

# The Warren Record

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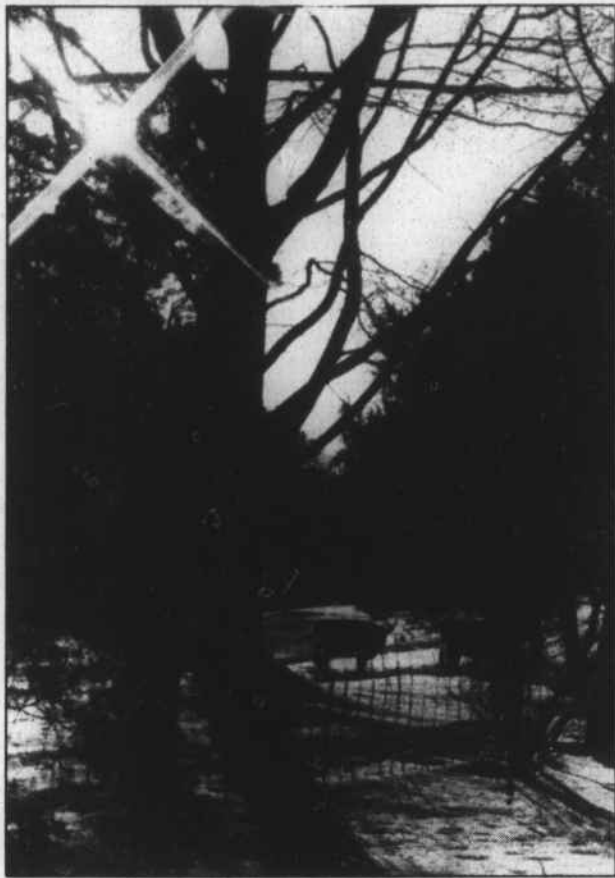
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Warrenton, County Of Warren, North Carolina

Wednesday, February 22, 1989

Number 8

## Snow Sentinels



Majestic beams of sunlight filter through the trees Sunday afternoon, highlighting these cows in search of grazing land. This peaceful scene was captured in Warren County's Snow Hill Community. Approximately 17 inches of snow fell during the weekend. (Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)



These cows, spotted grazing in a field between Littleton and Odell, appear to have been sent from heaven as they are surrounded by fog early Tuesday morning. Warmer temperatures converted the county's snow-covered grounds into patches of dense fog. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

## 17-Inch Snowfall Mostly Memory For Warren Folks

Friday's and Saturday's snowfall which dumped at least 17 inches of snow throughout Warren County is mostly gone now, but many residents were affected by the large amount of the precipitation which caused many roadways to become blocked.

The amount of snow which fell was recorded at 17 inches, the most believed to have fallen since Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 of 1948, when a reported 14 inches of snow blanketed Warren County.

It seemed no one was prepared for the amount of precipitation which fell, leaving many residents stranded on roadways or inside their homes Friday night and most of Saturday.

Glenwood Rose, a highway maintenance engineer for the N. C. Department of Transportation in Warren and Vance counties, said his road crews began salting the roads about 5 p.m. Friday.

"We began Friday around five o'clock and finished up around midday Monday. I think we got about everything cleared away," he said.

Rose reported he had 18 dump trucks, six salt trucks, three sand trucks, nine snow plows, two Tandem dump trucks and four motor graders in use throughout the weekend.

"We worked pretty much around the clock," he said. "We had something going all the time so we could get the roads cleared."

Rose said it was difficult for the crews to get through some of the untraveled roads at first because the snow was so deep. On these roads, one path was cleared until road crews could come back later, Rose said.

Carolina Power and Light senior clerk Mrs. Ann Gaskill reported that approximately 1,863 of their Warrenton customers were without lights Saturday for about an hour to two hours due to a tree that had fallen on the main feeder line on the north end of town.

"We were very fortunate that we didn't have any other major disasters," Mrs. Gaskill said. "Actually, the tree which fell didn't break the line, but fell on top of it, causing a lot of people to be without lights."

## Time Has Expired For Local Motorists Without Town Tags

Time has run out for area citizens who reside in Warren County's three municipalities to purchase their town tags, but supplies remain available, town officials said this week.

The deadline for purchase of the \$2 vehicle plates was Feb. 15. At press time, the Town of Warrenton had sold 515 of the 650 tags purchased. The Town of Norlina had sold 480 of the 600 plates purchased.

