

The Warren Record



This meteorite with a circumference of 10 inches was discovered recently on the farm of Herman and Lillian Brauer near Ridgeway. (Staff Photo)

'Shooting Star' Lands In Ridgeway

By MARY CATHERINE HARRIS
Staff Writer

The chunk of rock discovered recently near Ridgeway on the farm of Herman and Lillian Brauer appears to be no ordinary stone. According to information gleaned from reference materials, the find satisfies the requirements for a meteorite.

By definition, a meteorite is a piece of matter which flashes through the earth's atmosphere without burning up and strikes the earth's surface. Even though it is believed that several meteorites fall to the ground every day, their discovery cannot be counted a common occurrence. Probably only a few dozen appear each year over the United States; most fall into water or on unpopulated areas.

The Brauers found the shiny chunk in June on the green grass of their pasture on State Road 1226 on the outskirts of Ridgeway. Their meteorite is approximately 10 inches in circumference and has a coppery appearance on one side.

Because of the location of the rock and because of its unusual appearance, Mrs. Brauer researched the find and identified the meteorite.

According to the encyclopedia, most meteorites shower into hundreds of fragments when passing through the atmosphere and few are large enough on impact with the earth's surface to cause any noticeable change. Many of the earth's craters which are believed to have been formed by meteorites eons ago have been erased by weathering, but some large

ones remain. Visitors to Arizona may have seen Meteorite Crater, almost a mile in diameter and 600 feet deep.

The craters which mark the surface of the moon are believed to have been caused by meteorites.

According to reference materials, no satisfactory theory exists to account for the origin of meteorites. One of the possibilities is that they represent the remains of a planet that was broken up long ago.

Most meteorites found on the earth are made of an alloy of iron and nickel. Others are made of stone or a mixture of stone and metal. The Brauers have not conducted an analysis of their meteorite.

Mrs. Brauer invites persons with a particular interest in meteorites to contact her at 456-3730.

Under Zoning Ordinance

Town Told It Lacks Right To Order Removal Of Cars

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

An interpretation of Warrenton's zoning ordinance by the state attorney general's office has rendered that the ordinance does not authorize the town to order the removal of four cars from a lot in a south Warrenton residential district, Warrenton's commissioners learned on Monday evening.

The town board went into executive session at the close of the regular monthly meeting and heard a reading of the interpretation by Charles Johnson, town attorney, according to Mayor B. G. White.

Commissioners had voted at their June 10 meeting to seek a ruling on the ordinance as the result of an appeal by concerned neighbors for the board's help in requiring Warrenton property owner Cam Comer to remove the vehicles from his lot on the corner of South Main and Dowtin streets.

White said Tuesday that the attorney general's ruling dittoed the interpretation under which the commissioners have moved since the first request by the complainants last fall.

Town Administrator Vernon R. (Pete) Vaughan and Mayor White as well as a number of councilmen have attempted to bring about a settlement of the issue, but the town has stopped short of demanding removal of the cars.

"There is nothing in the present ordinance which allows the board to take action in the matter," White said.

Board members voted to send to the neighbors copies of the town's request for a ruling as well as the attorney general's response.

White added on Tuesday that the present ordinance is undergoing study and revision and expressed hope that such dilemmas would be prevented in the future.

Before going into executive session, the commissioners conducted routine business of

the town. Street Commissioner Bobby Edmonds was authorized to negotiate a settlement with Jerome Branch who had asked for assistance from the town in controlling the overflow of water from streets into his yard following rainfall. Edmonds reported that he had investigated the matter and found evidence that tree roots were being undercut by the water.

Branch lives on the corner of College and Front streets.

Town Administrator Vaughan announced that advertisement was under way for a police officer and dispatcher and an additional employee at the wastewater treatment plant. Two of these positions represent new allowances in the recently adopted budget.

In other business, White reminded the commissioners of the necessity of making four appointments to the Warrenton Planning Board and three to the Board of Adjustment for terms which expire in July. The terms of Roy Pat Robertson, Anne Harris, Virginia Andersen and Lawrence Boyd of the Planning Board and those of Tom Watson, L. B. Henderson, Sr. and Mary Hunter of the Board of Adjustment are terminating, the mayor said.

