

Warren Outstrips Neighbors In Rate Of Growth

Five-Year Growth Is Estimated

Warren County's population has grown at a faster rate than any of its neighboring counties during the past five years, according to estimates just released by the North Carolina Department of Administration.

During the half-decade covered by the report, Warren's permanent population climbed from 15,340 to 16,600, an increase of 8.2 percent. Meanwhile, North Carolina was experiencing a 7.2 growth rate.

Only 29 of North Carolina's 100 counties experienced a faster growth rate than Warren, which would have stood even higher had not it lost a portion of Littleton to Halifax County when residents of that town voted in favor of single-county status.

The estimates were certified by the secretary of administration for the allocation of certain tax monies to counties and municipalities.

Figures showed that Vance County experienced a 2.2 growth rate for the five-year period; Franklin grew at a 5.9 percent rate; Halifax's population climbed by 1.4 percent; and Northampton County had no change in population, although one of its towns—Garysburg—was listed as the second fastest growing town in the state between 1970 and 1975.

Norlina was the fastest growing municipality in Warren County during the period, as its population increased from 969 to 1,110, a rise of 14.6 percent. Warrenton's population rose from 1,035 to 1,150 — an increase of 11.1 percent—during the period, while Macon grew from 179 to 200, a rise of 11.7 percent.

The annual growth rate for Warren during the past five years was 1.82 percent, which put it in the top third of North Carolina's population increase leaders. Most of the growth was due to newcomers moving into the county, since the natural increase was approximately a third that recorded during the decade between 1960-70.

During that decade, residents were leaving Warren County at a rate greater than that of any county in the state.

Neighboring Vance County had a population increase from 32,691 to 33,400 during the period, but one of its three municipalities—Kittrell, had a whopping 26.5 growth rate, as its population climbed from 427 to 540. Middleburg grew at a rate of 14.1 percent, increasing from 149 to 170. Henderson's population climbed from 13,896 to 14,330 during the five-year period, a gain of 3.1 percent.

Ambitious Project Launched By Club

Members of the Warrenton Golf Club have voted to undertake a \$30,000 improvement program designed primarily to upgrade swimming facilities.

Work on the club's facilities are expected to begin immediately, with renovation of bath houses and swimming pool being priority items.

Work on repairing cracks in the main pool and improving the filter system for the infants' pool were both agreed to by club members last week. Additional dressing stalls

(Continued on page 9)



Mrs. John L. McCain, left, chairman of the N. C. Democratic Party, Mrs. James B. Hunt, Sr., and Mrs. Jessie Walton, chaplain of the Warren County Democratic Women, enjoy a chat after the meeting of the 2nd Congressional Democratic Women on Tuesday at the Warrenton Depot. See story and other pictures on Page 11.

[Staff Photo]

Inspection Contract Is Let For Sewerage

A contract to inspect a new sewer line from Soul City to Warrenton was awarded Monday by the Board of County Commissioners to the engineering firm of Hazen and Sowers. Cost of the inspection will be included in the grant.

Work on the project, which started Monday and is to be completed in 150 days, is expected to cost around \$800,000. It will be financed by a grant from HUD.

The line will connect Soul City into the Warrenton sewage treatment plant.

County Manager Charles Hayes said the line from Soul City to Norlina and from Norlina to Warrenton will provide expanded capacity sewer service and accommodate future growth of this section of Warren County.

From Soul City to Norlina engineers will install a 12-inch sewer line and from Norlina to Warrenton another engineering firm will install a 14-inch line.

The Warren County Rescue Squad appeared before the commissioners and with John Acai acting as spokes-

man submitted its 1977-78 budget for commissioners approval in the amount of \$49,000. Of this amount the commissioners were asked to appropriate at least \$5,000. Acai said the budget was higher for the new fiscal year because of the necessity of purchasing an additional ambulance.

The Soil Conservation Service also submitted its 1977-78 budget, asking for \$19,000 as the county's share

of the budget. Included in this amount was \$9,000 for the salary of Larry Rivers as full-time technician, \$5,000 for Leonard Kilian as part-time technician, and \$3,000 for a clerk.