The Town of Macon, which celebrates its 100th birthday this year, has sold 54 of the 100 new specially-made plates ordered for the centennial celebration. According to Mayor M. C. Clary, there are only 50 vehicles registered in the town, but purchases have always been made by residents of the surrounding area. Macon's centennial vehicle tags are available for purchase at Halthcock's Grocery Mondays through Saturdays from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m.

Plates for the towns of Warrenton and Norlina are available for sale at the respective town halls.

Clinton Capps, local weather observer, reported that 15 inches of snow fell on Friday, while only a half-inch fell on Saturday.

"Maybe it was more than that," Capps said.

Although Capps couldn't recall when Warren County had received so much of the white stuff, he said he believed that 14 inches fell in the late 1970s.

## Work Proceeds On New Facility

County Manager Charles J. Worth last Wednesday night was given the green light by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners to execute a contract in the form of an Offices of Human Resources Form of Agreement with Charlotte-based Gantt Huberman Architects and the board for the construction of the Warren County Medical Facility.

According to the agreement, the cost of the project is not to exceed \$846,636, with \$40,316 being reserved for contingencies. Gantt Huberman is expected to: renovate about 17,424 gross square feet of existing space for clinical, business and support facilities; construct about 2,354 gross square feet of new space; and prepare the site for construction and provide access drives from adjacent roads and parking areas, as required.

Warren County will be responsible for: providing a survey of the site; giving grades and lines of streets, pavements, easements, restrictions and other data; pay for tests and reports needed to determine subsoil conditions and arrange for legal advice as needed. The board has authorized payment for a survey of land for the proposed medical facility, if earlier documents are not located or deemed sufficient.

The architects' basic costs have been estimated at \$65,000, with a cap of \$5,000 being set on additional expenses. Payments will be made on the following schedule: approval of the schematic design phase (\$6,500), approval of the design development phase (\$9,750), approval of the construction document phase (\$19,500), awarding of the contract for construction (\$3,250), monthly installments during the construction phase through final inspection/acceptance (\$22,750), and submission of a final report (\$3,250).

In other business, the board:

- Approved bonds for the director of social services, the Warren County Department of Health and the deputy tax collector and agreed to review the amounts of all bonds to ascertain their adequacy;

- Delayed until its March 15th meeting action on the Warren County Self-Help Homeownership Demonstration Project Agreement;

- Approved a \$494 change order for a residence in the Quick City CDBG project area;
- Appointed Commissioner Patsy T. Hargrove to the law enforcement center site committee, comprised of commissioners Alston and Skinner, to fill the vacancy created by former commissioner J. T. Fleming;

- Received a report on the area mental health program; and
- Received the interest income report (\$120,281.35 year-to-date and \$41,135.26 for January) and tax collector's report (87.56 percent of 1988 taxes collected with total January collections shown as \$856,699.01).

## Board Votes For C-FF Fire District

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
News Editor

With only one dissenting vote, the Warren County Board of Commissioners last Wednesday night resolved to establish a fire service district for the area now served by the Churchill-Five Forks Volunteer Fire Department. Although the actual degree of taxation will be set at budget time, the action taken authorizes the establishment of a tax ranging from 0-15 cents for each \$100 property valuation in the next fiscal year.

"It's as plain as mud (and) if you're going to override the vote of the people in that district, I can't go along with it," dissenting commissioner William T. Skinner said.

Commissioner Skinner had referred to the referendum held last summer in which registered voters in the Churchill-Five Forks community had defeated the establishment of a taxed fire district with a 90-58 margin.

Noted repeatedly by the board, however, was the fact that 85 percent of the property owners there

are not permanent residents and, as a result, are not eligible to vote.

"But we came out to the polls and we also came out in force to the public hearing held at the court house on the matter," Mrs. Pat Milam, a Churchill-Five Forks resident said Monday in a telephone interview. "We thought

## Warren Committee Of 100 Plans Fourth Annual Kick-Off Dinner

The Warren Committee of 100's Fourth Annual Kick-Off meeting and dinner will be held Monday, Feb. 27, at the Norlina Landmark located on U.S. 1 in Norlina.

Speakers for the event will be Bill Dunn, deputy secretary of the N. C. Department of Commerce, and Charles Hayes, director of the Moore County economic development commission.

