



CHANGE OF COMMAND — Retiring Sheriff Clarence A. Davis pins the sheriff's badge of Theo R. Williams, Warren's first black sheriff, during ceremonies held shortly after noon on Monday in the Warren County Court House. After pinning the

badge on the new sheriff, Davis gave Williams a hearty bear hug and wished him well in his new duties. An overflow crowd witnessed the transfer of power. Other pictures and stories can be found on Pages 12 and 14. (Staff Photo)

Oaths Are Taken

Power Transfer Completed Here

Oath of office ceremonies for Warren County officials were conducted at the Warren County Court House in Warrenton at 12:15 Monday afternoon in what has been described as the beginning of a new day in Warren County.

With a host of county officials, families, friends, television cameramen and reporters packed into the courtroom, Mrs. Eva Clayton, the first black woman ever to serve as chairman of the board of county commissioners in the long history of Warren County was given the oath of office before Judge Robert Hobgood of Louisburg, after the certification of her election by Mrs. Janice Crump, chairman of Warren County Board of Elections.

After Board Chairman Jack Harris had called the commissioners in session, he recessed the meeting until newly elected officers could take the oath of office before Judge Hobgood. Prior to this ceremony those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, which was followed by the invocation, given by the Rev. Luther Brown.

The swearing in ceremony before Judge Hobgood began with Richard Hunter, Clerk of Superior Court being presented by Chairman Jack Harris and certified by Mrs. Crump, who certified each elected candidate before he or she took the oath of office.

Following Richard Hunter in taking the oath of office was Theo Williams, who became Warren County's first black sheriff ever. After he took the oath of office his sheriff's badge was pinned to his shirt by retiring Sheriff Clarence Davis.

The three newly elected members of the board of commissioners, all black, taking the

oath of office were Mrs. Eva Clayton, who later was to be elected chairman, George Shearin, beginning his second term, and Francis L. Alston, Norlina barber, beginning his first term.

Members of the Soil and Water Conservation Committee, were Nat B. White of Warrenton and John K. Killian of Ridgeway, both white.

Members of the Board of Education, both black, were presented by Mike Williams. They were Henry T. Pitchford, Jr., beginning his second term, and Yarborough Williams, Jr., beginning his first term.

After Yarborough Williams, Jr., had been sworn in, Judge Hobgood expressed his pleasure in being present and his regret on having to leave because of a case in Raleigh.

Mrs. Clayton spoke briefly on "Comments of Appreciation," as follows:

"Warren county citizens, those who gave their vote of confidence by electing us to our various positions, and to you and to us, with the grace of God we pledge to act in a sense of integrity with a creative leadership to work for all citizens of Warren County. This is indeed an historical occasion, an occasion where a majority of the citizens of Warren

County participated in the election thereby elected a local body of government representative of that majority. That it is democracy at its best. We applaud that.

"However, we accept the challenge that blacks and whites together can work to provide leadership to this county increasing a climate where it is good to do business, where it is good to live, where we may indeed provide that this county may well be the example for the northeast.

"If democracy is to work, however, it is not dependent upon the elected officials. The citizens, each and everyone of us as citizens must be involved in that process; must work with us, must share the ideals, must criticize us, give their time, their energy to make this the kind of county we would like to have. If democracy is to work, you and I both will work together in creating this destiny. And, finally, Warren County has had a lot of abuse lately, but it is indeed a good place to live and you and I and our neighbors can make it even a safer place and a better place in which to live and to work. Thank you."

Alvah Ward, director of Industrial Development, N.C. Department of Commerce, followed Mrs. Clayton. "Job opportunities and indus-

trial recruitment can not survive without the total commitment of local interests," he said. "The state on suggestion can carry your banner and assist you but without the total commitment of over 240 industrial commissions and organizations dedicated to the expansion of present industry or the attraction of new industry simply nothing happens. And so it starts with you.

"I think sometimes we forget how a new industry would view us as a county or as a region, and as a native of northeastern North Carolina I can testify to you that many times northeastern North Carolina does not have the image for industrial recruitment. Some of this is probably because we have not done as well as we should have and should try harder. Regardless of the issues involved, to an industry involved controversy is the last thing it wants. The best interest of an area can be served when there is total cooperation, a total commitment from the local community, a coordination of effort of state government and industry as a whole.

"I would like to set forth this day as a new beginning. It is a new beginning for Warren County. It is certainly a new beginning as a totally new attitude toward industrial development is concerned and I would like to bring to you a commitment on the part of the Industrial Development which I head to do everything we can do to attract the kinds of industry to this county that we can possibly attract with your help and with this sort of cooperation we feel that we can move industry into the county and into eastern North Carolina. We have a reasonably good track record in other parts of the state.

"I am familiar with the county. We have had some disappointments together. We have had industry that have looked. We have had industry that has bought land and we have had industry that has put the projects on hold. I know the advantages of the county, the new water, the new sewer, land and people are its principle assets. I realize the story that can be made about the Interstate highway, the proximity for the kind of support service that industry needs. What we need is a renewed effort together to pledge ourselves to a new commitment in this area, and they will come.

