

## Ballance Elected As New Board Attorney

In a close vote, Warrenton attorney Frank Ballance was elected to the post of board attorney for the Warren County Board of Education last Monday night.

Ballance was chosen above one other nomination made at the meeting for the position recently relinquished by long-time attorney Frank Banzet. Al Thompson, newcomer to Warrenton employed with the firm of Banzet and Banzet, had also been nominated.

A motion first to elect Thompson was made by board member Henry Bobbitt and seconded by Mrs. Joyce Odom. Board members Dr. L. B. Henderson and Leigh Traylor voted against the motion and the tie vote was broken by board chairman Ernest Turner.

A motion to elect Ballance, made by Henderson,

and seconded by Traylor, was opposed by Bobbitt and Odom. Again, board chairman Turner cast the deciding vote in favor of Ballance.

A partner in the firm of Clayton and Ballance, Ballance will serve as board attorney for the remainder of the current school year. His term will expire June 30, 1978, at which time the board will consider the position again.

His duties are effective immediately.

The appointment of Ballance is significant in that he is the first black ever elected to serve as attorney for the Warren County Board of Education.

He has been a practicing lawyer in Warrenton since 1966 when he moved here from Orangeburg, S. C., where he was a professor of law at the South Carolina



FRANK BALLANCE

State University School of Law. He gained his undergraduate and graduate degrees from North Carolina Central University.

Married to a teacher and with three children, two of them . J. Mariam Boyd Ele-

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## Offices For Chamber Discussed

The possibility of having a Chamber of Commerce office was discussed by Warren County Chamber members meeting Thursday morning at The Carriage House in Warrenton.

Various approaches to the idea were discussed but no official action was taken, according to secretary Lewis Meyers.

Discussion centered most on establishing a long-range planning committee to look at the Chamber's function in Warren County and what can be done to expand present services.

In other discussion, the Chamber went on record in support of smoke detector installations in homes, particularly with the approach of the Christmas season.

Warrenton Fire Chief McCarroll Alston urged the group to support the use of smoke detectors in private homes and businesses.

A report from Charles Hayes, director of industrial development, disclosed a rising activity among industrial prospects for Warren County.

## More Enforced Tax Laws Advised By Supervisor

Changes in existing tax listing procedures as well as more careful enforcement of tax listing laws might be profitable points to consider, the Warren County Board of Commissioners was told recently.

Janice Haynes, tax supervisor for Warren County, advised the board to be aware of adjustments which could affect the county's tax base and subsequent budget

in 1978.

Having considerable impact upon the tax base, listed at \$177,632,682 in 1977, are the number of underlisted business property inventories. Mrs. Haynes told the board that some inventories were "very low" and that the negligent owners should be advised of possible prosecution.

North Carolina statutes declare willful improper

listing a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of \$500 or imprisonment of six months.

Mrs. Haynes said the county tax office has been involved primarily in the property revaluation process of the preceding two years and has not been able to thoroughly check local property tax listings with those filed in the state Department of Revenue.

However, North Carolina law likewise allows local tax authorities access to any information which would assist the tax authority in securing complete tax listings.

Mrs. Haynes said later last week that she hopes to make a check of listings for the past five years to update her own information. The practice of underlisting business property is not a new development, she said.

The check of tax books would probably not be possible until late next spring, she noted, as listings for 1978 will be received during January.

Commissioners, in discussing the matter, agreed that offenders of the tax law should first be warned of the impropriety before any action is taken against them.

Mrs. Haynes said businesses in the county would be notified in some manner of the county's concern.

The tax supervisor also advised the commissioners to weigh the fiscal impact of the Elderly Exclusion Act for 1978, in which changes were enacted by the General

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## Development Team Being Formed To Attract Industry

An industrial development team is being formed to more skillfully attract potential industrial clients into the area.

Charles Hayes, industrial development director for Warren County, said Monday the team is being formed now and is expected to be a viable, working group soon.

