

Escapee Remains At Large

Suspected In Vehicle Theft

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

An escapee from the local unit of the N.C. Department of Correction remained at large Tuesday and was considered a prime suspect in the Saturday morning theft of a vehicle belonging to a Warrenton couple.

Inmate Richard Thompson scaled the perimeter fence from the single-cell facility at Warren County Unit 5037 at 11 a.m. Friday, according to Assistant Superintendent Ervin Manning, Jr. Thompson was reportedly handcuffed at the time of his escape.

The escapee was serving a 10-year sentence for misdemeanor larceny and has also outstanding charges in Upper Marlboro, Md. for housebreaking and in South Carolina for second degree burglary, Manning reported.

The local unit serves as a holding facility for prisoners who have serious outstanding charges and who are considered to be escape risks.

A description at the prison department listed Thompson as a 32-year-old white male, measuring 5'11" and weighing 160 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

Various sightings of the escapee were reported during the afternoon Friday, but Manning said none of the leads materialized.

Thompson is considered a suspect in the theft on Saturday morning of a 1980 white Subaru station wagon belonging to Gladys and Macon Wemyss of Country Club Road.

The Wemyss couple reported the car missing at 6:45 a.m., shortly before the vehicle, bearing license WNT-626, was seen leaving the Mid Mart between Warrenton and Norlina.

The manhunt for Thompson has been discontinued in Warren County but persons with information regarding the escapee are requested to contact the Warren County Department of Correction at 257-2776 or the local sheriff's department at 257-3364.

Parent-Teacher Conferences Are Planned At High School

Parent-teacher conferences will be held at Warren County High School on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 3:17-6:30 p.m. and from 8 a.m. until noon on Friday, Nov. 21. Parents are encouraged to visit their child's teachers at that time. Appointments are encouraged but not necessary, Principal James Wilkerson said.



Paige Wrenn of Warrenton feeds her adopted squirrel friend Rosco a mixture of baby formula, egg and cereal during a feeding that has become routine in the month since Joe Greer of Embro found the abandoned animal in the woods. The squirrel lives in a bird cage complete with electric heating pad and appears comfortable with its surrogate mother.
(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

Shortage Of Textbooks Draws Televised Report

A textbook shortage at Warren County High School received regional news coverage last week on WTVD-Channel 11.

Principal James Wilkerson said this week in a telephone interview the Durham-based news crew approached him last week after learning of the shortage through a review of the Board of Education agenda for the November meeting.

"We issue 6,000 books per year," Wilkerson said, "and we are 86 short." The books yet to come are for 11th-grade grammar and composition classes, he said.

"This is the fourth year in operation for the book and book companies don't stock books that old generally," Wilkerson ex-

plained. "The companies have been contacting warehouses and trying to locate them for us and we have been calling surrounding counties" (to inquire about possible surpluses).

Wilkerson said the shortage is to some extent the result of the change this year from the trimester system of scheduling to a semester system. "In the trimester system only 70 percent of the students took English at any given time and now 100 percent are enrolled in English classes all year."

"We want to put a book in each student's hand on the first day of school," the principal said, indicating he and his staff are not minimizing the situation. The books are expected to arrive any day, he added.

English classes at the high school use a literature book in addition to the grammar text, he said, and in the meantime teachers are emphasizing the literature portion of the year's study.

Break-Ins Probed

Investigation is continuing in two break-ins which were reported over the weekend to the Warren County Sheriff's Department, according to Deputy Betsy Frazier.

Reported missing Monday morning from the residence of David Wade at Wildwood Point were two guns, a 19-inch color television, video-cassette recorder, stereo component set and sleeping bag.

Deputy Harold Seaman, investigating officer, estimated the value of the goods at \$1800.

In a Saturday report, Bobby Cash of Rt. 1, Manson reported the theft of an assortment of tools, including wrenches, electric drills and handsaw, along with two pairs of shoes, from a storage shed behind his residence.

Deputy Lloyd Newsome investigated the theft which was reported at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Receives Honor

Air Force Sgt. Michael P. Williams, son of Clara A. Robins of Elkhart, Tex. and Charlie R. Williams of Rt. 3, Warrenton, has been named non-commissioned officer of the month.