"But again it starts with you. The effort is in Raleigh that I can (Continued on page 4B)

PCB-Related Trials Slated

Nine protestors facing charges in connection with anti-PCB demonstrations near the state-constructed landfill at Afton earlier this fall are scheduled to have their day in court next week.

Seven of the nine are charged with impeding traffic as they allegedly sought to block comple-

tion of the Warren chemical dump. They are Sidney Louis Moody, Dollie Bullock Burwell, Arthur A. Brown, Odessa B. Hawkins, Floyd B. McKissick, Sr., John David Stevenson and Floyd E. Neal.

One of the seven—McKissick — is an attorney and is scheduled to represent the

defendants with Warrenton Attorney Frank Ballance.

All are slated for trial on Tuesday before Judge James H. Pou Bailey of Raleigh. Judge Bailey will preside over a session of Warren County Superior Court scheduled to begin on Monday morning.

Also scheduled for

trial Tuesday on PCB-related charges are Benjamin Franklin Chavis, a civil rights activist charged with impeding traffic with a motor vehicle; and Stephen Daniel Ciesielski, charged with assault on an officer.

The PCB cases are only a few among the dozens set for trial next week, many of which are concerned with alleged violations of motor vehicle law.

A murder trial in which Joseph Smith is the defendant is one of 28 scheduled to be called on Monday. Another murder charge against Haywood Perry is also expected to be called on opening day.

Four defendants will find themselves in court for probation violations and the forfeiture docket contains the names of 13 defendants. A grand jury is scheduled to hear charges brought against 15 persons, including Sam Cheek who is charged with murder; and William Bryan Slade who is charged with manslaughter in connection with a fatal boat accident which occurred earlier this year on Lake Gaston.

Norlina suffering from large water bills due to leaks in their water pipes. None of them asked for reduction in the water charges, but all sought adjustments in their sewer bill on the grounds that the water never reached the sewers. In each case the commissioners agreed to make some adjustment in the sewer charge.

R.B. Nelson, who for a considerable time has been working on Highway 92, appeared before (Continued on page 4B)

Concern Is Expressed

Fire Unit Discussion Occupies Board's Time

During a meeting that lasted around two hours Monday night the Norlina Board of Town Commissioners settled a sometimes heated discussion concerned with proposed changes in the Norlina Volunteer Fire Department; promoted a Norlina Police Department officer; made some adjustments in sewer bills; passed a resolution for widening a Warren County road reaching into Norlina; decided to re-advertise two town-owned motor vehicles, approved a request that current for the town Christmas tree be obtained from the town library, and took care of some other minor matters.

The town municipal building was filled to overflowing when Mayor Kenneth Davis called the regular December meeting of the board to order. The crowd had gathered largely due to a rumor that the town was going to sell part of its fire equipment, and partly due to talk of incorporating the fire department as a district fire Department. Reason advanced for incorporation, with Highway Patrolman Bennett being the chief advocate, was that it would lessen the liability of the individual

fireman for a damage suit. Part of the older members of the delegation did not want any changes made in the local fire department, which they said was the best fire company in the county, if not the state.

At present the Norlina fire company keeps one engine within the town limits. A suggestion that the formation of a district company might cause the town to reduce its efforts to fighting town fires, probably led to the suggestion that in that case it would have to sell some of its equipment.

Just at the time that Mayor Davis was beginning to name three committees, composed of firemen, commissioners, and neutral members, a lady suggested that it would be easier for the commissioners to assure those present that they would not sell any of the fire company equipment. This the commissioners did, the crowd quieted and soon went home, but not before giving a good indication of what Norlina thinks of its fire company and its firemen.

Letters were read by the town clerk from three residents of



PARADE WINNERS — Taking prize money for best floats entered in Warrenton's annual Christmas parade held Saturday night under the sponsorship of the Warren County Chamber of Commerce were two local civic clubs and a fire department auxiliary. Parade Chairman Walter Gardner, left, hands out checks Tuesday morning to (from left) Jeff King, representing the Warren County Jaycees

who won \$20 for their float; Ms. Karen Coker, representing the Warrenton Junior Woman's Club which received a \$30 award; and Mrs. Sue Oberg, Mrs. Suzie Bungarner and Dale Obert, representing the Roanoke-Wildwood Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary which collected \$50 for its entry. See Page 14 for parade pictures. (Staff Photo)

New Dispatch System Said Help To Firemen

Citizens of Warren County, and other residents served by Warren fire departments, are being urged to familiarize themselves with information needed in the event of fire once a new system of reporting fires is put into operation here early next year.

Jeff King, secretary of the Warren County Fire Association, said yesterday that the county's fire department members are seeking to make potential fire victims better able to direct fire trucks to their proper destinations.

A central dispatch radio system, expected to be completed in February, will enable each individual fire department in the county to cut down on the response time needed to reach a fire, King said.

Area residents are asked to begin now learning the name and number of their particular fire district, learning familiar landmarks in their neighborhood and memorizing the number of the road on which they live.

"This new system will enable the fire departments to better serve you, to cut down on personal property loss, and perhaps to save someone's life," King said.

"But again it starts with you. The effort is in Raleigh that I can (Continued on page 4B)