Although representatives have not been permanently selected, Hayes said a number of individuals had expressed interest by attending the first training session several weeks ago. A second training session,

in which the county's geographical and commercial features were emphasized, was held Monday night.

Hayes said positions to represent finance, marketing services and transportation, livability, government and taxes, health, planning, schools and utilities would be created on the team.

The concept of an industrial development team is not new, Hayes said. Other similarly rural counties have employed the techniques of introducing prospective clients to an informed, persuasive group of individuals who "sell" the

county's attractive points.

Hayes met with state industrial leaders last week to review procedures being used to attract industries to North Carolina.

In a report by L. C. Cooper, plans for the chamber's annual banquet were aired. Although no date has yet been set, an evening early in January was advised.

The date for the banquet will depend upon the

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## Consolidated School Property Deeds Signed; Bidding Set

Property deeds were signed last week as the Warren County Board of Education moved forward in another step toward providing a consolidated high school.

Newly appointed board attorney Frank Ballance told members that all documents were to be drafted that week for acquiring the 42-acre tract on US 158 bypass. Two year options to buy 18.46 acres from L. A. Hawks and 23.82 acres from Mrs. Janet Connell were also approved.

The reserved real estate will assure the board a total parcel of about 80 acres if it is able to exercise the options later.

Ballance told the board that the deed for the tract of land owned by L. A. Hawks must be redrafted to include a phase concerning crop allotments.

Otherwise, he said, the only other legal technicality concerning the deeds is a separate document granting Mrs. Connell a 60-foot right of way into the property.

Bids for the first phase of construction will be reviewed during a bid opening ceremony Nov. 30 at 3 p.m. If no problems are encountered and the contract is awarded to the low bidder, work could begin on the site within three or four weeks, if not sooner.

The Board of Education has until Dec. 30 to put into use some portion of the \$1 million granted by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to expand employment opportunities in the area.

If construction is not evident on the site by Dec. 30; the school system may be forced to forfeit the money.

Already available is an additional \$1 million in state capital improvements funds for a complete \$2 million building package.

Former state director of school planning Dr. J. L. Pierce, now hired as consultant to the Warren County school board advised the board to spend available funds carefully with the

expectation that further state or federal support would be forthcoming later for the consolidated school.

In other action, the board was advised by school superintendent J. R. Peeler that each school in the system keep individual inventories of items costing more than \$100.

Peeler said the recommendation had been made by the school auditor who, in a recent audit, found school records to be substantially year's time.

All departments at each school will be asked to keep a list of items needed and purchased. It is not unusual, the school superintendent said, for a school to handle as much as \$100,000 in a year's time.

In addition, Peeler said an inventory of values for each building in the system should be tabulated and filed by the board of education.

The list may differ from the value according to insurance policies.



Members of the Warren County Health Board were the first to take advantage of a diagnostic disease screening clinic offered by the Warren County Health Department. During a trial run of the operation Friday, board member Charles Somerville has his pulse checked by Mrs. Rebecca Green, nurse coordinator.

## Screening Clinic To Open At Warren Health Department

A comprehensive chronic disease screening clinic is scheduled to begin Monday at the Warren County Health Department.

Dennis Retzlaff, health educator with the department, said the clinic will serve as a screening device to detect any previously undetected chronic diseases, such as cancer or high blood pressure, in a patient.

The clinic is open to all persons aged 18 or more; however, services will be administered by appointment only and patients will be limited initially until the program becomes more fully developed.

Special targets are those persons who receive only infrequent medical attention.

A flat rate of \$3.50 per visit will be charged to help defray costs of the program. Low income persons who cannot afford the fee will not be turned away, however, said Retzlaff.

Primarily, he said, the clinic will provide screening first for possible disease and referral services later should evidence of disease exist.

The clinic is made possible through a \$48,000 grant obtained by HealthCo in Soul City.

Carolyn Klyce, director of the Warren County Health Department, said the program will "try to reach the hard-to-reach."

