Mrs. Harrison and her four children were alone in the house when the fire occurred. Her husband was working a short distance away but was unable to rescue the trapped children.

Members of the Warrenton Rural Fire Department arrived on the scene after the house had been levelled. The house, located on an unimproved road between Gardner's Baptist Church and Eaton's Ferry Road, had been the scene of a fire approximately three years ago, but damage had been confined to an upstairs room.

Potential Of River Outlined In Meeting Of Local Rotarians

New lakes on the Roanoke River are bringing people into the area by hundreds of thousands, Bill Pierce, presently working on a brochure of the Roanoke River Basin, told members of the Warrenton Rotary Club on Tuesday night. He was presented by Bill Perry, who was in charge of the program.

Pierce said that while recent population projections show a population loss for Warren County, that the same projections indicate a population increase of 23 million within the area of the nation within 500 miles from Warrenton. He said that the idea of many of these people vacationing here should be developed, in the belief that once people see the country here, meet the hospitable people and enjoy themselves that they could be persuaded to move to Warren County.

"The Cure for Cancer is, Maybe," Pierce said, explaining that the cancer to which he referred is spelled "Can't Sir." He said that the sometimes normal reaction of people to change is that of responding "I can't, we can't or it can't be done" before looking more fully into the possibilities of what could be done to accomplish the desired change.

Pierce said that some 4500 retirement age people from the north are moving to Florida each week. He contended that people accustomed to sub-zero climates could not be fully satisfied with living in a constantly warm climate and suggested that "Warren County's climate with its moderate changes would be far more desirable." (See LAKES, page 3)



Ellis Fleming, president of the Drewry Community Club, holds a note over a flame furnished by Wilson Fleming, past president of the club, during a brief note-burning ceremony held in the community clubhouse last Thursday night. The burning signalled the end of property indebtedness of the Drewry club, whose members, many of whom are shown watching the burning, borrowed the funds to provide a combination fire house and community clubhouse. (Staff Photo)

Hospital Addition Planned

Members of the Warren County Hospital Board of Trustees took a major step toward complete accreditation of the county's hospital Wednesday night by proposing construction of a hospital addition estimated to cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

Hospital Administrator Dave Richards said the proposed annex—a structure of 516 square feet to be added to the rear of the 35-bed hospital—would provide better facilities for outpatient care.

In addition, the expansion would provide for expanded X-Ray and laboratory facilities and make possible a combination medical staff office and medical library. The facility would also provide a new area for patient examination and make for better visitor control, Richards said.

The proposal highlighted a meeting of the trustees called to discuss future plans for the hospital. John H. Kerr, board chairman, and Richards will develop and submit the plan to the Medical Care Commission for approval and financial assistance.

Expanded Research Program Endorsed

The Warren County Farm Bureau directors, meeting Tuesday, voted unanimously in favor of a greatly expanded research program to determine whether smoking or other uses of tobacco is a causative agent of lung cancer.

The director further urged that the tobacco producers, farm organizations, and other individuals and organizations in the tobacco trade voluntarily contribute and/or assess themselves funds for immediate research, by either private or joint private-governmental research.

"Pending the research on causes of lung cancer," the directors said, "we urge the Federal Government to cease condemning uses of tobacco until the results are obtained from exhaustive research."

SIXPOUND RESIDENT

The James Burton who was convicted of receiving stolen goods, knowing same to be stolen, in Warren County Recorder's Court on Jan. 24, was a 27-year-old Negro man of Sixpound Township.

Three Charged With Theft Get Suspended Sentences In Court

Three men who pled guilty in Warren County Recorder's Court last Friday to charges of theft of corn were given suspended sentences and a fourth defendant had prayer for judgment continued.

Charged with stealing corn from the C. W. Cole farm were Gene Russell, James Alexander and Fred Alston of near Wise. Clarence Russell, a brother of Gene Russell, was charged with stealing corn from Mrs. Ava Perkinson.

Prayer for judgment was continued for two years in the case of James Alexander provided he remain of good behavior, violate no criminal laws of the state, keep gainfully employed, pay Clerk of Superior Court \$12.62 to reimburse C. W. Cole for stolen corn and pay court costs.

Clarence Russell, Fred Alston, and Gene M. Russell were each sentenced to the roads for 90 days. The sentences were suspended for five years in each case provided the defendant pay court costs, violate no criminal laws, remain gainfully employed and reimburse owner for corn stolen. Clarence Russell was not ordered to pay any amount to C. W. Cole for corn; Fred Alston was ordered to pay to the Clerk of Court for the use of Cole \$12.62 and Gene M. Russell was ordered to pay \$4.80 for use of Cole.

James Louis Boyd, who pled guilty to a charge of reckless driving, was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and court costs.

Roy Albert Williams, found guilty of possessing stolen property was sentenced to the roads for 60 days.

