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Home Damaged By Worst Town Fire Since '85

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
Staff Writer

In what has been described by Walter Gardner, Warrenton Rural Fire Department captain, as the worst fire inside city limits since Currin Warehouse burned in April '85, a Fairlane Street residence was gutted Saturday afternoon.

Members of the Warren County Rural, Town of Warrenton and Norlina fire departments responded to the 3 p.m. alarm sounded to signal blazes at the home of Ms. Diane Stallings. The structure is owned by Jack Callahan. According to Gardner, the fire originated at a cooking stove. Approximately 80 percent of the contents were lost and extensive damage was done to the structure. "Our reports indicate that this is a total loss," Gardner said. "It is possible that the damage was made worse by humane efforts to ensure the escape of a pet dog by opening all of the doors," he added. The dog is still missing.

The Stallings fire was but one of a series of incidents that has kept departments busy. Also on Jan. 17, county firefighters responding to a morning call found the Parktown residence of Michael Williams totally engulfed by flames. The frame dwelling, owned by Ms. Mattie Bell Williams, was a total loss. The tragedy is believed to be the result of a faulty chimney in the frame-over-log house.

In an incident of similar origin, firemen responded Sunday to an early morning call at the Main Street residence of Bill Spence. A faulty chimney was detected, but there was no damage.

Last Wednesday morning, Macon Volunteer Fire Department personnel extinguished a brush fire involving one and one-half acres of the Macon farm belonging to Doc Thompson. No damage was done.

Monday night found firemen at the Fairlane Street mobile home belonging to Mrs. Herman Hayes. They found that the flames had been extinguished and that all damage was confined to the hot water heater believed to be responsible for the incident.

Meeting Scheduled On School Affairs

A public meeting, requested by the Political Action Council at the last meeting of the Board of Education, has been scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Warren County High School.

According to Dr. Doris Terry Williams, chair of the PAC educational committee, the meeting will provide an opportunity for parents and residents to discuss their concerns. Among those topics expected to be discussed are budget, physical plant, supplies and teacher turnover and morale.

"We certainly hope that everyone with concerns, whether they have children in the school system or not, will come out Tuesday night," Mrs. Johnnie Johnson, PAC chairman, said.

Tax Collections

Top \$48,000 Here

Warren County's net collections of the two percent sales tax for the month of November 1986 amounted to \$48,969.08, according to a recent report by the N.C. Department of Revenue. Collections statewide totalled more than \$47 million.

Totals listed in the report for neighboring counties included: Franklin, \$127,133.31; Granville, \$170,927.98; Halifax, \$329,423.66; and Vance, \$253,057.84.

With Warren, each of the adjoining counties also collects two cents on the dollar for sales tax.



(Staff Photos by Dianne T. Rodwell)

In typical wintertime scenes in Warren County, cattle graze on a dairy farm west of Littleton and

a tractor and harvesting equipment rest in a soybean field on the edge of Macon.

Names Of 65 Warren Citizens Are Selected Here For Jury Duty

The names of 65 Warren County residents have been drawn for jury duty during a civil term of Warren County Superior Court scheduled to begin here on Feb. 9.

Richard E. Hunter, Jr., clerk of Superior Court, said yesterday that four jurors deferred from previous terms were expected to appear at the session to be presided over by Judge Wiley F. Bowen. They are Suzanne Mullen Bumgarner, Thomas Patterson Pinnell, Elizabeth Kearney White and Johnnie Junious Wortham.

Selected for service were George Edward Twitty, Lucille Talley Goode, Jacob Everett Whaley, Delia Rose Vaughan, Deboria Ann Williams, Don Curtis Dunson, James Phillip Boyd, Christie Gupron Shipman, Carl Hunter Fleming, John E. Jefferson, Joseph Lee Terry, Linda

Susan Shearin, Kathleen Elizabeth Overby;

Also, Catherine Sylver Copeland, Arlene Davis, Jeffrey Cardaze Richardson, Gwendolyn Coltrane Brantley, Dora Strickland Carroll, Alma Wilson Dednam, Joel Anthony Valentine, Henry Travis Pulley, Brenda Dorcell Seward, Pearl Horton Paynter, Felicia Ann Richardson, Gerald Wayne McCoy, Elizabeth Cheek Brown;

