

Large Increase In Sales Tax Receipts Seen

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The fiscal quarter ending March 31 saw Warren County's net proceeds from the one-half percent sales tax increase by almost 50 percent over the previous quarter.

According to figures released recently from the N. C. Department of Revenue, the tax, which was enacted by county commissioners last October, brought \$80,788 into the county treasury for the quarter ending in March over \$42,649 for the quarter ending December 31, 1983.

The new sales tax, authorized by the

General Assembly last year, is distributed on a per capita basis among all the counties in the state that participate.

Mrs. Susan W. Whitley, county tax collector, said the proceeds from that tax have increased as additional counties have levied the tax.

The participation of larger, metropolitan counties like Mecklenburg, Guilford, and Wake benefits rural counties like Warren because of the per capita method of distribution.

Of the \$80,788 most recently reported, the following amounts were distributed among the

county's municipalities: Warrenton, \$4,451; Norlina, \$3,907; and Macon, \$658.

By law, 40 percent of the proceeds during the first five years the tax is in effect must be earmarked for county schools.

Warren County commissioners in October voted to allocate a maximum of \$115,000 for fiscal 1983-84, which ends in June, representing 60 percent of a projected \$192,000 in revenue based on the participation of 72 of the state's 100 counties.

As of March 31, a total of \$123,437 had been collected.

The county also received \$79,784 for the

quarter ending March 31 from its one percent portion of the four percent sales tax. (Three percent is a state tax and one percent is a local tax with proceeds shared among county and municipal governments).

Of that amount, Warrenton received \$4,396, Norlina received \$3,858 and Macon received \$649.

Those figures represented only a slight increase over the previous quarter when the county received \$71,666 and the municipalities of Warrenton, Norlina and Macon received \$4,445, \$3,901 and \$657, respectively.

Workers Will Get Pay Hike

The Warrenton Board of Town Commissioners at its regular meeting Monday night adopted a tentative budget of \$558,498, which includes a 5 percent pay raise for all town employees except the mayor and town commissioners.

The tentative budget compares with the 1983-84 town budget of \$543,098, a difference of \$15,444. This difference is practically covered by the across-the-board raise for town employees.

The contingency fund in the tentative budget is \$18,188. While the tax rate will not be set until the regular budget is adopted, Pete Vaughan, town administrator, said it is not now believed that the tax rate will be raised due to a raise in the town's tax base.

The tentative budget was presented to the board by Commissioner Eddie Clayton, chairman of the Finance Committee, and read over page by page with Mrs. Carolyn Robertson, budget officer. The budget was passed by unanimous vote of all commissioners present. Only Commissioner Bobby Edmonds was absent, and he was attending summer camp with the local National Guard unit. A copy of the tentative budget is (Continued on page 2)

Two New Ministers Chosen For Warren

Bishop William R. Cannon of the N. C. Conference of the United Methodist Church has announced the annual ministerial appointments for the 56-county conference, including appointments affecting two churches in Warren County.

Among the new appointments, which are effective June 10, are the Rev. A. Gene Cobb to Norlina Methodist Church from Gillburg Methodist Church in Henderson, and the Rev. J. Cameron West, who has been on study leave, to Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Warrenton.

Two ministers are leaving the Warrenton area. The Rev. James L. Summey of Wesley Memorial has been appointed to Nashville Methodist Church and the Rev. James A. Williams of Norlina will move to Troy Circuit.



WAITING ON THE CONVICTS — Rod Davis, 92-year-old resident of Rt. 2, Warrenton, was one of many Warren County residents taking up arms during recent days. Davis, shown with his double-barrelled shotgun, said he wasn't nervous about the fact that six death row prisoners from Virginia made Warrenton the first leg of their escape route. "I ain't scared as long as I have my gun," Davis told a reporter this past weekend. Davis said his weapon was loaded with number eight and number four shot. Four of the convicts have been recaptured — two in Warrenton and two in Vermont — but the search continues for James and Linwood Briley, brothers held in connection with eleven Virginia murders. (Staff Photo by Carolyn Steele)

Command Post Abandoned As Escapee Hunt Widens

Law enforcement officers who assembled here earlier this month following the largest escape of death row prisoners in the nation's history left Warren County Monday afternoon, leaving only a small contingent of state highway patrolmen to carry on the search locally for the last two escapees whose May 31 prison break enabled six condemned murderers to gain freedom.

For four prisoners, the freedom was short lived. Two of the fugitives, Earl Clanton, Jr. and Derrick Lynn Peters were caught the day after the six tricked guards into letting them leave a maximum security prison near Boydton, Va. The two escapees were drinking wine and eating cheese at Willoughby Harris's coin-operated laundry on East Macon Street when an FBI-manned phone tap in Virginia led to their discovery here.

