Country Store Closed

(Continued from page 1B) ville.

It was Ann's husband, Al, with Citizen's Insurance and Bonding in Warrenton, who took the closing of his father-in-law's country store the hardest.

According to King, Fleming's greatest lament was the demise of the place where "the boys" play cards.

Not one to cause undue hardship on others, King consented to keep the building open at night as a sort of gathering place.

"The boys are using it as a country club, more or less," he quipped.

Two or three nights each week, they roll into Oakville from all around, but King suggested it would probably be prudent not to mention names.

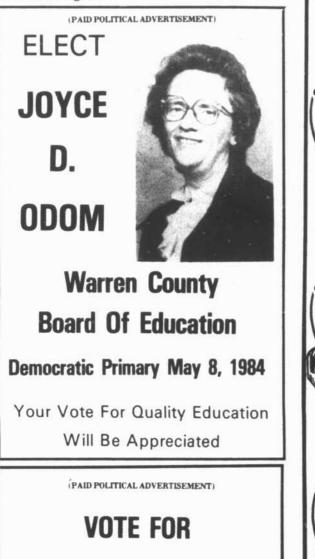
"As long as they play cards in a nice, gentle way, no drinking or gambling, they can come here," King admonished. "I'll pay the heat and electricity bills. After all, they've get nowhere else to go."

Although retired from the store, King still owns 580 acres of land, 165 of it open, and plans to continue farming on a small scale.

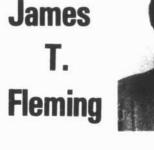
He also plans to allot time for puttering around the back room and the attic of the store, disposing of items collected during a half-century of merchandising.

Next winter, when the crops are harvested and the pace slackens there may even be time for a few sessions of what King calls "fireside farming" with friends around the old stove at the store.

While the store is not now what it used to be, there is the promise of more good times within its walls for awhile longer.







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