



Representatives of Owens-Illinois (O-I) joined county and state officials for groundbreaking at the company's 20-acre site on U. S. 1 near Ridgeway Friday. Shown above tossing out the traditional spadeful of dirt are (left to right) The Rev. W. T. Ramey, pastor, Ridgeway Baptist Church; John Evans, project manager for O-I's Warren County plant; Jerry Trevey, general manager of O-I's box plant in Salisbury and consultant on new plant project;

Charles Worth, Warren County manager; Second District Congressman I. T. "Tim" Valentine; O-I Vice President Ronald J. Glick; Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.; Mrs. Eva T. Clayton, chairperson of Warren County commissioners; State Representative Frank Ballance; Warren County Industrial Commission chairman Monroe Gardner; and Warren County Industrial Developer Jim Whitley. (Staff Photo)

New Survey Reports Drop

Warren Farms Show Decline

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer
Warren County farms are declining in number but increasing in size as are farms throughout North Carolina, according to preliminary figures contained in the U. S. Commerce Department's 1982 census of agriculture.

each of the county's farms. The report also indicates that \$12.7 million, or 62 percent of total sales, were for crops, while \$7.9 million, or 38 percent of the total, came from the sale of livestock, poultry and their products. Preliminary data indicates that expenditures (Continued on page 9)

As of December 31, 1982, there were 470 farms in Warren County as compared with 591 in 1978. However, the average acreage on Warren County farms increased from 172 in 1978 to 197 in 1982. The census showed a large decline in the number of tobacco farms in the county, from 392 in 1978 to 271 in 1982. In 1978, 8,124,542 pounds of tobacco were harvested, but only 6,938,477 were harvested in 1982. In 1982, all land in farms in the county totaled 92,821, an average of 197 acres per farm.

New Voters On Books Republican Party Slim In Warren

The two-party system is far from strong in Warren County with the latest figures from the county Board of Elections office showing that of 10,395 voters registered for the May 8 primary, only 383 are Republican. According to a further breakdown of voter registration figures released yesterday by Mrs. Ruby Jones, county elections supervisor, the number of black voters outweighs the number of white by more than 1,500. There are 5,814 black voters registered in the county, 4,246 white, and 335 Indian. The figures were compiled after Monday's voter registration deadline. Since October 1983, 794 blacks in the county have registered to vote, 294 whites have registered, and 78 Indians have registered. Of those registering since October, 1,135 were Democrats and 28 were Republicans. Since October, 54 voters have registered listing no party affiliation. Two Libertarians are registered in the county.

Local, State, Federal Officials Break New Plant Ground Friday

Friday's groundbreaking for the new Owens-Illinois manufacturing facility near Ridgeway drew a crowd of about 350 and a contingent of government officials led by Governor James B. Hunt.

The ceremony took place at the 20-acre plant site on U. S. 1 about three miles south of Norlina where the Fortune 500 company plans to erect a \$15 million facility for the manufacture of corrugated shipping boxes.

"In the past seven years, I have participated in literally hundreds of groundbreaking ceremonies and other such ceremonies, but without a doubt, today's is the most exciting...and the one I have worked hardest on personally," Governor Hunt told the crowd.

The governor commended local leaders for their efforts in recruiting the Toledo, Ohio-based company.

"It happened because of your vision and determination," Governor Hunt said. "This is the beginning of something very important. I know how hard you worked because you were often in my office."

Hunt reminded Owens-Illinois officials that there were "another 20 acres on the other side (of this site)."

"Spread the word about Warren County where people want industry and will work hard for it," Hunt commented.

Owens-Illinois Vice President Ronald J. Glick also addressed the group and had high praise for local and state officials in their efforts to direct Owens-Illinois to Warren County.

"It is a real and sincere tribute to a host of Warren County government officials, both elected and appointed, as well as many others outside of government

O-I Has Big Payroll

Owens-Illinois, a Toledo, Ohio-based Fortune 500 company, currently has six manufacturing plants in North Carolina employing more than 900 people. In 1983, its North Carolina payroll was more than \$17 million. The 214,000-square-foot Warren County facility for the production of corrugated boxes will, at full production, have an annual payroll of about \$2 million. It will be the third box-making plant of Owens-Illinois' Forest Products Group in North Carolina. The Warren County plant is expected to employ a total of 82 people when in full production.

who have been so instrumental in focusing our attention here," Glick said. "Just eight weeks ago today, some of us gathered in Governor Hunt's office to announce this plant. We said then, and it is worth repeating, that the one key ingredient which convinced us to locate here in Warren County was the people," Glick continued. "Now it is up to us. Now we must get on with providing the jobs we said we would be building the most modern, high-technology corrugated box manufacturing plant possible." According to Glick, the company will initially employ 82 people. About seven of the 19 salaried employees have been hired and he

noted that this week job offers would be made to the first group of persons being hired for hourly jobs.