County safety personnel (left to right) Fire Commissioner George Shearin, Norlina Fire Department Chief Gene Medlin, Warren County Ambulance Service Director Dennis Paschall, Robbie Ross, emergency medical technician and fireman, and Emergency Management Coordinator Gary

Robenolt inventory new accident equipment. Purchases to date include (front row, left to right) a 30 inch Hurst ram, a Hurst cutter, a 27 inch spreader, (back row, left to right) a power unit, accessory box and hydraulic hose.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Emergency Extraction Tool Ready For Use In Warren Co. Accidents

By THURLETTA BROWN
Staff Writer

Every second counts in life-threatening situations. With the aid of high-technology extraction devices, safety personnel are able to minimize the length of time required to free accident victims for transport to medical care. But what about the time involved in transporting specialized equipment to the scene of the accident?

"Just think back to the recent car wrecks. What could have been done in 10 or 15 minutes took over an hour," Gary Robenolt, county emergency management coordinator stated. "These new tools will prevent a lot of needless suffering," he continued.

It all started late last year when county ambulance and fire department personnel looked at the accident history of the area and the length of time required to get extraction devices to the scene of the mishap. At that time the closest extraction devices were some 25 to 30 minutes away in Henderson, South Hill or at the Warren County Rescue Squad at Lake Gaston.

A proposal was submitted to the Emergency Management Council for Region K to secure funds for extraction tools to serve the western portion of the county. Region K funding levels are uncertain, ranging from \$12,000 to \$20,000 annually. Proposals awarded funding in some years are unsuccessful in others. Last year was not the year for approval to purchase extraction tools for the county.

But, that was not the end of it. The closing of Warren General Hospital meant that there was no rescue squad on the western side of the county. Region K guidelines required that an accident vehicle be operational before funds could be awarded.

According to O. L. (Butch) Meek, the Norlina Volunteer Fire Department agreed that something had to be done. "We spent over \$13,000 to refurbish a rescue vehicle and an additional \$6,000 for handtools and other equipment." The Norlina department received rescue certification in Jan. 1986.

On its second submission to the Region K Emergency Management Commission, the proposal for extraction tools met with success. An award of one-half of the needed \$9,864 was received and

the county matched the balance.

The tools help to modernize the accident response capability for the western portion of the county and help to ensure timely release of trapped victims.

"What is needed now is an increased awareness of the existence of the equipment and a working familiarity with the operation of the devices,"

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Annual Dinner Is Held By Friends Of Progress

Approximately 125 members, potential members and their guests attended the Second Annual Committee of 100, Inc. Kick-Off Dinner and Meeting last Thursday evening at the Warrenton Lion's Den.

Welcomed by Robert U. Jenkins, president, all in attendance were treated to fine food and hospitality as well as thought-provoking commentary from speakers, Lewis H. Myers, Assistant Secretary in the N.C. Department of Commerce; Robert E. Leak, Jr., vice president for Economic Development at First Union Bank; and J. Bryan Smith, director of Agri-Business Development at the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

Lewis Myers, formerly associated with Soul City, inspired all to be proud of the accomplishments of the county. Citing the recent acquisition of the Perdue

facility as but one example, he challenged all to go forward with even more development.

Robert Leak, Jr. spoke on the value of leadership urging the Committee of 100 to continue to push for more expansion.

J. Bryan Smith explained the importance of agri-business and stressed the value of positive thinking with regard to the many resources available in the area.

The Warren Committee of 100, Inc. is a non-profit corporation established to enhance economic growth and job opportunities in Warren County. It relies on tax-deductible membership dues and contributions to provide financial assistance for economic development in the county and the region. According to Jenkins, membership is a vote of confidence in the future of Warren County and a positive step toward helping ourselves in difficult economic times.



Warren Committee of 100, Inc. President Bob Jenkins and associates (left to right), N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Lewis Myers, First Union Bank Vice President for Economic Development Bob Leak, Jr., N.C. Department of Agriculture Director of Agri-Business J. Bryan Smith, Warren County

Economic Development Commission Executive Director Cathy Wilson and First Citizens Bank Assistant Vice President Brad Carroll following the Second Annual Kick-Off Dinner and meeting held Nov. 13 at the Lion's Den.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)