Appearing with Mike McKinney, Soil Conservationist, to present the budget were Melvin Shearin, Chairman, and Cecil Pope and John Kilian, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors.

County Salaries Reflect Size, Wealth

A disparity in salaries paid county officials in Warren and Vance tends to reflect a sharp difference between the two counties in terms of wealth and population.

Vance, twice as populous and with a property base approximately 250 percent that of Warren, ranks first in every pay category included in the annual County Salary Study published this spring by the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

The study, which covers each of the 100 counties, reveals salary schedules as well as working conditions, vacation and sick leave provisions. Vance's estimated 1975 population was listed as 33,427, while Warren was believed to have 16,641 during the same year. Total valuations for fiscal 1975-76 showed Vance with \$261 million; Warren with \$102,400,000.

Most nearly equal of salaried positions in which the counties pay either all or part is that of county school superintendent. Warren School Supt. J. R. Peeler receives \$27,240 annually of which the county contributes \$6,600. Vance Supt. Kenneth English receives \$27,480, of which Vance pays \$6,264.

Warren's county manager, Charles

Hayes, is paid \$9,406 yearly for overseeing the county's business, and an unlisted salary as chairman of the Industrial Development Commission. Vance has no county manager.

A major disparity exists in the pay received by sheriffs of the two counties. Sheriff Clarence Davis of Warren receives \$10,314 yearly while Sheriff Linwood Falkner of Vance receives \$16,248 yearly. Only a half-dozen counties pay their sheriffs, less than Warren, which does provide a \$2,820 yearly travel allowance.

Not all county sheriffs receive a fixed salary, the Institute of Government study shows. For example, the sheriff of Camden County is paid five percent of the taxes collected during a year.

The newly released study shows that 97 counties participate in the Local Governmental Employees Retirement System and that 80 of these counties have death benefit coverage. It reveals that 98 counties close their courthouse on Saturday, with some offices remaining open on Saturday morning in two counties.

County employees in Vance work a 37½ hour week, while in Warren employees are on the job 35 hours weekly. Each county gives its employees 10 paid holidays yearly.

Warren, Vance Comparisons

	WARREN	VANCE
Chairman, County Commissioners	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,400
County Manager	9,406	-----
County Attorney	2,000	3,000
County Commissioners	600	1,800
Sheriff	10,314	16,248
Chief Deputy	9,151	10,680
Deputies	8,363	8,916
Register of Deeds	10,320	14,088
Finance Officer	11,100	17,052
Tax Supervisor	10,320	15,060
Ambulance Director	7,740	-----
Animal Warden	5,160	6,480
Veterans Service Officer	6,773	10,680
Board of Elections Executive Secretary	3,870	7,788
Electrical Inspector	9,030	12,264
Agricultural Extension Chairman	17,730	18,325
School Superintendent	27,240	27,480
Librarian	3,600	10,860
Public Health Director	12,264	33,504*
Social Services Director	12,268	19,278

* Serves Vance and Granville counties.

Housing Project, Water Top Agenda

A low cost housing project, a \$35,000 water expansion project, a municipal building, a mini-park, and the employment of an assistant manager were some of the projects occupying the attention of the Norlina Board of Town Commissioners on Monday night. All commissioners, the town clerk and Mayor Bill Perry were present and participated in the discussion during a meeting of more than an hour and a half.

James Morton Jones was present as a spectator and Oliver Jones housing specialist with the National Economic Reserve, discussed the feasibility and desirability of low cost housing of multiple units in Norlina. Whether or not the two Jones brothers were kin was not revealed. James Morton had little to say as Oliver pointed out the advantages of low cost housing built by private enterprise with the rent subsidized.

Oliver said that he wanted to be of assistance in providing subsidized housing to low income families and to help the development of Norlina and a number of other small North Carolina towns without the resource of the larger cities. He said

that he was not asking any money from the town, that he would need to be able to purchase five to eight acres of land, and to have water

G.W. Shearin Is Named Tobacco Sales Supervisor

George Willis Shearin of Warrenton has been appointed sales supervisor for the Warrenton Tobacco Board of Trade. He succeeds Frank Reams who had resigned earlier.

