

Transportation Forces Ready For This Snow

When the first flakes of snow fell last Wednesday, local employees of the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) were ready.

According to DOT Road Maintenance Supervisor Glenwood Rose, all equipment had been checked out in advance and all salt and sand trucks had been loaded. Eighteen trucks and four motor graders were ready for the work that lay ahead.

Thirty-five DOT employees have worked in excess of 1,578 man-hours to clear county highways that are on the state system. Rose said that efforts to clear Thursday's snow accumulation were begun at about 12:30 a.m. on Friday. Snow removal was begun on secondary paved and unpaved roads by 6 a.m. on Friday. Chemicals—salt and calcium chloride mixed with sand—had been put down by 4:30 p.m., Rose said. DOT crews had "gone over" all roads by 2 p.m. on Saturday, Rose said.

The "going over" in some cases has meant "just knocking off snow."

According to Rose, DOT employees are still working on icy spots. "We are trying to sand the really dangerous spots, but we must let the sun take care of the rest," Rose said.

Rose noted that some county roads, especially unpaved roads, are covered with packed snow and ice. "The graders won't even cut it," he said.

"Anytime there is snow or ice, along with temperatures like the ones we have been having here," Rose said, "everyone should drive with caution. When persons get to a clear road, they should still be aware at bridges and at crests of hills of what may lie ahead."

According to Rose, there have been fewer accidents related to the recent bad weather than he has seen in a long time.

Rose asked area residents to "bear with us at DOT. We have worked long hours and have done everything possible to get everyone moving—but sometimes all is not enough."

Although minor accidents have been reported in Warren County, only one has resulted in heavy damage.

A Vance County oil delivery truck sustained about \$20,000 in damages last Friday morning following a head-on collision with a vehicle being driven by Victor F. Roberts of Rt. 1, Warrenton on S. R. 1229, about three miles west of Norlina.

According to Trooper N. D. Satterfield, Roberts' 1975 Oldsmobile skidded on the snow and crossed the center line of Robinson Road before colliding with the 1984 Chevrolet truck being driven by William Paul Wright, 30, of Rt. 2, Henderson. The oil truck was the property of J. W. Jenkins Oil Co. of Henderson.

An estimated \$2,500 in damage has been reported for Roberts' car.

Store Renovated

The Warrenton building that for many years housed The Cash Company, a men's clothing store operated by the late Allen Hilliard, is being renovated by a local firm.

According to James C. Harris of Warrenton Construction Company, one side of the 1,932-square-foot building, containing four offices, should be ready for occupancy in about 45 days, depending on weather conditions.

Renovation of the remainder of the building will be undertaken at a later date.

Included in the current project is replacement of the roof, floor and partitioning of offices.

Harris said a tenant had been located for the building, but declined to release the name pending signing of the lease.



Fog hovered over U.S. 158 between Warrenton and Macon when the sun rose early Tuesday morning to warm the frozen, snow-and-ice-covered environs of Warren County. Remnants of last week's snowfall, with a reported accumulation for the

county of four and one-half inches, continue to remind area residents of winter's power to immobilize and inconvenience mere mortals.

(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

Youth Faces Charge That He Set Fire At Norlina Middle School

The Norlina youth who has been linked with the recent fire that destroyed a Four Oaks public school appeared before the Warren County Clerk of Superior Court Tuesday for a 96-hour hearing on charges made in connection with a 1986 fire at Norlina Middle School.

Norlina Police Chief Charles J. Galantis has confirmed that Robert Edward Norris, 16, has been charged with unlawful burning in an incident, which occurred at Norlina Middle School on Nov. 19, 1986 and left \$7,000 in damages in its wake. The youth will appear on Feb. 3 for a preliminary hearing on the charges here in Warren County Superior Court.

Norris was returned from Johnston County to Warren County by Chief Galantis on Wednesday of last week. He had been housed in the Warren County Jail under bonds totaling about \$149,000, Chief Galantis said.

The warrant was drawn following an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation.

According to Galantis, fingerprints were developed that helped to link Norris to the crime.

Norris resides on Walker Avenue in Norlina. Norlina Middle School, the facility once attended by Norris, is also located on that street.

The charge of arson carries with it a maximum prison sentence of 30 years. No information regarding motive has been released.

In addition to the charges resulting from the two school

fires, Norris has been charged with auto larceny in Norlina. He also faces charges of auto larceny and possession of stolen property in Johnston County.

Other charges may be pending following SBI investigations of other fires in the state, officials noted.

Maj. Robert W. Atkinson of the Johnston Sheriff's Department has given the following chronology of the events leading to the arrest of the youth:

Dec. 24—A car was stolen from East Street in Norlina. The vehicle was abandoned in Chesterfield County, Va. A second car was stolen and driven south.

Dec. 25—Norris set fire to the Four Oaks public school, a crime to which he confessed at the time

of arrest, before leaving the site in another stolen vehicle.

Dec. 26—Northampton County deputies arrested the youth on I-95, about 10 miles from Jackson, near the Virginia border, where he had fallen asleep in the stolen vehicle.

