

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Higher Utility Bills May Mean Lower Food Stamps Cost

Food stamp households who have to pay more for their heating or utility bills may pay less for their food stamps this winter, according to the Warren County Department of Social Services.

Under new food stamp rules effective Jan. 1, households may be able to get adjustments in their food stamp purchase price if heating and-or utility bills increase by more than \$25 over the previous month.

Barbara Kinton, food stamp supervisor, said the number of households actually affected in Warren County would not be that great.

A standard utility allowance is already being given to eligible households on a per person basis. Households that exceed this allowance will be given an extra deduction from their food stamp costs.

The allowance as presently established is \$50 for a one-person household; \$67 for two persons; \$83 for three persons; and \$100 for a four-person household.

Kinton said few families are expected to exceed this allowance.

Working with all food stamp households or potential households will be Janet Hilliard, food stamp eligibility specialist and outreach worker.

Hilliard will spend a good portion of her time out in the field seeking eligible food stamp recipients.

Generally, food stamp purchase prices are based on income after allowable deductions. When deductions for heating and utility costs increase, however, purchase prices may go down because there is less income available to the household.

Kinton said Warren County food stamp households will now be able to use their most recent utility bill to claim larger deductions even if the bills have not yet been paid.

Households for which standard tables were used to compute the deduction for utility cost will be able to switch from the standard allowance to actual bills only once during the certification period.

Other households may switch to the standard allowance once during their certification period or to the standard when it is updated.

Allowable heating and utility bills include heating and cooking fuel, electricity, water and sewer, garbage and trash collection and basic telephone services.

Allotments increased
In addition to cost adjustments for high utility bills, food stamp allotments for
(Continued on page 12)



Gifts from Santa put the light of expectation on the faces of these youngsters during the Warrenton Lions Club annual Christmas party Sunday at the Lions Den.

This youngster, held by a Lioness, almost seems reluctant to take a package as big as herself but she was finally persuaded.
(Staff Photo)

Grant Enables Opening Of School Plants

A \$12,500 grant has been approved for funding of a community schools project in Warren County by the State Board of Education.

The money will be used locally to set up a program whereby school facilities may be opened up on a regular basis to public use.

At last Monday's meeting of the Warren County Board of Education, Superintendent J. R. Peeler told members the grant would be sufficient to hire a program coordinator, to keep gymnasium open and operating and possibly to pay additional wages to coaches who would like to work with the public at nights or on weekends.

lion will be appropriated in 1977-78 to schools through the community schools project. Approved by the 1977 General Assembly; the project is meant to encourage greater community involvement in the public schools and greater community use of public school facilities.

Warren County is one of 63 school systems reviewed by the Interagency Council on Community Schools composed of parents, educators and representatives from state agencies.

In letters to the school superintendent and to board chairman Ernest Turner, Gov. James Hunt said, "By opening our school facilities for greater use and by increasing community communication between our schools and communities, we can encourage people to use their talents and abilities to improve the quality of life in their own communities."

The program coordinator, or community schools director, will work directly with community groups to encourage the use of school facilities and help develop citizen advisory councils.

Although the program is scheduled to be effective Jan. 1, 1978, through June 30, no person has yet been hired as manager in Warren County.

Superintendent Peeler informed board members that applications were not screened.

Warren County has applied for a \$32,000 appropriation through the program. Other appropriations to school systems in this region included \$25,000 to Vance, \$25,000 to Northampton, \$13,210 to Franklinton and
(Continued on page 12)

Stores Will Close To Observe Holidays

As Christmas approaches, schools, offices and businesses prepare for their respective holidays.

County and state offices will take Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26, as holidays while the federal offices will have only Monday as a day off.
Warren County school

children will begin their long holiday today (Wednesday) after a regular school day. They will return Monday, Jan. 2.

Students at Warren Academy will follow a similar holiday schedule.

Elsewhere, private businesses will deter-

mine their own hours of opening. Scott Gardner, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce's merchants division in Warrenton said many Warrenton merchants would be closed Monday and Tuesday following Christmas.

Others will be closed only on Monday.

Most merchants in Norlina indicated that Monday would be taken as a holiday but that business would resume as usual on Tuesday.

The Warren Record will be closed Monday. News contributors are urged to get their news in early for next week's edition.

The Meaning Of Christmas Endures All Ages

By HELEN HOLT
News Editor

Christmas past, Christmas present, Christmas future... All have different interpretations of the era in which their celebrations were observed.

Christmas has changed. With the coming of special travel, microwave cookery and bionic dolls that bend double instead of merely shedding tears like the doll babies of yesterday, the day was bound to change. At least for some.

But for many others, Christmas remains a day unlike any other day of the year. It recalls revered traditions, special feelings, warm reunions with families far and near. Christmas of the past and present will always be Christmas of the future for these souls.

