

Per Capita Income Grows By 33.1 Percent In Six Years

Dollar pay-levels of privately-employed persons in Warren County increased from an annual per capita average of \$7,836 in 1980 to \$10,682 in 1986, growth of 33.1 percent.

As measured by the Consumer Price Index, however, the value of the dollar declined by 24.9 percent during the same period. To stay even with inflation, pay levels would have had to increase by 33.3 percent during that period because all of the dollars received by employees have declined in value. Taking that inflation into account, real pay levels among privately-employed persons in

Warren County remained essentially unchanged.

The national average annual per-capita wage or salary compensation increased by 39 percent (\$13,886 in 1980 to \$19,295 by 1986). Again, after taking inflation into consideration, pay levels for privately-employed Americans had increased by only 4.4 percent in real terms.

Absolute dollar pay levels among privately-employed North Carolina residents increased by 43.6 percent, while real pay levels increased by only 7.8 percent from 1980 to 1986.

In absolute dollar terms, employee compensation in the United States has consistently increased since 1980.

However, inflation caused real wages and salaries among privately-employed Americans to consistently decline until 1984, when real pay levels were marginally greater than those of 1983.

Average per-capita pay levels for goods-producing employment in Warren County, which includes agricultural, mining, manufacturing and construction employment, increased from \$8,191 in 1980 to \$10,682 in 1986, or by 30.4 percent. After adjusting for inflation,

however, pay levels of goods-producing employment in Warren County actually declined by 2.1 percent.

National annual pay levels in goods-producing employment increased by 41.3 percent from a per-capita average of \$17,018 in 1980 to \$24,046 in 1986. But after adjusting for inflation, real goods-producing national pay levels increased by only 6.1 percent. Dollar pay levels for goods-producing employment in North Carolina increased by 49.5 percent, while real pay levels increased by only 12.3 percent.

Service-producing pay levels in Warren County—including those for jobs in transportation and utilities, wholesale trade, retail trade, finance, service and other unclassified occupations—increased from a per-capita average of \$7,481 in 1980 to \$10,194 in 1986. While absolute dollars increased by 36.3 percent, real service-occupation pay levels in Warren County increased by only 2.3 percent.

Nationally, dollar service-occupation pay levels increased by 42.3 percent, growing from \$12,127 in 1980 to \$17,253 (Continued on page 12)

Norlina Voters Approve Bond Issue By Overwhelming Margin Tuesday



Firemen Work To Remove Smoke From Smoldering Residence

Eight Ballots Not In Favor

Norlina voters Tuesday gave overwhelming approval to a \$300,000 bond issue which will finance the replacement of asbestos-laced transite pipe in the town.

By a 161-8 margin, Norlina voters gave their endorsement to a proposal which will upgrade the town's water system.

"I am real pleased with an approval rate of 96 percent," an elated Norlina Mayor W. K. (Bill) Delbridge said shortly after polls closed at 7:30 p.m. "It went way beyond my expectations."

Delbridge, noting that about one-fourth of the 625 Norlina citizens eligible to vote went to the polls Tuesday, said town officials hope to let contracts for the water system improvements "in about 30 days."

A stretch of 16,000 linear feet of transite is to be replaced with funds to be received from Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). The work, as well as efforts to place curbing and gutting in one area of town, could be complete by August 1, Delbridge indicated Tuesday night.

Asbestos, a carcinogen, has been found in Norlina's water pipes. Although examinations by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have shown that the amount of asbestos released into the town's water supply poses no health hazards to the residents there, the board and its mayor had wished to remove the asbestos from the pipes. In addition, a series of breakages in water mains had resulted in much expense to the town for repairs.

Quick Action Saves Home

A Warren Street residence was saved from destruction, following quick action taken by a private citizen, quick response time by a local fire department and kind weather conditions, Warrenton Rural Fire Chief Kenny Clayton said this week.

On March 24, Warrenton Rural firefighters had been summoned to the Warren Street residence of Mrs. Daisy L. Williams. According to Chief Clayton, children at the residence had attempted to rebuild a fire in a woodstove by adding kerosene to the hot coals. Flames leapt from the coals and ignited the can, which was then

thrown by the youths onto a nearby bed. The bed ignited and the alarm was sounded.

Damage to the two-story frame residence was kept to a minimum by a quick-thinking citizen who had thrown water onto the mattress and closed the bedroom door. Only the bed and bed clothes were destroyed, and, except for smoke damage to a nearby wall, the cost of the loss has been estimated at about \$300, Clayton said.

Clayton also said that last Friday's heavy humidity and recent rains were conducive to a "slow burn." Warrenton Rural firemen

remained on the scene for about one hour, Clayton said.

On Sunday, the Warrenton Rural Fire Department was summoned to Warren Plaza Rest Home after employees there had reported a strong odor coming from a light ballast in the kitchen. According to Clayton, current was terminated from the ballast and no damage was done.

On Monday, a grass fire at the Rt. 2, Warrenton residence of Mrs. Carolyn Hayes, summoned the Warrenton Rural firefighters. According to Clayton, no real damage was done.

