

DUI Arrests Number Nearly 2,000

By HOWARD JONES

Almost 2,000 motorists were arrested in Warren County on charges of driving under the influence during the first 15 years that the State Highway Patrol used its chemical testing program for drunk driving.

No figures are available for Warren County for the past year, but preliminary figures for 1982 show that the Highway Patrol made more than 50,000 DUI arrests statewide while traffic fatalities dropped by 199 over the previous year.

Lt. Arnold Rector, coordinator of traffic safety information for the Highway Patrol, said a total of 1,964 persons were arrested in Warren County during the years from 1967 through 1981. During the same period, 137 motorists lost their lives in Warren County road accidents.

Heman R. Clark, secretary of the N. C. Depart-

ment of Crime Control and Public Safety, said incomplete figures for 1982 indicate that 50,640 DUI arrests were made and that 1,298 traffic fatalities were reported last year.

"This is the second largest drop in traffic fatalities from one year to the next since 1943 when the speed limit was 35 miles per hour, gas and tires were rationed and there were other restrictions as a result of World War II.

"The largest decline was in 1974 when traffic fatalities were 307 less than the previous year. The 55 miles per hour speed limit went into effect in 1974 because of the gas crisis," he said.

Clark credited the decline in traffic fatalities, in part, to the anti-drunk driving campaign spearheaded by Governor Jim Hunt and his Task Force on Drunken Driving.

"The work of the task force has focused media

and public attention on this tragic problem, and I believe responsible people of North Carolina are responding to it by not driving when they drink and reporting those who do to the authorities," he said.

Clark also commended Col. John T. Jenkins and the men and women of the Highway Patrol who "worked so diligently to apprehend drunk drivers" during 1982.

"Our troopers do a tremendous job of keeping our highways safe. They especially excel in apprehending the drink driver," he said.

"The Highway Patrol began its chemical testing program for the DUI in September 1966 and from Jan. 1, 1967 through Dec. 31, 1982, the Patrol has made 600,680 DUI arrests," Clark said.

Figures for the number of DUI arrests made in Warren County by the Patrol, and the number of traffic deaths for the same period, are as follows:

Year	DUI Arrests	Traffic Deaths
1967.....	75	11
1968.....	135	13
1969.....	144	7
1970.....	119	12
1971.....	113	8
1972.....	110	13
1973.....	86	4
1974.....	130	11
1975.....	141	6
1976.....	70	4
1977.....	57	19
1978.....	69	11
1979.....	172	5
1980.....	332	7
1981.....	211	6
TOTAL.....	1964	137

Board Head Named

Attorney Selected Chairman

Meeting in a called meeting at 7:30 p. m. Monday night, the Board of County Commissioners elected Mrs. Bernadine Ballance, first as member and then as chairman of the ABC Board, to replace William K. Lanier, Sr., whose recent retirement left a vacancy in both places.

Mrs. Ballance, the wife of Rep. Frank Ballance, Jr., is a former teacher in the Warren County school system, and an attorney in her own right.

The meeting was called to order by board chairman Mrs. Eva Clayton, who stated the purpose of the meeting, declaring a vacancy in ABC board member and chairman, as the result of Lanier's resignation, and a call for the nomination of both positions.

Following the election of Mrs. Ballance to each position, Mrs. Clayton asked the board's will as to open or executive session, and upon motion of Commissioner Jack Harris went into executive session, after Mrs. Clayton had expressed the hope that executive sessions would be held to a minimum as newspapers and the public were not receiving enough information from such sessions.

Invited into the executive session with the commissioners, all of whom were present except Commissioner Bill Skinner of Littleton, were Macon Wemyss, ABC system manager; Niles Serls, manager of the Warrenton ABC store; and Mrs. Julia Stokes, manager of the Norlina ABC store. The manager of the Littleton Store in Warren County was not present. In addition to Wemyss, Stokes and Serls, also present were board members William Delbridge of Norlina and John Palmer of Macon.

After being in executive session for some 50 minutes, the commissioners returned to the court room where Mrs. Clayton said that the group had a most productive discussion on

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This is the Dr. Ridley Browne House at Vaughan which has been given to the Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, Inc. by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Crawford of Roanoke Rapids. A search for documentary photographs will aid its restoration.

Preservation Body Given Warren Plantation Home

The Dr. Ridley Browne House in Vaughan has been given to The Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, Inc. by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse T. Crawford of Roanoke Rapids.

Mr. Crawford said he knew that the house was deteriorating, and by giving the house to the Fund, he could be assured that the house would be preserved and appreciated by future generations. Crawford is an executive with J. P. Stevens in Roanoke Rapids.

"Donations like this aid the Fund in two ways: first, an important historic house will be restored, and second, the sale of this house will provide necessary money to continue the Fund's work," said Mrs. Marion Stedman Covington of Greensboro, the president of the Fund's Board of Directors.

Dr. Ridley Browne was one of the wealthiest planters in Warren County during the antebellum period. Trained as a physician in Philadelphia, Browne used his medical skills in operating the plantation.

The Browne House is a two-story mid-nineteenth century dwelling with Greek Revival and Italianate details of the same type attributed to Warrenton builder Jacob Holt. The rear smaller, earlier house was built in the late eighteenth century and has a handsome chimney laid in Flemish

boards and six-panel doors. Sited on a hill and surrounded by a grove of large pine trees, the Browne House is priced at \$23,500, including 2.43 acres. The Fund is willing to consider favorable financing terms.

