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The icy coating which covered Warren County this week proved too much for this awning in front of Rennett's Beauty Supply on Main Street in Warrenton. It fell to the sidewalk Tuesday morning. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)



Citizens Insurance and Bonding Company's awning folded under the weight of more than three inches of sleet which started falling Monday and continued into Tuesday. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)



Sarah Seward, a Warrenton resident, escaped serious injury shortly after noon on Tuesday when this ice-laden metal awning fell

on her as she stood in front of The Warren Record on South Main Street. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Mother Nature Deals Crippling Blow To Warren

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Warren County awakened to near paralysis Tuesday as sleet which had begun to fall Monday morning approached an accumulation of four inches by daybreak, making travel difficult and weighing heavily on objects ill-equipped to support it.

The picture of white was deceiving to the uneducated weather watcher who may have mistaken the beads of ice piled together for fluffy snow; and if one step into the crusted mass was not adequate explanation, an attempt at maneuvering a motor vehicle was.

Travel was hazardous and therefore discouraged by law enforcement and safety personnel and a number of businesses in the county's municipalities remained closed throughout the day Tuesday.

At home, many of the county's residents grappled with the likes of power outages, fallen trees and damages caused by the weight of the icy precipitation.

Clinton Capps, local observer for the National Weather Service, reported an accumulation of 3.75 inches of sleet at his station at Arcola. Capps, whose records date to slightly more than a year ago when he became the county's official weatherman, said the total represented more sleet than he could remember at any other time. A number of Warren County residents who have been around more than eight decades made similar comments.

The Warrenton Police Department reported only one accident since the precipitation began Monday morning. Policeman George Alston said no one was injured in a collision of two motorists on Halifax Street about 4 p.m. Monday.

According to the report, Peter Allen, 21, of Rt. 2, Warrenton and George Ervin Powell, 35, of Rt. 2, Macon collided head-on when Powell's vehicle hit a patch of ice and caused the driver to lose control.

Damages to both Allen's vehicle, a 1978 Chevrolet Camaro, and Powell's 1973 Ford pickup were estimated at \$800.

No charges were filed in the accident, Alston said.

Alston said Warrenton's major streets—Main, Macon, Ridgeway and W. Franklin—had been scraped and were in fair condition for traveling by Tuesday afternoon. Side streets were still several inches deep in ice.

Along Warrenton's Main Street, a number of storefront awnings collapsed under the weight of the ice. Early Tuesday the awnings of Citizens Insurance and Bonding and Rennett's Beauty Supply were dangling or on the ground and by midday they were joined by the awning in front of the Record Printing Company.

Policeman James Champion said similar conditions existed in Norlina where the awning at Traylor's Hardware fell and broke front windows of the business. Champion estimated damages at \$1,000. Travel along Norlina's streets was also difficult, he said.

A spokesperson in the State Highway Patrol office in Henderson said a number of minor accidents related to the weather had been reported in the county.

Robbie Ross of the local highway maintenance division of the State Department of Transportation said every available piece of equipment was at work Tuesday to clear the county's roadways. By the middle of the day, some of the equipment was directed to attempt

clearing of secondary roads which had not been touched earlier because of efforts to clear I-85, U.S. 1, U.S. 401 and N.C. 158. Ross said the weight of sleet made it more difficult to clear than snow. "We will continue to work throughout the day and into the night until everything freezes over," Ross said.

James Parnell, Carolina Power and Light Company manager, said power crews began working about 4 a.m. Tuesday to relieve outages in the county. Some 1200 customers in the Littleton area were without electricity, he said, as a result of trees across major lines. Other outages were reported in the Liberia, Vaughan and Macon areas and Parnell said isolated cases existed throughout the county.

Customers in the Arcola and Inez areas served by Halifax Electric Membership Corporation reported outages as well.

Sheriff Theodore Williams advised people to stay at home if at all possible. Members of his department and also the Warrenton Police Department spent a number of hours Tuesday transporting stranded medical personnel to work.

