

Elaborate Firemen's Day, Pig Cookoff Plans Are Announced

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

With the blaring sirens of firetrucks on parade; the promise of delicious baked goods and refreshments on sale on the Courthouse Square; the thrill of Firemen's Field Events at the Warren County Fairgrounds; and a mammoth amount of succulent pork barbecue lovingly prepared by the best "pig cookers" Warren County can boast; what better way is there to spent Saturday, Sept. 9 than by celebrating Firemen's Day in Warren County?

Firemen's Day Activities

According to Walter Gardner, president of the Warren County Fireman's Association, over 80 departments from a 60-mile radius in North Carolina and Virginia have been invited to participate. "By Tuesday morning, we had received word from seven departments outside of Warren County indicating they would either participate in the parade, the competitions or both," Gardner said. Those seven fire

departments are: Wake Forest, Mitchiner's Crossroad (Franklin County), Nashville, Lebanon (Durham County), Bear Pond (Vance County), Youngsville and La Crosse (Mecklenburg County, Va.)

In years past, there have been about nine departments in the competitions and parade. "This year, given the number of positive responses from both inside and outside of the county, we expect to exceed that number," Gardner said.

The official kick-off for Firemen's Day has been slated for 9 a.m., when departments gather near Mariam Boyd Elementary School for the first phase of the Apparatus Judging competition. "This event allows area citizens to see the equipment which has been purchased in part from the county's allotment of tax dollars to departments—as well as from firefighters' fundraising events," Gardner said.

At 11 a.m., the parade will depart from Mariam Boyd, travelling along Main Street, to the Warren County Fairgrounds. "The Apparatus Judging competition will continue at the fairgrounds as soon as the trucks have been parked," Gardner said.

The Franklin County Sport Parachute Club is expected to descend from the sky at the fairgrounds at 1 p.m. "And at 1:30 p.m. we expect the Carolina Air Care helicopter to land and remain on view for as long as the personnel are able to stay," Gardner said.

Five Field Event competitions will also begin at 1:30 p.m. "For the first time this year, we will have a Four-Man Ladder-Raising contest," Gardner said. In this contest, a four-man team of firefighters will begin at a starting line, run 50 feet carrying a ground ladder and hose, place the ladder against a building, climb the ladder, and ring a bell.

In the second event, the Five-Man Dressing contest, a five-man team will work against the clock to put on their boots, coats and helmets.

The Four-Man Hose-Coupling contest will be the third event. "This competition simulates a team's reaction to a burst hose during actual firefighting," Gardner said. The teams will be required to un-

(Continued on page 5)

Three Injured As Cars Wreck At Lake Gaston

Three persons were injured and two cars totaled in an accident which occurred near Panda Lawn Motel on Lake Gaston Tuesday morning.

Trooper R. A. Ennis of the N. C. Highway Patrol reported that a 1982 Ford being driven by Nellie Hicks Walker, 53, of Rt. 5, Littleton, was traveling east on N. C. 903 when Ms. Hicks lost control of the car in a curve and crossed the centerline.

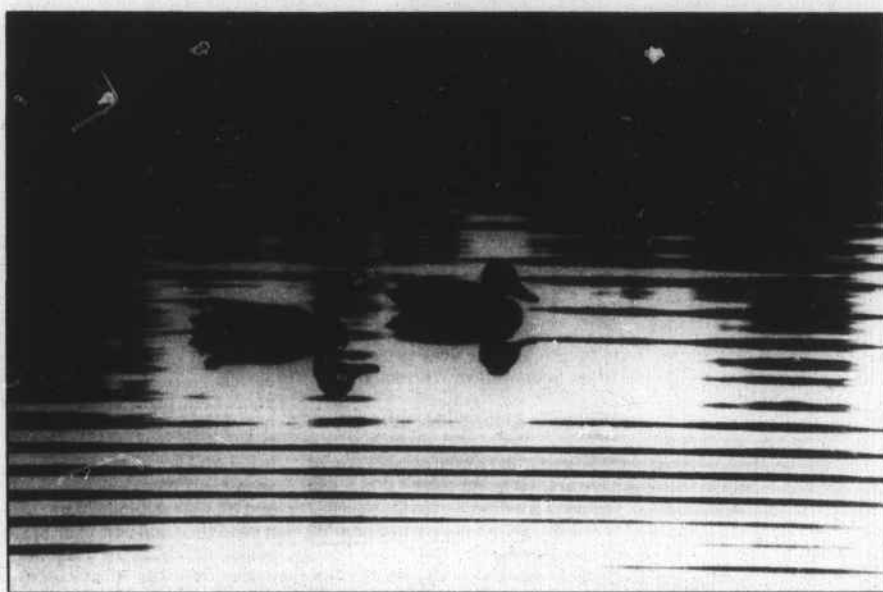
The Ford traveled into the path of a 1984 Lincoln Town Car being driven by Dr. James Harold Peedin, Jr., 63, of Burgaw. The right front of the Lincoln struck the Ford on the passenger side and then ran into a ditch and overturned.

