

Suspects Nabbed In Memphis

Two Roanoke Rapids men were scheduled to arrive Tuesday night at Raleigh-Durham International Airport, escorted by Sgt. Lawrence Harrison and Deputy W. T. Winston, to be confined in the Warren County Jail as suspects in an Aug. 25 break-in and larceny that resulted in the theft of over \$20,000 in personal items from a Northern Cove residence.

Tony Freeman, 25, and David Peebles, 25, both of Roanoke Rapids, will face charges of breaking and entering and larceny. The two men were arrested by officers in the Memphis, Tenn. area after being alerted through the Division of Criminal Information (DCI) network of the Warren County charges. Sgt. Harrison and Deputy Winston left RDU Monday to extradite the two

suspects from the Tennessee jail in which they were confined.

The Aug. 25 break-in at the Northern Cove residence of Ronald Lee Holmes resulted in the disappearance of \$16,000 in jewelry, \$4,400 in firearms and \$100 in currency. According to the report filed, entry was gained into the residence through a sliding glass door in the back of the structure.



The Smith & Wesson .357 magnum revolver (left), carried for years as the standard equipment of N. C. Highway Patrol officers, has been replaced by the Beretta 9mm automatic pistol (right). The new weapon carries 16 cartridges as

opposed to the six in the revolver, and the smaller 9mm hollow-point bullet has more knock-down power and is easier to reload than the .357 cartridge. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Change In Pistols, Car Lights Give New Look To Highway Patrol

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Warren County motorists traveling the highways throughout the county possibly have noticed a change in the appearance of the N. C. Highway Patrol vehicles they have met.

These patrol cars have undergone a facelift within the past year and have many new features that benefit the trooper.

One of these new features is the "bar light," replacing the old "bubble gum machine" round lights that were standard on the cars for a number of years. The new lights are more visible and less glaring than the old lights, according to Trooper A. M. Bennett, a trooper with the State Highway Patrol for 20 years.

"The new lighting system gives more illumination and also has a better 'take-down' lighting system," he said. The "take-down" lights on the patrol car, the two bright white lights positioned at the front of the bar, enable the trooper to see inside the stopped vehicle ahead of him.

The new lighting system also has two "alley lights," two bright white lights positioned at either end of the bar which give the of-

ficer more visibility on either side of his vehicle.

Along with the improved lighting system, the new car incorporates a louder, more efficient address speaker and siren. "With one speaker, 100 watts of power are amplified," Bennett said. "With both speakers turned on, 195 watts are given out."

But the changes do not stop with the appearances of the vehicles. State troopers are now equipped with a Beretta 9mm automatic. This new gun replaces the standard .357 magnum revolvers.

The new weapon gives the troopers more firepower, carrying 16 rounds or cartridges, instead of the six that the magnum carried. In addition, the 9mm hollow-point rounds are more powerful than the .357 magnum rounds.

According to Bennett, the new automatic weapons are easier to load and save the trooper time. "Just say for instance that there was a man 100 feet away from you with a knife. You are firing at him as he is coming at you with the knife and you run out of ammunition. With the .357 magnum, you can't reload in the amount of time it would take that person

with the knife to get to you and stab you. With the new automatic weapons, before the person reaches the 50-foot mark, he would have been shot."

Bennett indicated that the Beretta 9mm weapon only takes two to three seconds to reload and that he can shoot 31 rounds in approximately eight seconds. "It really makes a difference when you are fighting for your life," he said.

The new automatic is lighter in weight and is easier to fire than a revolver, Bennett said. And, he added, it is substantially easier to clean.

The new cars and guns are replacing the old equipment in phases. By the end of the year, all Highway Patrol systems in the state will be operating with the new, updated cars and guns.

Series Sold Out

The Office of Public Affairs at Louisiana College recently announced that tickets for the 1988-89 Louisiana College Concert Series have been sold out.

The Series does not open until Feb. 11 in order to utilize the new 1,200-seat auditorium now under construction on the East Campus.

Fire Service Districts Talked

Scheduling Of Hearings Delayed Until Mid-Month

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

The scheduling of public hearings to set the county's fire service districts was delayed until the mid-monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, as approved Monday morning by the county commissioners.

At their regular meeting, the board voted to have all fourteen county fire departments hold open forums to allow the citizens of each area to decide if they wanted the county to create fire service districts that would cause an annual tax increase or hold a referendum to create a taxed fire district.

Eva Clayton, chairman of the board, explained at the Monday meeting that citizen input should be assured in this situation. It is the job of the commissioners, she said, to allow citizens to voice their opinions on whether they feel there is a need for fire protection in their area, whether it is economically feasible to provide service without the tax levy or whether there is a demand for service by the taxation.

