

The Warren Record

Mrs. Butler Is Elected Party Head

Delegates to the Democratic county convention held here Saturday unanimously chose Mrs. Anna G. Butler as chairperson of the Warren County Executive Committee, succeeding Patsy T. Hargrove.

Mrs. Hargrove, ineligible under party rules to serve another term, presided over the hour-long convention which saw 96 delegates from Warren's 14 precincts gathered.

Charles Hayes, outgoing first vice chairman, proposed a slate of officers that was approved without opposition.

In addition to Mrs. Butler, who has long been active in local and state political circles, Warren Democrats chose Attorney T. T. Clayton as first vice chairman, Walter Gardner, Jr. as second vice chairman, Odessa Hawkins as third vice chairman, Donna Roope as secretary and Charles Worth, named for another term as treasurer.

Rep. Frank Ballance and Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, chairperson of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, spoke briefly during the convention.

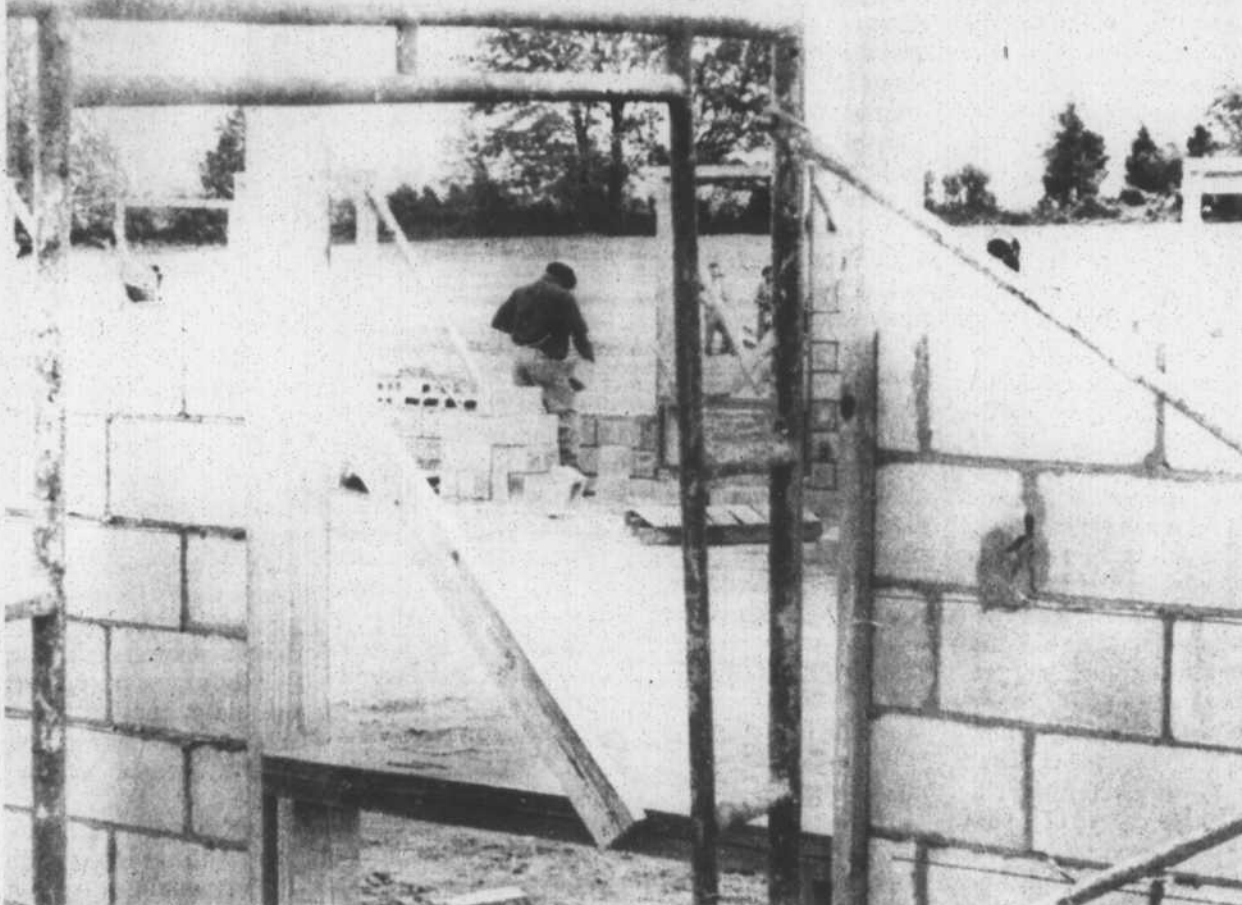
Mrs. Butler was named as a member of the State Executive Committee and Attorney Clayton, who presided in her absence, appointed Dottie Burwell and Brad Carroll as co-chairmen of the Sustaining Fund.

