

Local Mansion Is Utilized As Site Of Filming

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

A keen ear listening on Friday of last week could probably have heard a man bark, "Lights, action, camera!" had its owner been near the Church Street home of Mrs. Mary Hinton Kerr.

The Kerr home, located at 216 Church Street in Warrenton, had been selected by the management of Erickson Photographers of Raleigh as just the "quintessential Southern mansion" needed for its ad campaign for the Cadillac Dealers Association. Raleigh-based Erickson produces photographs used nationwide in advertising campaigns. Built in 1908, the Kerr home had attracted the attention of Leslie Bailey, production manager, during her review of the "Walking Tour Of Warrenton" brochure.

According to Mrs. Kerr, a lady appeared with props early last Friday afternoon. Among those props were a collection of red geranium plants to adorn the porch and entryway of the Kerr home.

Later that evening, two men arrived who placed rocking chairs on the front porch, removed the green screen door and gave a good polish to the nameplate adorning the home. "They had really good ideas about what they wanted to do," Mrs. Kerr said.

Once the props were in place, all lights were turned on inside the home and the photo-session began.

But one important prop was missing from Friday's session: the Cadillac. That important feature will be added by the graphic artists at a later date.

For her trouble, Mrs. Kerr received an honorarium of \$100. She also got to keep the beautiful, red geraniums and has been promised a copy of the finished photograph to be used in the Cadillac's marketing campaign.

All of this is rather fitting: Mrs. Kerr's husband, the late John Kerr, had always driven black Cadillacs.

Six Incumbents Here File For Board Seats

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

With the exception of Warrenton's elected officials, area incumbents have not been "beating down the doors" to file for seats in municipal elections.

The filing period began on Friday, July 7, and will extend until noon on Aug. 4. The elections will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Six of Warrenton's town commissioners filed Monday night: A. A. Wood, W. A. Miles, Bobby Edmonds, Ray Shearin, Charles White and Eddie Clayton. Mayor B. G. White on Tuesday threw his hat into the re-election ring. At press time, Commissioner Phillip Daniel was out of town. When polled at the end of last month, however, Daniel said he planned to seek re-election.

But in nearby Macon and Norlina, no incumbents have filed.

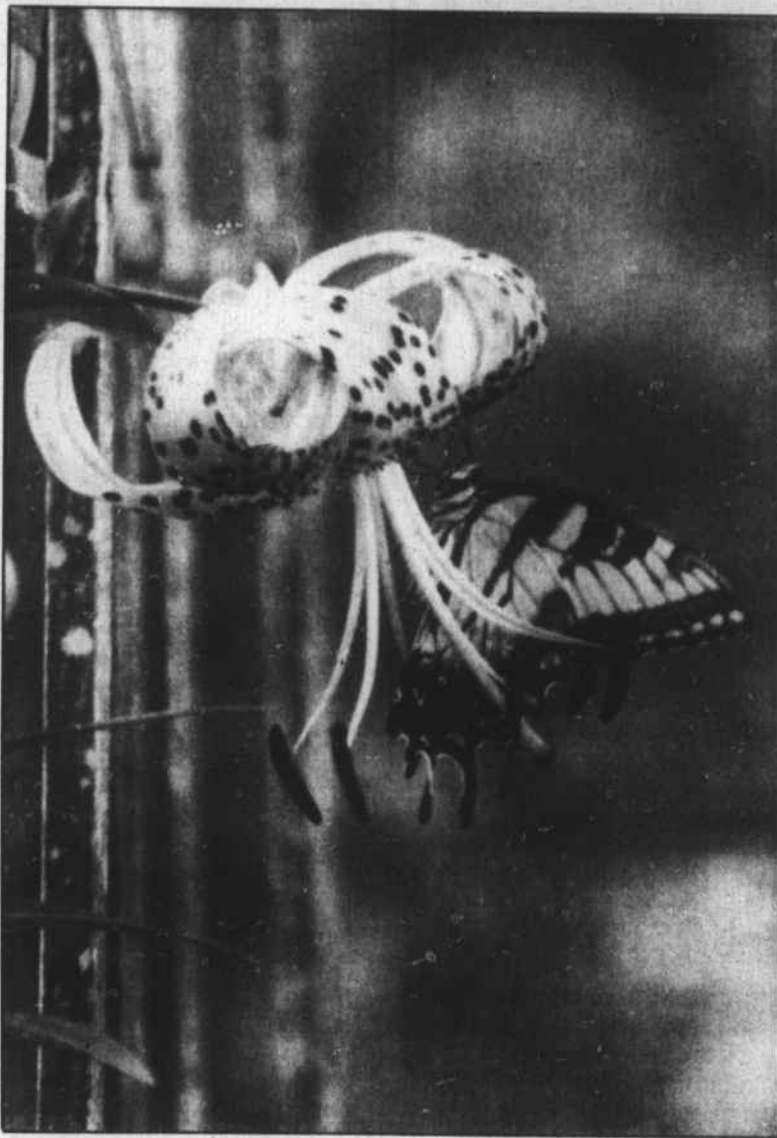
Karen Henry, Macon town clerk, said Tuesday that neither Mayor M. C. Clary nor commis-

