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Town Will Retain Single Share Of Stock

Town's Railroad 'Deboarded'

By HELEN HOWARD
Staff Writer

Future industrial growth of the town of Warrenton seems a key factor in the decision last Thursday night to sell the town's stock in the Warrenton railroad.

Since 1876 the little railroad, one of the shortest railroads in the state, has encouraged industry along its tracks and spurred growth of the town. But the "good ole days" have long since passed and last year the railroad operated with a \$1,900 deficit. The last stock dividends were paid the town in 1959. The town even built and then rented a storage building from the railroad to add money to the railroad's budget.

Dr. S. H. Massey summed up the apparent feelings of all board members when he said, "The primary concern is to keep it (the railroad) open."

William C. Leary, a member of the town board

and manager of Peck Manufacturing Company, told the group that Peck could hardly function without the railroad. Railroad Supt. Howard Oakley told that recently a shipment of cotton from California to Peck had freight rates at \$1980 by train and in checking with trucking company, he had determined that the same freight would be doubled if trucked the same distance. Companies using the railroad at present are Warren Cotton & Fertilizer, General Box, Warren FCX Service and others.

It was agreed that the town could not remain in the railroad business if something happened to Mr. Oakley, the 76-year-old engineer for the railroad company. Oakley, who has been working for \$100 a month, would not be easily replaced for that salary, board members felt.

The opportunity to sell the

town's stock in the railroad, which is a controlling interest, was termed a "lifesaver."

Walter A. Martin, a partner in Coast Cities Associates operating in East Orange, N. J., has been attempting to purchase the railroad stock since about April.

He is interested in buying controlling interest in the railroad and using the roundhouse for a locomotive repair shop.

In addressing the group with financial notes on his business and purposes for the railroad, Martin assured the group, jammed in the conference room at the Town Hall, his locomotive repair shop would not be noisy and would "hardly be a junk yard."

Martin told those present that most of the work would be rebuilding and reselling locomotives as the discussion entered into a question period. "I'm merely propos-

ing to buy stock in the railroad," Martin offered. "I would not change the officers of the railroad." He also agreed to honor leases on other buildings around the depot.

Martin proposed to operate on a two-year probationary period until he could gain complete control, suggesting that other terms could be put in a purchase agreement whereby the town would be able to buy back its stock for the same price.

Martin said the railroad has lower rates for transporting locomotives for repair. He indicated that he needed the controlling stock in a railroad in order to be eligible for such reduced rates.

The New Jersey man offered \$10 a share for the stock. Mayor W. A. Miles polled the board members on selling 51 or 75 percent. They agreed to sell all the shares, retaining only one for an interest in stockholders meetings. Martin agreed.

Martin was also in agreement with a board proposal to handle an outstanding \$8,700 note for a rail siding to Cochrane. The Railroad Board planned to contact Cochrane officers for help with the situation since Cochrane promised to use the siding and railroad officials contend now do not comply with the agreement.

Martin said he would take the outstanding note in addition to the buying price of the stocks.

He is planning to invest as
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Top Prices Paid For Good Tobacco

Though average prices paid for tobacco are down George Willis Shearin, sales supervisor for the Warrenton Tobacco Market, said this week good tobacco, top grade was bringing \$175 per 100 pounds.

One warehouse this week averaged \$124.89, but overall sales averaged \$108.82.

Sales Monday brought \$404,246.27 for 371,479 pounds sold. Thus far this season 1,742,717 pounds have been sold on the market.

Seven more selling days are scheduled, Shearin said. He noted the market will close on November 9.

Property Damage Totals \$43,000

Warren Highway Wrecks Kill Two; Six Are Injured

Warren County traffic accidents during the week-end resulted in two fatalities, six injuries and over \$43,000 in damages, the State Highway Patrol reported.

The fatalities brought the year's death toll to 16. The previous record for fatalities in the county during a year was 13, according to a highway patrolman.

Killed in two separate accidents on Saturday were Michael Mitchell Woolard, 18, of Eltrich, Va., and Mamie Alston Tunstall, 60, of Rt. 1, Norlina.

Critically injured were Theaoseus Theab Clayton, Jr., of Rt. 2, Ebony, Va., and Alvin Clinton Currin of Water Street in Henderson. Others received minor injuries.

According to the highway patrol, a 1977 Datsun operated by Robert Abrahamson, Jr., of Norlina, struck a bridge on I-85 about 7:45 a. m. Saturday morning. The collision caused the vehicle to spin around and hit the bridge abutment on the other side of the road.

The incident occurred where the I-85 bridge crosses RPR 1226. The railing jammed through the floor board of the vehicle. Dead at the scene was a passenger in the vehicle, Michael Mitchell Woolard. Cause of death was listed as head injuries.

