Your Best Advertising Medium The Marren Record

Your Best Advertising Medium

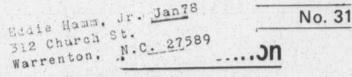
Volume 80

15° Per Copy

Warrenton, County Of Warren, North Carolina

Complete News Coverage Of Warren County

Delegations



Chief Out, mergency **Powers In**

Norlina commissioners Monday night invoked emergency powers in the aftermath of a car wreck which hospitalized Police Chief Romey Williams, authorizing Mayor Bill Perry to direct day-to-day operations of the town's police department.

In a companion move, commissioners hired a former Warren County deputy sheriff, Leon Paynter, as a police officer for the town. Paynter was scheduled to begin duty on the third shift last night.

Meanwhile, Chief Williams, critically injured in a two-car crash in southeastern Warren County last week, continued to show improvement in Duke Medical Center, where he was taken following the two car smashup after receiving emergency treatment at Warren General Hospital.

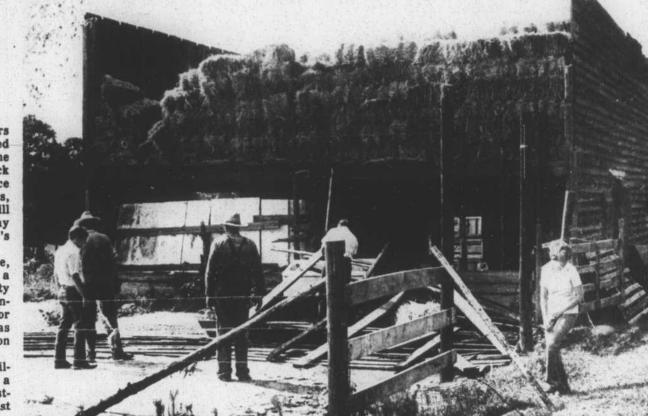
He is expected to be in traction for six weeks, and severe internal injuries have placed the time that he might return to duty in question.

Williams, appointed chief following the death last year of Chief G. E. (Buck) White, was injured in a collision which occurred six and a half miles south of Warrenton on N. C. 43. The wreck was reported shortly after midnight on August 4.

Trooper W. C. Palmer of the N. C. Highway Patrol said Williams was driving north in his 1963 Ford Falcon when he collided with a 1968 Ford operated by Peggy Lee Francis, who was headed south.

Palmer said it appeared that the Williams car veered into the path of the Francis car, which ran off the road but was unable to avoid the collision.

Ms. Francis, 24, of Rt. 3, Warrenton was admitted to Warren General. A passen-



Stable at home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Holtzman in Ridgeway section with side and roof ripped off exposing loft filled with hay. Neighbors are shown as they gather

to lend their assistance in clearing away debris preparing to rebuild stable. [Staff Photo]

High Winds Lash County Area

By BIGNALL JONES Considerable damage was

and 9:30 o'clock

Monday morning was to the caused in the Ridgewayroof and where the side and County on Sunday night during a severe electrical and wind storm between 9

Among damage reported stems were blown off at roof Bryant, by fire set by a level; to the C. B. Curtis, Carl Holtzman farm where Jr., home place where a Manson section of Warren strips were blown from the utility building was demolished by wind; and the parroof of a stable were blown tial destruction of the old off; to the Weldon Capps Lonnie Reavis home, occuhome where two chimney pied by Mr. and Mrs. Donald

Town Accepts Historic House

The Town of Warrenton restoration "could be your "and after we've done all we formally accepted owner- most democratic" work of ship of the Jacob Holt House preservation in Warrenton. He said that a future poll Monday night as a delegaof visitors to Warrenton's tion of local historians stood by with an offer of Historic District could show assistance should upkeep that the house ranked first in popular appeal, since it for the restored property contained much with which require their help. The house and lot at the the average visitor might

identify. corner of Bragg and Mrs. John Kerr, speaking Franklin streets was donated to the town by Commis- in support of the deed's sioner Anna G. Butler. The acceptance, said that interon the eve of Warrenproperty carries an apprais ed value of \$19,000. Federal ton's bicentennial is putting and state grants and a the town on the map. "We private donation are expect- used to be known as the town that owns itself; now it is ed to provide \$41,000 for the known as the town that restores itself," she said. Richard Hunter, heading Mrs. James Beckwith said the delegation composed primarily of members of the that historic preservations Warren County Historical locally could provide the Association, told commisarea "with a fine soft industry" and that town-led efforts at restoration could induce private homeowners to improve other properties. Mrs. Butler said she would like to see the town Warren and surrounding take title to the property counties.

tickets.

can do, I would have no objection to having the Historical Association be appointed custodian."

