

Early November Snowfall



Warren County residents were surprised by an early snowfall last Thursday. The hay bales on this Ridgeway farm were covered by the snow, which measured as much as two inches

in some parts of the county. Although short-lived in beauty, it was a boon for the farmer, providing much-needed moisture for the land.
(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Hostage Ordeal Ends Peacefully Near Littleton

By KAY HORNER
Feature Editor

A standoff between police and a man holding his estranged wife hostage at Camp Willow Run near Littleton ended early Monday evening without injury.

According to Warren County Sheriff Theodore Williams, Ronald William Price, 39, of Roanoke Rapids was charged after the incident with kidnapping and discharging a firearm in an occupied dwelling and transported to John Umstead Hospital at Butner for psychiatric evaluation.

Williams said Price's estranged wife, Susan Harris Price, secretary at the camp, told authorities that she had received a call from Price at her office earlier in the day and had told him that she was working and unable to talk with him.

After the conversation, Price apparently went to a pawn shop in Roanoke Rapids, Williams related, and bought a shotgun before making his way to the Christian camp on Lake Gaston.

Initially, four women were in the administration building around 4 p.m. when Williams arrived, according to Linda Harris, executive director of the camp. Mrs. Price was at her desk in the entrance area, Mrs. Harris was in an adjoining office and two other workers, Ella Dean Riggan

and Mac Fleming, were in an adjoining computer room.

Mrs. Harris said she climbed out of her office window to summon help and Mrs. Riggan and Mrs. Fleming locked the door to the computer room and crouched for safety behind office furniture.

Price broke the door down and ordered the ladies to leave, but held his estranged wife until 7:15 when he surrendered peacefully.

A fourth woman, the wife of the camp caretaker, had been led from the basement of the building earlier on by Deputy Mac McCowan.

Williams reported that two shots were fired by Price during the siege, but that neither seemed intended to harm anyone.

During the ordeal, which brought out the SBI and Highway Patrol, as well as the Sheriff's Department and Littleton Police Department, Camp Director Scott Sink talked at length with Price by telephone in an effort to diffuse the situation, as did Price's Roanoke Rapids physician.

Williams said Price shouted a threat to kill officers if they approached and then to turn the gun on himself, but made no demands.

He finally released his wife and then surrendered to authorities.

Bail for Price has been set at \$30,000.

Guns, Sword, Ammo Among Stolen Items

Approximately six counts of larceny were included in the reports filed at the Sheriff's Department this week as numerous calls were received concerning break-ins and thefts.

The first call was received on Tuesday, Nov. 11 from Ralph Allen McCoy of Rt. 1, Warrenton. Upon returning to his residence, McCoy noticed a suspect running out of the back door of his home. After checking the inside of his house, reported missing were a .45-caliber automatic pistol with a holster, a radio "boom box", a World War II sword and a box of .45-caliber pistol bullets.

Deputy Lawrence Harrison was the investigating officer in this case of breaking and entering and larceny.

The next call came on Thursday, Nov. 12 at approximately 8 a.m. Sandy Alston, of Rt. 3, Warrenton, stated that he was missing a Browning 12-gauge shotgun that was valued at \$500. Apparently one of his guests had taken the weapon while at his house. Deputy Percell Williams was the investigating officer.

On Friday, another call of a theft came in to the Sheriff's Department. Dwight Richardson of Rt. 1, Hollister, reported stolen a Multi-Tech VCR and VCR tape, together valued at \$227. There was no forcible entry into his home, according to Deputy Percell Williams, the investigating officer. There are no suspects.

Saturday brought another case of larceny. Dorsey Adcock of White's Trailer Park in Norlina reported around 5 p.m. that a Zenith portable television valued at \$500 was missing. There are no suspects in the case, as reported by Deputy C. R. Adcock, investigating officer.

Another call at 5 p.m. on Saturday came from Ms. Emma H. Jenkins of Rt. 3, Littleton. She reported that someone gained entry through her front door by prying it open and stole \$5 worth of

pennies and an Atari video game and cartridges, valued at \$405.

