

Fleming Resigns WGH Post

George E. Fleming, administrator of Warren General Hospital, has resigned "effective on a date to be set by the Hospital Board."

Fleming said in his letter of resignation, which he presented to the board last Thursday, "I cannot remain part of a health care delivery system which allows the continuation of a standard of care which is below that which is minimally acceptable."

He said that the resignation was acting "within the dictates of conscience," and that he would continue to serve as administrator of the hospital to the best of his ability until the board set a date for him to leave.

Roy P. Robertson, chairman of the hospital board, said that the board had voted Feb. 17 as the date for Fleming's last day.

Robertson said that the board did not ask Fleming to resign. He said there have been some problems in the past few months at the hospital but the board had not attributed them to Fleming.

Robertson said that Fleming had returned to Warren County from military service and had been administrator for the hospital for the past two years. He added that Fleming had been in hospital administration during his military service.

Asked Tuesday afternoon if he had any further comments, Fleming said no, that they would serve no useful purpose and further controversy might hurt the hospital.

Robertson said that Fleming's remarks possibly referred to emergency room calls, and that in his opinion Fleming feels that emergency room service was not being performed by some of the doctors, but not all of them, as it should be.

Fleming has done a lot of positive things for the hospital and the board most certainly did not ask him to leave, Robertson said.

Robertson said he was going to ask Amy Norwood, the hospital's assistant administrator to fill in as acting administrator until a man could be found to fill the job.

Fire Department

Wants Own Land

Members of the Church-Hill-Five Forks Volunteer Fire Department have set their sights on a goal of purchasing land for a proposed fire house.

The idea blossomed at the department's regular meeting held Thursday at 8 p. m. in the Educational Building of Gardner's Baptist Church when squad members discussed the building with a representative of a pre-fabricated building firm.

Members agreed to take donations at two locations - Allen Adcock at the Warren County Farm Bureau Office near Warrenton and Rebecca Robinson at Tillie's Beauty Shop in Norlina.

Everette King was elected as new treasurer of the volunteer fire department.



These educators took part in a district meeting of the North Carolina School Board Association held at Mariam Boyd School on Thursday. Having roles at the concluding banquet were, left to right, Dr. Joseph Bryson of the UNC-G School of Education; Henry Bobbitt, III, president of the District VI Association; Dot Kearns, NCSBA president; Mike Williams, NCSBA District VI secretary; and Leigh Traylor, chairman, Warren County Board of Education. (Staff Photo)

Public Education Is Under Attack, Educator Contends

By TALMADGE EDWARDS, JR.

Public education in the 1980's is encountering attacks and pressures which threaten to undermine the purposes for which it was established, in the view of a UNC-Greensboro professor of education.

Dr. Joseph Bryson presented his concerns to school board members, educators and others gathered at Mariam Boyd Elementary School in Warrenton Thursday evening. He said the circumstances and events of the 1980's may drastically alter the American education system as it has developed over the past 170 years.

The growing number of private schools pressures on government for tax credits and vouchers for attendance at private and parochial schools, and the easing of state regulation of church operated schools were some examples he gave of the apparent loss of support for public education.

He noted also the widespread questioning of teacher competency and job tenure.

"Universal public education is America's greatest contribution to western civilization," Bryson proclaimed, "and we must never forget it."

He said the idea of human progress is a fairly recent concept which first gained wide acceptance in the 18th century. He pointed out early Christian theology and philosophy dwelt on man's depravity and imperfectability.

Making the best of the status quo was the best Socrates, Aristotle and Plato could recommend, Bryson remarked.

The settlement of America and the rise of democratic government sparked a belief all people can be uplifted and progress when opportunity and freedom are made available, Bryson said.

He noted Thomas Jefferson was the first known person to write that man has a right to be happy. Jefferson's and Horace Mann's belief that education of the masses is a prerequisite

for self-government and progress was also stressed by Bryson.

"Never will wisdom preside in the halls of legislators until common schools create a more far seeing intelligence and a purer morality than has ever existed among the community of humans," he quoted from Mann.

