

The Warren Record



Walter Gardner, president of the Warren County Firemen's Association, displays a sample of the scores of new road signs which will be placed throughout Warren County during August and September by members of the county's volunteer fire departments. A total of 362 manhours was performed by firemen who mapped the sign locations and drilled the holes in the signs. Firemen of the Norlina and Roanoke-Wildwood fire departments began erecting the new signs on Saturday, and their counterparts in the county's remaining departments will follow suit immediately. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

2 Suspicious Fires Probed

Lawmen Investigate Possible Arson Cases

Warren County Sheriff's Department personnel are investigating two possible cases of arson reported during the last week.

An investigation is under way following a fire at a small frame home on Maverick Street in the Quick City area.

At 6:13 p.m., firemen from the Warrenton Rural Fire Department were called to the home, where it appeared that someone had gone in and set a fire in a downstairs closet and then had gone upstairs to an attic bedroom and set fire to a wall and a curtain.

Warrenton Chief Kenny Clayton reported that Teresa Jones is renting the house from its owner, Jim Davis of Henderson.

Clayton said damage to the structure was minimal.

In a separate incident, Ridgeway firemen were called to the scene of a mobile home fire on SR 1236 in the Manson com-

Alliance Reorganized

Many of Warren County's ministers and others pastoring in the area met Monday night at the Warrenton Community Center to reorganize the Warren County Ministers' Alliance.

Elected as officers were: the Rev. Dr. Robert Burnette (president); the Rev. Dr. J. B. Wilson (vice president); the Rev. Dr. Ulysses S. Ross (secretary); the Rev. William H. Burgess (treasurer); and the Rev. Wendell Edwards (chaplain).

Meetings will be held Mondays, after the second Sunday of each month, at 7:30 p.m.

munity Monday around 5:30 p.m. Ridgeway Chief Reuben Holtzman reported heavy damage to the interior of the trailer and its contents, all owned by Betty Allen.

Holtzman said there was no power to the trailer, and Mrs. Allen reported that she and her husband had set off sulphur bombs around noon that day to get rid of snakes.

Later Monday evening, Holtzman said Mrs. Allen suspected arson, and a report was made to the sheriff's department.

Mrs. Allen's husband was home at the time of the fire, Holtzman said. Firemen were on the scene nearly an hour and a half.

One Of Every 3 Retail Dollars Goes For Food

Fully one out of every three dollars in Warren County is spent in food establishments, research conducted exclusively for The Warren Record has shown.

In 1987, food sales accounted for 37.1 percent of local retail sales, while nationally, the percentage was only 20.8. In Warren County, food store sales increased at a greater absolute rate than those of any other classification, having grown by 13.1 percent from the level reported in 1986.

For statistical purposes, retail sales are divided into several categories: food, eating and drinking places; general merchandise, furniture and appli-

ances; automotive products; drugs; and all other items and services. Many researchers agree that the definitions are somewhat arbitrary because many drugstores sell furniture and appliances, while many supermarkets sell limited automotive products.

Nevertheless, there appear to have been differences in retail sales changes by store groups from 1986 to 1987 in Warren County, sales by food stores increased 13.1 percent—from an estimated \$15,918,000 in 1986 to an estimated \$18,009,000 in 1987. Nationally, the increase was only 6.5 percent.

Retail Business Type	1986	1987
Food Stores	\$15,918,000	\$18,009,000
Restaurants	2,050,000	1,967,000
General Merchandise	2,399,000	2,197,000
Furniture, Appliance Stores	4,164,000	3,335,000
Drug Stores	2,465,000	2,631,000
Automotive Products	7,633,000	7,355,000
Others	11,725,000	12,196,000
TOTAL	\$46,354,000	\$47,690,000

By contrast, local sales by restaurants and other eating/drinking establishments were estimated to have fallen by 4.0 percent, from \$2,050,000 in 1986 to \$1,967,000 by 1987. Nationally, a four-percent increase in sales by eating and drinking establishments was noted.

Across the board, however, a 2.9-percent increase in Warren County retail sales—growth from \$46,354,000 in 1986 to \$47,690,000 in 1987 has occurred. For a number of obvious reasons, both government and private economists carefully monitor retail sales and other retail activity. Retail sales are almost by themselves evi-

(Continued on page 8)

Warren Farmer Wins State Award

Harrison Given Honor By A&T

A Warren County resident has been selected by the Agricultural Extension Program at A&T State University as the 1989 recipient of the Gilmer L. Dudley Award.

Lonnie Harrison, Jr., of Rt. 1, Littleton, received the award, which is presented each year to a North Carolina farmer who is successfully managing a traditional family farm with prudent use of resources, good farm stewardship and alternative agricultural enterprises. The award was announced at A&T Extension's annual Small Family Farms Appreciation Week luncheon held July 27. The week-long observance is a statewide celebration coordinated by the program.

In nominating the honoree for the award, Russell King, Warren County extension director, wrote that Harrison "is 52 years old with a wife and five children. He has worked hard...and he has farmed as a tenant farmer until this year. He had just purchased his first farmland...32 acres, through Farmers Home Administration (FmHA)."