Deputy C. R. Adcock is the investigating officer. There are no suspects.

On Sunday at 4:45 p.m., David Shearin of Warrenton reported a case of larceny. His car, a 1966 Chevrolet, had been parked in his driveway. From the unlocked vehicle, someone stole a 40-watt power booster, a radio and a set of speakers. The value of these items was set at \$300. Deputy

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Dual-Laning Of U.S. 1 Roadway Set

The revised Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) recently released by the N.C. Department of Transportation calls for a statewide highway corridor system linking regions of the state and improvement of major urban thoroughfares to relieve traffic congestion.

There are no projects slated specifically for Warren County, but neighboring Franklin and Vance counties will see the four-laning of U.S. 1 from U.S. 1-A south of Franklinton to U.S. 1-Business south of Henderson. The project, estimated to cost \$21.4 million, is scheduled to begin with right-of-way acquisition in 1993 and construction in 1996.

Improvements to Interstate 85 in Warren County, previously announced, are signing and safety improvements from U.S. 158-N.C. 39 at Henderson to the Virginia state line; logo signing from the Granville-Vance county line to the Virginia state line; and pavement and bridge deck improvements on a 17.7-mile stretch from north of N.C. 39 to south of U.S. 1. Construction has begun on the first two and is scheduled to begin on the last in 1991.

'Narrow Escapes' Are Reported

Families Escape Fires Unharmmed

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Two Warren County families escaped unharmed from fires in their homes over the weekend.

Matthew Milam awoke early Saturday morning when he heard a noise in his house. He then realized that his whole house was on fire, and he and his family quickly escaped the burning two-story structure.

The Macon Rural Fire Department responded to the call at approximately 1:20 a.m. When firefighters arrived on the scene, the flames had completely engulfed the house, making it even more difficult to fight the blaze. Grass and trees around the house were also burned, as well as the family's car, a Ford Mustang, which was determined a total loss. The family's dog, which had been tied close to the house, was saved.

The fire is said to have been caused by a malfunction in an oil heater. The intensity of the fire was great, as the Macon firefighters had to call for mutual aid from Warrenton Rural Fire Department.

According to Macon Rural Fire Department Chief Lynn Henry, the family, including Milam's

wife, their daughter and a baby girl, "narrowly escaped with their lives." He noted that they were lucky to get out when they did.

The Milams are now staying with nearby relatives.

Another fire on Saturday occurred about 8 a.m. on S.R. 1335, two miles north of Macon. A fire in the house of Mrs. Annie Townes and her children caused them to vacate the burning structure.

Firefighters from Churchill Fire Department responded to the call. According to Carl Lynch, chief of Churchill Fire Department, at the time of their arrival, there was a minimum amount of flames and a lot of smoke.

Thankfully family members had been successful in their attempts to put out most of the flames. Lynch said that the fire damaged the roof and some parts of the walls and floor, but the house was not completely destroyed. No estimate of the damage was made.

The fire was said to have originated from an oil stove in the house.

Two more fires required the attention of firefighters from the Norlina Fire Department. On Sunday morning around 4:13, a

faulty electric heater in the utility room at the residence of Felton Davis, Jr., located on the Connell Rd. on Route 1, Warrenton, caused a fire to ignite. Although parts of the floor and wall were damaged, the windows and door were closed, causing the fire to smolder due to lack of oxygen. The smoke from this smoldering filled the house, causing a smoke alarm to sound. When the alarm went off, it woke Davis and his family, and they immediately escaped the brick structure.

