

The Warren Record



Tables laden with food occupy center stage at homecoming celebrations held Sunday at Warren Plains Baptist Church (top) and Macon Methodist Church (bottom). (Photos by Dianne T. Rodwell)



Several Are Seriously Hurt

Two Fatally Injured In Afton Accidents

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Two Warren County women were killed in separate accidents in the Afton-Elberon community within the last week.

Mrs. Nettie St. Sing Thompson, 78, died of injuries sustained in a car-truck collision Monday afternoon and Mrs. Betty Jean Edwards Maynard, 51, was killed instantly in a single-car accident last Friday night. Both victims lived near the scene of the accidents, which occurred on U.S. 401 south of Warrenton.

The 1984 Plymouth in which Mrs. Thompson was a front-seat passenger was hit head-on about 5:30 p.m. Monday by a Schewel Furniture truck attempting to make a left turn, Trooper Al Bennett of the state Highway Patrol reported.

The truck, driven by Michael Anthony Miller of Oxford, was traveling north on U.S. 401 about four and one-half miles south of Warrenton when it struck the Plymouth automobile, heading south and driven by Mrs. Carolyn Abbott Pitzing, 45, of the Elberon neighborhood, Bennett said.

The truck was attempting a left turn onto State Road 1116, which connects U.S. 401 with the Henderson Road (SR 1001), when it nosed into the Pitzing vehicle which had just rounded a curve. Bennett estimated the impact at 80 miles per hour, the combined speeds of the two vehicles. Both drivers applied brakes but were unable to avoid the collision, he said.

Mrs. Pitzing and another passenger were seriously injured in the accident. Mrs. Ruth St. Sing Thompson, 76, sister of the victim and of the same address, was transported to N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill where she remains in critical condition. Mrs. Pitzing is in serious condition at Duke Medical Center in Durham. Both were taken by Life Flight to the medical facilities.

Mrs. Pitzing's 14-year-old son, Mark, suffered a broken arm and is listed in stable condition at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. Fifteen-year-old April Thompson, the victim's granddaughter, of Elberon, was treated and released Monday evening at Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson. Both were backseat passengers in the Pitzing vehicle.

Riding the furniture truck with Miller were Tim Farmer and Ernest Fields, both 25 years of

age and residents of Henderson. All three men escaped injury.

The Pitzing vehicle, valued at \$6,500, was considered a total loss and damages to the Schewel

truck, a 1982 Chevrolet, were estimated at \$1,200, Bennett said.

Miller has been charged with death by vehicle as a result of the

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\$5 Million Boost Sought By Bonds

Peck Manufacturing Company has requested the Warren County Industrial Development Commission's approval of an Industrial Revenue Bond issue in excess of \$5 million for plant expansion in Warrenton, Mrs. Kathy Wilson, economic development director, has announced.

David R. LaFarr, III, president of the Gastonia-based company, indicated in a letter to Mrs. Wilson the proposed project includes building construction and acquisition and installation of equipment at the local facility to increase the production of carded cotton yarn. "It is currently estimated that the project will require capital expenditures of approximately \$5.5 million," he stated.

"Upon the commission's approval and the completion of the project, additional jobs of from 14 to 21 will be added and a larger tax base will result for Warren County," LaFarr explained. "The

project will also put Peck in a much healthier, competitive position to compete in today's world textile market and insure continuation of the jobs of its work force," he continued.

The commission granted a similar request in 1979 to permit Peck to finance its needs to comply with OSHA cotton dust regulations and to carry out an approximate 25 percent expansion. The project was completed in 1980.

Since that time the company has spent an additional \$4 million to continue modernization and expansion at the local facility, LaFarr pointed out.

The current proposed expansion plan has been presented to a financial institution in order that feasibility may be assessed, the president said.

A public hearing on Peck's proposed Industrial Revenue Bonds issue has been set for Oct. 15.

County Commissioners Endorse Cost Share Program Participation

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
Staff Writer

Warren County commissioners in their mid-monthly meeting last Wednesday night endorsed participation in the N.C. Agricultural Cost Share Program. The program provides 75 percent of funding for any soil conservation project, such as erosion prevention and land application of animal waste. Gregory A. Walker, Vance/Warren district conservationist, explained that involvement is vital to farmers since future Farm Support Program participation would be contingent on soil loss being held close to tolerable limits.

