



Warren deer hunter Peete Hilliard joined sportsmen and other county citizens who attended a public hearing last Wednesday night before county commissioners on spotlighting and hunting from public road rights-of-way. Hilliard voiced support for the current laws, as did a majority of those attending the hearing. (Staff Photo)

Court House Is Filled Hunters Blast Change In Law

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer
The battle lines were drawn between hunters and landowners last Wednesday night at a public hearing at the Warren County courthouse.

In a courtroom filled to capacity, county commissioners heard the pros and cons of the current spotlighting law which allows the spotlighting of deer until 11 p. m. provided the spotlighter has no firearm in his vehicle or possession and which prohibits spotlighting altogether from 11 p. m. until one-half hour before sunrise.

Deer lovers who enjoy spotlighting with their children joined forces with sportsmen in urging the commissioners to make no changes in the law.

"You should see the face of a two- or three-year-old child when they see their first deer," Randy Shearin of Wise told the commissioners. "I'm all in favor of leaving the law just as it is."

Although the sportsmen and deer lovers were in the majority among those who spoke, Matt Nelson of Vaughan registered strong opposition to spotlighting calling it both dangerous and "a blooming nuisance."

Nelson charged that while much of the spotlighting in Warren County is "innocent enough," some of it is being done by professional hunters selling deer.

"Many times there is the light in one vehicle and the gun in another vehicle following behind," Nelson said.

Shooting from the right-of-way on public roads was also discussed during the hearing bringing heated remarks from hunters and other county residents.

The law currently

restricts hunting or shooting from the road right-of-way unless the hunter has written permission from landowners on both sides of the road.

F. P. Whitley, a rural postman, likened his travels during deer season to "going down the beltline," and spoke of the danger with hunters "crouched by the road ready to shoot."

Wallace Neal countered, telling the audience that "Mr. Whitley is living proof that the present law works."

Complaints were also heard about hunters whose vehicles block roadways and slow traffic.

But hunters contended that hunting from the roadside was safer than hunting in a wooded area with less visibility.

It was noted by Shearin that where hunters must hunt at least 30 feet from the center of the road, in Halifax and Northampton counties, more ac-

cidents involving hunters are reported than in Warren County.

Peete Hilliard of Macon told the commissioners that elderly people, like his father, would not be able to hunt if hunting along the roadside were prohibited.

A written poll taken after the hearing indicated that those in attendance overwhelmingly favored leaving the spotlighting law and the law on hunting from the road right-of-way as is.

Only nine people indicated they favored prohibiting spotlighting altogether while 72 favored keeping the law intact.

Two people favored prohibiting shooting from the roadway and 75 favored no changes in the right-of-way law.

Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, chairperson of the county commissioners, indicated that the board would take up the issues within the next month.

Acreage Cut Sought

Program Sign-Up Ends On Friday

The sign-up for 1984 acreage reduction programs which began on January 16 will continue through February 24. Farmers are advised to seriously consider program benefits, ASCS Executive Director Thomas E. Watson said yesterday. The sign-up ends on February 24.

"Participants who reduce their wheat acres by 30 percent will be eligible for target price protection at \$4.45 per bushel, price support loans at \$3.30 per bushel and the option to reduce their acreage an additional 10 to 20 percent for payment-in-kind at

75 percent of their program yield," Watson said.

Farmers who plant no more than 90 percent of their feed grain base(s) will be eligible for target prices of \$3.03 for corn, \$2.88 for grain sorghum, \$2.60 for barley and \$1.60 a bushel for oats. They will also be eligible for price support loans at \$2.55 a bushel for corn, \$2.42 for sorghum, \$2.08 for barley and \$1.31 per bushel for oats.

All program contracts will be binding and "dropping out" after February 24 will require payment of liquidated damages, Watson said.

Warren Developer Leaving Post

Warren County commissioners received the resignation of Community Developer Willie H. Griffin last Wednesday night at their mid-monthly meeting, and were unanimous in their expression of regret and disappointment over Griffin's decision.

"You've done a good job pushing us forward," Chairperson

Eva M. Clayton told Griffin. "We extend our good wishes, but with regret."

Griffin tendered his resignation effective February 29 to become executive director of the Elizabethtown Housing Authority and Community Development Program.

