

The Warren Record

Warren To Lose \$59,000 In Personal Property Taxes

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Warren County stands to lose more than \$59,000 in annual revenues from household property taxes as a result of action taken last week by the N.C. General Assembly, according to Tax Supervisor Janice Haynes.

The household property tax was repealed last Thursday as an attachment to the highway-funding bill which on the same day gained the approval of lawmakers. Beginning next year, the state's residents will no longer be taxed on household belongings, including furniture, appliances, jewelry and clothing.

The taxpayers' gains will spell losses for the local governments. Based on current property-tax valuations, Warren County may expect to lose approximately \$59,313 in property-tax revenue, Mrs. Haynes said.

The law abolishing the household property tax does not apply to any other type of real property. Property owners will continue to pay taxes on automobiles and other motor vehicles as well as on single-wide mobile homes.

Mrs. Haynes said the county tax office estimates household property at a current value of \$8,125,079. The loss in tax collec-

tions is reached by applying the 73-cents tax rate (per \$100 valuation).

In Warren County, most taxpayers do not actually enumerate their household goods each year when they list property for taxation, Mrs. Haynes said. Under state law they may choose to be assessed a standard percentage of their real property value for household property. The rate of assessment, which in Warren County is seven percent, varies from one county to another.

The repeal measure will not affect the collection of taxes on household property this year, but

as of January 1987, county taxpayers will no longer be required to list their household property as they have done since the 1860's.

The loss will hurt local governments, but the General Assembly earlier passed legislation allowing the counties to impose an additional one-half percent local option sales tax, which may offset the losses in counties electing to adopt the newly authorized tax. In Warren County the local option sales tax is currently one and one-half percent. If the county should adopt the extra half-cent sales tax, the total sales tax here would be five cents on the dollar,

with three cents going to the state and two cents to local government.

The household property tax became the pawn of legislative leaders caught in a political bind last week on the highway improvement package. On the eve of the bill's passage, a conference committee approved a compromise roads package which would raise motor fuel taxes and shift financing of the driver education program from the Highway Fund to the General Fund.

House members on the committee agreed to the transfer of

the driver education program and the Senate conferees consented to the repeal of the property tax on household goods.

The compromise highway funding bill increases the state tax on motor fuel, now 12.25 cents a gallon, by two cents. The further addendum of a three-percent sales tax on the wholesale cost of motor fuel is expected to cost consumers about 1.6 cents per gallon.

Transfer of the driver education program to the General Fund will provide another \$27.8 million annually for road improvements but it will mean less for other state-covered operations.

Man Is Hurt By Shotgun

A 71-year-old Warrenton man is out on a \$2,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in court today (Wednesday) on a charge connected with the shooting of a Norlina man Saturday night, the Warren County Sheriff's Department reported.

John Jiggetts of Rt. 1, Warrenton was charged Saturday with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury to Kenneth Davis, 34, of Rt. 1, Norlina. Davis suffered a broken leg as a result of a shotgun blast, Deputy Harold Seaman, investigating officer, reported.

Seaman said the incident occurred at Jiggetts' residence shortly before 10 p.m. when Davis refused to leave at Jiggetts' request.

Davis was taken to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson and was later transferred to Duke University Medical Center in Durham. He was reportedly in stable condition Tuesday afternoon, according to a hospital spokesman.

In another report in the sheriff's office, Wallace Fields, 20, of Rt. 2, Henderson was scheduled to appear in Warren County District Court today on a charge of forgery.

Chief Deputy Bobby Dean Bolton said Fields was arrested for forging a signature on a check drawn on the account of Mrs. Flora J. Robertson.

Also charged in the case is Jimmy Lee Townes, 23, of Rt. 2, Henderson. Townes has not yet been apprehended, Bolton said, but he is charged with forgery and uttering.

Fields is out on an unsecured bond.