Renovation of the house with grant funds will require that the town maintain the house to retain its historic integrity for a period of at least 30 years, that it be continually administered so roof, causing some water that the public shall have damage to part of the house. access to the home for at The electric current was

Commissioners were told

that the house should take

on increased importance

after its designer receives

broader public exposure.

The house contained the kiln

and workshop of Holt, who

was a prominent architect

and builder in ante-bellum

town.

stroke of lightning.

Also some damage was reported at the homes, of Charles Hall, and Effie Burchett and at the home of Marshall Fleming, all windcaused, and not visited by Warren Record reporter Bignall Jones and cameraman Don Stith.

Damage to the stable at the Carl Holtzman farm, where hay was exposed to the elements by the removal of the roof, was estimated at \$5,000. Timbers from the roof and side of the stable had been piled some 100 feet or more from the stable; a horse trailer, parked near the stable, had been blown some 35 yards by the force of the wind. Two sheets of tin had been ripped up on the

Hear Controversy

School Officials

The appearance of three Education uses one floor of delegations and inability of the building for storage, and board members to make up some disposition would have their minds about two controversial items kept the articles before the building Board of Education in session until 11:30 o'clock at their regular second Monarticles if feasible. day night meeting.

Vice Chairman Leigh Traylor presided over the meeting in the absence of Chairman Ernest Turner.

Delegations present, in order of their appearance, were a large group from the Vaughan School community who were divided over whether the eighth grade should be kept at Vaughan or sent to Hawkins School at Warrenton; a large group

which asked the Commissioners to sell the old Wise School in order that it might purchased by the be Wise-Paschall Ruritan Club; and Dennis Harris, President of the Warren County Farm Bureau and Sydney Burton who appeared to ask that Warren County Schools delay their opening for a week or more in order that school children might help harvest the late

tobacco crop. All decisions of the board were made after the departure of the delegations.

The board decided that since the school calendar, set up by a special committee, did not call for the opening of Warren Schools until Labor Day, and this was the latest opening of any schools in the district, that no further delay would be made. Members said that they were forced to make this decision in fairness to teachers and students.

The Rev. Jim Heber acted

The large group from Vaughan represented two factions, one of which wants to be made of the stored to keep the eighth grade at Vaughan and the other to could be sold. Members send the eighth grade to asked for a week to consider Hawkins in Warrenton. Both disposition of the stored

(Continued on page 11)

During Stormy Session Questionable Trade Practices Defended

Warrenton Mayor W. A. and dead, whom he said Miles Monday night defended controversial trade practices which have raised a "conflict of interest" question here, said the practice of commissioners doing business with the town was customary in small municipalities with limited retail outlets and reeled off a list of former commissioners who had engaged in the practice.

The mayor was joined by two commissioners in a rebuttal to an article in the

August 4 issue of The Warren Record which pointed out that trade practices involving Miles and Commissioners Gordon Haithcock and Norfleet Cliborne were illegal under state law. and jeopardized federal revenue sharing funds. The mayor's response to

the newspaper charge that The charge came during a the three had acted in stormy session of the town violation of a North Carolina board marked by the general statute which prohibits elected officials from premature departure of two trading for a profit with the members and the hurling of charges and counter chargunit of government they

Miles was critical of two

editorials attacking secrecy

in town government, and

responded to published

were involved in trade with the town. He said he felt it made sense to do business at home, rather than to have (Continued on page 11)

*** **Board Barred** Transaction, **Mayor Says**

Warrenton Mayor W. A. Miles Monday night publicly accused a member of the Board of Town Commissioners and the town manager of illegally conspiring to use surplus municipal property for personal use and said that only intervention by the board had spoiled the plan.

ger in her car, Debbie Mae Richardson, 20, of Macon, was treated and released.

