

## Killer Of Warren County Man Is Sought

The Warren County Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation have joined forces to solve the shooting death of a Warren County man whose body was found last Thursday in the

charred remains of his home, which had been completely destroyed by fire.

According to deputy Lawrence Harrison with the Sheriff's Department, an autopsy showed that Willie

Cleaton Brown, 60, of the Heck's Grove community, had been shot twice in the back with a shotgun.

Thirty to 40 firemen responding to an alarm called in by Brown's neighbors around 7:20 p.

m. found the house burned to the ground. Brown's body was found face down under a gas stove in the kitchen of the four-room frame house.

Harrison said that at first he believed that

Brown's death had been caused by the explosion of the gas stove, and that he now thinks the fire was deliberately set after Brown had been shot in the back.

There are no suspects, but Deputy Harrison

said that at least one story told the department by a man questioned "doesn't add up."

Brown's nephew, Gerald Benson, lives across the street from his uncle's house about (Continued on page 14)



Warren Deputy Lawrence Harrison holds a liquid propane gas tank found inside the house in which the body of 60-year-old Willie Cleaton Brown of the Licksillet community was found following a fire on Thursday night. A state pathologist discovered that the victim had been shot twice in the back. Brown's automobile, which was destroyed in the blaze, is shown in the background. (Staff Photo)

## \$2 Million Plant Expansion Could Create 85 New Jobs

### Cochrane Furniture Plans Are Revealed

By KAY HORNER  
Staff Writer

A proposed \$2-million expansion by Cochrane Furniture Company could bring as many as 85 new jobs to the county within the next 18 months, according to a company spokesman.

Although no official announcement of the expansion has been made by the company, which is headquartered in Lincolnton, the Warren County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority in this week's issue of The Warren Record announced a public hearing on its issuing of industrial development revenue bonds for the financing of all or a portion of the project.

The public hearing will not be held until Dec. 21, and issuance of the bonds must be approved by the county Board of Commissioners. But Neal Rhyne, vice president of finance with Cochrane, said yesterday that grading at the site could begin as early as the end of this week, with completion in June.

The project, Rhyne said, is being undertaken in conjunction with a \$5 million expansion at the Lincolnton site.

Although the expansion of the Warrenton plant is not a building

per se, Rhyne said it will involve the addition of a 400,000 board foot pre-dryer, a 50,000 board foot kiln, and certain additional machinery and equipment.

All the equipment will be used for the manufacture of component parts for furniture.

The new positions at the Warrenton plant which now employs about 150, will be hourly workers, both skilled and unskilled, Rhyne said.

In 1979, Cochrane expanded its Warrenton facility through revenue bonds in the amount of \$800,000.

The company, which employs about 650 people in Warrenton and Lincolnton, opened its Warrenton facility in 1970.

In a related item, Warren County commissioners Monday granted a request from Jim Whitley, county industrial developer, that \$20,000 of the \$100,000 appropriation recently made by the N. C. General Assembly to Warren County for industrial development be earmarked for marketing and site evaluation

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Former Governor Terry Sanford, right, now president of Duke University, was welcomed here last Friday afternoon for a barbecue dinner honoring Retired Major General Claude T. Bowers, left, a life-long Warren County resident. Chatting

with the former governor, who appointed Bowers as the state's adjutant general, is Mrs. Bowers, known affectionately as "Miss Hattie" by North Carolina National Guardsmen. See related photo and story on Page 2. (Staff Photo)

## Pair Is Jailed After Fighting In Local Court

A domestic dispute in Warren County District Court last Wednesday resulted in a year-old child being thrown on the floor of the courtroom, stepped on, and injured in the mouth, according to court records.

Before the incident, the child's father, Peter Alston, Jr. of the Inez community, was found guilty of assault on his estranged wife, Brenda Alston, given a suspended sentence and placed on probation.

Court records indicate that at the conclusion of the case, Brenda Alston approached Maude Alston, Peter Alston's sister, and asked that she be given her child.

Judge C. W. Wilkinson, Jr. of Oxford asked the two women to approach the bench. At this point, Maude Alston stated that Brenda Alston pinched her. When the judge again requested the two to approach the bench, Maude Alston "threw the said child on the floor and jumped on Brenda Alston."

A fight over the child ensued, and the record indicates that the child was stepped on in the fracas.

It took four sheriff's deputies and police officers to restrain the women, and before they could approach the judge's bench with the women, Brenda Alston broke loose and attacked Maude Alston.

A spokesperson in the sheriff's office said this week that the episode apparently began on Thanksgiving Day when Peter Alston, Jr. took his two children to his

father's house, where he was staying, and failed to return them to their mother.

The two women were found in contempt of court and sentenced to 10 days in jail.

However, Judge Wilkinson rescinded that order on Friday, and the two women were released Monday at noon, according to the Sheriff's Department.

The child left the courtroom with the father and members of his family who promised to seek medical attention for the child if needed.

### Yule Parade Is Slated Saturday

Warrenton's annual Christmas Parade, held under the sponsorship of the Warren County Chamber of Commerce, will be held Saturday at 10 a. m. in downtown Warrenton.

For a list of entries expected on Saturday, as well as a route of the parade and directions to where Santa Claus can be seen, see Page 10.



Newly installed Norlina Mayor E. L. (Bill) Perry, left, administers the oaths of office to four of Norlina's five board members. Second from left is incumbent James Vaughan. Newly elect-

ed council members are Dwight Pearce, Eleanor Hayes and Kenneth Severance, right. See related story and another picture on Page 14. (Staff Photo)

## President Reagan's Signature Means Much To Warren Coffers

President Reagan's signature on a federal Revenue Sharing bill last week could bring as much as \$350,000 to Warren County for fiscal 1983-84, according to Glenwood Newsome, county manager.

Newsome said this week that the county budgeted for a total of \$427,000 from Revenue Sharing. However, \$70,000 of that amount is surplus from last year's budget and is already on

hand. Interest earned on the funds accounts for \$7,000 of the \$427,000 total.

Revenue Sharing funds are distributed to local governments quarterly on the basis of tax collection, population, and per capita income, Newsome said.

In Warren County, Revenue Sharing is a major source of funding for the county jail, Warren County schools, the fire departments,

rescue squad, and Warren General Hospital.

Warren County's three municipalities also stand to receive funding through the program. In Warrenton, the 1983-84 budget projected \$21,466 in Revenue Sharing and in Norlina, \$12,356 was projected. Figures for Macon were not available at press-time.

Nationwide, the program funnels about \$4.6 billion into local governments.

There were two changes in the Revenue Sharing program included in the bill.

In the past, two public hearings have been required before disbursement of Revenue Sharing funds. The first hearing for public input on how the funds should be spent is still intact. However, the proposed use hearing, required after the local government has designated how the funds will be used, has been eliminated.

Law also now requires annual audits of local governments receiving Revenue Sharing funds. Warren County and its municipalities already have annual audits, so the new law will not adversely effect them.

## Mrs. Clayton Is Chosen To Direct Board Again

Warren County commissioners Monday re-elected Chairperson Eva M. Clayton and Vice Chairperson George Shearin to their posts, and then moved on to reappoint County Tax Collector Susan Whitley, and Deputy Tax Collectors Audrey Ayscue, Carolyn Cheek and Roberta King for one-year terms.

The tax collector,

deputy tax collectors, tax supervisor, and county manager are the only county employees who serve by appointment of the board. Mrs. Janice Haynes, tax supervisor, was reappointed some time ago, and the commissioners, in a split vote earlier this month decided to consider the county manager's position (Continued on page 16)