Minutes of the previous convention were read by Jennie J. Franklin, outgoing secretary. There were no resolutions offered during the convention.

Forrester Leaving Post With County

Chet Forrester of Warrenton, county zoning administrator and electrical inspector, has resigned effective May 13.

Forrester, who has been with the county since 1975, will be managing the Conner Manufactured Homes lot adjacent to Hall's Spring Shopping Center in Warrenton. His wife, Pat, will also



The walls of the new Warren Nursing Center being built on the Warrenton-Norlina Highway are beginning to rise rapidly. Here construction workers on Tuesday lay concrete blocks to form exterior

walls of the new structure. Work on the 100-bed facility is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving. (Staff Photo)

No Action Taken

Policemen Ask For Pay Raise

Norlina commissioners, meeting Monday night in regular session, heard a request for a 10 percent cost-of-living increase for members of the town's police force, but took no action, indicating that no decision will be made until near the beginning of the new fiscal year which begins July 1.

Police Chief Romey Williams, speaking in behalf of himself and Officer Charlie Barker, said police are seeking not only a salary revision, but a change in policy which would allow them time off for holidays worked.

Williams said his department is the only one

in Region K working six days a week. Police Commissioner William Leonard backed the chief's position, saying that he thought "what they're asking for is fair. They are the lowest paid department in the

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Two In, One Out

Two Warren County mayors announced this week that they will seek re-election in municipal elections next fall, and a third confirmed that he will not be a candidate for another term.

Norlina Mayor Kenneth Davis was adamant about not seeking a second term when polled Monday night. Warrenton Mayor B. G. White and Macon Mayor M. C. Clary each said he planned to be a candidate for another term.

Norlina, Warrenton and Macon each will elect a mayor and members of the board of commissioners during balloting in November. The three municipalities are the only three incorporated towns in the county.

Fire Units Receive Funds

Six Warren County volunteer fire departments were among more than 100 units from across the state receiving matching fund grants this spring as part of the Rural Community Fire Protection Program, Joe Grimsley, secretary of the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, announced this week.

Warren County had more units to share in the \$73,000 in federal grant funds this year than any other county in the state.

The Churchill-Five Forks Fire Department received \$2,000. Receiving \$450 each were the Warren units of Soul City, Ridgeway, Inez, Hawtree and Arcola.

The money can be

used to purchase a variety of firefighting equipment ranging from "turn-out gear" (helmets, coats and boots) and hoses, to pumps and pumper trucks.

"The fire departments send their applications to us, and the applications are then scored using a formula developed by the U.S. Forest Service," stated H.J. "Boe" Green, Director of Forest Resources which administers the program in North Carolina. "The basic requirements are to show the need for the funds and be able to match the grant, dollar for dollar. The maximum amount a department can receive is \$2000. This upper limit allows the grant monies

to be spread out among more departments, therefore helping more communities," Green said.

"This is the sixth year that we and the U.S. Forest Service have administered this program," Grimsley added. "But it may be coming to an end since this item has been eliminated from the current federal budget proposals. We all hope that the President and Congress will be able to find some way to restore the funds and enable the program to continue. There are literally hundreds of fire departments across the nation that, because of this program, are now better able to protect their citizens," Grimsley concluded.

Workers Needed For Paperwork

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The Warren County Board of Commissioners at its regular meeting Monday was informed that six new positions in the county Department of Social Services should be established to process additional paperwork mandated by the federal government in conducting the Food Stamp and Aid to Families with Dependent Children programs.

Mrs. Jane Jenkins, regional supervisor for income maintenance programs with the state, said that beginning in June, monthly food stamp reports will have to be filed for all participating households with more than five people or with any earned income.

She noted that about 590 of the county's 1,262 households getting food stamps will be involved in the process. Caseworkers will be required each month to complete four typewritten pages of questions about each household.

In addition, the Social Services Department will in February 1984 be on-line with the computerized Food Stamp Information System. One of the six positions recommended is for a keypunch operator to feed information into the computer.

The state is urging the employment of five staff members and the one clerical worker in addition to the two positions already budgeted. Mrs. Jenkins estimated the cost at \$67,075, half of which is paid by the federal government and half by the county. The state contributes no funds.

Mrs. Jenkins, in responding to a question from County Manager Glenwood Newsome as to when the county could expect another request for additional manpower in social services, said she could not predict that, but that the changes now being implemented were the most significant she had seen since the inception of the programs in 1964.

