

High And Dry



Looking much like the witch's house perched high atop fowl legs of fairy tale fame, this pier sighted at Eaton Ferry Estates stands, pilings exposed, providing clear evidence that the recent attempt to lower the water level at Lake Gaston has been

successful. Vegetation and brush, long submerged under the waters that would normally touch the bottom of the pier, are visible.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Tobacco Revenue Increase Seen In Change In Quotas

Warren County's farmers could realize about \$180.25 in extra income per acre of tobacco, thanks to a 6.8 percent increase announced last week by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng, Lynn S. Carr, Warren County ASCS executive director observed this week.

In announcing the first increase since 1975, Secretary of Agriculture Lyng revealed the 1988 National Marketing Quota for flue-cured tobacco will be 755 million pounds—and increase of 6.8 percent.

The national quota for 1987 was 707 million pounds, Carr noted.

Carr stated the increase in quota could be attributed to an anticipated 25 percent increase in purchases made domestically to accommodate the expected increase in sales on the overseas market.

An increase in production will be needed to ensure sufficient quantities for domestic use and to offset the increased international sales.

Warrenton's largest buyer for 1987 was J. P. Taylor, whose offices are located in Richmond, Va.

According to a statement released recently by North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham, the increased quota will result in a basic tobacco production of about 496,000,000 pounds for the state's flue-cured growers. Graham reported that this was an increase of about 31,000,000 pounds statewide over 1987.

"Tobacco growers have had to make severe adjustments as both quotas and price supports have been reduced in recent years... (and)...these adjustments have resulted in lower gross income... (for farmers, who)...have had to be much more efficient in order to show a profit," Graham said.

According to Warren County ASCS Executive Director Carr,

Warren County's allotment for 1987 was 2,718.78 acres. The quota for 1987 was 5,026,735 pounds, he reported. The average yield per acre in 1987 was 1849.

"With the 6.8 percent increase, the quota for 1988 could be about 5,368,553 pounds," he said.

Carr also reminded tobacco farmers that next year's support price will rise seven-tenths of one cent for a figure of \$1.442.

For the entire 25-day selling season in 1987, 6,319,540 pounds of tobacco were sold in Warren County's three warehouses, an increase of almost one million pounds over 1986.

The total sales figure here for 1987 was \$10,051,874.74, an average of \$1.59 per pound. The highest reported average, which occurred on Sept. 28, was \$1.73 per pound.

Winners Chosen For Decorations

The winners of the 1987 Christmas Decoration Contest sponsored by the Warrenton Lions Club have been announced by Pete Vaughan, committee chairman. Judging for the event was held on Dec. 23.

"We were all excited about the level of participation by local residents this year," Vaughan said. "All that effort did a great deal to beautify the town for the holidays," he noted.

Taking first-place in the Outside Decorations category were Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Manning of 417 Eaton Avenue. Taking second-place in that category were Mr. and Mrs. Tim Thompson of 319 Church Street.

First-place honors in the Best Interior Decorations (as viewed from the exterior) category were awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Billy Hawks of 401 N. Main Street. Second-place honors went to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hunter of 210 Plummer Street.

According to Vaughan, the first- and second-place winners in each category will receive their awards at the first Lions Club dinner meeting for the new year to be held Jan. 8 at the Lions Den.

"The judges were faced with hard decisions," Vaughan noted, "and they also recognized three additional residences with honorable mentions." Receiving honorable mentions were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gaskill of 410 Rodwell Street, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Davis of 432 Eaton Avenue and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harris of 501 N. Main Street.

"All of the decorations are so attractive and creative that we hope Warrentonians will drive around to see them before they have all been packed away," Vaughan remarked.

Yule Decoration Winners Selected

Town 'N Country Garden Club President Mrs. L. G. Hawkin has announced the names of the winners of the club's annual Christmas Decoration Contest.

Judging for the event was held on the evening of Dec. 23.

