

Snowfall Reminder Of 1857

The snow storm which has just passed, naturally reminds one of other great snow storms, one of which occurred in 1857, recorded in "The County Of Warren," by Manly Wade Wellman, from the diary of Mrs. Anna Jones Pritchard, and called to the attention of The Warren Record by Harry Williams of Warrenton.

Wellman relates that Christmas of 1856 was happily celebrated, as usual, by religious observance, fireworks, family parties and dinners, and general good will. But with the New Year came cold weather, which by mid-January became a snow storm terrible beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Anna Pritchard wrote, with characteristic vivid details, her impressions of an experience which was generally the experience of the whole county:

"Saturday, January 17th, about the middle of the day, large flakes of snow fell, for a few minutes. It then brightened up. After sundown the night set in windy and dark as pitch. The wind howled, mourned, whistled and sighed; at 10 o'clock the snow commenced falling — or rather pouring down and continued all night and all day Sunday without ceasing.

"It was an awful night, the wind was fearful, the cold was biting. The snow was driven in every direction. Water on our mantle in a very warm chamber was solid ice, eggs near the fire were frozen and burst. Sunday, the snow fell in blinding clouds, all day. The wind was, if possible, worse than during the night — it burst open the shutters, and drove in the snow through crevices too small for rain. At the bottom and the top and the joints of every door and window, the snow poured in, and in the direction from which the wind blowed, the snow under every door and window was several inches deep.

"In one of our upstairs rooms, there were three panes of glass broken from one window, and although the shutters were tightly closed and there was a heavy curtain hanging up the whole room was covered with snow. During Sunday night the snow ceased falling, but Monday was just as bad a day as Sunday, the wind had not abated in the least, and the snow was so dry it blew about in clouds, absolutely blinding. Travelling was out of the question, in many places the snow was 8 to 10 feet deep, in other places there was none; the average depth was two feet deep — at the lowest calculation.

"The weather was the coldest ever known in the South, we kept constant fire in our room and our breath would freeze to the covering. People who attempted to walk would fall down every two or three minutes. The snow from our kitchen door had to have a ditch cut in it for a pass way. Tuesday morning, a pitcher of water, that sat over the fire all night, (and which was closely covered) was a solid piece of ice. Wednesday night, the wind arose about eleven o'clock and an inch of snow fell during the night. Last winter, the weather was said to have been the (Continued on page 9)



Drifting snow covers a residential street in Warrenton Monday as the sun came out for the first time in three days, ending the year's heaviest snowfall. Schools were closed and business operations curtailed by the blizzard-like storm which struck the Eastern Seaboard Saturday and Sunday. (Staff Photo)

Between 10-12 Inches Fall

Snowfall Cripples Warren

A major winter snow storm blew across Warren County last weekend, snarling traffic and closing schools and businesses in its wake. During two days of fierce blowing the storm

dropped between 10 and 12 inches of snow on Warren County.

Temperatures gradually warmed Tuesday and Wednesday, marking a steady thaw. By Wednesday

schools had re-opened and business houses were open as usual.

Most Warren County residents were house-bound on Saturday and Sunday as the major storm raged through North Carolina, virtually shutting down the state from the mountains to the coast.

Snow, which began falling in mid-morning Saturday, began to taper off early Sunday night, leaving behind one of the deepest snowfalls of recent memory.

Department of Transportation employees worked steadily to clear the county's major roads, and a scraper from the North Carolina National Guard was pressed into service Monday to clear streets in Warrenton's residential areas.

Precinct Meetings Slated

Precinct meetings will be held Thursday, March 13, at 8 p. m. at the polling place in each precinct, Floyd McKissick, Jr., Democratic Party chairman, announced yesterday.

The purpose of the meetings will be to elect delegates to the Warren County Democratic Party Convention which will be held at noon on April 19 at the Warren County Court House, he said. All active Democrats are eligible to attend the precinct meetings.

McKissick said Democratic officials wanted to encourage all voters to request absentee ballots from the Board of Elections, if they will be unable to be present to vote in the May 6 Primary.

He said chairmen and vice chairmen of each precinct, as well as members of the Warren County Democratic Women's Club now have tickets available for the Meet The Candidates Dinner to be held April 18 at 7 p. m. at the Mariam Boyd School in Warrenton.



This sailing craft, a harbinger of Spring, must await warmer weather before putting to sea. Snow covers the vessel from stem to stern as between 10 and 12 inches of powdery precipitation fell in Warren County during the weekend. (Staff Photo)

Regional Sewage System Bids Exceed Available Funds Here

Million Dollars Needed To Close Bid Gap

Low bids for the construction of a proposed Warren County regional sewage treatment plant at Warrenton, opened at the court house on Wednesday of last week, exceeded available funds by approximately a million dollars, Glen Newsome, County Manager, said this week.