In a related item, the commissioners voted to adopt a resolution

requesting the state and federal governments to reduce the amount of paperwork involved in implementation of social service programs.

The request for the resolution came from Columbus county's commissioners, who have adopted a similar resolution.

Representatives from

the N. C. Department of Transportation were on hand to present to the commissioners the secondary road improvement program for 1983-84.

Carl Painter, division engineer with DOT, announced that Warren County's projected secondary road construction allocation will

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Warren School Supt. Mike Williams offers congratulations to Mrs. Janis Meek, Warren County High School home economics teacher who has been chosen as the county's Teacher of the Year.

(Community Schools Photo)

Mrs. Meek Selected Teacher Of The Year

Mrs. Janis Meek of Norlina, home economics teacher at Warren County High School, has been named Warren County Teacher of the Year, according to Michael F. Williams, superintendent of schools.

Mrs. Meek was selected from among three nominees whose names were submitted by their principals.

The Teacher of the Year honor for the first time this year is given by the Board of Education. In the past, the recognition has been given by the Association of Classroom Teachers.

Williams said a selection committee of six screened and reviewed nominations, interviewed candidates, and observed the teachers in their classrooms.

Mrs. Meek, the wife of O. L. "Butch" Meek, will serve for the calendar year 1983 and will be entered into regional competition for Teacher of the Year representing Warren County next December.

"Mrs. Meek will be involved in school system activities and will be available to speak to various community groups and civic clubs," Williams said. "She will serve as a representative of all the good teachers we have in the county school system."

A 1967 graduate of Norlina High School, Mrs. Meek graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

She began teaching in Warren County at John Graham High School in the fall of 1971.

Other nominees for the honor were Priscine Owens of North Warren Elementary School and Dawn Sweeney of Northside Elementary School.

Leaf Designation Deadline Missed By 100 Growers

In Warren County, 494 growers of flue-cured tobacco have filed market designations for the 1983 crop, according to Thomas E. Watson, executive director of the County ASCS Office.

About 100 farmers failed to meet the April 15 deadline for filing. Growers who did not select a warehouse by the deadline will not be eligible for price supports when the market opens. They will be allowed to designate on the first redesignation date after the market opens, but then will have to observe a 15-day waiting period before selling tobacco.

Under this program, which is designed to improve the quality of tobacco marketed, farmers agree to remove or leave the four lower leaves on the plant. In return, they are allowed to increase their planted acreage by 10 percent.

Those who remove the leaves will be required to notify the County ASCS Office 10 days prior to harvest, Watson said.

Child Neglect 'Taken For Granted' In Rural Areas

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

It happens most often in the privacy of the home. Its victims are those least able to put up a defense. Its perpetrators often feel helpless to stop their action. And statistics about it are always preceded with the words, "at least."

For example, at least one million children in America suffered from child abuse last year; at least 2,000 of them died.

In North Carolina, during the eight-month period from July 1982 to February 1983, a total of 8,075 cases of abuse and neglect were reported. Of this number, 3,418 were substantiated.

In Warren County, for the same period, nine cases were reported and three cases were substantiated.

The Warren County Department of Social Services has two social workers, Leslie Womack and Pat Jones, who investigate reports of abuse and neglect.

According to Ms. Womack, the low figure cited for Warren County does not mean the county has few instances of abuse or neglect.

"We are a rural area," she said. "Neglect is seen and taken for granted. I suspect that there are many, many cases of neglect not reported. We have a limited number of sexual abuse cases reported in this county. It goes on, but it's not reported, more so in Warren County because of the lack of education about incest and sexual abuse."

Ms. Jones echoed those feelings and then alluded to the role poverty plays in reporting of neglect. "If we were called every time a child in this county is seen not adequately dressed, we'd be run ragged."

The term "child abuse" is commonly used to denote any of several forms of maltreatment including non-accidental physical abuse, neglect, sexual molestation, and emotional abuse.

According to North Carolina law, abuse denotes physical injury to a child while neglect deals with the failure of a parent or guardian to provide life's

necessities, such as clothes, food and medical care.

What starts off as neglect can sometimes evolve into abuse. Failure of a parent to properly clothe a child before taking him out in the winter weather constitutes neglect. Leaving him unattended in an unheated vehicle in freezing weather until his limbs become frost bit and have to be amputated constitutes abuse.

Abuse is a felony under North Carolina law. In 1971, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law requiring certain professions, such as law enforcement officers and school personnel, to report suspected cases of child abuse.

In 1979, the law was amended to mandate that any person suspecting abuse report it to their Department of Social Services.

In some ways, a high number of reports of abuse or neglect can speak well for a county, indicating the residents are well-informed about the issue and

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