

# The Warren Record

Warrenton, N. C. 27589

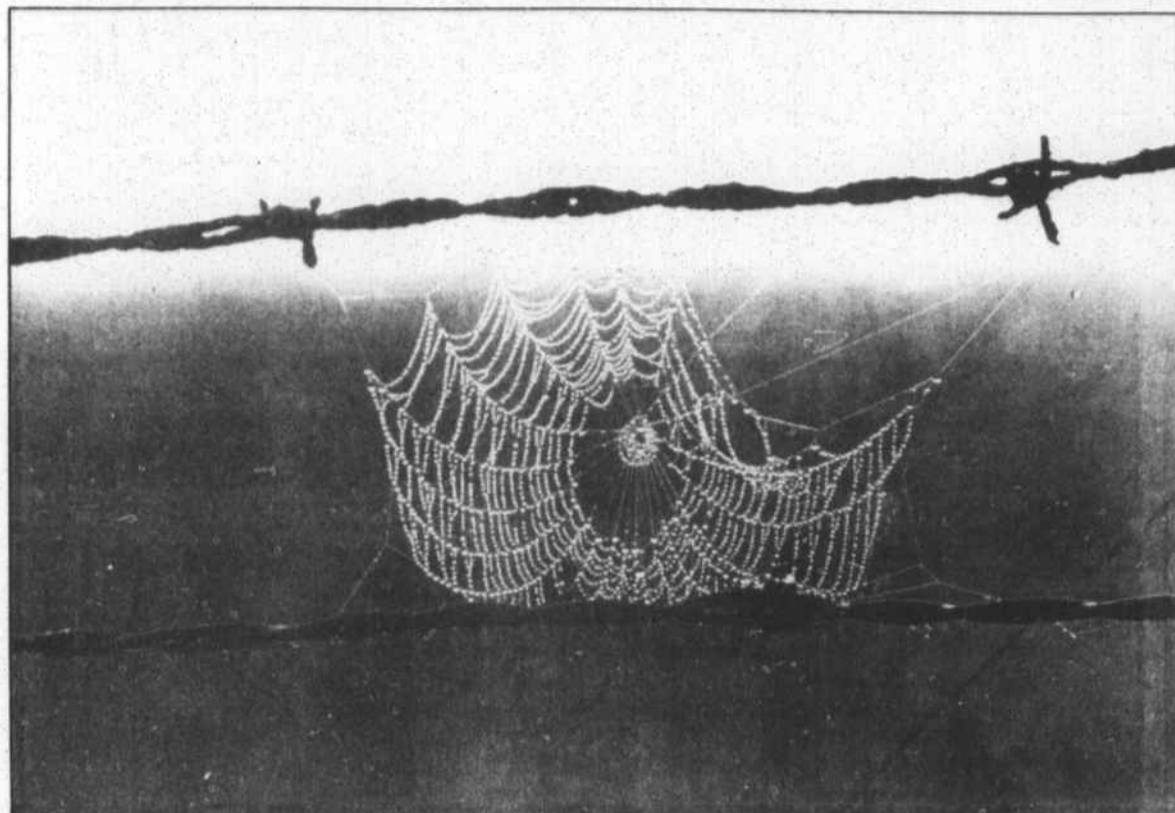
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A spider's web, encased by early morning dewdrops, glistens like so many strands of pearls. The web was spotted in Warren County Monday morning when traffic was slowed by a dense fog. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

## Health Department Task Force Formed To Present AIDS Facts

Warren County Health Director Dennis Retzlaff this week announced the formation of a task force to help prepare the Health Department, the county medical community and the public for the dangers presented our citizens by Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

In making the announcement Retzlaff emphasized that this step is not being taken in response to any known case of the disease.

"To date there has not been a confirmed report of AIDS in a citizen living in Warren County," Retzlaff said. "The massive publicity given this disease and its current incurability make it necessary that we take action to educate our citizens about this disease and the steps we are taking to protect our people."

AIDS is a generally fatal disease which is usually transmitted through an exchange of bodily fluids, the most common means of transmission being through sexual contact and sharing of hypodermic needles.

Nationwide over 24,019 have died from the disease while North Carolina has reported 273 cases with 172 known to have died from AIDS-related causes.

The task force, which includes Doris Dryden, nursing supervisor; Vivian Paynter, communicable disease control nurse; Lynne West, laboratory technologist; and Katherine Hilliard, health educator, will plan public education events, coordinate communication with local health providers and develop procedures for responding to AIDS-related situations.

