

The Warren Record

Volume 87

25¢ Per Copy

Warrenton, County Of Warren, North Carolina

Wednesday, August 15, 1984

Number 33



These cross ties stacked beside the Seaboard Systems Railroad's tracks at Macon mark the end of an era. All of its track between Norlina and Roanoke Rapids, with the exception of a track connecting the 3.2-mile Warrenton Railroad track with Norlina, was officially abandoned by the railroad in May and cross ties and track are currently being

taken up. Davy Formyduval, vice president of Aberdeen and Briar Patch Railroad, and son of Willard Formyduval, owner of Warrenton Railroad, said this week that Warrenton Railroad will continue to serve its customers in this area.

(Staff Photo)

Lightning Draws Blame For Fires As Homes Burned; Fireman Hurt

Fire caused by lightning has destroyed two Warren County homes in the past five days and a volunteer fireman suffered minor injuries fighting one of the blazes, according to Walter Gardner, captain of the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

Last Thursday, the residence of Ozzie Wilson located between Inez and Grove Hill was completely destroyed by fire along with its contents.

The Inez and Arcola fire departments responded to the 10:15 p.m. blaze, assisted by Warrenton Rural Fire Department.

Tim Proctor, a Warrenton Rural

fireman, suffered a broken thumb when a brick veneered wall of the one-and-one-half story home collapsed. A ladder belonging to the Inez Department was crushed when the wall fell.

About 30 firemen responded to the call and stayed on the scene for more than three hours.

No one was at home when the fire broke out, Gardner said.

On Monday, the residence of Beech Fogg on Rt. 2, in Norlina near the Axell community was "virtually destroyed," according to Gardner, in a blaze that was reported at 10:59 p.m. Warrenton Rural, Afton-Elberon, Cokesbury,

and Soul City fire departments responded.

Much of the contents of the home were also destroyed.

The home was thought to be a part of the Sam Allen estate, Gardner said.

About 20 firemen responded to the fire and stayed on the scene about three hours. Warrenton Rural firemen returned to the scene at 7 a.m. Tuesday to extinguish a smoldering mattress.

Prices Are Good

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Prices continued high Tuesday on the second week of sales for the Warrenton Tobacco Market, according to Mrs. Alice Marie Robertson, sales supervisor. Reports from the local market's four warehouses, Currin's, High Dollar, Centre and Farmers, gave reason for optimism to area tobacco growers.

The Warrenton market, which is a part of the Middle Belt, posted records from Tuesday's sales showing an average price of \$159.37 per hundred on the 300,674 pounds sold. Gross sales amounted to \$479,187, Mrs. Robertson stated.

These statistics reflected a continuation of the high note on which the market opened last Thursday. The Warrenton market recorded the highest opening day average price of any market in the Warren-Vance-Granville area. Opening day ended

locally with an average price of \$155.57 per hundred, more than \$3.50 above the average for Henderson's opening and almost \$7 more than the opening day average for Oxford.

Gross sales on opening day totalled \$380,328 for the 244,470 pounds sold in the Warrenton warehouses. The volume of tobacco on sale, as well as the price, is expected to increase as the season continues.

Mrs. Robertson indicated that one encouraging factor is that so little of the crop is going to the Federal Stabilization Cooperative Program.

On opening day in Warrenton, only three percent of the leaf on sale went to Stabilization. This is an indication that the tobacco companies want to buy most of the tobacco on the warehouse floors. With the second week of sales, Stabilization continued to receive only a small portion, seven percent, of the tobacco for sale.

Littleton Man Given Medical Scholarship

Burton D. Price, 26, a native of Littleton, is one of 17 recipients of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Medical Scholarships for 1984-85, according to an announcement made recently by UNC President William Friday.

Price, who received an undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a master's degree from N.C. Central University in Durham, will attend East Carolina School of

Medicine.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Baldy D. Price of Littleton, Price attended Northwest High School.

The scholarship provides full payment of tuition and mandatory fees, plus an annual stipend of \$4,000.

The scholarships were authorized by the General Assembly in 1974 as a means of providing increased medical education opportunities for financially disadvantaged students. Opening day ended

reflecting a continuation of the high note on which the market opened last Thursday. The Warrenton market recorded the highest opening day average price of any market in the Warren-Vance-Granville area. Opening day ended

Pupils To Report Sept. 4

School Opening Delay Approved By Board

The Warren County Board of Education Monday night ordered that the start of school be delayed until after Labor Day in order that county farmers could use school labor in helping harvest this year's tobacco crop.

The board acted after a four-man delegation, led by Luther Perkins, appeared to request a delay in the opening of school. All nine Warren County schools were scheduled to open August 21. Teachers had been expected to report today.

Supt. Mike Williams told board members that notification of the delay could be passed on to teachers expected to report today without undue difficulty. After calling for schools to open on Tuesday, Sept. 4, the board voted to require teachers to report for duty on Thursday, Aug. 23.

