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A Southern freight train slammed into this truck at a Ridgeway grade crossing Friday, but neither the driver nor a passenger in the truck were killed. Trooper A. M. Bennett of Norlina, the investigating officer, said that no charges were made in the accident, which occurred when the truck stalled on the railroad tracks at 3:55 p. m. Taken to Warren General Hospital were Wade Allen, 52, of Henderson, the driver of the truck, and Charles Aycock, 30, also of Hender-

son. Allen was later transferred to Duke Medical Center. The truck, owned by Henderson Oxygen Supply Company, had damages estimated at \$900. Some \$300 in damages were reported to the freight engine. The southbound engine was pulling 23 cars at the time of the accident, which occurred 1.2 miles south of Norlina on the Warrenton-Ridgeway Road.

(Staff Photo)

Profits Please Perdue Grower

By BIGNALL JONES

Melvin Weaver grinned when a Warren Record photographer asked him if he wanted his picture taken with his cap on or off. He was wearing a Perdue cap at the time, as is usually the case. "With my Perdue cap on, of course," he said.

Weaver was in the office for an interview on Friday afternoon, a short time after his second flock of baby chicks had been placed in his broiler houses by Perdue, for whom he grows chickens under a six-year renewable contract.

The 56-year-old Warrenton native, who now farms land formerly owned by his maternal grandparents near Macon, said he has been pleased with the profits he is making under his contract with Perdue as well as with Perdue representatives in the area. He said that the profits are good and the Perdue representatives are a group of unusually high class men whom one wishes to help.

Even with the high interest rate, Weaver said, there is a good profit in growing chickens for Perdue. He explained that he financed his twenty-year loan with the Federal Land Bank, with the option of repayment at any time. He has an agreement with Perdue that with each payment for a flock of chickens the company will deduct and hold enough money to make his payments at the end of the year.

After this payment is deducted, the farmer said, he receives a "good sum of money," large enough to support him and his wife. Unlike a loan for a tractor, Weaver says that he feels that each payment he makes on his broiler houses is an investment that increases the value of his farm.

The son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Numa Weaver, Melvin was born in Warrenton in 1925, and attended John Graham High School. Following high school he engaged in a variety of work, including public work, a bit of carpentering, and served in World War II, before

going to Roanoke Rapids where he served for nine years as a policeman. At Roanoke Rapids he fell in love and married Mrs. Shirley Daniel, which changed the direction of his life.

While living in Warrenton he often visited his grandparents at their farms near Macon and on Bridle Creek, where he formed a love for the open country that never left him. "I enjoyed my work as a policeman in Roanoke Rapids," Melvin said, "but I always wanted to farm and be my own boss."

His wife knew nothing about farming, but consented to return to his ancestral acres when the opportunity occurred to make his dream come true. "Now she loves farm life as much as I do, has become a proficient farmer, able to drive a tractor as well as assist with tobacco."

Like a number of other Warren County small farmers, Melvin cultivated his own small tobacco allotment and rented acreage from other farmers, while tending enough corn to feed his animals, raised a few beef cows and with the decrease in tobacco profits, have their wives find employment in town.

While Mrs. Weaver is at present working for Norlina Manufacturing Company, like so many other energetic women,

she manages to carry on much home work, including the preservation of produce from a garden where Melvin says most everything is grown, and much placed in a deep freezer. In addition to their garden, Melvin says they keep a milk cow and produce their own milk and he kills several hogs each year. While he has a gas log in his living room, for emergencies, Melvin says he heats his home with wood, produced and sawed with a chain saw on his farm. A gallon of gasoline and about three hours work, he said produces all the wood the family needs for about three weeks.

Melvin said he at one time enjoyed bird hunting, but he no longer engages in this sport and cares nothing for fishing. His recreation has for years consisted of horse back riding with his wife and sometimes with his baby daughter, who will graduate from the Warren Academy this year. At one time he kept three riding horses, but sold one of them to A. J. Johnson.

Melvin said he has five children and the baby girl is the only child now at home with the exception of his step-son, Steven, who is in and out, as he has a good job with the railroad.