Two other fugitives, Lem Tuggle, Jr. and Willie Leroy Jones,

made it as far as Vermont in a truck stolen from Afton on the night of the prison break. Tuggle was caught Friday driving the pickup at a roadblock after he robbed a gift shop at knife point. Jones, who made it to within five miles of the Canadian border, turned himself in to Vermont state troopers later that day after a telephone conversation

with his mother. His mother reportedly urged Jones to give himself up.

Both Tuggle and Jones had been in the Virginia prison system for only three months when they made good their escape. Their records show each had been convicted of double murders in addition to several other crimes.

The arrests left only (Continued on page 8)

For State Senate Race In Warren

Voter Registration Deadline Nears

The deadline for voter registration for the July 17 special Democratic primary for state Senate is Monday, June 18, which is also the deadline for voters who have moved since the last election to notify the Board of Election of their new address, according to Ruby Jones, supervisor of elections for Warren County.

A person may register to vote at the Board of Elections office in the Hendricks Building at 105 S. Front Street between 9 a. m. and 5 p. m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment at the home of his precinct registrar or judge.

The primary election for state senate was delayed in several counties, including Warren, because of legislative redistricting. Previously, all of Warren

Tentative Budget Presented

No Change Planned In County Tax Rate

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

Warren County commissioners Monday received a proposed budget of \$4,803,365 for fiscal 1984-85 from County Manager and Finance Officer Charles J. Worth.

The overall budget represents an increase of approximately 7.9 percent over last year's budget, but calls for no increase in the county's ad valorem property rate of \$1 per \$100 valuation.

Worth said this week that the proposed increase in appropriations, which includes a six percent across-the-board pay raise for county employees, was made possible by proceeds from the local one-half percent sales tax levied last October. The tax is distributed on a per capita basis among all counties that participate throughout the state and is expected to produce about \$350,000 in revenues for the coming year, Worth said.

Although the General Fund appropriations in the budget have been increased by about 10 percent, appropriations from the federal Revenue Sharing Program have been decreased as a result of overall reductions in the program enacted last summer by Congress.

Warren County expects to receive \$379,000 in Revenue Sharing funds for 1984-85 as opposed to \$427,000 for 1983-84.

The budget calls for

this year's Revenue Sharing funds to be divided among the Warren County Sheriff's Department, the county's volunteer Fire

Departments and rescue squad, and Warren General Hospital. Warren County Schools, which in 1983-84

were allocated \$100,000 in Revenue Sharing funds for capital outlay, are slated to receive no Revenue Sharing funds (Continued on page 8)

For Operating Public Schools

Educators Express Alarm Over Proposed Allocation

The Warren County Board of Education, faced with the prospect of operating the county school system next year with almost \$120,000 less than needed, expressed concern Monday night over the amount of local funding proposed by county commissioners in their tentative budget for 1984-85.

Members of the Board of Education were told by Supt. Mike Williams that the proposed current expense appropriation of \$903,807 is \$119,909 less than the amount necessary to fund the current expense continuation budget.

"This will mean that we cannot fund any of the current expense expansion items and will have to cut \$119,909 from the current expense continuation budget," Williams said.

Board members were told that the current expense continuation budget, the non-salary items total \$545,123.

"If we attempt to cut \$119,909 from continuation without terminating

employees, we will have to eliminate 22 percent of our non-salary items, all of which are critical, if not essential, to the operation of the school system," Williams said. Included among these items are such things as fuel, electricity and property insurance, he told board members.

"This is a serious situation," Williams

said. "If the General Assembly enacts a 15 percent raise for employees and no additional support materializes from either state or local sources, we will be faced with cuts of the magnitude experienced in the summer of 1981 when we had to cut the continuation budget by \$96,341," Williams said. (Continued on page 8)

School Programs Are Given Funding

Warren County is one of 12 school systems statewide to receive funding for a new program which seeks to guarantee that effective teaching practices are used in the classroom.

Announcement of receipt of a state grant of \$20,465 to Warren schools was made here Monday night by School Supt. Mike Williams.

The notification was given members of the Warren County Board of Education. Williams said the grant was among 59 projects submitted from throughout the state for funding.

"The emphasis of the project is to train central office personnel, principals and selected mentor teachers to work with teachers, especially beginning teachers, in assuring that effective teaching practices are utilized in the classroom," Williams said.

Williams also informed board members that through the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments and the Jobs Training Partnership Act that the system has secured \$27,578 to

fund a full-time counselor position at Warren County High School.

"This person will work solely with 40 students identified as potential dropouts in an effort to keep these students in school until the completion of their high school program," Williams said.

Board members were also told that the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services wanted to enter into an agreement with Franklin County Schools, Franklinton City Schools and Warren County Schools to provide one counselor to work with handicapped students in the three school systems.

Supt. Williams said that the counselor would work two days in the Warren County system, and one day each at Franklinton, Louisburg and Bunn high schools.

Cost for Warren County to participate in the program would be about \$3,000. The local systems are expected to provide \$7,424 while the federal government will put \$29,696 into the proposed program.