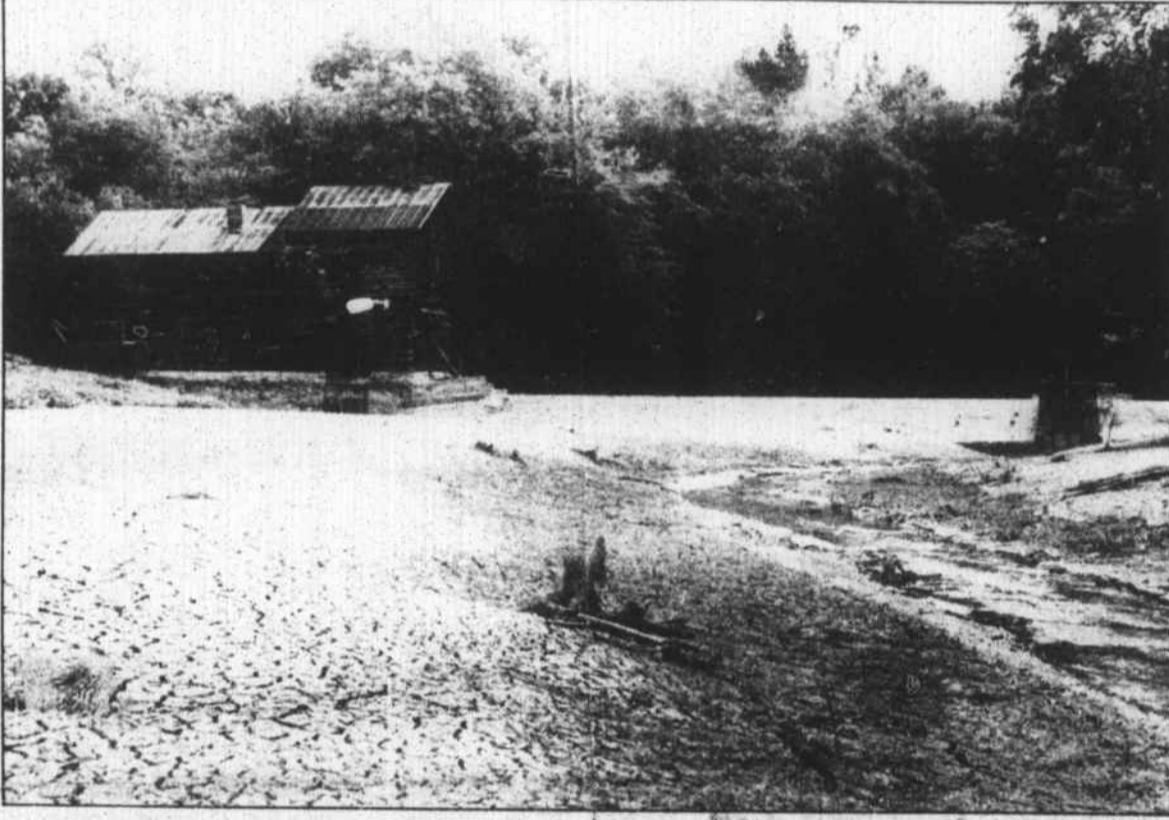
Town Board Wants Charges Brought In Water Incident

Warrenton's commissioners voted Monday night to bring charges against a water customer who apparently engaged a homemade device in the water meter box at his residence and thereby received town water service free of charge.

Town Administrator V. R. (Pete) Vaughan showed the commissioners a short section of water hose with sticks attached on either side and bound together with electrical tape which he said had been taken Monday morning from the water meter box of Larry Falcon of the Red Hill community.

Vaughan reported Falcon's water service had been disconnected several months ago and it appeared he had been receiving water without charge.

In other business, Mayor B. G. White read for the commissioners a letter from J. Howard Daniel announcing Daniel's resignation as chairman of the town's Firemen's Relief Fund, effective July 15. The board appointed Warrenton businessman W. Jack Harris to replace Daniel. Harris is currently serving on the board of trustees for the fund.



Visitors to Hamme's Mill southeast of Warrenton may credit the recent dry weather with the parched appearance of the water bed. However, according to Hamme's wife, the mill owner opened the gate about 10 days ago to allow the water to run down and enable him to clean the pond of water lilies and other debris which were interfering with the operation of the mill's generator. It appears

Hamme chose an ideal time for the procedure because Mrs. Hamme pointed out that the drought probably would have induced a water level too low to run the generator. Hamme built the mill in 1938 and continues to grind corn for meal and a small amount of wheat for customers who request it. He expects to have the mill back in operation soon.

(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

Warren County Woman Is Killed In Vance County Road Accident

Carolina Jones Neal, 60, of Rt. 2, Warrenton, died Monday afternoon as a result of injuries she suffered in a single-car accident near Henderson.

Trooper J. A. Lynch of the N.C. Highway Patrol said Mrs. Neal was driving east on Vicksboro Road (State Road 1533) about a mile east of the Aycock School Road (SR 1526) when she lost control of the vehicle in a curve, went off on the right shoulder and hit a tree.

The trooper estimated the vehicle was travelling 50 miles per hour when the car struck the pine tree more than 200 feet off the right side of the road.

When rescue personnel from the Vance County Ambulance Service arrived at the scene about 20 minutes after the accident, there was no sign of pulse or respiration. The victim was taken to Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson where it was determined she died of massive internal injuries.

Funeral arrangements will be announced later by Garnes Funeral Home of Henderson.

Six persons suffered minor injuries as a result of four separate traffic accidents in Warren County last week, according to reports in the State Highway Patrol office in Henderson.

Following an early morning single-vehicle accident near Ridgeway on Sunday, three people received emergency treatment and the driver was charged with driving while impaired and reckless driving.