While living at Roanoke Rapids, Melvin said he became familiar with chicken houses and when he decided to return to the farm in 1967, he contacted Perdue about the possibility of building one in Warren County. He was told at that time that no Perdue houses were being built in Warren County, but if the company should expand to this area they would be happy to contact him.

When the company expanded into this area, Melvin reminded Perdue of its promise, and shortly thereafter Rex Thompson of Perdue came to his house and explained the benefits of growing chickens for his company. Macon Myrick was also at this meeting, as was revealed in a recent interview carried in this newspaper. The reason that Macon com-

pleted his broiler houses before Weaver was that Melvin and his wife debated for nearly a month on the merits of egg production and broiler production. We wanted to be sure, he said, which type was best for our farm, Melvin said.

Melvin has been growing some ten acres of tobacco each year, three acres of which was his farm's allotment, with the other seven acres being rented. This year (Continued on page 16)

County GOP Plans Meetings Locally

Warren County Republicans will meet twice next month at precinct and county level, GOP Chairman John J. Hawkins announced this week.

Hawkins said each political precinct will meet on Saturday, March 7, at the precinct voting place. Each precinct will elect a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary and as many members-at-large as deemed necessary to conduct the business of the precinct. The sessions will begin at 8 p. m., he said.

The County Convention will be held at the county courthouse in Warrenton on Saturday, March 21, at 11 a. m., Hawkins said.

The County Convention will elect a chairman, a vice chairman of the opposite sex, a secretary, a treasurer and any other officers deemed necessary and elect members of the County Executive

Nominations Sought

A reminder that nominations are being sought to fill a vacancy on the Warren County Board of Education was issued this week by School Supt. Mike Williams.

The board hopes, at its March meeting, to name a successor to Dr. L. B. Henderson, Jr., who submitted his resignation at the board's February meeting.

Williams said that nominating forms are available at the administrative offices of the schools, located in the former Allen home next to Mariam Boyd School in Warrenton.

He said that thus far four nominations have been received.

Antique Furniture Theft Ring Smashed, Arrests Are Made

A large quantity of antique furniture, alleged stolen in Warren County and in the South Hill, Va., area over the past several months, has been recovered in Henderson and Roanoke Rapids by the Warren County Sheriff's Department, resulting in half a dozen arrests in Warren County and Florida over the weekend, it was learned here Tuesday.

The investigation is continuing and additional warrants may be issued, it was learned from the Sheriff's Department.

Arrested over the weekend were white males from Warrenton and Norlina, as follows: Arrested Monday were Allen Daniels, 20, and Alpine Cameron, 24, both of Warrenton.

Daniels is being held under \$100 bond under charges of breaking, entering and larceny, and \$10,000 bond under fugitive warrants on several charges of breaking, entering and larceny.

Campbell is being held under \$2,000 bond charged with felonious possession of marijuana for purpose of sale in Warren County, and \$10,000 bond under fugitive warrants on several charges of breaking, entering and larceny in Virginia.

Tim Harris, 17, of

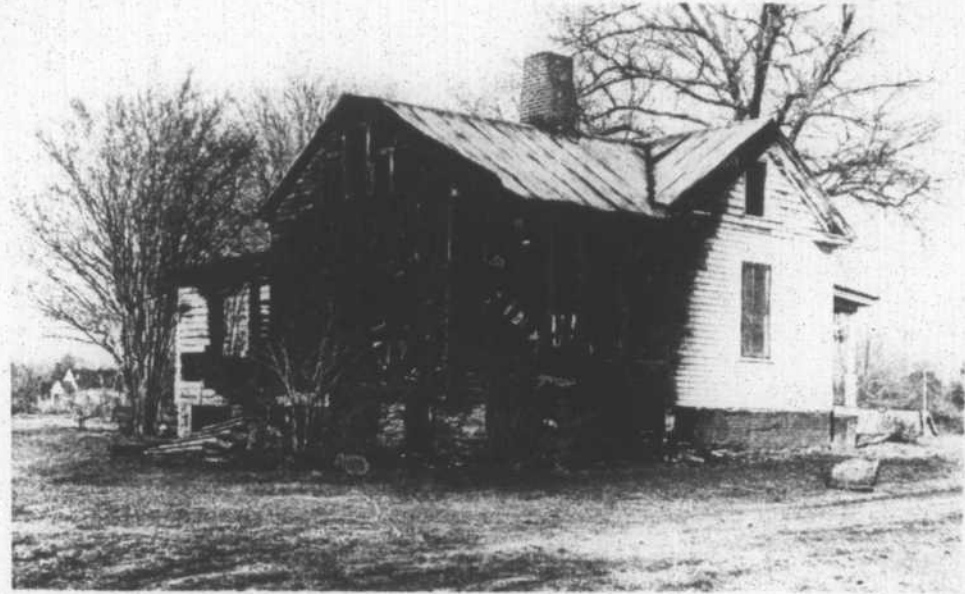
Norlina was arrested on Thursday of last week and is being held under \$500 bond on several counts of breaking, entering and larceny.