"In evaluating nominees, the A&T Extension selection committee looks for the hard work and self-reliance that have always been the trademarks of small-scale agriculture in North Carolina," said Dr. Daniel Lyons, agriculture and resources coordinator. "The selection committee also looks for the ability to adapt," Lyons said, as he explained that in 1950, there were 289,000 farms in North Carolina, a total which has now diminished to under 60,000. "Farmers such as Harrison, who are able to persevere despite the economic adversity confronting them, are making it by adapting," he said. "They are taking advantage of the knowledge extension professionals and paraprofessionals have to offer."

(Continued on page 8)



Lonnie Harrison, Jr. (third from right) has received the 1989 Gilmer L. Dudley Award to recognize his prudent management of a traditional family farm. Shown with him, left to right, are: Dr. Daniel Lyons, agriculture and natural resources coordinator for A&T extension; Reggie Stevenson,

Warren County agricultural and natural resources technician; Mrs. Ethyl Harrison; and Joseph L. Dudley, Dudley Products president, who established the award to commemorate his father's commitment to higher education and his love of farming. (A&T Extension Photo)

Proper Jurisdiction Of Street Discussed By Town Councilmen

The question of jurisdiction over thirty feet of undersignated street within the Warrenton town limits was raised at Monday night's meeting of the board of commissioners.

The portion of street is located adjacent to property owned by Mrs. Gertrude R. Carter, whose home is located at 121 Battle Avenue. Mrs. Carter had requested to purchase the section of land from the town in order to build a private driveway.

Town Attorney Charles Johnson advised the board that the property could only be sold if the street had been designated to the town and if the town had accepted the offer. The board requested Johnson to research the matter to determine who owned the undesignated street, which is located near the intersection of White Street and Battle Avenue.

Mrs. Carter told the board she would ask her attorney, Al Thompson, what steps to take next toward the purchase of the street.

In other matters, the board:

- carried a motion to send a board-approved applicant for the position of police officer to the next officer training school. Applications for the position are being reviewed, and a recommendation by A. A. Wood, police committee chairman, will be presented to the board for approval;
- approved the purchase of a new blade for the town scraper for the amount of \$500;
- discussed the widening and resurfacing of Warren Street which is scheduled to take place within the next two weeks;
- discussed the replacement of a culvert at the intersection of Hall and East Franklin streets which will cause interruption of water service for residents in that area;
- appointed Clarence Davis to serve on the Zoning Board of Adjustments;
- carried a motion to purchase a new checkwriter stamper for a cost of \$355.43.

Migrant Worker Is Jailed Here On Theft Charge

A migrant worker is being held in the Warren County Jail under \$5,000 bond awaiting extradition to Florida after being charged with possession of a stolen vehicle.

North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper A. M. Bennett reported that on Friday, August 11, at 6:45 p.m., he spotted a 1987 Buick with Florida tags in the parking lot of L & L Grocery on SR 1305 (Warren Plains Road).

After running a routine license plate check on the vehicle and learning it had been stolen from Tampa, Fla., Bennett spotted a suspect standing near the corner of the store and believed him to be the car's driver.

Bennett obtained the assistance of Sgt. George Alston of the Warrenton Police Department and attempted to barricade the parking lot to prevent the suspect's escape.

However, the suspect drove the Buick down Lynch Street and in-

(Continued on page 12)

New North Carolina Stamp Will Be Dedicated Locally

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

On Tuesday of next week, North Carolina will get its own stamp of approval when a new commemorative stamp celebrating the 200th anniversary of North Carolina's statehood will be dedicated.

The stamp, designed by Lexington native Bob Timberlake, features flowering dogwoods, North Carolina's state flower, spotlighted against a rich black background.

The public unveiling for the North Carolina stamp will be Aug. 22 in Fayetteville, where state officials ratified the U. S. Constitution in 1789. The stamp

will be sold only in Fayetteville during its "day of issue" but will be available throughout the nation on Aug. 23.

Sherwood Knight, postmaster of the Warrenton post office, said the public is invited to attend an open house at the local office from 12-2 p.m. Refreshments will be served, and speakers will include Senator Frank Ballance and Representative John Church.

Knight said the local unit of the National Guard will present the colors, and Warrenton Mayor B. G. White will be presented a sheet of the commemorative stamps from Knight.

Other post offices in Warren County which have scheduled ac-

tivities in honor of the stamp issue are:

- Norlina Post Office—Postmaster Andrew J. Hundley will present Norlina Mayor and former postmaster W. K. (Bill) Delbridge with a sheet of the commemorative stamps;
- Macon Post Office—Postmaster Wayne Long said festivities begin at 11 a.m. with Mayor M. C. Clary as speaker. Other guests will include Dr. Bill Price, director of the North Carolina Museum (tentative), Reynolds Price, author (tentative), and Ms. Dianne T. Rodwell, artist;
- Wise Post Office—Officer-in-Charge Debbie Edwards said the

Rev. C. F. McDowell, III, will speak at the 11 a.m. ceremony, with refreshments following. Retail items—T-shirts, coffee mugs, pens, etc.) will also be for sale, along with yard and bake sale items from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Wise fire department;

• Ridgeway Post Office—Postmaster Eva S. Holtzman said a celebration will begin in Ridgeway at 11 a.m., with a special cancellation of stamps with envelopes available. In addition, gift and souvenir items will be for sale;

• Manson Post Office—Postmaster Troy Preddy will hold an open house from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.



This stamp, designed by Tar Heel artist Bob Timberlake, will go on sale in Warren County next week.