Grady E. Edwards, Jr. of Norfolk, Va. was headed south on Interstate 85 about three and one-half miles north of Ridgeway when his pickup truck ran off on the right shoulder and over-

turned before coming to rest in a ditch, Trooper R. T. Futrell reported. The accident occurred about 2 a.m.

The driver and two passengers, Karen Poole, 23, of Virginia Beach, Va. and Dino R. Fama, 28, of Norfolk, Va., were taken by ambulance to Maria Parham Hospital where they were treated and released.

In another single-car accident on Friday morning, Yvonne W. Elam of Norlina was injured when her car's right front and

rear tires dropped off the right side of the pavement and onto a muddy shoulder on the Axtell-Ridgeway road.

The vehicle struck a utility pole after swerving back onto the pavement, then off the right side of the road again.

The driver suffered a broken nose and was treated at, and later released from, Maria Parham Hospital.

Damages to the Elam vehicle were estimated at \$800. No

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Scott Pinnell Capps, 22, of Arcola was seriously injured when her 1986 Ford Escort, pictured above, was struck head-on by a 1965 Dodge driven by Elliott Evans of Hollister last Tuesday evening near Hollister. Mrs. Capps underwent surgery yesterday to repair leg fractures at Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount where she has been hospitalized since the accident. She suffered several broken bones and cuts but no internal injuries from the accident, a family spokesman said Tuesday. The driver of the other car and a passenger, Stanley Evans of Hollister, were treated and released from the hospital's emergency room following the accident.

Highway Patrol Trooper J. T. Williams, who investigated the accident which occurred about 6:30 p.m. on N.C. 561 two miles south of Hollister, said a witness told him Evans' vehicle was weaving on the highway and narrowly missed another vehicle before striking Mrs. Capps' car head-on. The trooper said it was apparent that Evans was travelling at an excessive rate of speed. Mrs. Capps was wearing a seatbelt at the time of the accident, a fact which the trooper said probably saved her life. Charges are pending in the accident.

(Photo Courtesy of Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald)

Board To Assess Weather Damage

The Emergency Board, composed of representatives of the local agencies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will meet tomorrow to assess dry weather damages to the county's agricultural picture and will make application for relief for farmers whose livelihoods have been affected by the drought, according to Thomas E. Watson, director of the Warren County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Present at the meeting, in addition to Watson, will be representatives of the Agricultural Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service and Farmers Home Administration.

Watson said the county's application for relief will be forwarded to the State Emergency Board, then to the Governor and finally to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for approval as a candidate for disaster aid.

If the county is approved, Watson said farmers may be eligible for emergency loans through Farmers Home Administration and also for aid through the Emergency Livestock Feed Program administered through the ASCS.

Watson said 42 counties in North Carolina which have been recommended to the Secretary of Agriculture for disaster relief are awaiting a decision.

County Extension Chairman Russell King last week said crops have been obviously hurt by the dry weather, combined with high temperatures.

"I don't think the cause is lost on tobacco," he said. "Farmers need to keep irrigating if possible."

King advised tobacco growers to make every effort to top the

flowering tobacco plants and to get succor control under way to enable the plants to fill out. "If the plants are not topped, all the growth goes to the seed head," he noted.

King reported a bleak picture for the corn crop in Warren County. "I think it's about gone," he said, adding there appeared little hope for any corn which had not been under irrigation.

Part of the problem for the corn crop has been the extreme heat, King said. "Corn pollinates in temperatures below 95 degrees. Beyond that, even with adequate water, kernels do not set on the ear. Unless the corn has been under irrigation and the kernels are set already, I see little chance of any crop at all," King said.

"Grass and weeds are entering the soybean fields," King reported, "and herbicides are ineffective when applied in dry weather." He advised farmers to delay application until after a rain. "Without rain, the crop will be lost anyway, but farmers are wasting time and money by applying herbicides in dry weather," he said.

Pastures also are beginning to show the effects of dry weather, the extension specialist pointed out, and livestock producers are "having to buy feed at big prices. Some are having trouble finding feed for their animals and they may have to sell their stock at a loss," King explained.

Cucumbers, like corn, have suffered from both the drought and heat, King noted. "The cucumbers are knotty and knobby from the lack of water and because pollination has been affected by the hot weather."

King's assessment will be entered with that of the other local farm agency heads as they meet tomorrow to apply for relief for the county's farmers.

Board Picks Auditing Firm

The Norlina Town Board Monday night awarded an auditing contract to William Stark and Company of Henderson for review of the town's fiscal year ending June 30, according to Town Clerk Mae Gums. The contract amounted to \$2,850, Mrs. Gums said.

Only three commissioners were available for the meeting which was rescheduled last week when a quorum failed to attend at the regular meeting time.

In another item of business, the board passed an ordinance endorsing water improvements on Darden Street as a part of the Community Development Block Grant program. The total contract for the water project amounts to \$49,300, Mrs. Gums said, with \$1,450 earmarked for administration and the balance of \$47,850 for improvements.