The commissioners also accepted a proposal of \$40,708 from James & Co. of the Carolinas, Inc. for property and casualty insurance. The plan, underwritten by the North Carolina Counties Liability and Property Joint Risk Management Agency, provides coverage at a savings of \$37,292 annually. Commissioner J. T. Fleming noted that any transaction must support local business as much as possible. The board agreed, but noted the economies of group rather than individual coverage.

In response to a report by Everett King, Fire Commission representative, the board voted to approach the state for assistance in updating the county's communication equipment. Because of the current inefficient antenna, one-third of the pagers are inoperable or unintelligible, King said.

Firemen often revert to the telephone relay that was used prior to the installation of the existing system. Based on costs of existing towers, roughly \$70,000 to \$100,000 may be needed to raise the antenna to the desired 365 feet. In addition to benefitting the fire departments, a new system

would support the State Rescue and Statewide Hospital Emergency frequencies not available to the county, Gary L. Robenolt, Emergency Management coordinator, noted. The state will evaluate at no cost once potential sites are identified. Approval was given to the Fire Commission to use up to \$500 for a consultant.

In other business, the board: —Approved an expenditure from the county contingency fund not to exceed \$700 to connect the electrical generator for backup at the Sheriff's office.

—Accepted the bid from Dove-Knight and Associates of Rocky Mount for the VGCC Satellite facility.

—Earmarked 30 percent of the unallocated 40 percent of the new one-half cent sales tax revenues for construction of new buildings as needed. The remaining ten percent will be used to maintain existing properties.

—Reappointed L. B. Henderson, Sr. and R. B. Butler to the Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority.

—Supported the Caswell County Operation Santa Claus Program in an amount comparable to years past.

—Tabled until its next meeting the Minority and Women Business Enterprise Plan for Warren County. The omission of

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Lawman Flush Suspect With Use Of Tear Gas

A Warren County man remains hospitalized at John Umstead Hospital in Butner where he was taken last week after he was reported standing in the middle of U.S. 158 business near Warrenton and pointing a gun at passing vehicles.

According to Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton of the Warren County Sheriff's Department, Don Defore Johnson, 38, of Warrenton, was taken into custody following surveillance of his mobile home and a wooded area near the highway.

Bolton said reports of a man standing on the highway and swinging a gun at passing motorists reached the sheriff's department about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. A couple of cars were struck by the weapon, he said.

As officers approached Johnson, he ran into the nearby mobile home, then out the back door and into a wooded area as officers pursued. When Johnson returned to the mobile home some time later, officers forced him out with tear gas after unsuccessful attempts to persuade him to come out on his own.

Swinging the 410-gauge shotgun, Johnson exited from the mobile home. Norlina Policeman James Champion was struck on the arm by the gun.

The sheriff's department was assisted by the police departments from Warrenton and Norlina and by state troopers in Warren and Vance counties.

Warrants charging Johnson with assault on a law officer, assault on a female, going armed to the terror of the people, assault by pointing a gun and two counts of injury to personal property have been drawn against Johnson and will be served upon his discharge from John Umstead, Bolton reported.

Tobacco Prices On Local Mart Tops In Area

Prices on the 1986 Warrenton Tobacco Market have merited first-place ranking among area markets, according to a recent marketing report from the N.C. Department of Agriculture, Mrs. Alice R. Robertson, local sales supervisor, has reported. As of the most recent report, dated Sept. 12, the Warrenton market recorded an average of \$151.38 per hundred pounds and led fellow markets in the Middle Belt as well as those in the Eastern and Border belts, she said.

The local season average at the end of Monday's sales hovered in the same range, at \$151.82 per hundred pounds, Mrs. Robertson reported.

In second place among the markets listed in agricultural department's report was Kinston with an average of \$149.04 per hundred, but most markets showed prices some \$25 to \$30 behind local sales, the report indicated.

The momentum continued into Monday's round of sales which recorded the highest average of this season, Mrs. Robertson continued.

The day's tallies indicated an average of \$163.23 per hundred pounds, she said, on the 319,873 pounds offered in the three local warehouses. Only one percent of Monday's offerings was taken by Stabilization.

Last Thursday's average was \$159.06 per hundred, the supervisor noted, and Stabilization's claim was four percent.



Warren County employees last week honored Julian Farrar, left, retiring director of the Warren County Department of Social Services, for his 34 years of service. Presenting a plaque to Farrar is

County Commissioner Francis Alston Farrar, who has the longest tenure of any director in the state, will retire Oct. 1.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)