"Basically, it is open to everyone but we will make a special effort through health education to contact those

who do not normally come in to get a physical examination."

Screening for disease, she noted, is not to be interpreted as a diagnosis but more as an indication of possible illness.

Patrons of the clinic will undergo routine procedures in the physical check-up. Blood samples or smears taken will be sent to the state health laboratories for analysis.

The clinic, a branch of the department's health education program, is expected to be the first of a series of comprehensive efforts to improve the health of all county residents.

Mrs. Rebecca Green is nurse coordinator for the clinic.

## Accidental Shooting Kills Maryland Boy

A three-year-old, Maryland Boyd, in Warren County to attend his great-grandfather's funeral, was shot and killed Thursday morning.

The Warren County Sheriff's Department listed the death as excusable homicide.

According to Deputies Bolton and Bartholomew, young Kevin Copeland Hanson and his brother, Reginald, age four, were playing in a bedroom at the residence of Robert Silver in the Bethlehem community around noon Thursday.

The adults were eating in the kitchen before going to the funeral when they heard the gun blast.

Entering the bedroom, they found Kevin lying on the floor with a wound in the head. The brother said he shot him.

The deputies noted the owner said the loaded gun — a .22 calibre rifle — was under the bed.

The Warren County Ambulance Service administered to the youth but he was pronounced dead at Warren General Hospital.

He is survived by his mother, Ms. Diane Coplin, and two brothers.

The body was taken to Stewart Funeral Home in Washington, D. C., where funeral arrangements were to be made.

## Warren Declared Eligible For Loans

Warren County is one of 56 counties in North Carolina declared eligible for Small Business Administration loans (SBA) to farmers, according to James A. Graham, commissioner for agriculture.

"Farmers in these counties, who suffered physical damage due to crop losses resulting from last summer's drought, are eligible for SBA loans. The interest rate will be 3 per cent for the \$250,000 and six and five-eighths per cent for any amount over that up to a maximum of \$500,000," the commissioner explained.

Deadline for these physical disaster loan applications has been extended to Dec. 30.

Under the program, about 50 per cent of an SBA loan may be used to cover a farmer's anticipated, established, normal crop yield at planting season's prices. The remainder will be disbursed to cover production costs of a new crop.

The first part of a loan may be used to pay outstanding obligations due

to loss of crops and livestock including accounts, loans, notes and reasonable operating and living expenses. The remainder will be used for production cost of a new crop.

Eligible counties, in addition to Warren, Alamance, Alexander, Anson, Bladen, Cabarrus, Caswell, Catawba, Chatham, Cleveland, Cumberland, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery,

Moore, Nash, Northampton, Orange, Person, Pitt, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wayne, Wilson and Yadkin.

Application for SBA loans may be made from 8:15 a. m. to 4:45 p. m. Monday through Friday at SBA offices in Charlotte, Clinton, Greensboro, Greenville and Raleigh.

## Steed Honored By FFA At 50th Anniversary

Howell H. Steed of Rt. 2, Warrenton, was honored during the 50th anniversary convention of Future Farmers of America held in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 9-11.

Steed, who is a charter member of the FFA, attended Middleburg High School. His teacher was George B. Blum. Steed was FFA's first state secretary and was charter member of the organization's North Carolina chapter.

Being recognized for outstanding leadership in molding the organization, Steed received a certificate and medallion.

The FFA charter members were honored by a special breakfast sponsored by the Kansas City Board of Trade. Dr. A. W. Tenny, retired National FFA Advisor and author of the "FFA at 50" history book, spoke at the breakfast.

Each charter member received a complimentary copy of the book from the publisher, French-Bray Printing Co.

FFA started in Kansas



Steed

City in 1928 for the purpose of giving vocational agriculture students the opportunity to participate in group activities that were closely related to their knowledge and interest in agriculture.

The FFA has been recognized since the beginning for its outstanding leadership development program.

Steed is director of pupil personnel services for Vance County schools.