Mrs. Joyce Williams of the Re Hill community in Warrenton was the first-prize winner in the Best Outdoor Decoration category. Mrs. McArthur Fogg of Ridgeway Rd. was recognized with an honorable mention in the category.

Mrs. Ann E. Burton of the Re Hill community was the first-prize winner in the Best Inter-

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Youth Charged In School Burning

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

A Norlina youth has been charged in connection with the burning of the main building of an elementary school in Four Oaks, along with a series of automobile

thefts that occurred Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Robert Edward Norris, 16, of Norlina, is being held in the Johnston County Jail after being charged with burning a school building, possession of stolen

property and two counts of larceny of an automobile.

Norris may also face a possible third charge of larceny of an automobile. He will have his first appearance before a District Court Judge today (Wednesday).

On Christmas Eve, Norris is believed to have stolen a car parked outside the residence of Ron and Pat Baker on East Street in Norlina. The car, a 1973 Plymouth Fury, belonged to Buster Dishmon, Mrs. Baker's father, who had stopped by to visit with his family.

According to police reports, Dishmon had only been there approximately 15 minutes before the car was stolen from the yard.

Norris drove the stolen Plymouth to Richmond, Va., where he is believed to have stolen another car, a Chevrolet Camaro. He drove this car south on Interstate 95 until he began to run low on fuel.

It was at this point that Norris decided that he would drive into Four Oaks to obtain another vehicle.

A spokesman from the Johnston County Sheriff's Department stated that Norris parked the Chevrolet Camaro about two blocks from the school campus before entering the main building of Four Oaks Elementary School. Once inside, the youth allegedly set 11 small fires in and around

the auditorium. Those small fires spread quickly and caused the entire main building on the school campus to be engulfed in flames.

More than 200 volunteer firefighters responded to the call, according to Four Oaks Fire Marshall R. A. Jackson. The firemen battled the blaze for about six hours before putting it out.

Reports indicate that Norris then stole another automobile, an Oldsmobile, located in close proximity to the school.

The youth fled from Four Oaks heading north, but was caught in

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Holiday Schedule Is Listed For Employees Of Warren County

Warren County offices and employees will observe the following holidays for 1988.

Easter Monday, celebrated in 1987 on April 20, has been eliminated from the new calendar, but Good Friday will be observed. The birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be observed on January 18.

This schedule is identical to that adopted by the State Personnel Office for state workers.

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 18
Good Friday	April 1
Memorial Day	May 30
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	September 5
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 24 and 25
Christmas	December 23 and 26

Thieves Were As Busy As Elves As Christmas Holidays Observed

While Santa and his elves were busy at the North Pole making everything ready for their Christmas deliveries, persons in Warren County were equally busy, as they involved themselves in crimes that are now under investigation by the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

A vehicle belonging to Miss Carrie Bell Banks of Rt. 2, Macon was reported missing on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Miss Banks had parked the gray 1984 Ford Tempo outside the residence belonging to her mother.

The license number of the vehicle is BRM 4165.

Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton is the investigating officer.

A second vehicle was reported missing the following day by Bruce Allen Whitmore. Whitmore reported that persons had pruned a lock apart that had secured a storage shed located behind his Warren Plains residence on R.P.R. 1322.

Reported missing was a 1980 Honda CB-900 motorcycle, valued at about \$2,000. The vehicle is dark blue in color.

According to Deputy Harold Seaman, investigating officer, the intruders are believed to have transported the motorcycle either by pushing it or by loading it onto another vehicle since the keys were not stolen. Also not taken were the accompanying helmets.