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Attend Retreat

The Warren County Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. John W. Thompson returned Tuesday afternoon from a two-day retreat at Trinity Center, a conference center owned by the Episcopal Church in Salter Path.

The board convened Sunday evening for dinner, and business sessions began early Monday morning and lasted through Tuesday around noon. The purpose of the retreat was to discuss school operations for the coming academic year.



A butterfly takes advantage of both food and shade as it clings to a tiger lily during one of the hot and hazy days which have accompanied July in Warren County. (Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

Meeting Held At Buck Spring

Plans For Poultry Festival Are Discussed On Tuesday

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

"Poultry production is an extremely large part of agriculture in Warren County."

That's the reason Russell King, director of the Warren County Agricultural Extension Service, gave for planning a poultry festival in Warren County.

Approximately 23 community, civic and business leaders from in and around Warren County were present at a luncheon workshop held at Buck Spring 4-H Camp Tuesday afternoon to provide input, planning information and implementation procedures for developing a Warren County-Lake Gaston Poultry Awareness Festival.

The idea, first brought to the attention of King by Mrs. Belle Bright, a Warrenton resident, was the focus of attention at the luncheon, which was sponsored by the Warren County Inter-Agency Committee.

"I just didn't understand why the leaders of Warren County didn't recognize that poultry production was a large part of their income," she said.

Programs about the growth of the poultry industry in the county and state were presented by King and by Dr. Tom Carter, a poultry specialist with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service.

A catered barbecue chicken lunch sponsored by the Warren County Economic Development Commission was provided by Ralph's Barbecue of Weldon.

Gary Robenolt, an Inter-Agency committee member, discussed tentative plans for the festival. An ideal location would be Buck Spring 4-H Camp, he said, to stay in line with the idea of having the festival be a "family affair." Possible activities include a petting zoo, a chicken cook-off, egg cooking contests, egg decorating, pontoon boat rides and the crowning of a poultry queen.

"The festival would promote one of the major industries in the county," said Robenolt. "It would bring in a large number of people who may be interested in spending money in the county... that's what it's all about."

Several business and civic representatives present com-

mitted themselves to serve on a planning committee for the festival. These persons included Butch Bolton and Jim Harris, broiler supervisors with Perdue; Dean Andrews of the Warren County Jaycees; George Koonce of Warren County 4-H; Howard Tomlinson of the Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce; Jan Tomlinson of the Lake Gaston Ladies Club; Clyde Johnston of the Littleton Jaycees; Walter Gardner of the Warren County Fireman's Association; Russell King of the Warren County Agricultural Extension Service; Gary Robenolt of Warren County Emergency Management; Belle Bright; and Dee Weaver of the Lake Gaston Water Safety Council.

Zoning Code Change Too Late To Stop Funeral Home Plans

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Warrenton residents who live on South Main Street may find themselves with a funeral home in their neighborhood, if a Lumberton man follows through with his plans.

The Warrenton Planning Board at a public hearing held on Thursday of last week gave their recommendation to the Warrenton Town Board of Commissioners to delete funeral homes from medium density (R-12) areas. However, it was determined that their action may be too late to prevent a funeral home from opening in a South Main Street home.

Douglas McMillan, a Lumberton funeral home operator, has paid what Grace Miles, a Warrenton realtor and planning board member, calls "earnest money" toward the purchase of the former W. R. Baskerville home as a show of good faith. However, the sale of the home has not been closed, she said.

The commissioners, at their regular monthly meeting Monday night, adopted an amendment to the town's zoning ordinance that deletes funeral

Norlina Commissioners Accept Bid Of \$290,785

Improvements Can Now Begin

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

The acceptance Monday night of a \$290,785 bid submitted by Greenville's Hendrix-Barnhill Company means "all signals are go" for Norlina's water systems improvements and the replacement of asbestos-laced transite water lines. The work is expected to be done without an increase in water bills or the town's 50-cents-per-\$100-valuation tax rate.

