



With spring just days away on the calendar, Old Man Winter continued to wield his powers Monday with a surprise flurry of the largest snowflakes of the season. Flakes the size of silver dollars dropped onto Warrenton's Courthouse Square above and elsewhere in the county. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Lake Gaston Break-Ins Probed By Warren County Lawmen

Three break-ins on Lake Gaston and a fourth in another part of the county have claimed the time of two members of the Warren County Sheriff Department responsible for investigating the incidents.

The summer lake residence off S.R. 1334 belonging to Don Penrod and Don Dixon was discovered violated on Thursday, March 12. An unknown number of subjects gained entry through a window. Reported missing were

a combination radio/tape player and a radio charger valued at \$350. Damage done during the forced entry through the window to an air conditioner and surrounding paneling was estimated at \$500.

The following day, Friday the 13th, brought reports of another break-in at the summer home of John Elphus Runkle of Maryland. Runkle last visited his home in the Little Ponderosa subdivision in January. Upon returning last weekend, he discovered damage to two windows and a screen and losses totaling \$205: approximately \$30 in cash, \$50 in jewelry, a \$60 radio, \$25 in playing cards and storage case and \$40 in miscellaneous household items.

Later that evening, Emory J. Plunkett of Raleigh returned to his Triton Point summer home. One week earlier, all had been in order. Upon arising on Saturday, March 14, he reported the theft of a picnic table and five boxes of nails. The value of the missing items is estimated at \$75.

Deputy J. A. McCowan is the investigating officer for the three Lake Gaston-area break-ins. Later that day, a home on R.P. 1126 in the Afton-Elberon section owned by Ms. Nancy I. Williams of Henderson was reported entered. The home was known to be secure on March 10. In the interim, hand tools valued at \$700 were removed. Deputy Harold Seaman was the investigating officer.

List Of Jurors Is Drawn For District Civil Court

Jurors who are to report to the courtroom on Tuesday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m. for the civil term of Warren County District Court beginning March 23 at 10 a.m. include the following:

Frances Duigiud Harris, William Glenn Coleman, Jaycynthia Vernell Semedo Robinson, Michelle Mills, Ellen Reid Ellis, James Lee Lewis, Leonard Hudson Bowen, Wilbur Hargrove, Janice Brown Alston, Salley K. Dickerson, Clarence Wayne Branch, Sylvia Ann Whitmore and Ricky Ray Rivers;

Also, Jennie Narsissie Mayfield, Eugene Sledge, Paula Louise Ingledue, Boyd Clark Edwards, Jr., Sheila Lynn Powell, Frankie Lee Bullock, Thomas Edward Richardson, Lawrence Owen Robertson, Jr., John Jordan, Cora Alston Perry and William Allen Hawks;

Also, Evangeline A. Ward, Fred Gale Harris, Margaret William Robinson, Carolyn West Fleming, Emily Brown McMiller, Walter Baskerville, Newman, Willie Alexander Boyd, Linda Anne Fleming, John Everett Davis, George Alva Franklin, Herman Lee Jordan and Bruce Bowling Shearin;

Also, Estelle Hunt Ellis, Ida Marrow Hargrove, Irma Evans Wilson, Anthony Wayne Newsome, Triana Hockaday Harrison, Helen Brantley Patterson, Johnnie Blackwell, Elizabeth Jiggetts Edwards and Claude Allie Edwards, Jr.

Jurors deferred from previous sessions and instructed to report also at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday include George Edward Twitty, Henry Travis Pulley, Leon Haintzelmon Francis and Moses Lee Kearney.

Sampson Native Begins ASCS Duties In Warren

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county executive director's position, left vacant by the Jan. 31 retirement of Thomas E. Watson, has been filled.

Lynn Carr officially began his duties here on Monday, following several months' training which took him to five North Carolina counties. He began employment with ASCS in August 1986 and trained in Johnston, Onslow, Cumberland, Hoke and Greene counties.

The ASCS programs are no stranger to the Sampson County native who grew up on a farm. Carr is a graduate of UNC-Wilmington where he majored in Business Management. Before joining ASCS, he was in management training with J. C. Penney.

On his first day at work in the local office and with an eye on the 29 years of service rendered here by his predecessor, Carr said he

is "looking forward to working with the people in Warren County."

The new executive director is residing on Hazelwood Drive. He enjoys sports, especially water sports, and fishing.