According to a committee spokesperson, the speakers are supportive of the Committee of 100 concept and are expected to deliver their thoughts on how the

there would be another meeting and had no idea that action would be taken without our knowledge," she said.

At the last public hearing held on the proposed Churchill-Five Forks taxed fire district, stacks of "pro" and "con" letters, each in excess of 500, were submitted for the board's review during its

public/private partnership can enhance economic growth in Warren County and strengthen the local development efforts here.

The Warren Committee of 100 has assisted in several industrial locations in past years and is a contributor to Warren County's strategic planning efforts.

The dinner meeting will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m., with dinner following at 7:30 p.m. The cost per-person is \$7.95. Reservations may be made by calling 257-1885.

deliberations. "I was not asked to sign a petition or write a letter," Mrs. Milam said, adding that her sister-in-law who resides in New York has power-of-attorney over the family estate in Churchill-Five Forks. "To my knowledge, she was never contacted to express her opinion and there may have been many others who, if given the opportunity, would have been happy to make their feelings known."

A second resident, Mrs. Quay Robinson, also expressed reservations on Monday. "It's kind of a bad situation and I would hate to alienate the fire department, but I don't feel they are fair," she said. "They have put three men out of the department and the blacks in the community have nothing to say about the department—they can only pay the tax," she said.

When asked about the rights of the non-resident property owners, Mrs. Robinson said that the brunt of the tax would be borne by the resident farmers who "had more than a postage-stamp-size piece of land" on which to be taxed. "Those of us who make a living here by farming will surely pay the bulk," she said, noting that the farmer always "sees it harder" than anyone else. "I can't blame the commissioners and what's done is done, but they should have looked out for us and respected our vote."

But some Churchill-Five Forks residents supported the board's action.

"I think it is a fair way to tax and ensure fire protection," Mrs. Kathy Young said Monday in a telephone interview.

"I think it is a good move because it will be a very small tax with many good benefits," Billy Walker said Monday. "It is something we need and the cost is very low for what is received."

Present for the discussion last Wednesday night of the topic—which had been added that day to the agenda before the board at the request of the Warren County Fire Commission—were Fire Commission Secretary David Proctor, Churchill-Five Forks Fire Chief John Mason, Walter Gardner and other firefighting personnel.

Proctor outlined the findings of a Feb. 9 site visit during which he, along with Fire Commis-

(Continued on Page 4B)

## Warning Signs Posted In Schools At Which Asbestos Is Uncovered

Reports presented last week by Enpuricon, Inc.—the firm employed by Warren County Schools to inspect all facilities for asbestos and prepare a plan for its management—have revealed that friable asbestos has been found in some areas in all schools, except for Warren County High School, and warning signs have been posted in these areas.

According to Randall Jones, who presented Enpuricon's findings to Interim Superintendent of Schools Harry Howard, Mrs. Sue Skinner, maintenance director, and James Moss, maintenance supervisor, most of the friable asbestos has been found in boiler rooms which are accessible only to custodial and maintenance personnel, who have had asbestos-awareness training.

According to Mrs. Skinner, asbestos in these facilities must be "encapsulated" or covered with a material similar to latex

paint by July. The coating process will require the employment until June 30 of an additional maintenance worker at a cost of \$4,000, as well as the purchase of additional equipment. The work, which is expected to be completed by July 14, will be done by the school's maintenance personnel, James Moss, Clyde Smith and Sam Groves, who have received certification to perform abatement procedures.

Among other sites identified were Norlina Middle School and John Graham Middle School, where the asbestos found must be removed by April 14.

Removal of the asbestos will necessitate the services of an accredited designer at a cost of about \$2,000. In addition, a contractor must be employed, along with an industrial hygienist, at a cost of about \$16,000.

The Warren County Board of Education in regular session on Feb. 13 has authorized a max-

imum expenditure of \$22,000 to correct the problems identified by Enpuricon, Inc. Work is expected to be done over weekends or on holidays to minimize exposure of students to the asbestos. Mrs. Skinner recommended that all work be done simultaneously to minimize the costs of contracting services.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHEA) requires that inspection findings and management plans be on file in each school, at the county superintendent's office and at the school maintenance department. The reports are now under review by the interim superintendent, his designee and the board attorney before final signing and submission to the North Carolina Department of Human Resources for final approval. Copies should be available at these locations within two or three weeks, Mrs. Skinner said.