Also, Marvin Peete Rose, Eleanor G. Ellis, Leon Haintzelmon Francis, Carrie Houston Spruill, Sallie Williams Johnson, Addie Beatrice Alston, George Edmond Long, Kimberly Ann Richardson, Sandra Edwards Short, Gladys McCau Terry, Arvin Johnson, Elizabeth Hicks Young, Jane Wilson Newsome;

Also, Martha Edd Hedgepeth, James Gilbert Walker, Jessie Bailey, Jr., Thurman Ruth Hargrove, Elizabeth Collier Wrenn, Mary Evers Aycock, Lettie Brown Palmer, Pamela Renee Perry, Julia Huff Wheeler, Ronald Eugene Green, Dale Katherine Cutting, Robert Sherwood Beamon, Aaron Marcus Allen II;

Also, Geneva Christmas Hymon, Elizabeth Holloway Myrick, Hazel Walker Williams, Robert Hardy Marlin, Jr., Moses Lee Kearney, Gene Moses Russell, John William Dryden, Dennis Ray Paschall, Nettie Pitchford Meador, Chester Arthur Forrester, Pattie Townes Richardson, Wilbert Cleveland Vaughan and Cleon Hawley.

King's Birthday Is Observed

The fact that North Carolina is one of the twelve states in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday remains unrecognized as a holiday did not prevent county residents from attending the celebration held Monday afternoon at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Leon White, guest speaker and pastor of Oak Level UCC, challenged all in attendance to keep the dream alive. "It is good that we have come," he said, "and that our nation has made this a holiday, but we must reflect on what the day means as we go about our business."

The multi-denominational service brought ministers from other area churches: the Rev. Donald J. Wess of Coley Springs Baptist Church, the Rev. Ed Beddingfield of Warrenton Baptist

Church, the Rev. P. G. Davis of Union Grove and Olive Grove Baptist churches, the Rev. J. B. Wilson of St. Zion Baptist Church, the Rev. W. H. Burgess of St. James Baptist Church and the Rev. W. T. Ramey, III of Ridgeway and St. Stephen's Baptist churches, whose reading of excerpts of King's speech, "I Have A Dream," was reminiscent of the actual event.

Music was provided by the combined choirs of Coley Springs and Oak Level churches.

According to the Rev. Henry Presler, vicar of All Saints' and Emmanuel Episcopal churches, proceeds of the offering will go to benefit recipients of the King Memorial Scholarship. "The fund is designed to help needy and deserving students in their first year of college," he said.

Divers Recover Stolen Property Assisting Sheriff

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Volunteer scuba divers last week helped to lock up a case for the Warren County Sheriff's Department as they located and took from a creek on the Halifax-Nash county boundary a cash register taken during a recent break-in in Warren County.

Divers with the Lake Country Dive Team, in a jump from the Swift Creek bridge on Highway 43, found after three minutes underwater a part of the cash register taken on Dec. 31 from Buddy Overby's Grocery in the Vicksboro community, according to a report in the sheriff's department. Minutes later the divers located the remaining portion of the stolen item.

Acting on a tip that the register may have been thrown into a creek along the highway, Sgt. Lawrence Harrison with the Warren County Sheriff's Department engaged the dive team last Thursday to look for the stolen register which remained a key piece of evidence in the case.

The team's initial dive from the Fishing Creek bridge on Highway 43 in Halifax County proved futile and the members moved several miles southeast to make a second jump into Swift Creek, where the evidence was located. Everett Vaughan of South Hill, Va. was credited with the find.

Other Lake Country divers participating in the search were Rich Knisely, Bryan Perry, Tony Faucette, Jim Shiller and Chris Thompson.

Serving in an official capacity with Sgt. Harrison during the dives was Deputy Will Richardson of the Halifax County Sheriff's Department.

Four Littleton men were charged last week in the breaking and entering incident at Overby's store. Charges against a fifth person are pending.

Sheriff Theodore Williams expressed appreciation to the dive team for their willingness and praised their efforts in assisting his department in the investigation.

In another sheriff's report, Ernest B. Harris of Inez reported 22 cattle missing from pasture he rents on Highway 158 between Warrenton and Macon.

Barry Eugene Murphy, who is employed by Harris, reported the animals missing last Wednesday after he fed and counted the herd. Murphy noted that on the previous day his count had tallied two short, but he had attributed the difference to an error in coun-

counting. On Wednesday when the count was considerably less than the expected number, he filed a report with the sheriff's department.

Deputy Mack McCowan, investigating officer, asked that anyone with information regarding the missing cattle contact the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

Norlina Location

Found By Agency

Western Union Telegraph Company this week announced that telegraph and money order transfer service is now available in Norlina.