Apparently the driver went to sleep, the patrol reported, and the car hit the railing.

Trooper V. R. Vaughan said no charges were filed in the accident but the car, valued at \$4,000, was a total loss.

Thompson was admitted to Warren General Hospital for injuries.

About 3:30 p. m. on Saturday, the highway patrol was dispatched to another fatality. They reported the accident was on U. S. 401 about 9.9 miles south of Warrenton.

Mrs. Mamie Alston Tunstall, 60, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Trooper A. M. Bennett.

According to Bennett, Mrs. Tunstall was travelling north on U. S. 401 when she apparently ran off onto the
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Watery Grave

Kerr Lake Waters Now Cover Doomed Locomotive

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Council Agreement Needed

Warrenton Given Grant Of \$131,800

The Town of Warrenton will receive over \$131,800 in a grant for the employment of public service workers.

Bill Davis, town manager, announced Wednesday morning he had received phone verification of the approval of the grant. The town will begin taking applications immediately, he explained.

The grant is a Title 6, Public Service Employment Grant, exactly as that handled by CETA, but is apart from the county's program.

Davis noted that applicants will need to qualify under the same guidelines

as the CETA program. The CETA program requires an applicant to be unemployed 15 weeks or more and qualify under financial status set by CETA.

The grant enables the Town of Warrenton to hire 20 people for general beautification of the town, which includes water and sewer work, street maintenance and clean-up work. The work will be labor, Davis explained.

Though approval of the grant has been confirmed, town commissioners will have to accept the grant, Davis noted.

ASC Community Elections To Be Held On Dec. 5

The ASC Community Committee election this year will be held December 5, T. E. Watson, county executive director, announced this week. Ballots will be mailed to voters about 10 days before the election. The voted ballots must be mailed or returned in person not later than December 5, 1977.

The ASC communities in the county are known as: Fishing Creek, Fork, Hawtree, Judkins, Nutbush, River, Sandy Creek, Sixpound, Smith Creek, Warrenton and Shocco.

Eligible voters will be sent

a ballot for the community in which their principal farming interest is located.

A slate of at least six nominees will be developed for the community. Eligible voters are being informed of their right to nominate candidates by petition. Each petition submitted must be limited to one nominee, signed by at least three eligible voters in the community, include a certification that the nominee is willing to serve if elected and received at the County ASCS Office not later than
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HUNT

Governor Hunt Will Speak Here Friday

Governor Jim Hunt will speak to a six-county meeting of industrial development leaders Friday, Oct. 21, at 7 p. m. in the Warrenton National Guard Armory. Those counties taking part are Warren, Vance, Granville, Halifax, Person and Franklin.

The meeting is being held to discuss economic issues affecting those counties. Business leaders, and local government officials will talk with the governor about economic trends and needs in their areas.

Hosted by the Warren County Industrial Development Commission, a barbecue and Brunswick stew dinner will be held from 5:30 to 7 p. m. Advanced tickets are on sale for \$3.75, with tickets at the door selling for \$4.

The tickets are available in each township throughout Warren County and from Charles Hayes or Monroe Gardner.

Gov. Hunt is expected to speak on "Rural Area Development."

Speaker Named For Meet Here

Joe Grimsley, director of the N. C. Department of Administration will be the keynote speaker at a public conference on October 31 at 7 p. m. at the Warrenton County Court House.

The conference is geared to give citizens of Warren County a chance to discuss how they think state government can improve the economic situation in Warren County, County Manager Charles Hayes said yesterday.

The purpose of the conference is to find out what local communities believe are their own economic problems, and what they suggest local, state and federal government should do to help solve them.

Governor Jim Hunt and his staff are conducting a series of meetings on balanced growth and economic development throughout the state during October.

Governor Hunt has committed his administration to improving the economic base in the state and is seeking to attract high-wage industry.



Theaoseus Theab Clayton, Jr., and his mother, Eva, were the occupants of this wrecked vehicle in a head-on collision Friday night. Young Clayton was wedged in the car and a tractor and wrecker were required to pry open the vehicle.



In critical condition from a head-on collision is Alvin Clinton Currin, who was the driver of this vehicle. The steering column and seat were smashed.
(Story on Page 16).



Officers attending the annual Fall Meeting of District 14 hosted by the Norlina Woman's and Junior Woman's Club on Tuesday are left to right, Mrs. Pete Fleming, president of the Norlina Juniors; Mrs. L. O. Robertson, District 14 president-elect and president of the Norlina Woman's Club; Mrs. J. W. Johnson, NCFWC president; Mrs. G. W. King, District 14 president; Ms. Priscilla Davis, District 14 Junior director and Mrs. L. Murrie Lee, NCFWC third vice-president and director of juniors. The meeting at the Norlina Baptist Church was an all-day affair of speeches and awards, including a luncheon.