Newsome, who blamed HUD for the shortfall, said that Warren County would appeal to other government agencies for grants. He said that bids received here last Wednesday were good for 90 days.

The County Manager explained that rising costs due to inflation were responsible for the increase in the amount of bids. HUD, he said, was responsible for some eight months delay in the submission of bids.

Present for the opening of the bids were Newsome, Assistant Administrator Jim Whitley, W. J. (Jack) Harris, Chairman of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, Bill Barlow and Bill Buck of Raleigh, engineers with L. E. Wooten, County Engineers for Warren County.

Seven bids for the construction of the general base of the treatment plant and four bids for electrical construction were submitted, Newsome said. Two bids for plumbing construction were not opened because the law requires a minimum of three bids. Bids for this part of the project will have to be re-advertised, Newsome said.

Apparent low bids offered by three of the seven firms submitting bids for base construction were as follows:

Dickerson, Inc., of Monroe, \$4,398,000; Christopher Construction Company of Columbia, Ohio, \$399,000; Paul W. Howard Construction Company of Greensboro, \$4,478,000.

The apparent low bidder for electrical construction was Richards and Associates of Carrollton, Ga., whose bid was \$340,000. Other bidders were Watson Electrical Company of Wilson, \$365,000; Campbell Electric Company of Wilson, \$374,946; and Modern Electric Company of Durham, \$399,500.

John Thomas Harris, contractor for the construction of a water line from Soul City to Warrenton, by way of Norlina, accompanied by William S. (Bill) Davis, appeared at the bid opening meeting on Wednesday of last week. Harris said that the delay caused by HUD had also increased the cost of labor and materials for the water project. He estimated this increase in costs to be some \$18,000.

Newsome said that the county feels that Harris is entitled to an increase beyond his regular bid, and that this could be worked out. He said that he had asked Harris to complete the water project without waiting for a settlement to be worked out.



PLAN FUND DRIVE—Mapping plans for Heart Day for Business are (left to right) Charles Hayes, chairman, Tom Peele and George "Pepi" Perkinson. Solicitation of businesses in Warren County will take place today (Thursday) and is part of an over-all fund raising activity which will conclude this weekend with Heart Sunday. (Staff Photo)

Per Capita Assessment Increased By Region K

By TALMADGE EDWARDS, JR.

A thirty-nine cents per capita assessment was approved for local support of the administrative costs of the Region K Council of Governments at the regular monthly meeting on February 28 at the Middleburg Steakhouse in Vance County.

Representatives of county and municipal governmental units as well as at-large members from Franklin, Granville, Person, Vance and Warren counties approved the budget committee's recommended 31 percent increase in local appropriations for support of Council activities for the 1980-81 fiscal year. The assessment for participating units of government in 1979-80 was 29.69 cents per capita.

The new assessment would increase the total local contribution from all participating counties and municipalities from \$39,784 in 1979-80 to \$52,258 in the 1980-81 fiscal year.

Since the five-county area is designated by the State as "Region K" for the purposes of planning and coordination, and is not an official governing entity, the assess-

ment rate approved by the Council will be subject to the approval of the entire memberships of boards of commissioners in each participating county and municipality.

The total 1979-80 Region K Council of Governments budget of \$1,286,716 includes appropriations from participating units of government plus any new or ongoing federal and State grants which are channeled through the COG administrative office en route to a recipient county, municipality or program. The COG administration is normally permitted to use at least eight to ten percent of project grants for administrative costs.

The Budget Committee, which is currently composed of Jack Harris of Warren County, J. B. Oakley of Person County, Tim Pegram from Vance County, Jack Carey of Granville County, O. E. Perkinson from Kittrell, R. G. Young, Jr. of Henderson and Hugh Currin from Oxford, met at 5:30 p. m. on February 28 at the Kerr-Tar (Region K) Council of Governments office in Henderson to consider the assessment rate proposed by Council Executive Direc-

tor J. D. Everett. The Committee voted at that time to recommend the 39 cents assessment rate to the total Council.

Fire District Approval Expected On Monday

The Afton-Elberon Fire District is expected to be approved by the Warren County Board of Commissioners here Monday morning. The commissioners will meet at 9:30 o'clock.

Monday's meeting is a substitute meeting for the regular First Monday meeting in order that the commissioners might attend a meeting of the National Association of County Commissioners in Washington, D. C. However, Warren County was not represented at the Washington meeting because of the weekend snow storm.

Approval of the Afton-Elberon Fire District by the Commissioners should result in lower fire insurance rates for inhabitants of the district eligible to share in Firemen's Relief and Benefits and Retirement Funds, Glen Newsome, County Manager, said yesterday.



Warrenton Merchant Jimmy Roberts opens a path from sidewalk to street Monday as residents of Warren County began digging out from under the deepest snowfall of the winter. (Staff Photo)