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TOP RECIPIENT — Oscar L. "Butch" Meek, right, receives the Distinguished Service Award from Jaycee President Chet Forrester, center, and Frank Idler of Roanoke Rapids, who was the speaker for Thursday night's ceremony. Meek, who

operates the Nationwide Insurance Agency in Warrenton, was one of seven Warren residents receiving engraved plaques during the meeting. (Staff Photo)

Jaycees Hand Out Honors

Distinguished Service Award Is Received By Butch Meek

Oscar L. "Butch" Meek, Warrenton insurance man, was named the outstanding young man of 1982 by the Warren County Jaycees Thursday and presented the chapter's Distinguished Service Award. The award is the highest honor given by Jaycee organizations.

Meek, 34, was selected for the honor in competition with two other nominees — Walter Gardner of Warrenton and Charles Worth of Soul City. He was presented his engraved award by Jaycee President Chet Forrester, who presided over the awards banquet.

This was the third year that Meek has been nominated for the top award. Gardner had been nominated once previously.

Presentation of the Distinguished Service Award was the high point of an awards ceremony that saw engraved plaques presented to seven local residents.

Meek's wife, Janis, a home economics teacher at Warren County High School, was named the Outstanding Young Educator. Johnny Limer was named Outstanding Young

Firefighter. William E. "Bill" Bender was selected as Outstanding Young Farmer. Macon Robertson was presented the club's Faith in God Award, and two employers of Jaycees, Elmer Harris of Arcola and Eddie Clayton of Warrenton, were given Boss of the Year Awards.

Frank Idler, Roanoke Rapids restaurant operator and former state Jaycee director, was the guest speaker. He urged those attending the banquet, held at the Warrenton Lions Den, to "set short-term and long-term goals, become committed to these goals and get started."

Award recipients were selected by a screening committee comprised of Bobby Edmonds, Roy Pat Robertson, Glenwood Newsome, Brad Carroll, Mrs. Rachael Ricks, Russell King and Alan Adcock.

This year's DSA recipient is a native of Wake County and a graduate of Norlina High School and N. C. State University. A member of the Jaycees since 1971, he served as chapter president in

1973 and 1974 and was named Jaycee of the Year in 1974 and 1975.

A member of the Wise Baptist church where he is a deacon, trustee and Sunday School teacher, Meek is a captain in the Norlina Volunteer Fire Department. He has

Missing Sewer Link To Go On Line Soon

A Raleigh engineer said this week that the Northside Pumping Station in Norlina — the "missing link" of the regional sewer system — should be in operation by the middle of February.

Willis D. Barlow, engineer with L. E. Wooten and Company of Raleigh, said that a delay in getting electrical service to the station had delayed putting it on line. He said the power connection should be made this week.

In a letter to Warren County Manager Glenwood Newsome and to officials of Warrenton and Norlina, Barlow pointed out that the Northside Pumping Station is a package type

served as secretary of the Warren County Planning Board since 1976. He was one of three founders of the Warren County Fireman's Association.

He and his wife, Janis, have two children, Ginger, 12 and Sam, 7.

station, and a factory trained representative of the manufacturer must be present at start-up.

"The manufacturer's representative informs us that he has not been paid by the contractor and that he will not schedule the start-up until he receives payment," Barlow wrote.

The engineer said that the Town of Norlina was in a position this week to make a payment to the contractor and "we assume that the contractor will make a payment to the manufacturer at that time which we have been informed will permit a call by the service representative within about 10 days."

Emergency Room Closing

Dispute Threatens Warren's Hospital

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The emergency room at Warren General Hospital will no longer receive patients after February 1, and the hospital is faced with the possibility of closing its door as the result of a dispute between local physicians serving as emergency room doctors and the hospital's board of trustees.

In a letter dated January 6, Drs. Donald Coffman, Kirit Trivedi, and Mark Pomerans informed the board of trustees of Warren General that they would "cease providing evening and weekend emergency room coverage" effective February 1. No reason for the action was given in the four-line letter, but it referred to what the doctors termed "an oral communication by Dr. Coffman to Mr. Frank Hinson on January 4, 1983." Hinson is the hospital's administrator.

In response, Roy Pat Robertson, chairman of the hospital's board of trustees, in a letter dated January 25, informed the three physicians that the hospital did not have the necessary funds to secure an emergency room physician. His letter continued, "I regret to inform you that any doctor who does not provide emergency room coverage when he is scheduled to on a schedule made up by the Chief of Medical Staff, that Doctor will lose his staff privileges at Warren General Hospital. This will mean that you will not be able to admit anyone, but those in the hospital will receive care until they are discharged."

The letter said that the physicians were granted staff privileges on the condition that they provide emergency room coverage on a rotation basis.

If actions spelled out in both letters become reality February 1, it will be what Hinson termed the "death knell" for the hospital.

State statute requires that a hospital have an emergency service with appropriate facilities and that one or more duly licensed physicians shall be available or on call for emergencies at all times.