The delegation of tobacco farmers was composed of Perkins, Norwell Bolton, William Ellington and Bob Rideout.

Perkins told board members that because of an "extremely late" tobacco crop, farmers would be "hurt awfully" if schools opened as originally scheduled.

Perkins said the majority of the crop would come in during the next two weeks and that "kids willing to work should have the chance to work."

Board members and farmers agreed that it is unfair to penalize students who worked in tobacco instead of attending school. Williams said that efforts are made to help absent students stay abreast of their classwork, but that students nonetheless were put at a disadvantage if they missed several days of school.

Ellington told board members that should the opening of school not be postponed, "it will force us to bring in labor we don't want. In an obvious reference to the use of migrant labor, Ellington said he would much prefer to work people living on local farms.

Supt. Williams told the delegation that the calendar was not "set in concrete" and that it could be changed. He

said that during the past six years the schools have opened before Labor Day and that during that time no delegation had asked for a delay.

Board members Yarborough Williams, who abstained when the vote on delay was taken, said that the board should "take a look at the whole picture" before calling

for a postponement. Members voting for the delay in opening were Chairman Henry Pitchford, Mrs. Kathy Wilson, Henry Bobbitt and Leigh Traylor.

Deer Pays Visit To Local Store

History has a way of repeating itself, at least insofar as deer sightings on Warrenton's Main Street are concerned.

Many residents of the town recall the time more than two decades ago when a deer jumped through the plate glass window of Benton's Furniture Company, rammed his head through a petition, left the store, ran three blocks along Main Street, jumped over a moving taxi cab and disappeared.

Now a deer has come back to the same area. This time the deer appeared across Main Street, at Warrenton Supply Company.

Owner Vernon Whitmore said a doe came in the back gate which opens onto Front Street, entered the store, fell a couple of times, jumped over the counter and struck the front plate glass window before retracing her steps and disappearing out the back gate.

The latest episode, which occurred about 9 a.m. on August 2, was witnessed by Whitmore and Jack Groves of Warrenton.

Whitmore said he did not stop to take a picture of the deer. The owner hurriedly left his store by the front door and reported that it sounded as if the store were falling apart.

Rape Charge Is Brought

Twenty-five-year-old Larry Donnell Alston of Warrenton has been released from the Warren County jail under \$6,000 bond, charged with the second-degree rape of a 19-year-old Warrenton woman.

On Tuesday evening, August 7, Alston allegedly gave a ride to a local woman, apparently an acquaintance, who was walking on Main Street in Warrenton. According to reports from the Warren County Sheriff's Department, the woman, whose name was not released, stated that she had accepted a ride home with Alston.

He reportedly drove the woman about two miles east of Warrenton to a secluded, wooded area where he sexually

(Continued on page 2)

Meeting Of Commissioners

Divided Into Three Parts

Like all Gaul, the regular monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Commissioners on Monday night was divided into three parts—one-third with the hearing of a cemetery committee, one-third with the presentation of a computer salesman, and one-third with the transaction of regular board matters.

The cemetery committee is a volunteer organization which for several years has been keeping up the cemetery in a laudable manner with funds from the town and volunteer donations and volunteer labor, as well as from sale of cemetery lots. Monday night the committee wished to know if they could raise the price of a lot to provide perpetual care for such lots. Town Attorney Charles Johnson explained that the difficulty here was that no such charge had been made for previous lots sold, and the charge of discrimination would arise.

Johnson suggested three ways that the problem may be handled:

1. By the town.

2. Appointment of trustees.

3. A private corporation.

The committee and the commissioners, for the time being, favored the cemetery being

handled by the town. It was decided that further study is needed and at the end of 40 minutes the delegates departed.

For the next 40 minutes, Bruce Jackson of Raleigh, computer salesman for computer software, illustrated the operation of a computer, and made his pitch for its sale. Should the commissioners buy this or any other computer, it will be used primarily for water department records. However, the commissioners told Jackson they wanted time for further study and comparisons, and informed him they would get in touch with him later. Forty more minutes had passed.

Johnson suggested for committee reports.

Commissioner Gordon Haithcock, chairman of the Water Committee, called upon Bill Neal, superintendent of the Water Department, who explained a sewer permit which had been drawn up for Owens-Illinois. Neal said that the company was anxious to obtain this permit as soon as possible, and he was satisfied that all items had been covered, but that he wanted it approved by the town attorney before he delivered it to Owens-Illinois. It was turned over to Attorney Charles

(Continued on page 2)

Joint Meeting Set

A joint meeting of trustees of Warren General Hospital, Warren County commissioners, and the Warren General Hospital Task Force will be held tonight (Wednesday) at 8 p.m. at the Warren County Courthouse to discuss the future of the hospital.

All meetings of the two boards and the task force, both individually and jointly, have been open to the public, but Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, chairperson of the commissioners and the task force, has urged public participation in this meeting.