Eight-Year-Old Girl

Raped; Arrest Made

A Halifax County man is being held in Warren County jail without bond on a charge of raping an eightyear-old Warren County girl on July 28.

Charles David Alston, 19, was arrested by Halifax officers on Friday after the alleged crime had been reported by Halifax Memorial Hospital authorities. Having discovered that the alleged crime occurred in Warren County, Halifax officers turned Alston over to Warren County officers on Tuesday.

Sheriff Davis said yesterday that Davis would be given his 96-hour hearing in Warren District Court Friday.

restoration effort.

sioners that local historians would like to see the town use grant money to renovate the property "and if you see that it can not be maintained, that it be deeded to the Historical Association." Edgar Thorne, recalling his association with historiwhile on the faculty of the University of Virginia, said the Holt House met many of

the criteria used by preservation-oriented groups. Thorne said the house was one of the few surviving homes "not owned by the planter class" and its

School Break-In Probed **By Police In Warrenton**

Investigation of a case of key to open the office, took a terday.

secretary, at 8:12 a. m. on machine. Wednesday morning of last week, Chief Robinson and Officer T. R. Vaughan investigated the break-in. They found that entry into the building was made by the use of a key or because of an unlocked door on the north end of the building. Having gained entry, the intruder or intruders used a building.

Par Paral

breaking, entering and lar- key to the Coke machine ceny at John Graham High from a desk drawer, used it School in Warrenton on to open the machine and Tuesday night or Wednes- returned it to the desk day morning of last week is drawer. Following the restill continuing, Police Chief turn of the key to the desk Freddie Robinson said yes- drawer the office door was relocked. Twenty-five dol-Following a report of the lars was taken from the break-in of the school by desk drawer and approxi-Mrs. Brenda Bobbitt, school mately \$10 from the Coke

> Chief Robinson said that several prints of tennis shoes were found in the fresh varnish. They led to the office doors. Also, he said, several tennis shoe tracks were found leading from the office door to a fire escape on the east side of the

cal preservation efforts Decision Expected **On Ticket Situation**

The Warrenton Town for eight years, Robinson Board's Police Committee is has been chief for the past expected to decide within six. He said he would also the month what action, if like the board to determine any, it plans to take to force if a warrant should be persons disregarding tickets served for the first parking offense, or whether court written for parking violations to pay the traffic action should be taken after

a warning letter has been sent or after an individual The matter was referred to the committee Monday motorist accumulates a number of unpaid tickets. night after Police Chief Police Commissioner Gor-Freddie Robinson reported don Haithcock announced that tickets are being the resignation of Lee written and that at least Simmons as police dispatchthree cars have been towed from restricted zones fol- er. Her resignation was accepted by the board, lowing the recent designawhich authorized the emtion of parking zones by ployment of Elizabeth Inssigns and new paint. The chief said that he coe to serve as police

would also like to have the secretary. Robinson reported that his board decide who will be department was "about six authorized to void tickets weeks behind" in completwritten in error, or unable to ing required records since be served because the driver pulls away while the the resignation of Mrs. Laura Bennie Davis, and officer is in the process of said he would like the writing the ticket.

vacancy to be filled quickly. In response to a question Commissioners said they from a board member, the hoped CETA funds which chief said that no warrant has been served for parking paid Mrs. Davis's salary could be used to pay Miss violations since he became chief. A member of the force Inscoe.

interrupted by the storm least 12 days during the and Mr. and Mrs. Holtzman year, and that the State were in darkness and could would have first refusal if a bonafide offer to sell the only hear the roof and side being torn from the barn. property is received by the Friends and neighbors

had already gathered at the Holtzman home when representatives of The Warren Record arrived around 10 a. m. and they were shortly thereafter engaged in removing debris from the stable site, preparatory to its rebuilding.

