



Dennis Paschall, Warren County EMS director, directs a stream of water into the bedroom of a fire victim early Sunday morning. Paschall is also a member of the Norlina Fire Department. The fire severely charred the interior and exterior of the West Darden Street home. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Norlina Resident Dies As Flames Char Dwelling

A Norlina woman lost her life early last Sunday morning, when flames engulfed her W. Darden Street residence.

Mrs. Sylvia Medlin Smart, 42, of 704 W. Darden Street, died in a blaze which destroyed her one-story frame residence.

Norlina firefighters were summoned at 2 a.m., but when they arrived, the rear of the structure was fully involved in the blaze. According to Norlina Police Chief

Fire Claims Life Of Inez Woman

A Warren County woman—mother of the award-winning floral designer who co-chaired the committee responsible for floral designs at the recent inauguration of President George Bush—lost her life in a fire last Thursday.

Mrs. Susie D. P. Powell, 90, of Rt. 2, Warrenton in the Inez community, died last Thursday, when her home and the adjoining family store were consumed by flames. Her remains were found at about 7 a.m. in the bedroom of the residence. A cat and a dog were also killed in the blaze.

According to Inez Volunteer Fire Department Chief Brent Dillard, the cause of the fire is unknown, but the blaze appeared to have started in the store portion of the structure. Because inclement weather had caused a grandson who resides with her to stay overnight with a relative, Mrs. Powell was alone at her residence.

The Inez Volunteer Fire Department was summoned at about 1:30 a.m. Because inclement weather had delayed their arrival until 1:45 a.m., little could be done as the structure had almost burned down.

A portion of the store building had been the first home for Shady Grove Methodist Church, prior to the construction of the current sanctuary in Inez.

Other fire departments and an ambulance were summoned to the site. As is required by state medical examiner regulations, Mrs. Powell's remains were transported to North Carolina Memorial Hospital for an autopsy. Her obituary appears elsewhere in this paper.

Charles Galantis, although it was not known whether the residence was occupied, Auxiliary Norlina Police Officer Gary Hawkins attempted twice to enter the residence, but was prevented from reaching Mrs. Smart by the thick smoke inside. The Norlina Volunteer Fire Department was assisted by firefighters from Ridgeway, a sheriff's spokesperson said.

Mrs. Smart's remains were transported by the Warren County Emergency Medical Service to Blaylock Funeral Home to await later transfer to the medical examiner's office in Chapel Hill for an autopsy. According to Chief Galantis, the SBI has been involved and investigations are continuing with regard to the cause of the fire.

Assisting Chief Galantis and Auxiliary Officer Hawkins, were Warren County deputies W. T. Winston and Ronnie Baskett and Sgt. Harold Seaman.

Mrs. Smart's obituary appears elsewhere in this paper.

Shooting Is Probed

A warrant has been drawn on a Hollister man, following a shooting incident last Friday night at an area business, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Monday.

Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton has charged Lee Harvey Richardson, 24, of Rt. 1, Hollister, with

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Vaughan Mail Suspension To Take Effect On Saturday

Future Unclear For Post Office

The majority will rule in the determination of the method of mail distribution for the Vaughan community, following Saturday's temporary suspension of service at the Vaughan Post Office.

A letter dated Feb. 21 and written over the signature of William J. Henderson, field division general manager/postmaster, was mailed recently to all Vaughan postal customers stating that, effective March 18, service would be temporarily suspended at the Vaughan postal facility on an emergency basis.

According to Henderson's letter, the postal service had been notified that the Vaughan facility was not in compliance with Warren County's health and safety standards and that no other location was available for local operations there. The building which has housed the Vaughan Post Office lacks restroom facilities.

Also included with Henderson's letter was a questionnaire which asked the postal customers to indicate their preferred method of service: rural delivery by Macon carriers, a locked collection/distribution unit—erected at no cost to residents—by the postal service to be located at the current site, a rented postal call box in the Littleton Post Office, or a rented postal call box in the Macon Post Office. All questionnaires were to have been returned to the Vaughan Post Office by March 1.

Vaughan postal customers who wished rural delivery were asked to erect mailboxes in front of their residences by March 4. Those Vaughan residents will continue to use their Vaughan mailing address, but the community's zip code has been changed to 27551. New rural routes and box numbers will be assigned.

On Monday, March 6, a representative from the postal service center in Raleigh, was present in Vaughan to answer customers' questions and receive their ideas about the methods of service.

Since the resignation several months ago of Vaughan's postmaster, Mrs. Becky Harris, Mrs. Alma Weaver, of Littleton, has served as officer-in-charge. She will continue her work at the Vaughan Post Office until Saturday of this week, the scheduled temporary closing date.

According to Wayne Long, Macon postmaster, only two persons have made inquiries at his office and few questionnaires

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Novelist Reynolds Price, a Duke University English professor and native of Macon, receives well wishes from friends during Saturday afternoon's 100th birthday party held by the Town of Macon. In photos below, a trick rider performs on his bicycle to the delight of a crowd and basket

crafters help entertain visitors. Some 2,000 persons are believed to have been on hand during the afternoon.

(Staff Photos By Dianne T. Rodwell and Howard Jones)



Moisture Abundance Delays Spring Planting

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

What has fallen in buckets can still be found standing in Warren County's fields, many of the county's farmers can attest.

"We probably don't need this much rain right now and I, for one, would prefer to see it come in the summer," Emery L. Keeter, of Rt. 1, Norlina, said Tuesday. Keeter's total crop acreage, including pastures, ranges from 500-600 acres. "We are getting behind on breaking the land and in top-dressing grain and pastures," he said, as he described some of his fields as "soggy, with some standing water." But unlike some

farmers, whose tobacco plantbeds were left uncovered and were destroyed by the recent snow and ice, Keeter's baby tobacco plants are unharmed.

"Our farmers are ready to get into the fields to fumigate their land for tobacco," Lynn S. Carr, ASCS executive director, said Tuesday. According to Carr, the recent weather could delay tractor work and planting. "But there are 70-degree days predicted and the weather could change. It could dry out fast if there are winds, sun and no rain," he said.

Carr said that his office had received calls from farmers who had been unable to plant trees purchased by participants in the

CRP of Forest Incentive cost-share programs. "Due to the bad weather, they have been unable to plant," he said.

According to Carr, the March 31 deadline for planting trees and reporting has been extended until May 1. "We feel this will be sufficient to help those persons who have already purchased their trees," he said.

Bruce Perkinson, SCS district technician noted that the recent bad weather also affects the county's livestock. "It has the same effect on livestock as it does on people—colds and runny noses—and more care must be taken by farmers in the cold weather," he said. Perkinson also

noted that while some farmers still had grass, cattle were feeding now in muddy conditions.

"Over the last 30 days, with all the rain, snow and ice, we are probably ahead in the average amount of rainfall for this time of year," Perkinson said. "Most ponds are full and that has not been the case in several years."

Perkinson also said that many of Warren County's farmers have delayed field dressing and seeding of crops, among them oats and early clover. "If they could have, the farmers would probably have applied dressing on their fields and this weather may cause a three-week delay," he said.

Last month the state received nearly twice the precipitation than is the norm, RDU weather personnel have said recently, after recording 6.42 inches, a level 2.99 inches above normal.

The water released by Warren County's melting 17-inch snow and rain has resulted in "slight flooding" here, Perkinson said.

NAACP Chapter Plans Meeting Sunday Night

The Warren County chapter of the NAACP will hold a meeting Sunday at 6 p.m. at Warrenton Baptist Church on Bragg Street. All members are urged to attend.