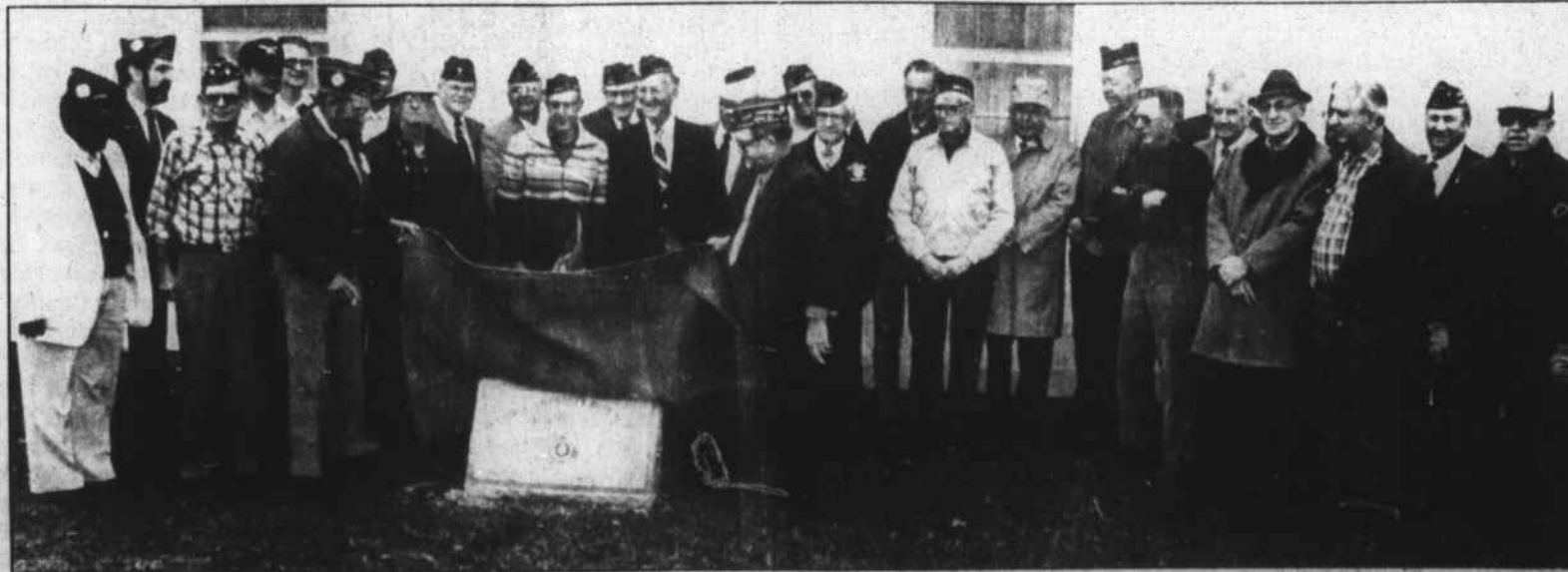
A particularly "grinch-like" incident was reported on Christmas Eve by a member of the Warren Plains United Methodist Church, who, after arriving to prepare for distribution of clothing that had been purchased or donated as gifts for local rest home residents, discovered the items missing.

Members of the church, which is located in Warren Plains on R.P.R. 1305, had collected 21 items of clothing to be given in the Christmas spirit, but the gifts were stolen by a person or persons, who gained entry to the building by breaking a window in a side door.

The intruders also entered the kitchen area of the church, but nothing else has been reported missing—only the gifts, Deputy Harold Seaman, investigating officer, said.

On Christmas Day, Ms. Sandra Taylor of Rt. 2, Norlina, reported that her 19-inch color television and VCR were missing. The items are valued at about \$700. Deputy J. M. McCowan is the investigating officer.

Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton reminded all area residents with knowledge of these and other unsolved crimes to contact the Sheriff's Department at 257-3456.



George Richardson, left, quartermaster, and Leonard Rudd, right, commander-in-chief of VFW Post 4096 in Norlina, Tuesday morning unveiled a granite marker designating the site of the Major A. J. Hundley Post Building. The unveiling of the marker coincided with a visit by national and state officials, shown with local post members at the ceremony. Earlier Larry W. Rivers, VFW senior vice

commander-in-chief, praised Post 4096, formed in 1945, for its membership recruitment. Rivers said the Veterans of Foreign Wars has grown into a 2.2-million-member national organization which has recorded an increase in membership in each of the past 32 years.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)