New Middle School Construction Could Begin As Early As August 1

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Bids for Warren County's new high school addition are expected to be issued on June 5 and, following their receipt on July 5, construction is expected to begin on August 1, the Warren County Board of Education was told Tuesday night by Arthur Cogswell, president of the firm retained to oversee design and construction.

Progress was also made on the county's new middle school as the board agreed to "fine tune" spatial relationships of classrooms and other details needed by the architects before they proceed with their work.

The board also requested that a report on the county's drop-out prevention program be presented at its next meeting, following concerns raised by Ms. Jereann King, a parent and ABE/GED coordinator/instructor for the VGCC program taught on its Warren County campus, and

W. E. Exum, retired WCHS masonry instructor.

"Warren County is not immune to the problems which surround us and we are here to speak on behalf of many parents and citizens," Exum said.

Exum, along with Ms. King, had appeared before the board to express their concerns about the numbers of the county's youths who view the VGCC GED program as an alternative to regular, public school instruction and graduation. "We're not here to point fingers, but merely to express our concern and ask that the board begin to consider solutions to the problem," Ms. King said.

According to Interim School Superintendent Dr. Harry S. Howard, Warren County's drop out rate for the high school and middle school is two percent for this academic year.

Exum also discussed the advent of drugs in Warren County. That topic is also expected to be addressed at a later meeting. Also to be discussed at a later meeting will be the work of the county's health professionals who involve themselves with school personnel and students.

In other business, the board:

- Received a request from Mrs. Deborah Pegrum, a parent from the Vaughan community, that parents be involved in the selection of make-up days in the school calendar caused by absences due to bad weather;
- Resolved that, effective in the next academic year, bus drivers will be paid monthly on one standard date; and
- Agreed to pursue membership in a Teacher Education Consortium which would permit school employees to pursue course work at centers to be established in this geographic region.

Local Player

On Top Team

A Warren County High School graduate who is a tri-captain on the N. C. Central University men's basketball team which won a national championship last weekend presented Gov. Jim Martin with a basketball signed by team members during ceremonies held at the Executive Mansion yesterday.

Jeffrey Hayes, a junior guard for the NCCU Eagles, made the presentation as the governor met team members and presented the Eagles with a proclamation making Tuesday N. C. Central Day.

"I'm certainly proud of what you've done, and the entire state is proud of what you've done," Martin told the team. "We are just as proud as we can be."

The Eagles won the NCAA Division II by defeating Southeast Missouri State 73-46 Saturday in Springfield, Mass.



Two army pilots forced to make an emergency landing on the outskirts of Warrenton on a fog-shrouded Monday morning are shown with their stricken helicopter. The pilots, Warrant Officer Dale Jensen, left, and Lt. Jonathan Angeles, made their unscheduled stop here after engine trouble developed as they were en route to Fort Bragg. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Sits Down In Front Yard

Army Chopper Makes Unscheduled Landing

Two 82nd Airborne Division pilots made an emergency landing in James Alston Jr.'s front yard off Ridgeway Road shortly after dawn Monday when their helicopter developed engine trouble while on a flight over Warren County.

First Lt. Jonathan F. Angeles of Va. Beach, Va. was flying the OH-58 aircraft on a flight between Petersburg, Va. and Fort Bragg when the mechanical problem occurred. Also aboard was Warrant Officer Dale J. Jensen of Shawno, Wis.

After circling over west Warrenton on several passes while looking for a clear area in which to touch down, Angeles

landed the 'copter without incident.

Angeles, who has been flying since 1985, said this was not his first unscheduled landing. The observation helicopter the two military pilots were flying is similar to the Bell Jet Ranger used for civilian purposes.

Angeles said a number of interested spectators gathered at the landing site after the 6:40 a.m. touchdown. One, officer Robbie Ayscue of the Warrenton Police Department, assisted the two pilots in getting an early breakfast from a nearby Hardee's restaurant. Shortly after noon, the problem fixed, the two pilots resumed their trip to Fort Bragg.

Plans Are Being Made For 75th Anniversary

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

A real "diamond jubilee" will take place in Warren County next month, when the Rev. and Mrs. James Shepard Spruill celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary.

The achievement is especially newsworthy, given all the negative publicity concerning the longevity—or lack thereof—of the institution of marriage.

The Rev. Mr. Spruill, at the age of 26, on April 19, 1914 took as his wife Viola, and in the years that followed, 11 children were born to their union: James, Ruth, Willie, Edna, Mary, Levonla, Georgia, Dorothy, Harold, Vera and Nesbitt.

The Spruills reside near Grove Hill. Prior to his retirement seven years ago, the Rev. Mr. Spruill

has served as pastor at Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Franklin County and Mt. Olive Baptist Church, near Halifax County. He had also been a farmer. Mrs. Spruill never worked outside of the home, but with 11 children to care for, "she worked overtime!" her son Willie said this week.

The couple's children, along with almost 100 well-wishers, assembled four or five years ago at the Holiday Inn in Henderson for an anniversary celebration, which included a catered dinner and general program. According to their son Willie, plans have not been finalized for a similar occurrence this year, but April 19 will surely be a special one for one couple who have beaten all odds by remaining together for 75 years.