

# The Warren Record

## Delbridge Bid May Have Thwarted Suit

By KAY HORNER  
Staff Writer

The Warren County ABC Board may have saved Warren County commissioners from a lawsuit by offering Bill Delbridge of Norlina a position as a consultant to the ABC Board.

Delbridge, who was ousted by the county commissioners in July, said Monday that he had no desire to sue and noted, "If this thing (the ABC Board position) works out, I won't sue."

The board in its August meeting authorized its chairman, Mrs. Bernadine Ballance, to offer the position to Delbridge with a six-month contract at \$200 a month.

However, Delbridge said that he had not officially accepted the offer and that no contract had been

drawn up. He was to meet with the ABC Board this week on the matter.

"Two or three figures have been mentioned," Delbridge said, referring to the fee offered, "but there's a possibility I may not charge anything."

In recent months, Delbridge has been involved in a dispute with Warren County commissioners that began last January when the commissioners requested the resignations of the three ABC Board members, William K. Lanier, chairman, of Warrenton, John Henry Palmer of Macon, and Delbridge.

The resignations were called for after State ABC Commissioner Bill Hester told the board that the county system was overstaffed and was not achieving the profitability averaged by other systems in the state.

Lanier and Delbridge submitted resignations, but the board chose not to act on Delbridge's resignation at that time. In January, the board appointed Mrs. Ballance as chairman to fill Lanier's unexpired term, and in June it accepted the January resignation of Delbridge, and replaced Palmer.

Delbridge said at the time that he no longer considered his resignation valid, and that he felt the commissioners' action reflected negatively on him.

This month, he requested the commissioners, through Chairperson Eva M. Clayton, to rescind their action or to allow him a public hearing. He also indicated to Mrs. Clayton that he had been in contact with attorneys and that legal action against (Continued on page 18)



WARREN COUNTY ABC STORE IN NORLINA, May Be Relocated In Near Future.



Three Warren County High School girls riding in this car were injured shortly before noon on Tuesday when it flipped on its top while being operated at an apparent high rate of speed on the Warren Plains Road near the old Warren Feed and

Grain operation. Trooper A. M. Bennett of Norlina is shown making out his wreck report while volunteers from the Warrenton Rural Fire Department stand by. (Staff Photo)

## Car Flips On Warren Plains Road, Three High School Students Injured

Three Warren County High School students were injured—two severely—shortly before noon Tuesday when the car in which they were riding overturned between Warrenton and Warren Plains.

State Trooper A. M. Bennett of Norlina identified the students as Sylvia King, 16, driver of the car, Kimberly Dickerson, 15, and Donna McGowan, 16.

Both Miss King and

Miss Dickerson were thrown from the car and seriously injured. Each were taken to Warren General Hospital by county ambulance, given first aid and transferred to Duke Medical Center.

A spokesman at Duke Medical Center said shortly after 8 a. m. Wednesday that both Miss Dickerson and Miss King were "in serious condition."

Miss McGowan, who was riding in the front seat between her fellow students, received minor cuts and bruises and was taken by private automobile to Warren General Hospital, where she was treated and released.

Trooper Bennett said the wreck occurred at 11:19 a. m. minutes after the first day of school for the three ended. They were

travelling south on the Warren Plains Road in the direction of Warrenton at what Bennett called an apparent high rate of speed.

Their car, a 1976 Pinto owned by King's Used Cars of Warrenton, ran off the right shoulder, skidded back onto the highway and ran off the road into a ditch. It then flipped nose first and landed on its back, Bennett said. He reported (Continued on page 14)

### Doctor Makes Commitment To Locate Here

## Word Awaited On Hospital Grant

Warren General Hospital's prospects for landing a \$140,000 Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant should be determined within the next 30 days, Frank Hinson, hospital administrator, told members of the hospital's Board of Trustees meeting here Wednesday night of last week.

Hinson said he was basing his estimate on conversations with federal officials last week. He said he received three phone calls from Washington, D.C. concerning the grant application during the previous week.

Hinson said he felt Warren General Hospital "is still in the running" for federal

funding which is needed to upgrade the hospital.

Hinson told trustees that repair work authorized last February by the board had been completed, with the exception of a single door which must be replaced. He indicated that it may be several months before a new door sufficient to meet fire regulations can be installed.

Hinson also told trustees that prospects are good for attracting new doctors, and said one doctor had verbally committed to practice in Warrenton. The administrator said the hospital is receiving "quite a few resumes" from physicians who might consider locating here.

Board Chairman Roy Pat Robertson and Hinson were authorized to negotiate with the new doctor, who was not identified at Wednesday night's session. They were instructed to offer the prospective new doctor a guarantee of upwards of \$50,000 to practice here for one year. Additionally, the new doctor would receive office space and utilities free of charge.

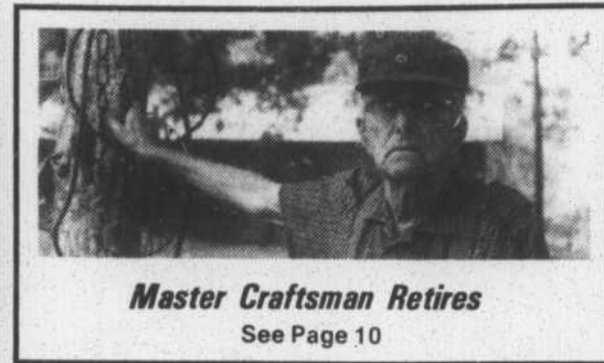
It is expected that a one-year contract may be negotiated with the prospect in four or five weeks, trustees were advised.