Gene Simmons, found guilty on a bad check charge and sentenced to the roads for 90 days, noted an appeal. Appeal bond was set at \$100.

Arthur Evans, found guilty of an assault with a deadly weapon and sentenced to the roads for 60 days, noted an appeal. Appeal bond was set at \$150.

S. T. Dorsey, who pled guilty (See COURT, page 3)



John Graham Student Nominated For Naval Academy Competition

A John Graham High School senior and honor student has been nominated to compete for admission to one of the nation's service academies. Congressman L. H. Fountain announced this week that he has nominated Wilton Rodwell Drake, Jr., of Macon, to compete for admission to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Drake, Sr., of Macon. Roddy will compete for the one vacancy which Rep. Fountain has available for the Naval Academy this year.

Long's Collection Given To Warren Memorial Library

The complete collection of North Carolina History of the late W. Linsford Long has been presented to the Warren County Memorial Library by Mrs. Long as a memorial to her husband. They are to be kept together to form a memorial collection, Mrs. S. Hoskins, librarian, said yesterday. Mrs. Hoskins described the books as an extremely valuable collection, comprising a complete set of the Colonial Records of North Carolina, sixteen

Senatorial Rotation Is Talked During Meeting

Whether or not Warren County will have the State Senator for only one of three terms under a rotation system with Halifax County will depend upon an agreement to be worked out by John Kerr, Jr., chairman of the Warren County Democratic Executive Committee, with the Halifax County Democratic Executive Committee.

This was determined at a meeting of the Warren County Democratic Committee held at the court house on Monday morning, with Chairman Kerr presiding. Kerr in asking for instruction from the committee, pointed out that the population of Warren and Halifax Counties—comprising a new senatorial district—is in round numbers 80,000, with Halifax's population being 60,000 and Warren's 20,000. Based on population, Kerr said, it has been suggested that Warren have the Senator in 1969, and every third term thereafter.

Following a full discussion of a possible senatorial rotation agreement between the two counties, a motion was made by W. R. Drake, seconded by Frank Banzet and unanimously carried, that the chairman of the Warren County Democratic Executive Committee be empowered to affect the best rotation agreement possible with Halifax County.

In other business before the committee, W. G. Coleman and C. C. Britton of Warrenton and Charlie Fleming of Route 2, Henderson, were appointed by Chairman Kerr as nominees for the Warren County Board of Elections. From the three nominees, two will be selected by the State Democratic Executive Committee to serve. Officers present at the meeting were Chairman Kerr, vice Chairman Frank B. Banzet, and Secretary Mrs. Ida D. Martin. Precinct chairmen present were: B. G. White, West Warrenton; John Kerr, Jr., East Warrenton; Roy Overby, Norlina; T. P. Hicks, Smith Creek; (See ROTATION, page 3)



A group of Warren County school children called on Gov. Terry Sanford at the Governor's Office in Raleigh Friday and during the course of the visit posed for a photograph with the state's chief executive. Warren children making the visit included Bonnie Carter, Jeanette Harris, Jimmy Rodwell, Randy Shearin, Ray Howell, Jack

Warren Farm Income Off Over \$1.4 Million

Warren County's farm income dropped by more than \$1.4 million dollars in 1963, with a loss of more than a million dollars in tobacco income paying the way.

A five per cent cut in tobacco acreage and dry growing weather shared blame for the decline, Farm Agent Frank Reams told members of the Warren County Board of Commissioners here Monday. Reams said completed figures revealed that the county's farm income dipped from \$12,295,044 in 1962 to \$10,875,361 last year. Tobacco income fell from \$6,585,790 in 1962 to \$5,297,408 in 1963. Reams said. Income from livestock was down from 1962's figure of \$1,809,550 to \$1,766,550 last year, and income from forestry dipped from \$1,525,796 in 1962 to \$1,452,000 in 1963.

Government payments to Warren County farmers also took a drop last year, when \$198,193 was paid local farmers. In 1962 slightly more than \$248,000 was reported paid in the form of ACP, feed grain program, wheat program, wool incentive and conservation reserve payments. In none of these areas were the 1963 payments as high as in 1962.

During their regular meeting here, commissioners, endorsed a proposal for participation in the North Carolina Fund and approved the expenditure of \$25 for advertising in a brochure being compiled by the Roanoke River Basin Association on the lakes along the Roanoke River.

It was ordered that the tax listing deadline be extended to Feb. 14.

Approval of payments to

Callahan, Ralph Harp, Debbie Roberts, Ellen Mustian, Valerie Miles, Mary Ann Davis, Gayle Seris, Helen Diamond, Susanne Rudd, Joan Dickerson, Sandra Copley and Carlene Holt. Adults making the trip were Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, Mrs. Walter Carter, R. D. Howell and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rudd. (Photo by H. L. Powell)