Commissioners were advised to give consideration to the appointments to be made at the August meeting.

Citizens Insurance T-Ball team of Warrenton joined teams from Henderson and Oxford last weekend at the Henderson Family YMCA and laid claim to the championship in the two-day tournament.

Round-robin tournament competition on Friday and Saturday resulted in a showdown between the Warrenton team and the Blue Jays of Henderson for top honors.

Citizens Insurance downed the Jays 12-6, led by Wendell Hargrove, De Rodwell, Andrew Alston and John Mosley on the offensive attack.

The local team earned the right to compete for the championship by defeating the Braves in the semifinals, 9-2. Citizens recorded 15 hits, led by Hargrove and Alston with 2-for-2 performances and backed up by Mary Parker Coleman and Anthony Martin who were 2-for-3.

Other teams participating in the tournament were the Dodgers, Bart's, A's, Ray Thomas Electric and Elliott's Jewelers.

Lawmen Probe Break-Ins At Lake Gaston

Four break-ins at mobile homes at Jack's Landing, a Lake Gaston subdivision, have been reported to the Warren County Sheriff's Department during the past week.

On July 1, Richard Gwyn Caudill of Washington, D.C. reported the theft of goods valued at \$1,130, including a Motorola television, radio, Olympus camera, and Cobra telephone. Twenty dollars in cash was also taken.

The burglar is believed to have entered through the front door of the mobile home and exited through the rear door.

Deputy T. H. McCafferty investigated.

Douglas M. Teal of Richmond, Va. reported on July 6 that his mobile home had been broken into and firearms and tools with a total value of \$365 stolen.

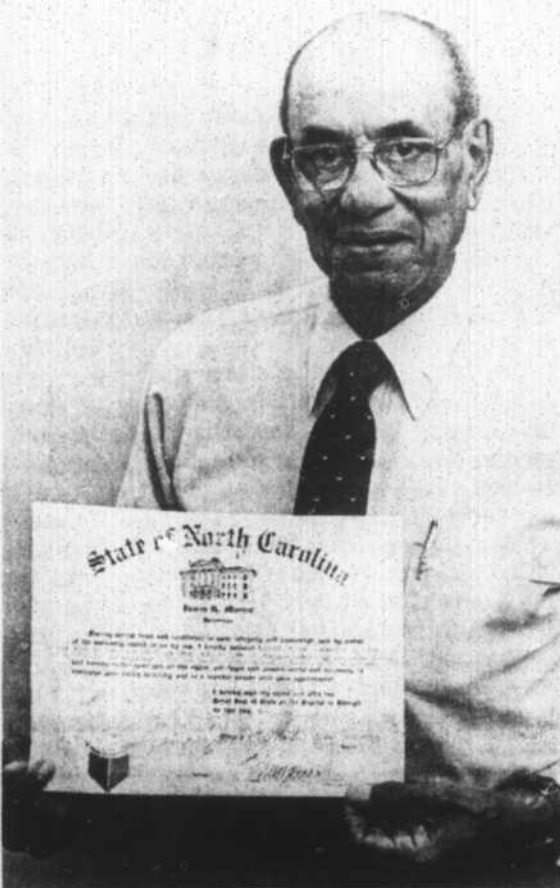
Missing were a 22-caliber pistol, reversible drill, wood sander, jig saw, and chain saw.

Entry was made by tripping a lock on a door, according to reports.

Deputy L. W. Newsome investigated.

Newsome also investigated the theft of household goods valued at \$430 from the mobile home of Michael A. Underwood. Among the items taken were a stereo radio cassette, telephone, and monitor/intercom system.

Entry at the Underwood home was also made by tripping a lock. (Continued on page 16)



McCarroll Alston of Warrenton displays the certificate acknowledging his recent appointment by Gov. James Martin to the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact Advisory Committee, which serves to assure uniform forest fire protection to member states. (Staff Photo)

Alston Given Post By Governor Martin

McCarroll Alston of Warrenton has been appointed by Governor Jim Martin to a two-year term on the Southeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact Advisory Committee.

Alston is one of four members appointed to represent North Carolina on the committee which serves to assure uniform forest fire protection to 10 southeastern states. The states work to provide mutual aid to each other during forest fire emergencies.