He came to Warren County last June to direct a \$340,707 federal Community Development Block Grant project for rehabilitation of the Red Hill area on the eastern outskirts of Warrenton.

Funding for Griffin's position was provided by the grant, and will terminate at the conclusion of the project, scheduled for April.

"I was offered a permanent position in Elizabethtown, and I wasn't offered one here," Griffin said this week.

He indicated that he had expressed an interest in a permanent position with the county and had asked County Manager Charles Worth if the community developer's position would be a part of the 1984-85 budget.

"He didn't know, and not having any definite word, I had to make a decision," Griffin said. "I regret having to leave. I've gotten along (Continued on page 6)

Mrs. Baker Named Top Teacher

Mrs. Bertadene Baker of Rt. 3, Warrenton, a kindergarten teacher at Mariam Boyd Elementary School, has been named Warren County Teacher of the Year, according to an announcement this week by Michael F. Williams, superintendent of schools.

A committee of seven appointed by Williams chose Mrs. Baker for the honor from a list of nominees submitted by school principals. Finalists were interviewed and observed in their respective classrooms before the selection was made.

Mrs. Baker will serve as Teacher of the Year for the 1984 calendar year and will enter regional competition representing Warren County in December.

"The committee made an excellent selection, and I feel certain that Mrs. Baker will represent Warren County well," said Williams. As Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Baker will be involved in school system activities and will be available to speak to community groups and civic clubs.

Mrs. Baker works as a Girl Scout leader and 4-H instructor and has been active in professional organizations, including ACT and NCAE. In 1980, Dr. Craig Phillips appointed her to serve a three year term on the state's Professional Review Committee. Mrs. Baker is a member of Odell Baptist Church and serves as president of the Missionary Circle, a member of the senior choir and the Pastor's Aid Club.



Warren County Superintendent of Schools Michael F. Williams congratulates Mrs. Bertadene Baker upon her selection as Warren County Teacher of the Year for 1984. (Community Schools Photo)

Voter Apathy Comes Under Attack From Second District Congressman

Second District Congressman Tim Valentine lashed out at voter apathy here Friday night, telling a ladies night audience attending a Warren County Cattlemen's Association dinner that they should be full participants in the electoral process.

The Nashville first-term representative, speaking in soft tones, drew a comparison between voting and reading when he said that "one who will not read a good book has no advantage over one who cannot read a good book."

Valentine said people in his district must help spread the word to others that "we need to reverse a trend abroad in our land for many years, and that is that people despise the process of government."

The Washington lawmaker said that voters ought to pay more attention to the preservation of their rights and their institutions.

"We have a responsibility to ourselves, our friends, our church, to see that these institutions are protected," he said, noting that they could not be protected if so many people fail to participate in helping make government work.

Valentine drew a laugh from his audience when he said he had not been in Congress long enough to

bear all the blame for the problems of farmers.

Although his message to cattlemen was serious, he included several humorous anecdotes concerning his experiences as a part-time cattle grower.

Also speaking to those attending the banquet, held at The Rafter's Steak and Seafood House, was Clint Reese, executive director of the N. C. Cattlemen's association, who said Warren cattlemen need to be more involved in farm policy and he listed a number of items needing attention from cattle producers.

The program followed a brief business session in which Margie Brauer gave a treasurer's report and read the association's minutes. Jimmy Harris, outgoing president, presided over the meeting.

Frank Gupton gave a report of the nominating committee and nominees were elected by acclamation. They included Calvin Seaman, president; Walter Bender, vice president; and Mrs. Brauer, secretary and treasurer.

Congressman Valentine was accompanied to the meeting by his district administrative assistant, A. B. Swindell of Oxford.



Second District Congressman Tim Valentine is shown holding a package of a half-dozen steaks presented him by the Warren County Cattlemen's Association which met here Friday night. Others having a part in the ladies night program were, from left, Jimmy Harris, outgoing president and

presiding officer; Calvin Seaman, newly elected president; Valentine; Margie Brauer, secretary and treasurer; Clint M. Reese, executive secretary of the N. C. Cattlemen's Association; and Walter Bender, who was elected vice president. (Staff Photo)