Mrs. Dryden emphasized the need for calm and responsible discussion of this disease. "AIDS is not a communicable disease like the common cold or the dreaded polio virus of 30 years ago. AIDS cannot be transmitted through the air or by ordinary human contact such as handshaking, hugging and other non-sexual contact. With routine cautions to prevent contact with blood or other bodily fluids AIDS victims can be kept at home without danger to other family members," she said.

Local efforts to control AIDS in our communities include confidential testing for the AIDS virus. The test, available through the Warren County

Health Department, can reliably determine if a person has been exposed to AIDS and is at risk of transmitting the disease to others. Lynne West, the Department's laboratory technologist emphasizes that this test is aimed primarily at individuals who are at high risk of having been exposed to the disease.

"We are not recommending this screening for the general public at this time," Ms. West said. "Those most encouraged to seek this test are male homosexuals, individuals with a history of numerous sexual partners, hemophiliacs or other persons who have received numerous blood transfusions between the years of 1978 and July, 1985.

Any inquiries related to AIDS should be directed to one of the members of the task force, Retzlaff concluded.

"We hope to soon have other representatives of the local medical community to join this task force," he said. As with many of the health challenges facing us today, it is only through the cooperation of local medical providers and the citizens of this county that we can successfully meet the challenge set before us."

## Break-Ins, Stabbings Probed By Deputies

The Warren County Sheriff's Department has been busy this week with a number of incidents reported around the county.

Last Thursday, around 9:30 p.m., an attempted break-in was reported by Everette W. Jones, Sr., of Littleton. Jones owns a white framed house across the street from his residence located on Elam's Road. Apparently someone had tried to gain entry into the house by the side door. Nothing was reported missing from the house, but there was damage to the door. Harold Seaman, the investigating officer, said that there are no suspects in the case.

Another break-in was reported in Littleton last Thursday at 6:45 p.m. at the home of Minnie S. Taylor. Her residence, located on Route 1, was broken into through the front door. A VCR, lawnmower, microwave and stereo were reported stolen. The items were valued at around \$1,000, said Percell Williams, the investigating officer. There are no suspects in the break-in.

Three stabbings were reported this week, according to Sheriff Theo Williams. The first stabbing

was reported by Maria Parham Hospital. They treated Ms. Brenda Montague, 29, of Route 1, Warrenton. She was treated for wounds to her back, abdomen and chest. According to the report, the stabbing occurred at Roseland, a night club in Norlina. Ms. Elizabeth Myrick, 32, of Route 1, Manson, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. She was released under \$2500 bond and is scheduled to appear in court at the Warren County Courthouse on Oct. 21. Harold Seaman and Percell Williams were the investigating officers.

On Monday, the sheriff's office received a call at 2:44 a.m. from a woman whose residence is on Hwy. 43. She stated that two men were at her door requesting help. When Harold Seaman arrived on the scene, he found two Mexican men, one of them seriously wounded. Valentin Marteniz Cruz, 25, and his brother stated that they had been traveling with two of their friends. They said that a fight had broken out and that one of the other men stabbed them, stole their suit-

(Continued on page 3B)

### Average Monthly Value Is \$39.41

## Decrease Is Noted In Food Stamp Use

According to figures recently released by the Department of Agriculture, the number of residents of Warren County receiving assistance through the Food Stamp program declined from 2,838 in 1984 to 2,549 by January of 1986 or by 10.2%.

During this same period, the number of food stamp recipients nationally declined from 19,673,239 persons in 1984 to 19,526,929 persons by January of 1986 or by slightly less than one-tenth of one per cent.

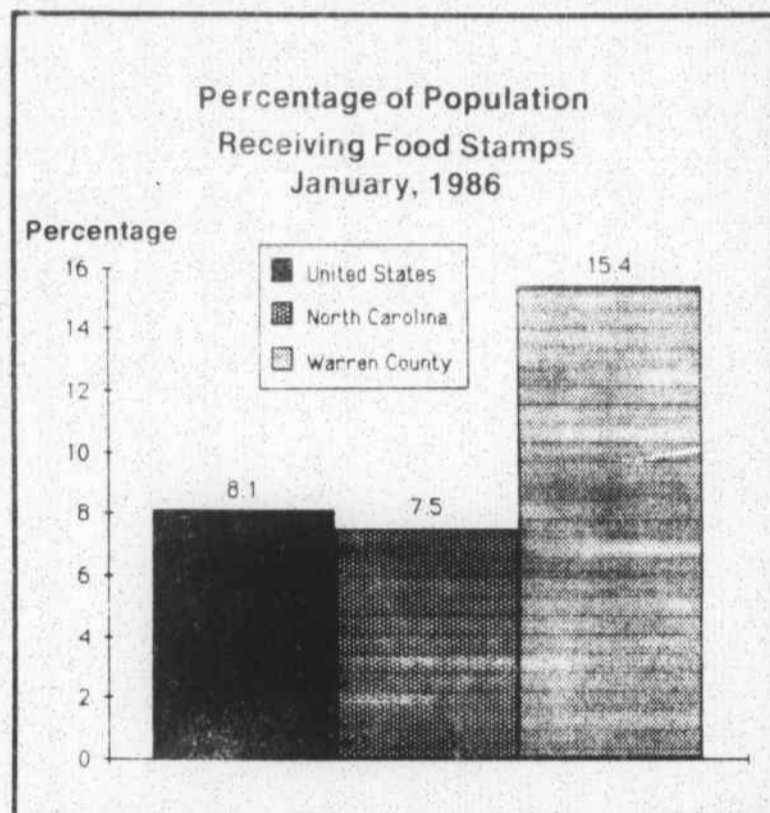
The number of food stamp recipients in North Carolina increased from 403,911 to 468,138 or by 15.9% over this period.