Although citizen comments play a vital part in the board's decision to establish fire service districts, the vote is cast only by the members of the Board of Commissioners.

To establish these service districts, the board must consider the appraised value of property subject to taxation, the present tax rate assessed and the ability of the proposed district to provide service. Once the report for each of the 14 districts has been prepared, separate public hearings will be scheduled. After these hearings, the board makes a decision on these fire service districts.

Once these service districts have been established, the county tax collector would set a taxation rate that does not exceed 15 cents per \$100 valuation. These taxes are administered in addition to those already imposed.

If these service districts are mapped, the county's fire commission would be responsible for the actions of each department and the county would monitor each department's budget.

A motion made by Commissioner J. T. Fleming stating that each fire department will be required to have an open forum and will receive a tax valuation listing beforehand was carried. In other matters before the board:

- A request for the release of penalty fees for failure of Ms. Lea Rhea to secure building permits was denied.

Ms. Rhea was fined \$96.96 for the number of piers that she contracted to be built by Quality Pier Builders. She indicated that she did not know that she was required to pay a fee for each pier.

- Approved several tax release requests by Janice Haynes.

- Received an update on the Warren County Health Department Budget Matters by Director Dennis Retzlaff. He informed the board that several allocations received increases during the past month, including the State Jordan-Adams Allocation (\$11,000), the State Environmental Health Allocation (\$3,000) and the State Allocation for Nurse Travel (\$1,600).

Retzlaff also reported that due to unfilled positions, the department is under its budget for the 1988-89 fiscal year. He said that with the extra amounts allowed by the budget along with the increased allocations, he felt that the department had an opportuni-

ty to reallocate money to other equipment line items.

Included in his proposal was the purchase of furniture for the health office in the two middle schools, to be used with the special teen program, and the purchase of a new copying machine, to be used in addition to the current copier. The board approved his request.

- Approved several Quick City Rehabilitation change orders requested by Cathy Wilson, Warren County Economic Development Commission Executive Secretary. She stated that the rehabilitation project could be completed in as early as 60 days.

- Rescheduled a public hearing concerning a request by (Continued on page 8)

By Health Personnel

Levels Of Radon Gas Found Low In Warren

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

An official with the Warren County Health Department said recently that Warren County citizens should not be alarmed about potential exposure to radon gas in their homes.

"Radon gas detectors were placed inside five homes in Warren County and we (the health department) discovered that the levels of radon gas in the county are well below the danger levels set by the Federal Government," said Marion Bitler, an environmental health scientist with the local health department.

Radon is the radioactive by-product of granite that is decaying underneath the ground. It is a completely natural gas that is produced all over the world. In some places, the gas accumulates under the homes and can contribute to cancer in humans.

Norlina Speeders Had Best Beware

Speeders around Norlina had best beware, now that the town is the owner of a portable K-55 radar moving-and-stationary speed detector, Norlina Police Chief Charles Galantis said Tuesday.

The unit, received on Tuesday, is valued at \$2,500, but was secured by the Town of Norlina, at no cost, from the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

Police Chief Galantis had applied for the unit six months ago. Notification of its availability was received this week.

Use of the radar device is anticipated to begin soon and the unit will be rotated among the town's police vehicles.

"We expect this to be a very valuable tool," Galantis said.

Three Warren Residents Facing Assault Charges

Three Warren County men face charges of assault—one of them a felony with a deadly weapon, inflicting serious injury—following their arrest after a fracas last Wednesday at a garbage receptacle in the Drewry community.

Warrants were drawn this week on John Glenn Goode, Tony Bullock and Raymond Evans, Jr., all of Rt. 1, Manson. Goode was arrested by Warren County Deputy R.A. Coleman on Tuesday and was released after posting a \$500 bond. He has been scheduled to appear on Oct. 19 in the criminal term of Warren County District Court on Oct. 19 on charges of assault and communicating threats.

At press time, Tony Bullock and Raymond Evans, Jr. were

being sought on charges of assault with a deadly weapon/inflicting serious injury and assault/inflicting serious injury, respectively. Both men will also appear in court on Oct. 19.

The charges stemmed from an alleged altercation that occurred last Wednesday near a dumpster at Buchanan's Store in Drewry. Evans received cuts on his face. Goode received stab wounds that resulted in his being admitted to Duke University Medical Center for treatment. Also involved in the incident was William Goode, also of Rt. 1, Manson, who was allegedly struck with a stick.

Deputy R. A. Coleman and Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton were the investigating officers.



Cooks prepare hushpuppies at one of the many booths set up for the annual Lake Gaston Seafood Festival held Saturday by the Lake Gaston Lions Club. Hundreds of area residents enjoyed a wide

range of seafood and listened to an outdoor concert Saturday afternoon.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)