Training will take place at the company's Warrenton Training Center in the facility that formerly housed High Dollar Warehouse on the northern outskirts of Warrenton.

Also participating in groundbreaking ceremonies were other state and local officials, including Warren County Industrial Commission (Continued on page 11)

Local Merchant

Dies On Tuesday

William Kay Lanier, Sr., 81, of Eaton Avenue in Warrenton, died Tuesday at his home after a long illness.

He was a layman and active member of Warrenton Presbyterian Church and a charter member and past president of the Warrenton Lions Club. He was past president and past manager of the Warren County Fair Association and past chairman of the county's ABC board. He owned and operated Lanier Hardware Co. in Warrenton.

He was a member of the Johnson-Caswell Lodge 10 AF&AM, the Scottish Rite bodies of Enfield and New Bern and the Sudan Temple Shrine of New Bern.

A graveside service will be conducted at 11 a. m. Friday at Fairview Cemetery by the Revs. Nancy and Clint McCann.

Surviving are two sons, William Kay Lanier, Jr. and Eugene Sidney Lanier, both of Warrenton; a sister, Mrs. Rebecca Rooker of Henderson; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

School Is Planned By Norlina Church

Gospel Baptist Church in Norlina is planning to open a Christian school, according to an announcement made recently by the church's pastor, the Rev. Gary M. Roy. Norlina Christian School will begin by offering K-4 for (four-year-olds) and K-5 (for five-year-olds), the Rev. Mr. Roy said.

A first-grade class may also be offered when the school opens, with the addition of a grade each year until the school becomes fully-graded to include high school seniors.

The school will be housed in the church's facilities located on U. S. 158 east in Norlina.

An information seminar for interested parents will be conducted Tuesday night, April 17, at 7:30 at the church. "Joe Bowman, a representative of A-Beka Books, will be sharing with parents the curriculum that will be used at Norlina Christian School and will be answering questions during the seminar," the Rev. Mr. Roy said. "A-Beka Books curriculum is one of the

New Filing Slated

The filing period for candidates for State Senate and State House in districts reappointed in 1984, including Warren County's districts, will begin April 23 at noon, according to Ruby Jones,

Warren County elections supervisor.

The filing period will end April 30 at noon. A special primary election for these seats will be held June 5.

The primary for other offices will be held May 8 as originally scheduled, with a second primary on June 5, if needed.

The deadline for registering to vote in the first primary was April 9. However, citizens may register until May 7 to vote in the June 5 special primary.

Those registered between now and May 7 will not be eligible to vote in the June 5 second primary for offices other than state Senate and House, Mrs. Jones said.

July 17 has been set as the date for the second primary for Senate and House seats, if needed.

The deadline for issuance of absentee ballot applications in the May 8 primary is May 3 at 5 p. m. This is also the deadline for one-stop voting at the board of election office. May 7 is the deadline for filing absentee ballots.

For Senior Citizens Center

Federal Grant Sharpens Hopes

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The renovation of the old vocational building on the Hawkins Elementary School campus in Warrenton into a senior citizens center came closer to reality recently when the project was awarded a \$46,534 grant from the federal Title III Older Americans Act. Included in the grant is \$2,584 in state funds.

Allen Hawks, director of the Warren County Council for Senior Citizens which is overseeing the project, said this week that the grant will be used along with a county allocation of \$5,171 to refurbish the interior of the building.

"If everything goes on schedule, a contractor should be at work on the building shortly," Hawks said.

Volunteers have already begun to tear out unneeded walls.

"We've also secured a number of people who will help with electrical work and with other areas of construction," Hawks commented. "Others have

offered help with plumbing. So maybe our funding will go further than we anticipated."

This cost of the entire renovation project, interior and exterior, had been estimated at \$130,000 by an architect with the N. C. Division of Facility Services who drew the plans free of charge.

Hawks is hoping that, for considerably less, the interior of the facility will be completed and the agency can begin activities.

"The center will provide a lot of services," Hawks said. "Unfortunately, we've had setbacks, but now it looks like it's gaining momentum. I want to thank all those who put in very good words for this agency in meetings where funding was being discussed. And we appreciate the county's contribution. It has shown the commitment on the part of people in the county to support the project."

Hawks said volunteers are welcome to assist with general clean up and with painting of the center. Anyone who would like to donate time or money to the project should call Hawks at 257-3111 or stop by the council office at 138 S. Main Street in Warrenton.

Leaf Deadline Nears

April 16 is the deadline for tobacco farmers to make decisions on two important items that will affect their 1984 tobacco crop, according to Thomas E. Watson, executive director of the Warren County ASCS office.

All lease agreements and agreements on the transfer of tobacco to or from farms must be filed by the 16th, Watson said.

The 16th is also the deadline for designating tobacco warehouses before the market opens.

"We encourage all producers to attend to these matters before the final date," Watson said.