The Historic Preservation Fund of North Carolina, Inc., is a private nonprofit statewide revolving fund for historic preservation. It purchases endangered historic properties and then sells them to buyers willing and able to rehabilitate them.

Created in 1975, the Fund was the first revolving fund of its kind in the United States.

Nursing Home Work Is Expected

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

Backers of a proposed 100-bed nursing home in Warren County hope to proceed with groundbreaking next month and to begin construction in March, if financial arrangements can be completed, according to Joe Lennon, director of the Warren County Health Department and a strong advocate of the home.

A certificate of need, issued last year by the N. C. Department of Human Resources to N. L. Williams of Norlina, was extended from December 13 until March 13, allowing additional time to complete plans, Lennon said.

Lennon, who is working closely with Williams on the project, said that by March 13, backers must have property purchased, and have in hand a firm contract for construction, preliminary plans and specifications approved by the Division of Facility Services of the Human Resources

Department, and a firm commitment from a lending institution regarding financing of the project.

Plans call for the home to be built on a 10.5 acre site between Norlina and Warrenton near Highway 158-501 on property adjoining St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Williams now has an option on that property.

Lennon said the facility is expected to employ 65 to 75 people, with a yearly payroll of \$500,000 and an operating budget of \$1 million.

In a related development, Mrs. Louise B. Parham and Associates filed a letter of intent in December with the Department of Human Resources to establish and operate a 100-bed nursing home in Warren County.

Mrs. Parham was contacted at her office at Granville Nursing Home in Oxford and said that she was not prepared to make a statement at this time.

Personnel Policy Comes Under Fire

The two black members of the Warren County Board of Education Monday night balked at filling two school vacancies with personnel recommended by Supt. Mike Williams, and called for reworking existing policy which would assure that consideration is given minority applicants for future job posts.

The move to alter personnel policy came after the board—meeting without Leigh Traylor—deadlocked 2-2 on a vote to fill two routine vacancies.

After Superintendent Williams recommended the employment of Wanda Greene Hunt as secretary at Warren County High School and Claudia Graham as Mariam Boyd teacher, borough Williams objected, saying "I want more than one choice."

When the matter came to a vote, Yarborough Williams and board chairman Henry Pitchford voted not to hire the two women, while members Mrs. Kathy Wilson and Hank Bobbitt voted in favor.

Later, after it was pointed out that Ms. Hunt had already begun work, the board voted—by a 3-1 vote with Bobbitt dissenting—to hire Ms. Hunt as interim secretary until February 14, the date of the board's next meeting.

The February meeting is expected to in-

clude discussion on redefining the personnel policy, which until now has seen the superintendent recommend only one candidate for a teaching vacancy. In the selection of principals and central office personnel, Supt. Williams normally presents the board with a choice of four persons to fill a vacancy.

In other matters coming up for consideration Monday night, the board:

—Heard a report from Mrs. Rachael Ricks, assistant superintendent, on the need for a van for school use, and a report on the North Carolina Competency Test.

—Heard a report from the superintendent concerning the order that spending for public education be reduced by two percent this school year. Williams told the board that he had no recommendation for board action and that school authorities "will continue to look at ways to conserve money."

—Adopted a resolution of support regarding Warren County's participation in the 1982-83 Year of the Public Schools project.

—Heard a report from Bob Ross, athletic director for Warren schools, on the status of the interscholastic athletic program.

—Accepted the resignations of Bridgette M. Robinson, secretary at Warren County High

New Restaurant Operator Likes Job

By BIGNALL JONES

Ever since he graduated in 1977 from Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma with majors in business administration and interpersonal communication, Britt Paynter's ambition has been to open a restaurant business of his own and preferably in downtown Warrenton.

Britt realized this ambition on Saturday, Jan. 15, as owner-operator of The Carriage House under a lease-purchase agreement with stockholders of The Carriage House. He said yesterday that there would be no change in the name.

While Britt, 28 and unmarried, has spent the greater part of his life in the Oine section of Warren County he is actually a native of Vance County, having been born in Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson, the son of Donald and Dauphine Perry Paynter of the Oine section of Warren County where his parents have operated a restaurant on I-85 for many years, and where Britt attained his first touch of the restaurant business when he was a 13-year-old teenager. He says that he has always liked the restaurant business, and as a matter of fact, most of the jobs he has held have been connected with this business.

Admitting that a lot of hard work is connected

with the operation of a restaurant, he said that its principal charms lie in meeting people and making them happy. "The best way to do this is to serve them good food and good service," he said.

One thing that he found stressed at Oral Roberts University was the value of excellence and he believes that by constantly seeking to improve the food and service at The Carriage House he will be successful. If he is to do this he must depend upon the suggestions of his patrons. From his initial experience, he said, he feels that he is going to be able to reach his goal and thus operate an excellent restaurant in downtown Warrenton for many years to come.

The Carriage House will be open, he said, from 7 a. m. until 3 p. m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from 7 a. m. until 8 p. m. on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The Carriage House was begun in 1975 by a local corporation consisting of Monroe Gardner, Scott Gardner, Jimmy Harris, Charles Hayes, Howard Jones and Richard Roddy. For five years the restaurant was leased by Mr. and Mrs. Sol Fleming, who now operate The Rafter's on the outskirts of Warrenton.