Bryson credited America's system of free public education for the successful assimilation and amalgamation of diverse groups of people into a powerful democratic nation with a standard of living second to none.

He said America's schools absorb, reflect and effect changes and upheavals in American society. He mentioned sputnik, Viet Nam, integration, assassinations, the flower children, student protests and the drug culture as examples of tragedy, challenge, fragmentation and unrest since 1954.

The fact many people expect schools to maintain the status quo was pointed out by Bryson. "How can progress be sustained through education that maintains the status quo?" he questioned.

He cautioned school board members, educators, commissioners and parents the public school must adapt to new realities, needs and challenges in order to survive

the 1980's as a viable democratic institution.

Members of the District VI N. C. School Boards Association also took part in presentations and discussions with Dot Kearns, president of the NCSBA; Gene Causby, executive director of NCSBA; Jerome Melton, deputy supt. of public instruction, and Ed Regan, fiscal analyst for the N. C. Association of County Commissioners.

H. D. Bobbitt, III of the Warren County Board of Education presided over the proceedings. Rufus Pace of the Franklinton Board of Education is vice-president of the District VI Association and Mike Williams, superintendent of Warren County Schools, is secretary.

Entertainment was provided by the combined Warren County Elementary Chorus directed by Gloria Turner and the North Warren Middle School Chorus directed by Ardith Roddy.

Banquet table decorations were provided by the Warren County Schools art program.

School Administrative units in the District VI N. C. School Boards Association are Durham City, Durham County, Franklin County, Franklinton City, Granville County, Vance County, Wake County and Warren County.

Brothers Are Charged

Two brothers from Halifax County, charged with shooting into a Warren County residence and store as well as two buildings in Halifax County, are in Halifax County Jail. The arrest on Tuesday morning was made by Warren County Deputy Dorsey Capps and Halifax County Deputy Horace Hedgepeth in Halifax County.

Charged with four shooting incidents on Monday night were Ronnie Mills, 23, and his brother, Mawthan Mills, 18.

According to information received from the Warren County Sheriff's Department on Wednesday morning, the Mills

brothers allegedly fired a shotgun into the home of Raleigh Settlers and the store of Larry Gupton, both in Warren County, causing considerable damage. Following the shooting in both incidents an automobile was heard leaving the scene following the shooting.

The Sheriff's Department did not know the details of the shooting in Halifax County other than it involved two buildings.

Sheriff Davis said that warrants for the two brother's arrest would be issued by Warren County following a hearing and possibly sentencing in Halifax County.

Supermarket Wrecked

Pre-Dawn Tornado Rips Through Norlina

A tornado touched down in Norlina with violent results early Wednesday morning, causing considerable damage to residential areas, trailers and ripping the roof off a local supermarket.

The vicious windstorm, which residents said sounded like the roar of a freight train, tore through a section of town at about 4:20 a. m. causing destruction wherever it touched down.

Police Chief Romey Williams said the hardest hit home in the area was James P. King's house on Snipes Street, where "half the back end of the house was ripped off." Williams said a car and truck were also damaged as the garage at the King home collapsed.

Damage to trees was widespread. The focal point of the storm early Wednesday was Norlina Red & White, which suffered the loss of its plate glass windows and had nearly the entire roof torn off. Proprietor Durwood Johnson said he arrived

at 4:35 following a call by Norlina police and found water an inch deep inside the store.

He said bypassers were wonderful, all pitching in to help clean debris and cover stock and shelving with plastic, which was also draped across the

roof area of the store.

Mrs. Lib Martin and three children were in a trailer blown off its foundation on Elm Street, Williams reported. None was hurt.

Mrs. Sara Wright of Old Warrenton Road had damage to her trailer,

half the carport of Jesse Currin of Division Street was destroyed and the house shifted on its foundation. Also shifted on its foundation was the home of Clifton Hicks on High Street, where a portion of roof was torn away by the storm.