Trustees, without a dissenting voice, voted to allow the county's three ambulance drivers and employees of Dr. K. D. Trivedi to eat

in the hospital dining room at a cost of 95 cents a meal, the same charged hospital employees. Guests of the hospital also may eat in the lunchroom, but must pay \$1.25 per meal, it was pointed out.

Hinson reported that no major deficiencies were found during a state survey recently concluded.

He also reported that the hospital had received a \$4,000 grant from the National Library of Medicine in Washington, D.C. to begin work on a medical library. The funds, which will be available September 1, will be matched by \$1,000 in local money, trustees learned.



Master Craftsman Retires  
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Up, Up, And Away  
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## Local Sales Tax Hike Approved In Warren

Beginning in October, shoppers in Warren County will be paying an additional one-half percent sales tax over the four-percent sale tax currently in effect.

Following a public hearing Wednesday night, during which no opposition to the tax was voiced, Warren County commissioners unanimously adopted the sales tax, making Warren County the 23rd county in the state to adopt the tax.

According to estimates from Ed Regan, fiscal analyst with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, Warren County could receive between \$195,000 and \$235,700 for the eight collection periods in the remainder of fiscal 1983-84.

The one-half percent tax will be distributed to the counties on the basis of population, rather than size of sale. Within the counties, revenues will be distributed to the municipalities on the same per capita basis that the existing one-percent sales tax returned to the counties is distributed.

Regan said that could mean revenues of between \$22,000 and \$26,700 to be shared by Warren County's three municipalities of Warrenton, Norlina, and Macon.

Regan used an estimated low of \$12 per person and a high of \$14.50 per person in his projections, and cautioned that the county's revenues from the tax will depend on how many counties throughout the state participate.

Because of the per capita distribution, the additional tax is beneficial to a rural county like Warren, which will share in the revenues collected in larger, metropolitan areas.

According to Glenwood Newsome, Warren County manager, the

county could stand to gain more from the one-half percent tax than from the one-percent tax currently levied.

Newsome said the county will receive the first proceeds from the tax in February.

County governments are required by law to spend at least 40 percent of the revenues from the new tax over the next five years for capital school construction and 30 percent over the following five years for the same. Municipalities will be required to spend the same percentage on water and sewer projects over the same time periods. After 10 years, there will be no restrictions.

At the public hearing, attended by about 50 concerned citizens, Mike Williams, superintendent of schools for Warren County and Assistant Superintendent James Jordan, presented to commissioners a list of more than \$700,000 in immediate and short-range repairs needed at the system's nine schools.

Of that amount, \$212,675 was for stabilization of the auditorium and repairs to the boiler plant at John Graham Middle School. At Vaughan Elementary School, \$73,200 was estimated for replacement of the entire roof.

The cost of upgrading school facilities to make them more energy efficient was estimated at \$300,000.

Addressing the issue of long-term plans for construction of new facilities, Superintendent Williams said, "When you repair a 50 or 60-year-old building, you still have a 50 or 60-year-old building."

He requested the commissioners to consider exceeding the minimum appropriation required by the General Assembly in the tax statute for public school construction.

In response to a question from the audience as to whether all the old school buildings are needed now that the new Warren County High School is operating, Williams explained that the system is now using the best facilities on each campus.

Grades nine through 12 were consolidated at the high school, and rather than abandon entire campuses, the system abandoned the worst buildings and trailers and the kept the best, he said.

"But we're operating a number of very small (Continued on page 18)

### Meeting Cancelled

Second District Congressman Tim Valentine of Nashville has cancelled a scheduled meeting with Warren County citizens planned for Thursday night in order to attend a public hearing in Lawrenceville, Va. concerning Virginia Beach's proposal to withdraw water from Lake Gaston.

A spokesman in Rep. Valentine's office said the congressman was responding to numerous constituent calls asking for his presence at the Virginia meeting, to be held at the senior high school at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Valentine had scheduled a meeting with interested citizens at the Warren County Court House but was cancelling because of "the massive importance of the Lawrenceville meeting."

It is expected that the Warren County meeting will be rescheduled during the next congressional recess, the spokesman said.

### New Facility Is Awaiting Transportation Personnel

Warrenton maintenance personnel with the N. C. Department of Transportation will be moving into new headquarters adjacent to their present location on Warrenton - Henderson Road (Highway 1001) in the spring, if plans go according to schedule.

Bob Ross, division engineer with DOT, said yesterday that the facility will house a clerk's office, maintenance supervisor's office, and crew leader's office as well as an assembly room where personnel report for work and conduct meetings, and a small storage room.

Ross also hopes that a service station facility will be included to provide ready access to gas pumps. "We're looking for-

ward to the new building," Ross said. "The situation we have now is really undesirable."

About 40 people work out of DOT's headquarters in Warrenton.

Ross estimated the cost of the building in excess of \$100,000, including utility items such as fencing.

### In Hospital

Patients in Warren General Hospital on Tuesday afternoon were listed as follows:

Thomas Wolfe, Carolyn Pitzing, Lillian Stevenson, Margaret Leete, Roy Clark, Henry Montgomery, James Hyman, Atha Howell, Julia Gallian, Gordon Halthcock, Thomas Hargrove, Alice Van-Skiver.