According to Johnston County Sheriff Fred Narron, the youth told officials there that he worked alone in setting the fires that left \$1.2 million in damage at the Four Oaks Elementary School. "Every piece of concrete evidence that we've been able to find corroborates the story... (so)... he's bound to be telling us the truth," he said.

Sheriff Narron noted that the typical youthful car theft often involves at least two persons. "It's

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Snow Affects Meter Reading

Because the lingering snow and ice continue to hide the water meters housed in area streets, residential water meters will not be read for this month, Water Department Supervisor Bill Neal announced this week.

Residential water customers will be billed identically to the level of usage recorded for last month, he said. Automatic adjustments for any errors in estimation will be made when the meters are read in February.

Commercial customers, such as schools and factories, will be billed according to actual usage. Because water meters that register usage by commercial customers are housed in a different type of meter box, the accumulation of snow will not hinder the workers' attempt to read them, Neal said.

"We thank all our customers in advance for their cooperation," he said.



Looking every bit like an unwrapped package from the recent holidays, the historic Shady Oaks house south of Warrenton on Baltimore Road is covered with plastic to prevent damage by rain and

snow. The house, former home of the late Alston Twitty, is being renovated by a Virginia couple.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Pupils, Teachers Slated To Attend Saturday School

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Warren County's teachers will find themselves in school for two Saturdays this month, and area students will attend for one Saturday, following action taken at Monday night's meeting of the Warren County Board of Education.

The county's school calendar was revised to accommodate closings that have resulted from the recent inclement weather.

Warren County students were dismissed early last Thursday as reports of approaching snow were confirmed, and did not return to classes until Tuesday of this week. Friday of this week signals the end of the first semester.

Although Friday was originally scheduled as a teacher work day, classes will be conducted in Warren County schools.

The teacher work day has been re-scheduled to Saturday, Jan. 16.

Schools will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Students will report for instruction on Saturday, Jan. 23.

The board also heard a progress report from Mrs. Janice Crump on a proposal that will be submitted for funding to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Drawing on her experience as a producer for Durham's WTVD television station, Mrs. Crump, along with local administrators, has developed a proposal for a learning experience that will benefit area students in two ways: Students will be exposed to the careers available in broadcast media and they will gain writing and speaking skills.

If funded by the foundation, the program will bring to Warren County High School sophisticated television production equipment that will be used for weekly "news broadcasts" at the school. Students will be assigned stories for investigation, analysis, synthesis and reporting. Their "beat" will not be limited to the school, but will include all types of activities in the county, Mrs. Crump said.

According to Mrs. Crump, WTVD is excited about the program and has offered to make available to Warren County equipment and technical expertise.

Although funding by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has not been guaranteed, based on her involvement with the foundation, Mrs. Crump believes that the project is one that the funding committee will find attractive.

The board authorized the chairman and the superintendent to

approve submission by Feb. 1 of the application for the grant, following continued discussion and estimation of the cost involved.

In other business, the board: —Heard a presentation from representatives of Construction (Continued on page 7)



DR. WILLIAMS

Education Board Seat Is Sought

The first contender for one of the available seats on the Warren County Board of Education has declared her intention to file that vacancy.

Dr. Doris Terry Williams of Rt. 2, Norlina has filed for a seat now held by Leigh Traylor, representative for District Three. Traylor, a 12-year veteran board member completing his third term of service, has declared he will not seek re-election. "It is time for a change," he said.

The candidate is a 1969 graduate of North Warren High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Duke University in 1972. Dr. Williams completed master's-level and doctoral studies in adult and community college education at N. C. State University in Raleigh in 1976 and 1983, respectively.

"I have a great deal of experience with Warren County schools—both as a student and as a parent," she said. "My observations have been made from both inside and outside of the system."

Dr. Williams has amassed a long career in education, holding positions that have included service as director of the Vance-Granville Community College adult literacy G.E.D. program and associate director of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill N.C. Health Man-

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Bruce Rose Files For Board Seat Now Held By James T. Fleming

A Warrenton resident has made known his intention to seek a seat on the Warren County Board of County Commissioners when area voters go to the polls on Tuesday, May 3.

Bruce H. Rose, Jr. has filed for the seat assigned to the representative of District One in Warren County. That seat is held now by Commissioner J. T. Fleming, who, at press time, had not made his intentions known.

The candidate moved from Halifax County to Warren County in 1954. Following a 12-year career with Boyd-Boyce Ford here, he joined the staff of the equipment department of the N.C. Department of Transportation in 1966.

Although Rose retired from the department last year, he has con-

tinued to operate Rose Construction Co.

Rose has characterized himself as a "people person," who has promised to "talk to the people," if elected. "There need to be some changes," he said, "and many of the decisions that are made should come back to the people." Rose believes that attendance at regularly-scheduled meetings and public hearings would increase, if commissioners returned to their districts to discuss matters of importance. "That would get the people interested," he said.

Rose is married to the former Hazel Gardner. They have one daughter, Mrs. Delores Ann Serls of Warren Plains.