At the Weldon Capps home, at the end of a dirt road off the Manson-Drewry highway, we found Mr. Capps alone at his home, from which the top of both chimneys had been blown down, and were in a pile at the rear of the house. Mr. Capps said that he lived alone and was alone at the time of the storm. No one was present at the

home of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. ty man, charged with mur-Curtis, Jr., when we visited the site, but in plain der in a Warren County evidence on the back corner death, will remain under of the lot was the tumbled psychiatric observation at utility building with a boat Dorothea Dix Hospital in lying nearby. The blown Raleigh for the next 30 to 60 down utility building at the Curtis home and the moved

horse trailer at the Holtzman were the only evidence we saw of any ground wind in the section, with damage, so far as we could learn. only to roof tops and chimneys. Unlike investigation of most wind storms, we found no blown down tobacco, or uprooted trees or fallen limbs, in a journey that carried us from Ridgeway, to Buchanan's Store north of Drewry, to Manson and to Middleburg, to parts of Soul City and to a point near Manson where the old Lonnie Reavis former home had been badly damaged by fire.

home, and a number of (Continued on page 11)

as spokesman for the group representing the Wise-Pas- of business before the board chall Ruritan Club, number- went into executive session ing around a dozen. For to discuss a legal matter several years the old Wise with Town Attorney Charles School building has been Johnson. leased by the local Ruritans, who have made several improvements to the building and grounds. Mr. Heber said that the club wishes to charges that commissioners make other improvements but first they wanted title to the building. The board tending that the practice members said they would be happy for the Ruritans to buy the building, but that it would have to be sold at business," the mayor said public auction. One difficul- as he read a list of town ty is that the Board of commissioners, both living

serve came as the last item es across the municipal conference table.

Miles said a series of articles and editorials in Warrenton's newspaper critical of the mayor and board had their origins in an attempt by Commissioner Sam Massey and Manager Bill Davis to purchase surplus vehicles for their

own use. were engaged in illegal The suggestion that Mastrading practices by consey and Davis had prepared to purchase the two vehicles was of long standing in acquired from the City of Rocky Mount produced a "No one has sought the heated exchange between Massey, who called the

charge a lie, and Miles. Mrs. Anna G. Butler left the meeting at this point, and minutes later Massey left the meeting.

Miles charged that the two had intended to take possession of a dump truck and car, and that action of the board prevented them executive session earlier

Massey said he resented the accusation of wrong doing, that he had consulted with Attorney Frank Banzet witnesses at the rest home over the possibility of as saying that Dickerson acquiring the dump truck, was mortally wounded after had been advised not to a single blow was exchang- enter into the transaction ed between the two men and had not done so. Massey said he had never had any conflict of interest involving the town and that his argument, and were leaving vehicle was arrived at without any help from the

> board. Davis said Tuesday that the decision to buy the vehicles for the town was made with the knowledge of board members, except Commissioner Gord Haithcock, who could not be reached by telephone when the decision to buy them was

> > (Continued on page 11)

days. Joseph Smith, resident of the Warren Plaza Rest Home near here, was charged with causing the death of a 73-year-old fellow rest home resident on August 3. Judge Linwood Peoples of Henderson ordered Smith committed to the state hospital in Raleigh during a 96-hour hearing held Thursday. The

Warren County Sheriff's Department reported that Smith was charged after Henry Dickerson died of a skull fracture in Duke Medical Center, where he had been transfer-Here Donald Bryant, who red after being given lived with his wife in the emergency treatment at Warren General Hospital. **Deputy Ernest Fitts was**

Murder Is Charged In Rest Home Death

Warrenton.

A 51-year-old Vance Coun- taking Smith to John Umstead Hospital in Butner from so doing. He said the when word was received matter was taken up in from Duke that Dickerson had died. Fitts returned to this year "since it involved Warrenton with Smith and personnel." lodged the defendant in the Warren County Jail, where

he remained overnight. Sheriff's deputies quoted following the breakfast

meal on Wednesday. Witnesses reported that the two men had had no 'decision not to purchase the the dining area when Smith said something inaudible to

witnesses, turned and struck the victim in the temple. Dickerson fell and struck his head on the floor. John Phillips, rest home manager, notified sheriff's officers of the incident, and requested that Smith be taken to Butner. It was shortly thereafter that Wilkerson died.