Member states in addition to North Carolina are South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

Requirements for committee appointment

Senate Gives Appropriation

Attempts to prevent Virginia Beach, Va. from tapping on to Lake Gaston as a future water supply got a monetary assist yesterday from the N. C. Senate.

Money to use in the fight to prevent the U. S. (Continued on page 16)

For Death Of Inez Merchant

15-Year Sentence Given Jeffery Perry

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

Jeffery Perry, charged with first degree murder in the 1979 beating death of Inez merchant William Kearney Thompson, Monday was sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to second degree murder in a plea arrangement with the state.

Perry, 23, could have received a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, but the presumptive 15-year sentence was agreed upon in the plea arrangement by defense and prosecution.

The state's decision not to prosecute Perry for first degree murder, and to accept the plea arrangement was based on concern that insufficient evidence existed for a conviction, according to Bob Weathers, assistant district attorney.

"To be as candid as I know how, the state's case depended substantially on the statement of the defendant (taken at the time of his arrest)," Weathers said. "We had some, and I emphasize some, reservations about its admissibility and whether or not its use would have been approved by the Appellate Court. There was a substantial amount of evidence, but very possibly it would not have been sufficient without the introduction of the defendant's statement."

Premeditation and deliberation are two elements necessary to prove first degree murder, Weathers said.

Perry's arrest in New York last May was the culmination of a five-year investigation by the FBI, SBI and Warren County Sheriff's Department.

At the time of his arrest, Perry was residing in Bronx, N.Y.

Perry's attorney, T. T. Clayton of Warrenton, was unsuccessful in his attempt to persuade Superior Court Judge Henry W. Hight of Henderson to grant work release for Perry.

"My understanding from my personal association with Perry (since his extradition to North Carolina last October) and with others involved in the case is that this defendant is good natured and not a vicious

type person," Clayton told Judge Hight. "...I think work release would be beneficial to him and I think his attitude is right for such...He is saddened by this situation."

Judge Hight delivered the sentence with no comment on the request for work release.

Married and the father of two children, Perry, who was 17 at the time of the crime, has a ninth-grade education and completed two years in trade school.

Perry, who has family in Warren County, was unemployed at the time of the murder, but was employed at the time of his arrest.

The prosecution, according to its opening (Continued on page 16)

Local Men Are Hurt As Auto Overturns

Two Warrenton men were listed in stable condition at Duke University Hospital yesterday following a single vehicle accident Saturday night.

Kurt Douglas Swain, 20, and Barry Swain, 18, both of Route 1, were traveling south on State Road 1331, about one mile east of Warrenton, when the car skidded on the wet road.

The driver of the car, Kurt Swain, lost control of the vehicle, which ran off the road, overturned and struck a tree.

The accident occurred about 10 p.m.

Barry Swain was trapped in the car for about two hours, according to

Trooper B. R. Pope, and both men were transferred to Maria Parham Hospital before being transported to Duke University Hospital by its Life Flight Emergency Helicopter.

Kurt Swain was listed in stable, but serious condition yesterday and had been moved from intensive care. Barry Swain was still in intensive care in serious but stable condition.

Both men suffered head injuries.

Kurt Swain was charged with careless and reckless driving.

Damage to the 1970 Buick was estimated at \$1,000.

Once Again: First Bloom Is Reported

There once was a time in Warren County when anybody who talked farming, talked cotton. The plant's white bolls dotted fields throughout the county and cotton ranked alongside tobacco as a primary cash crop.

In those days, one of the rites of the cotton-growing season was the report, published in The Warren Record, of the first cotton bloom spotted in the county.

This week, Clinton Capps honored that tradition and on Tuesday reported that he had spied the first bloom of the season on his farm near the Bethlehem community.

According to Warren County Extension Chairman Russell King, Capps' 15-acre cotton

field is one of only two in Warren County this year. The other is a three-acre demonstration field cultivated by the Extension Service in the Afton community.

No cotton was grown locally last year, King said, and the demonstration field is an effort to rekindle interest in such a venture.

In Warren County, King said, the greatest hindrance to growing of cotton are small fields and hilly land unsuited to mechanical pickers, but he added that success is possible.

Capps said the recent dry spell had probably helped his cotton crop, and that he hoped to begin picking his cotton by October.