Shearin is owner of Shearin's Insurance Agency in Warrenton. He also farms in the Warren Plains community.

All new leaders have been elected to head the Warrenton Tobacco Board of Trade at the meeting. Harry Jackson Carter was elected president to succeed Dan Currin, who died in March; while V. T. Grissom took the seat of vice president. Mr. Shearin was elected to serve as secretary-treasurer.

President Carter thanked the board for the confidence shown him and pledged his efforts to serve to the best of his ability. He also praised the leadership of Dan Currin and noted that the market would miss him greatly.

and sewer made available to the site of the proposed housing project.

Oliver Jones was willing for the commissioners to

Carter is co-owner of Farmers Warehouse and lives in the Afton community. Grissom is associated with Thompsons Warehouses and makes his home in Epsom.



SHEARIN

take plenty of time to think over the idea and the commissioners wanted that time. Action on the project was tabled until a later meeting.

Mrs. Mae Gums, Town Clerk, said that a repairman for the town's water pump had informed her that an objectionable scum on the water in certain parts of the town was due to air in the water pipes. This, he told her was due to the need for a new washer in the pump which he said he would obtain and install in a few days.

Roy Futrell, Water and Street Superintendent, wanted the board to adopt some policy concerning the town picking up debris left from the tearing down of old housing, as well as some policy about the use of the town's new backhoe.

Heavy debris and large stumps should be moved by private contractors was the consensus of the board, who suggested that the town attorney could draw up a suitable ordinance and have it ready at the June meeting of the board. As for the use of the backhoe, the board agreed that the water and street superintendent could be trusted to use it wisely.

Principal concern of the commissioner at the mo-

ment seemed to be to have the superintendent husband his time in order that he might install new street signs as early as possible.

Mayor Perry pointed out that the board should (Continued on page 9)

Prisoner Saws Way Out Of Local Jail

A hacksaw was used to saw a chain on a cell door at the Warren County jail Tuesday, resulting in the escape of George William Hammer, 18, of Chesapeake, Va.

William Alston, jailer, reported the escape about 7 p.m. Tuesday.

The escapee was recaptured Wednesday afternoon by Deputy Loyd Newsome. No details of the apprehension were available at presstime.

Local law officials used bloodhounds from the Warrenton unit of the Department of Corrections to track Hammer with no avail. Hammer was in the jail

pending a preliminary hearing in district court on Friday on charges of breaking, entering and larceny in homes at Lake Gaston. He had received a 96-hour hearing on Tuesday morning when probable cause for the hearing on Friday was found.

Hammer was last seen wearing faded blue jeans and a red shirt. He is an 18-year-old white male.

County Valuation Now \$170 Million

Warren County's total 1977 valuation, following a revaluation, is approximately \$170,000,000, Charles Hayes, County Manager, told the board of county commissioners here Monday morning. The valuation compares with \$108,000,000 for the previous year and does not double the 1976 figure, as had been anticipated by the commissioners.

However, Mrs. Grady J. Haynes, tax supervisor, who prepared the figures for Hayes, said that the figures she prepared for the commissioners were only an approximation in order that they might begin to work on the budget. She said she feels that further checks will increase the figures, possibly to double those of last year.

She said that it might be several weeks before she could give the actual valuations by townships.

Warrenton Gets Firm For Study

The Town of Warrenton Monday signed a contract with the engineering firm of Person and Whitman, Inc. of Raleigh, which immediately started on preliminary work on the town's water and sewage system.

Bill Davis, Town Manager, said the engineers were employed to provide a detailed analysis of the town's water and sewer system, make recommendations as to remedies in problem areas and to assist in applying for federal grants.

One area of work will be from the end of the pressure sewer line near the Sports-wear Plant to the town's sewer plant on Fishing Creek.



The Macon Rural Fire Department will hold an auction sale Saturday in Thompsons Warehouse. Proceeds from all sales will go toward purchasing equipment for the volunteer fire department. M. C. Clary [left], Robert Stallings, assistant chief; and Franklin Rivers display an air conditioner, planter and trunk which are just a few of the items that will be up for sale, which begins at 10:30 a. m. Stew will also be sold at the auction and in Macon by the plate or quart. [Staff Photo]