The Food Stamp program is the largest and most important federal nutrition program. During fiscal 1985, expenditures through the Food Stamp program were \$12.6 billion dollars or 66.6% of all spending for federal food assistance. The food stamp program directly affects more Americans as well as more residents of Warren County than any other federal nutrition program. Some 15.4% of the population of Warren County received food stamps in January of 1986 compared to 8.1% of the national population. Some 7.5% of the population of North Carolina received food stamps at that time.

Food stamps are provided to individuals and households using a formula largely based on income (means). Virtually all individuals or households with incomes less than the poverty level qualify for food stamp assistance as do a number of individuals and households with incomes greater than the poverty level. According to the Census Bureau, 72.9% of all households nationally receiving food stamps had incomes below the poverty level. Comparable state and local figures are not available.

Some 35.1% of food stamp recipients in Warren County lived in households where all members of the household received some other form of public assistance in the form of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Social Security, or other general welfare assistance. The remaining 64.9% of local food stamp recipients lived in households where at least one member of that household did not receive public assistance.

National figures indicate that 47.5% of all food stamp recipi-



ents lived in households where all household members received another form of public assistance while 52.5% of recipients lived in households where at least one household member did not receive other public assistance. Figures for North Carolina show that 39.2% of state food stamp recipients lived in households with all household members receiving some other form of public assistance while 60.8% of recipients lived in households where at least one household member did not.

In Warren County, the average monthly value of food stamps provided per individual increased from \$38.65 in 1984 to \$39.41 by January of 1986 or by 2%. Nationally, the level of individual food stamp assistance increased by 1.1% from \$44.74 to \$45.23. In North Carolina, the average monthly value of food stamps provided per individual declined from \$43.38 to \$41.01 or by 5.5% during the period.

Total federal expenditures for the Food Stamp program declined slightly from fiscal 1984 through fiscal 1986. However, most analysts attribute this decrease in spending to the fact that national economic conditions generally improved during the period.

The legislation providing for most federal nutrition assistance programs, including the Food Stamp program, is based upon income (means) qualifica-

tions. Those individuals who qualify for assistance through the Food Stamp programs are automatically entitled to such assistance if they qualify. The federal government has budgeted \$12.6 billion dollars for food assistance during fiscal 1987 and some \$12.8 billion dollars is proposed for Food Stamps in the projected fiscal 1988 budget. If the funds budgeted for the program are insufficient, the Congress has always provided additional funding.

It appears that a substantial number of those individuals legally entitled to assistance through the Food Stamp program are not currently accepting such assistance. At the end of 1985, only 58.9% of American households receiving some form of means-tested public assistance also received food stamps. While comparable state and local figures are not available, after state and local personal income statistics are taken into consideration, it appears that a number of residents of both North Carolina and Warren County qualifying for food stamps do not accept them.

The proportion of the population of Warren County receiving food stamps was greater than the national proportion in January of 1986. It was also greater than the proportion of the population of North Carolina receiving food stamps.



WILSON

## Warren Native Gets Large Research Grant

Carlton Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobbie H. Wilson of Warren County and a 1974 graduate of John Graham High School, was recently awarded a \$27,500 research grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Wilson is currently a member of the faculty in the Department of History at North Carolina Central University. He is also pursuing a doctorate in British History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Wilson plans to use the grant to finance several months of study and research in England in order to complete his dissertation, which is an analysis of the black community in Liverpool, England.



Carl Lowendick and Ms. Jean H. Dodd, coordinators of Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful, are shown here with Warren Merchant's Association President Woody King. They

gave a video taped presentation at the Rafter's on Monday night which discussed different ways in which the community could make an effort to keep N. C. clean and beautiful.