Arrested in Jacksonville, Fla., Saturday at the request of the Warren

County Sheriff's Department and being held by Florida Police under fugitive warrants from North Carolina charging them with several counts of breaking, entering and larceny were Donald Botoms, 29, of Warrenton

and Raymond Jones, 20 and Ted Harris, 17, both of Norlina.

Unless these men resist extradition, they will be returned to Warren County this week. They are said to have gone to Florida to avoid arrest.



Charred Remains Of Overby Home

Retired Warren Farmer Is Killed In House Fire

A retired and partially crippled farmer died shortly after 6 p. m. Friday when the home of his mother, with whom he lived, was virtually destroyed by fire.

Edward Cain Overby, Jr., 65, who was said to be unable to walk without assistance, was unable to get out of his bedroom where the fire is said to have started, according to A. A. Wood, chief of the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

Both the Warrenton Rural Fire Company and the Norlina Fire Company responded to the call and Gene Medlin, chief of the Norlina Fire Department, discovered the charred body of Overby near the door of his bedroom, located on the first floor and at the rear of the home. Chief Wood said he apparently died of smoke inhalation.

Overby's mother, Mrs. Bertha Felts Overby, 87, was rescued from the fire

by passersby who had discovered the fire. Fireman David Proctor of the Warrenton Company said that George Alston, Joe Davis and Alfonso Green went inside the home and assisted Mrs. Overby from the home. She was taken to the home of her sister, Miss Christine Felts, where she later suffered a fall and was taken to Warren General Hospital where she was treated for injuries.

Flames were pouring from the roof of the two story eight-room frame Overby home when the firemen arrived at the scene near the Warren Plains Baptist Church, Wood said. He said the firemen were unable to save the building, but they were able to save some of the furnishings.

Captain Walter Gardner said Monday that the Warrenton Rural Fire Department sent 18 firemen, two pumpers and a

tanker to the scene. He estimated the loss to the house at least \$15,000 and \$10,000 to the contents. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Chief Wood said that while the structure was still standing, the house was a total loss for all practical purposes.

The Norlina Fire Department sent 25 men, including two emergency technicians, one pumper, one tanker, and the equipment truck to the scene of the Overby fire on Friday evening.

Captain Gardner also said that the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department dispatched four men and a pumper to a brush fire to the home of Mary Jiggetts on road from Thomas Burchett to Oakville Road, Rt. 1, Warrenton, at 2:50 p. m. on Wednesday of last week. The firemen used water to extinguish the fire. No damage was reported.



WEAVER



Tony Young with the Crime Prevention Division of the N. C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety demonstrated how Operation I.D. can help to identify in less than 30 seconds the owner of recovered stolen goods when marked with your driver's license number. Seventy-five Warren County citizens participated in the all-day crime prevention program sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service on Saturday at Mariam Boyd School. Operation I.D., Farm Equipment I.D., Home Security, and Community Watch can make your community a safer place. Warren County residents are asked to call the Norlina or Warrenton police departments, the Sheriff's Department, or the Warren County Agricultural Extension Service for assistance in organizing these crime prevention programs.