The weather gave Warren County's school children another break from classes on the heels of an earlier interruption due to snow in January. Both public and private school children were back at home by lunch time. A spokesperson in the Warren County Schools office said the need for an early dismissal was apparent by the time students reached school but that refueling of buses requires about an hour. Re-opening of schools seemed nowhere in sight as of Tuesday afternoon when temperatures hovering around the freezing mark were still the weather prediction.

Local Citizens

Aid Resolution

Disbursement of a \$37,000 bequest to charity made almost 50 years ago draws closer thanks to the efforts of concerned Warren County citizens and officials.

The will of Edmund White was probated in 1938. Included was a clause that left \$10,000 to charity upon the death or remarriage of his wife. Also included was the request that a Hugh J. White Fund Board in honor of White's father be established to determine qualifications for receipt of the bequest.

The will further stipulated that the make-up of the board was to be the clerk of court, one black minister, one white minister, a white male and a white female. Annual appointments were to be made by the clerk of court.

The trust was earmarked for relief of "the distress of needy (Continued on page 2)

Award Is Made In Settlement

An award of \$27,570 has been made to the Estate of Gary Dean Carroll, Jr. in an out-of-court settlement to resolve the \$350,000 suit filed recently by Gary Dean Carroll, father of the deceased.

Carroll, Jr. died following an accident on Jun. 20, 1984 in which he was struck by an automobile in front of the Warren Plains Baptist Church.

Liability was denied by the defendant, Robert William Clayton of Rt. 1, Norlina, and settlement was reached with a stipulation of dismissal with prejudice.

Newsman Killed In Warren County Wreck

The Hurst extraction tool purchased recently by Warren County was called into service Friday afternoon in a three-vehicle accident believed to be caused by a drunken driver. Peter R. Turkel, Associated Press newsman, was

killed, but his wife, Susan, survived.

Turkel, overnight supervisor for the Boston bureau, was driving north on Interstate 85 approximately 15 miles north of Henderson. According to Trooper R. T.

Futrell of the N. C. Highway Patrol, he attempted to pass a vehicle driven by William I. Levister of Wise. Levister allegedly moved his car into Turkel's path in the left lane. Turkel's car hit Levister's vehi-

cle and went into a spin before being struck by a tractor-trailer. The car flipped over before resting right-side-up on the highway median.

According to Al Bennett, assistant chief of the Norlina Fire Department, Turkel and his wife were trapped inside the crushed vehicle. They were freed after 30 to 40 minutes of work by responding safety officials. The Hurst tool was used to pry off the driver's door and cut the support posts so that the roof could be removed to free the trapped couple.

Turkel and his wife were taken to Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill, Va. He died from injuries sustained in the accident. She was transferred by helicopter to the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Va.

Levister, 46, has been charged with felony death by vehicle, impaired driving, failure to drive on (Continued on page 2)

Committee Of 100 Has Gathering

The Warren Committee of 100, Inc. held its annual membership meeting on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at First Citizens Bank.

The following individuals were elected to the board of directors: Francis Alston, Cal White, Ms. Ann Peel/HEMC, John T. Nelson, Howard Jones, Mrs. Henderson, Monroe Gardner, Joseph Alexander and Richard Hunter. They will serve with current board members, Floyd B. McKisick, Sr., B. G. White, James Parnell, James Crenshaw,

Robert Jenkins, Mrs. Jennie Franklin, David Gardner, Lewis Myers, James R. Hill, Eddie Clayton, Brad Carroll, Karl Hehl and Ms. Cathy Wilson.

The membership unanimously appointed the following individuals to the executive committee: Robert U. Jenkins (re-elected as president), James Parnell (elected as vice president), Ms. Cathy J. Wilson (re-elected as secretary), Brad Carroll (re-elected as treasurer) and Monroe Gardner (elected as assistant treasurer).

The Warren Committee of 100 has raised to date \$13,128.02 to be used for economic development purposes.

The Committee of 100, Inc. is funded by annual membership dues in the amount of \$100 for individuals and \$200 for businesses. These dues are tax-deductible. Anyone with interest in joining the Warren Committee of 100 should contact any one of the board members for further information.