As the Norlina Fire Department arrived on the scene, the family was standing outside wrapped in the blankets that they had been sleeping in. Firefighters

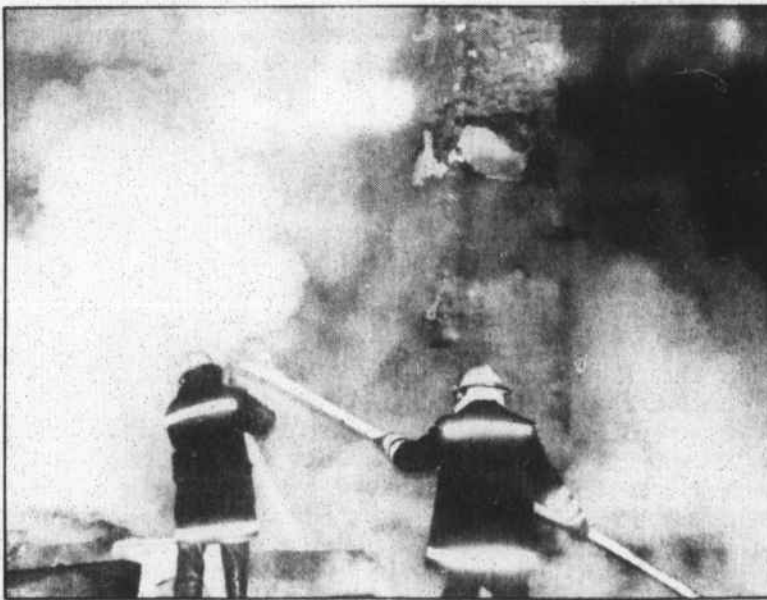
extinguished any fire left in the house and got a big fan to blow the smoke out of the house.

Structural damages to the house were estimated at \$850, while there was approximately \$400 in smoke damage.

According to the Norlina Fire Department Chief Al Bennett, the smoke alarm can be credited for possibly saving their lives.

When the firefighters were returning from that fire, they spotted another. A vacant house located on the Oine Rd. on Route 1, Norlina was engulfed in flames. Some of the firefighters stated that the glow from the burning structure could be seen from at least five miles away. The

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Firefighters are shown battling a blaze that completely destroyed a large, old vacant house located on the Oine Rd. in Norlina. The house had been vacated last Friday. The cause of the fire is unknown.
(Photo by Brenda Clarke)

Vote On Nickels Program Scheduled Next Tuesday

Local elections are over, but Warren County farmers, as well as their counterparts in the state's other 99 counties, are getting ready to cast their ballots in the Nickels for Know-How Referendum Nov. 24.

Nickels for Know-How is a self-help program to aid agricultural research and education at North Carolina State University. It is financed by two nickels per ton assessment on feed and fertilizer sold in the state. The assessment yields about \$450,000 annually.

That money supports research in production agriculture and food processing, which means that the consumer is the real beneficiary. Research ranging from cows to sows to pickles results in lower prices at the supermarket. Funds are also used to pay research assistants, who are graduate students at NCSU. The money these graduate students earn helps

them stay in school, and their work allows NCSU scientists to do more research.

Users of feed and fertilizer first approved the nickels program in a referendum in 1951. They will decide Nov. 24 if they want to continue it for another six years.

Two-thirds of those going to polling places next Tuesday must vote "yes" for the program to continue. Eligible voters are all North Carolina users of feed and fertilizer and family members.

Voters may go to any of seven polling places in Warren County during normal operating hours next Tuesday. Warren Extension Service Director Russell King said polling places will be the Extension Service Office in Warrenton, Pernel's Store in Afton, Buchanan's Store in Drewry, Joe Riggan's Service Station in Wise, Spragin's Grocery in Vaughan, Gupton's Grocery in Arcola and Coleman's Store in Inez.

Warren Professional Is Given State Post By Governor Martin

A Warren County professional has been appointed by Gov. Jim Martin to the Commission for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Mrs. Fonda W. Kirk of Henderson, director of the Warren County Child Development Center, located in Warrenton at the corner of Front and Franklin streets, has been appointed to the 25-member commission for a term ending June 30, 1991.

The commission establishes standards and adopts regulations for the treatment of persons in institutions and area programs,

hearings and appeals of area authorities, federal grant requirements, licensure of facilities, and the registration and restriction of controlled substances.

Other duties include reviewing and advising the secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources regarding all state plans. The panel also advises the secretary of the need for and provision and coordination of services.

Mrs. Kirk and her husband, Robert, are former residents of Kimball's Point. They have two sons, Robert, Jr. and Tennyson.