In the absence of commissioners James Knight and Walter Newman, the Norlina Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the revised bid.

When the three bids received were opened in a called meeting held June 29, Hendrix Barnhill had submitted the lowest bid of \$310,385—an amount far greater than the \$232,000 which had been anticipated for construction. The lower amount had been estimated earlier by Wooten Company engineers, following studies of the project.

After a meeting with Hendrix-Barnhill officials on July 5, the original construction bid of \$310,385 was lowered to \$290,785. That reduction was made possible by eliminating borings under the SCX Railroad (\$15,000), cutting in half the estimate for rock excavation (\$2,500) and using steel sleeves instead of cast iron tapping sleeves for the planned connections (\$2,100).

Although the Wooten construction contract totals \$290,785, the total cost of the project has been estimated at \$344,895. The additional line items are engineering fees (\$39,110), legal and administrative fees (\$6,000) and contingency (\$9,000).

A \$275,000 FmHA loan will fund the lion's share of the project. The Department of Transportation will provide \$44,300 and the Town of Norlina will be responsible for \$25,595. According to Mayor Bill Delbridge, the town

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Sheriff T. R. Williams looks over 30 marijuana plants which range in height from six to eight feet and have an estimated street value of about \$30,000. The plants were harvested last Friday by Warren County Sheriff's officers, assisted by two helicopters flown by National Guard personnel. The plants were located in the Drewry community and at an undisclosed site along SR 1001. Local officers who worked in the Marijuana Eradication Project were Chief Deputy B. D. Bolton, Sgt. Harold Seaman, Det. R. A. Coleman and deputies W. T. Winston, Sean Brake and Scott Bissette.

(Photo by Brenda Clarke)

Warren Road Improvements Expected To Cost \$300,000

Residents and other motorists by late fall will be able to feel more secure as they navigate turns from a stretch of US 1 in Norlina.

A contract for \$111,804 was awarded on Friday of last week to S. T. Wooten of Wilson to construct a 0.3-mile, center-turn lane along a congested area of US 1. The contract was awarded by the N. C. Board of Transportation to widen to three lanes a portion of

US 1 between US 158/401 and Hyco Street.

According to Bill Jones, N. C. DOT communications specialist, work is scheduled to begin in mid-August, with completion planned by mid-November.

Action was also taken by the board on seven resurfacing projects, which had been delayed at last month's meeting. Approval was given to a \$475,928 bid by Wooten for combined contracts for Warren, Vance and Franklin counties.

Jones said that Warren County's portion of the contract totals about \$300,000. The roads to be resurfaced are: (1) 8.5 miles of SR 1620, from US 401 to SR 1625; (2) 2.62 miles of SR 1357, from US 158 to NC 903; (3) 0.4 mile of SR 1300, from US 1 to SR 1305; (4) 1.5 miles of SR 1305, from SR 1300 to SR 1306; (5) 2.55 miles of SR 1360, from SR 1305 to SR 1309; (6) 0.11 mile of SR 1534, from NC 4 to the Halifax County line; and (7) 0.5 mile of SR 1337, from SR 1362 to the end of the pavement.

According to Jones, the contracts were part of a \$59 million package for major highway projects affecting both urban and rural portions of the state.

Examiner's Visit

Follows Inquiry

Acting on inquiries from a reporter employed by this paper, W. T. Tomlinson, State Board of Examiners of Plumbing and Heating Contractors field representatives, visited the Warren County Inspection Department on Thursday of last week.

Tomlinson had been contacted as a part of research being done on ARC Construction for a story on the SBI investigation of alleged financial improprieties in the Quick City Revitalization Project. ARC had been one of the firms used in both the Quick City and Mecklenburg County rehabilitation efforts.

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"It's a narrow street to begin with," he said.

Belle Bright said the situation should be given a lot of consideration. "I certainly wouldn't want one (funeral home) next door to me," she said.

When the attending citizens were asked if there was anyone present in favor of permitting funeral homes in R-12 areas, there was no response. But citizens did ask the question of why planning board members had allowed funeral homes to be permitted when they revised the town's zoning ordinance in 1985.

Eddie Q. Clayton, a Warrenton town board member, said the ordinance had been rezoned by state guidelines.

"Now is the time to correct the problem rather than criticize. Don't point a finger at any one person," he said.

Col. John Jenkins, a planning board member, said the meetings when the ordinance was being revised were open to the public, "but no one came then."

There are five funeral homes in Warrenton, and all of them are located in either Office and Institutional (O & I) or Highway Business (C-2) districts.