CARR

Dinner Is Planned

The Warrenton Merchants Association's First Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held Monday, March 23 at the Warrenton Lion's Den. The meeting will begin with a social at 6:30 p.m. with the dinner and meeting following at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available from the following merchants at a cost of \$6.50 per person: Macon and Gladys Wemyss (Odom's Flower Shop), Woody King (Boyce Drugs), David Gardner (Warrenton Furniture Exchange), Howard Jones (Record Printing Company), James Parnell (Carolina Power and Light), Monroe Gardner (Warrenton Insurance), Robert Jenkins (Fashion Cleaners), Warren Deines (Colonial Lodge), Bradley Carroll (First Citizens Bank), Pete Vaughan (Warrenton Town Hall), B. G. White (Bowers and Burrows Oil Co.) Jack Harris (Connor Savings and Loan Association) and Bobby Rollins (Branch Banking and Trust Company).

Warren Farm Income Shows Slight Drop

Drought Draws Much Of Blame

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Farm figures released this week by the county's Agricultural Extension Service reflect the drought and lower prices which plagued farmers during the 1986 crop year.

The Extension Service estimated total farm sales for the year at \$27,114,598—some \$300,000 lower than 1985's estimated sales of \$27,442,393. The picture grows bleaker in view of the fact that 1985 was less than a banner year for most farmers.

Significant reductions were noted in tobacco, soybeans, corn, small grain and hay. Commercial vegetables and cucumbers also dropped in cash dollars.

Extension Chairman Russell King cited last year's drought as the single factor which contributed most to the decline in sales. "Double-cropping with soybeans was not done in a number of fields, even after fertilization," King said, because moisture conditions were inadequate for seed germination. "Corn yield was way down," he added, naming again the insufficient rainfall at crucial stages of development.

Both tobacco yield and quality were affected by the drought, the chairman's report indicated.

Bright spots in the 1986 farm picture included forestry and poultry, along with swine, beef and milk production. Sales from cantaloupes also increased.

"Poultry continues to have a steady increase, partially due to the slow decline in farm income from tobacco," King explained. The location of Perdue Farms, Inc. in Warren County has given impetus to poultry production, he noted.

Forestry sales were up largely because changes in the tax laws for 1987 made it advantageous for forest owners to harvest their timber in 1986, King pointed out.

Swine production showed an increase because prices remained strong during the last year and because there has been an increase in the number of people putting animals on dirt facilities which allow less investment risk than the automated facilities of recent years.

Commodity	1985	1986
Tobacco	\$9,444,000	\$7,788,975
Soybeans	1,345,890	970,000
Corn	504,000	105,000
Small Grain	1,056,460	763,900
Hay	585,000	441,350
Commercial Vegetables	194,750	95,865
Cantaloupes	90,000	92,500
Cucumbers	482,200	321,550
Fruits	63,687	88,142
Forestry	6,523,370	7,747,255
Swine	1,770,700	2,041,993
Beef	739,200	1,005,670
Milk Production	876,000	1,318,350
Poultry & Eggs	3,250,189	3,611,515
Other Livestock	115,000	117,216
Other Crops	292,116	292,645
Government Payments	109,831	312,672
Total Farm Sales	\$27,442,393	\$27,114,598

By Falling Tree

Warren Man Killed In Freak Accident

A freak accident in the woods behind the grave of Annie Lee in the Afton-Elberon/Vicksboro community was responsible Tuesday for claiming the life of a Warren County man.

Jethro Williams, 52, of Rt. 2, Warrenton was killed by the impact of a 20-foot oak being felled by himself and his companion, Jimmy Hayes. The two men were using a chain saw to cut the tree for fire wood.

As sometimes happens, the tree split just before falling and its weight caused the wood to splinter. The tree was thrown in a direction other than that anticipated by the men. They scrambled to get away, but to no avail. The tree fell, pinning Williams underneath its weight.

The accident occurred at 12:40 p.m. Deputy Harold Seaman, members of the Warren County Ambulance squad and firefighters from the Afton-Elberon and Norlina fire departments responded to the call received at 12:53 p.m. A pry bar and block of wood were used to free the body of Williams. He was pronounced

dead-on-arrival at the Warren Health Plan.

According to Medical Examiner Dr. Keyserling, the cause of death was accidental trauma to the head and neck.

Jimmy Hayes sustained cuts from the chain saw, but refused treatment in Warren County. Family members are reported to have taken him to Henderson for examination.

Funeral arrangements for Williams were incomplete at press time, but are being handled by Garnes Funeral Home of Henderson.

Free Distribution Of Food Is Slated

The National Guard Armory will be the distribution point for spring quarterly distribution of USDA surplus foods on Wednesday, March 25, Charles P. Haywood, social services director stated this week.

This distribution will include six food items: rice, flour (Continued on page 8B)



Walter Gardner, left, and Kenny Clayton, both local Jaycees, display state awards which they received during a convention of the North Carolina Jaycees last weekend in Southern Pines. Gardner received the Outstanding Young North Carolinian Award and Clayton was named an Outstanding

Public Servant. The awards were presented during separate banquets at the Sheraton Inn. Both winners were nominated by the local Jaycees chapter and were among five individuals selected for state recognition in each category. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)