The Odd Shoppe on Hyco Street in Norlina is now acting as an agent for Western Union and the service is available from that location, a company spokesman said.

The hours of operation are from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Kevin Champion, The Odd Shoppe proprietor, said he is very pleased to be associated with Western Union and he invited all residents of the Norlina community to take advantage of the new services being offered.

County Official

Files Bankruptcy

Notice was served last week that James T. Fleming, Sr. of Warrenton has declared bankruptcy.

Fleming, a member of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, has been active here for a number of years in the construction and real estate business.

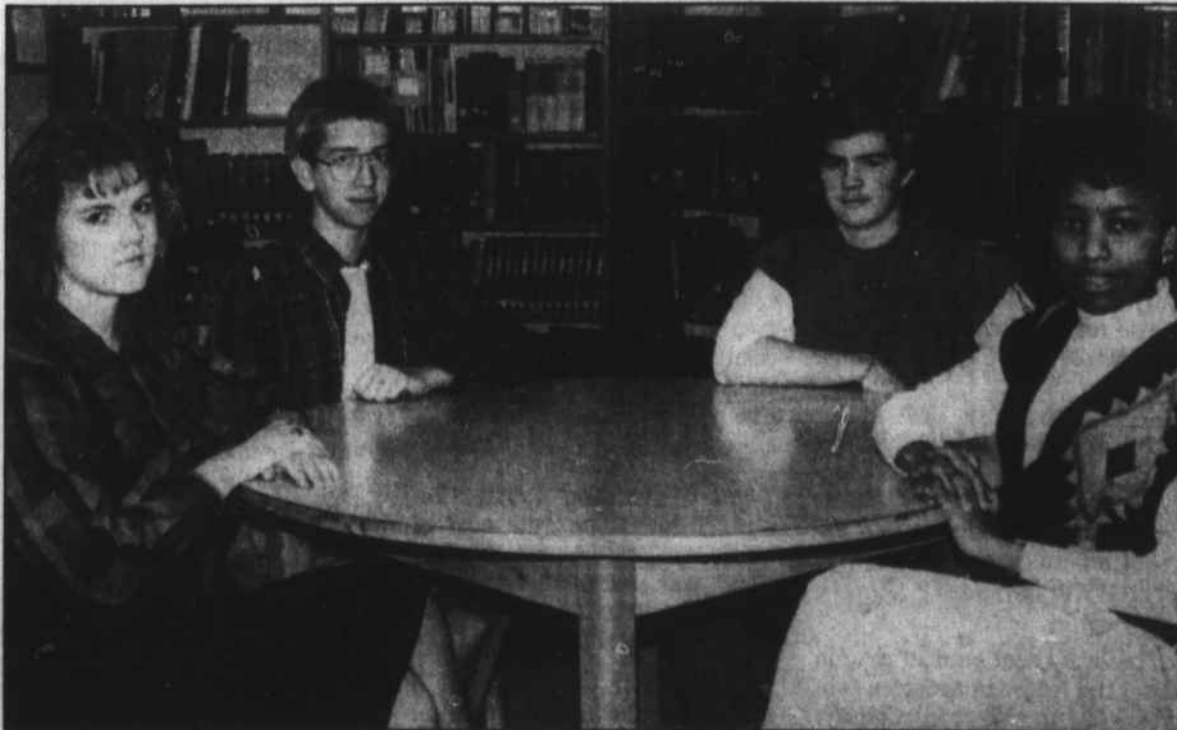
Word has been sent to his creditors by the clerk of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court of the Eastern District of North Carolina that Fleming is seeking relief under Chapter 7 of Title 11 of the U. S. Code.

According to Clerk Peggy B. Deans, a meeting of creditors has been set for 2 p.m. on Feb. 13 at the U. S. Courthouse in Raleigh.

Income Said Up

ROCKY MOUNT—Peoples Bancorporation this week reported net income of \$8.3 million in 1986, in increase of 16.2 percent over 1985.

Peoples Bancorporation is the parent company of Peoples Bank and Trust Company.



Warren County High School students selected as nominees for the North Carolina Governor's School are, left to right, Ginger Meek, Rann Paynter, Michael Sink and Angela Ballance. Miss Ballance, Miss Meek and Paynter were nominated on the

basis of academic performance, while Sink was nominated for the arts area. Final selections for the Governor's School will be made in the spring.

(Community Schools Photo by Mary Hunter)