Hinson said that C. W. Sanders, Jr. with the N. C. Department of Human Resources licensing and certification division indicated in a recent conversation that his department will have no choice but to enforce the statutes. The only way to avoid that, Hinson said, would be if another hospital in the county or town had emergency services and agreed to cooperate

with Warren General in making these services available. However, there are no such facilities in the county.

Dr. Pomerans, in a telephone interview yesterday afternoon, said that at the time the physicians contracted with the hospital to rotate emergency room duty, there were four doctors involved. Later there were five, he said, and now there are three.

"If there eventually were only one doctor in the community, would he be expected to be on call at all times?" Pomerans asked. "Each of us is on call every week for two or three nights and one or two weekends each month. We have asked the board for help in providing relief, but they keep telling us 'lack of funds, lack of funds.'"

Pomerans indicated that the doctors involved had no desire to see the hospital close, but were "tired" and could not continue to rotate the emergency room duty and tend to their private practices.

Dr. Pomerans said that he would fulfill the "letter of my contract with Warren General" and offer emergency (Continued on page 8)

290 Leases Are Filed

Leaf Allotment Demand Reported Up In Warren

The demand for 1983 tobacco allotments has increased this year because of the good crop produced in 1982 and the recent nine percent reduction in quotas in Warren County, according to Thomas E. Watson, executive director of the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office.

As of Monday 290 allotment leases had been filed with the ASCS office, Watson said. These leases amounted to 713,973 pounds.

Leasing for the 1983 crop will continue through April 15. A total of 3,467,584 pounds was leased last year in Warren County in 1,311 leases.

Watson said some farmers are planting on their farms themselves, rather than leasing their allotments, because of the requirements of the newly enacted No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act.

The act requires that owners pay seven cents per pound for each pound leased and that the growers pay an additional seven cents per pound when the crop is marketed to finance the federal tobacco price-support program.

Thieves Strike Jewelry Store

Loughlin - Goodwyn Jewelers, Inc. on Main Street suffered a broken display window and theft of watches and rings at 12:30 a. m. Friday. A. C. Fair, owner and operator, said yesterday that the stolen goods had a value of less than \$500.

Freddie Robinson, Warrenton police chief, said yesterday that since the window was smashed by three rocks, it is believed that three persons were involved. Robinson added that he has reason to believe that the thieves were teenagers. He said that the investigation is continuing.

the sale of allotments within the county. Watson said that eight allotments had been sold, amounting to a total of 11,732 pounds.

Law now requires that local governments, public utility companies, institutions and others who are not significantly involved in the management of land for agricultural purposes to sell their flue-cured allotments by December 1984.

Watson said that most allotments in Warren

County are owned by individuals, with only a few owned by churches and corporations.

As previously reported, one allotment is held by Warren County government. Glenwood Newsome, county manager, has said that the county plans to sell the allotment next year.

The matter of who specifically is eligible to own allotments under the new rulings is not clear. The U. S. Department of Agriculture is working on guidelines (Continued on page 9)

Faircloth To Speak At Chamber Banquet

N. C. Secretary of Commerce Lauch Faircloth will be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Warren County Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 21, according to an announcement made Tuesday by Charles Hayes, chamber president.

Due to seating limitations, admission will be limited to the first 150 people. Tickets are \$7 each and may be purchased through Hayes at Warrenton Insurance and Real Estate, Brad Carroll at First Citizens Bank in Warrenton or Wayne Clower at Clower Furniture Company in Warrenton.

Officers and directors for the 1983-84 year will be installed at the meeting, also. Nominations were sent to chamber members this week, Hayes said. Officers nominated are: President, Wayne Clower; first vice president, Butch Meek; second vice president, Grace Miles; and secretary-treasurer, Charles Worth.

Those nominated to the board of directors for a three-year term are: Butch Scott, John Andrews, Carroll Harris and Eddie Clayton.

Walter Gardner, J. T. Fleming, Brad Carroll and Jim Whitley were nominated for a two-year term, and Maybell Hueber, W. A. Miles, David Gardner, and Bill Davis were nominated for a one-year term.

Other nominations will be accepted by Hayes through February 4. They may be mailed to Hayes at P. O. Box 633, Warrenton, 27589 or called in at 257-3104.

Probe Of Theft Is Continuing

The Warren County Sheriff's Department confirmed yesterday that it has no leads in the case of an Elberon home which was ransacked by thieves on January 17.

A department spokesman said approximately \$2,500 in camera equipment, jewelry and household items was taken by the person or persons who entered the home of Wayne Wilson on Rt. 2, Warrenton. The theft was reported at 4 p. m. on the day that it occurred.

Deputies said that among the items taken after a carport door was kicked open was a 38-caliber pistol.



AWARD WINNERS — Taking top honors at an awards ceremony held Thursday night by the Warren County Jaycees were, left to right, Johnny Limer, Outstanding Young Firefighter; Janis Meek, Outstanding Young Educator; Eddie Clayton

and Elmer Harris, winners of the Boss of the Year awards; Macon Robertson, Faith in God Award winner; and William E. "Bill" Bender, Outstanding Young Farmer. (Staff Photo)