Leon King of Rt. 3, Warrenton, said Christmas had changed a lot for him. He still enjoys it as a special time of the year however.

"We used to have a big time at Christmas," he said. "I'd get up at 2 o'clock in the morning and go see Mamie (then his sweetheart, now his wife of a number of Christmases). I'd go see her every Christmas morning."

"We'd sit around and talk and open up things," King reflected. "Then we would go around to different homes and visit."

King said Christmas has changed, that he "doesn't get as much out of it" as he used to. But, he assented, the season is still one that everyone should enjoy.

Miss Elizabeth Allen wouldn't consent to having her picture taken but did share willingly her conceptions of Christmas Day.

"It means beautiful church services and music and your family coming to see you," she declared enthusiastically. "It means traditional food, turkey, ham, tipsy cake, coconut pie, candies and sweets and

nuts. "If I change one thing," she said knowingly. "My people will fuss. So I just have the same things every year."

Miss Allen paused a bit. "Christmas means doing something for other people. It's a time when you can give a few people a little extra pleasure."

Mary Frances Rodwell, assistant register of deeds at the county courthouse, remembered Christmas most as a time of gathering the family together.

"We always had a happy family at our home," she said. "It was small but it was happy. We always celebrated Christmas and looked forward to its coming."

The youngsters in the family naturally enjoyed the gift giving and Santa's arrival.

"I can remember getting so excited that I couldn't go to sleep," she said. "We thoroughly enjoyed the

small gifts and fruits we got. We just didn't go into it in a big way."

Everyone was remembered though, even the pets, she added.

Theo Williams, deputy sheriff with the Warren County Sheriff's Department, pondered the meaning of Christmas just briefly before deciding upon what means most to him.

"I'll put it this way," he said. "It means to me a cheerful gift to know who your friends are, the one that come by and say hello."

"It means a lot to hear the Christ child was born in the manger."

The elderly, the needy and the lonely are also important at Christmas, said Williams.

"Giving to the poor and seeing gifts go out to all the senior citizens is another true meaning of Christmas," he said.

The humanitarian approach was echoed by

Bertha Forte, home extension agent in the county agricultural office.

"To me, Christmas means making others happy and doing things for others who are less fortunate," Forte said. "That's how I arrive at a joyous and happy Christmas."

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Mrs. Forte is chairman of Warren County's Operation Santa Claus at Murdoch Center in Butner.

Christmas means also happy traditions such as the Christmas tree, going to church for a special service and a big Christmas dinner.

The holiday has changed for Mrs. Forte, in some very positive ways.

"When I was growing up, I was more prone to think of myself. Now that I am

grown and know better, I try to think of others. And I try not to get too engulfed in spending money, buying gifts foolishly for those who aren't in need."

Tommy Peoples, a resident in the Afton community and bus driver for the Warren County schools for years, said he has been looking forward to Christmas and the presents that come along with it.

"Christmas means getting up with your family and being well and all together again," Peoples said. "We usually go to my sister's house and eat breakfast. I have a niece and nephew."

Peoples acknowledged that Christmas has changed since "the time we grew up. Kids grow up faster than they used to. Santa Claus doesn't mean as much as he did for as long a time now."

Hazel R. Dale of Arcola described Christmas "as a time of happiness."

"We've always had a

get-together at Christmas with dinner on Christmas Day. We would open the packages together.

"It's just a good day that I enjoy."

Christmas means a holiday for Everett Harris, an Arcola native now living in Ridgeway and manager of Gulf Service Station in Warrenton.

"We'll be closed on Christmas," Harris said emphatically. "That's the only day we close during the year, except Sunday's."

But the holiday will be short-lived for the attendant. He said he won't be able to sleep late because of the animals he has to feed.

And he won't be able to go hunting like he used to because he's of "old age," he said.

He will manage a good dinner, he said, by going to his house for dinner and to his sister's house for supper.

There, the family enjoys a traditional Christmas.

"The only thing that's really changed for me is that I used to look forward to getting presents and now I look forward to the children getting presents."

Johnnie Shearin of Afton said Christmas means "being happy and feeling good."

"Christmas used to mean a whole lot to me. Santa Claus was something important and we enjoyed the toys," Shearin said there were five children in his family back then.

"I still enjoy my grandchildren at Christmas-I have about 12 or 14 grandchildren, I guess."

Shearin said he and his family sometimes go to church and sometimes stay home. Overall, Christmas hasn't changed that much for him.

"I don't know," he said, contemplating. "Since I've gotten older I've experienced more things. I'll be thankful if I live to see Christmas."



LEON KING



MARY F. RODWELL



THEO WILLIAMS



TOMMY PEOPLES



BERTHA FORTE



EVERETT HARRIS



JOHNNIE SHEARIN