Successor Is Sought

Henderson Resigns Position On Warren Education Board

Dr. L. B. Henderson, Jr., Warrenton dentist and veteran member of the Warren County Board of Education, Monday night stepped down from his school post, citing the stress created by the office as his primary reason. No successor was chosen.

Instead, board members agreed that nominations from all persons in

the county should be solicited in an effort to fill Dr. Henderson's vacancy by next month. Persons residing in the Warrenton district only will be eligible for appointment to serve out the balance of Dr. Henderson's term, which expires in December, 1982.

Dr. Henderson's resignation, effective immediately, took the form of a

two-page letter to the board, which he served as vice-chairman. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Chairman and Board Members:

"It is with some regret that I submit this letter of resignation from the Warren County Board of Education, effective immediately. The trauma of seven years of pressure, the many negative calls that completely outweigh the positive ones, take a lot out of a person. I feel, for the sake of my own peace of mind that I should not subject myself to any more stress. With this in mind, and some other personal reasons, I feel that it is in my best interest to resign. In other words, I am tired.

"I must say that I have appreciated the complimentary calls and I am happy to see some of the programs that I have worked so hard for in operation; especially, the elementary music and elementary foreign languages after-school programs. As a parent, I will still work wholeheartedly with the school system, and do all I can to give us a system for all students which will be second to none.

"Being the last member of the old board and administration of four or five years ago, I have seen that each group has its own personality and its ability to solve problems. The boards and administrations that are flexible, and yet devoted to an idea, seem to solve problems quicker. Give and take is a must and unity is important. Some of my observations are as follows:

"A. The total school system should be evaluated at intervals by an outside consulting firm or by consultants who are objective and not by friends. This should include evaluations of the board and the administrative unit which usually are not evaluated at all, or not as closely as the teachers are. This is a must to accentuate our positive points and improve on our negative ones.

"B. I feel that board members should serve for a limited time probably two or three

'Victor Harrison Day' Termed Complete Success

Promoters at John Graham High School this week proclaimed "Victor Harrison Day" and Pig Pickin' a decided success.

The event was held at the Warrenton Lions Den at 6 p.m. Saturday. In addition to barbecue pig the menu consisted of boiled potatoes, cole slaw, lightbread, and ice tea. Plates were served by John Graham cheerleaders.

Van Dawson Alston served as master of ceremonies. The invocation was pronounced by Attorney

T. T. Clayton.

The Lion's Den had been attractively decorated by Girls Basketball Coach Terry Jenny, his wife, Cathy, and John Graham Cheerleaders. Attached to the walls were UNC pennants, for the pleasure of Victor Harrison, former John Graham High School three-sports star, now a starter on the University of North Carolina Football Team, his two teammates, who accompanied him from Chapel Hill, Running Back Kelvin Bryant and Quarterback Roy Elkins,

Coach and Mrs. Denny Marcin of Chapel Hill, and the scores of University of North Carolina fans present for the occasion.

Coach Marcin was the main speaker. He praised Victor Harrison for his athletic ability, for his character, as a young athlete, and for his abilities of entertainer and student, and told of recruiting the John Graham athlete for the UNC Football Team.

Fortunately, Coach Marcin said, Victor was a good student, as the University of North Carolina has a policy of issuing scholarships to students whom they think will graduate. This is no easy task for students who have to spend five hours a day in practice, and a boy must be a good student to keep up his grade.

Coach Marcin, illustrating his point, said that Coach Crum would not tolerate sloppy work on either the football field or classroom, and had been heard to tell players "a missed block may be corrected, but a missed class can not be made up."

Victor is coming into his own as a sophomore, after a good freshman start. He is now 20 pounds heavier and plays his position well, the coach said.

Coach Marcin says he well remembers the day when he signed a contract with Victor to play football at the University of North Carolina. He said that there must have



William Harrison, father of UNC football player Victor Harrison, speaks during an appreciation dinner given here on Saturday night. At right is Van D. Alston, who served as master of ceremonies.

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