The Ford skidded into a ditch and came to a stop.

Injured in addition to Mrs. Walker and Peedin was Peedin's wife, Mary J. Peedin, 60. The Peedins were taken to Halifax Memorial Hospital in Roanoke Rapids by Warren County EMS. They were later transferred to Duke Medical Center in Durham. A condition report on their injuries was not available at presstime.

Mrs. Walker was taken by Warren County EMS to Nash General Hospital and was later transferred to N. C. Memorial in Chapel Hill. No report on her condition was available.

Mrs. Walker was charged with exceeding a safe speed, driving left of center and a seat belt violation.



A preview of autumn can be seen in this Warren County photograph, which shows a pair of ducks sitting motionless while a wind at sunset barely ripples the pond's surface. The reason for the calmness of the waterfowls would escape the casual

observer. They rest calmly, unafraid of the presence of humans, because they are decoys, patiently waiting the start of another migratory season. (Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

Steps Begin To Fill Watkins Seat

The Warren County Democratic Party this week will select persons to be nominated to the State House and Senate committees to ensure that the county will have a voice in the selection of a candidate to fill Billy Watkins' seat in the legislature. Watkins—a Granville County Democrat who was serving his 10th term as representative of the 22nd House District—died on Aug. 26, following a heart attack.

The meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at

United Federal Savings & Loan Association.

According to W. J. (Jack) Harris, Warren County Democratic Party chairman, the 22nd District two years ago failed to elect State House and Senate committees. With the recent death of Rep. William T. (Billy) Watkins—leaving more than one year remaining in his two-year term—the vacancy must be filled by an individual appointed by Gov. James G. Martin.

Gov. Martin will make the appointment from a list of candidates recommended by the Democratic Party's 22nd House District Executive Committee.

The 22nd District is comprised of the northern portions of Warren County, part of Halifax County, and Caswell, Granville and Vance counties. Each member county will have two representatives on the district committee.

There are 507 possible votes and the winning candidate will

(Continued on page 6)

On Warren Academy Site

Button Plant Locates Here

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

At least forty new jobs will be available by June of 1990, now that approval for a zoning change request has been granted to allow a button manufacturing company to set up operations at the former Warren Academy site.

Warrenton commissioners, on a recommendation by the town planning board, on Tuesday afternoon gave approval of a zoning change on the 19-acre tract of land off N.C. 58 from low-density residential (R-20) to industrial (I).

David E. Taylor, president and chief executive officer of Saber International, was present at a public hearing on Thursday night of last week to unveil his company's plans.

Before the hearing, Mrs. Cathy Wilson, Warren County Economic Development director, would not release any information pertaining to the button manufacturing company, saying that the company wished to maintain a competitive advantage over other button manufacturers.

Products to be manufactured by Saber International will be buttons and related accessories of the apparel industry. Taylor also said that a second product, what he termed a "better brand

of costume jewelry," may be manufactured at the plant.

The company plans to begin operations in January, with a total of 44 people to be employed by mid-year. Forty persons from the surrounding area will be hired, along with four brought in from other counties. The factory will be operated on a two-shift schedule, and Taylor said he does not have plans to run a third-shift.

Taylor said sales after 18 months of operation are expected to be at the \$3.2 million mark. He said he is confident the business

(Continued on page 8)

Students Receive

Break From Weather

Although school bells have summoned Warren County's students back to their classrooms, the youths have received a few more hours of summer vacation—courtesy of Mother Nature's gifts of humid weather and skyrocketing temperatures. The school day has ended early this year on three days: Aug. 23, 29 and 30. With Tuesday's apparent "cold snap" the county's students were able to make a full day, giving hope to area educators that early dismissals have ended for the 1989-90 school year.

Livestock And Poultry Show Dramatic Increase Over 5-Year Period

There were substantial changes in farm production in Warren County from 1982 to 1987, the advance report of the U. S. Census of Agriculture has shown. Because agricultural markets are both complex and international, the data suggests that farmers must be prepared to make rapid production changes to meet market demands.

Among the most apparent of these is the change which took place in farm sales. In 1987, total farm sales in Warren County had amounted to \$16,824,000. Of these, \$8,329,000 (49.5 percent) had been in the form of field crops and nursery/greenhouse products. An additional 50.5 percent (\$8,495,000) had been in the form of livestock or poultry.

In 1982, total farm sales in Warren County had been \$20,587,000. Of these, 61.8 percent (\$12,719,000) had been in the form of field crops, while \$7,868,000 (38.2 percent) had been livestock or poultry.

Sales Were Good For Poultry And Livestock...

Although total sales of agricultural products in Warren County declined by 18.3 percent from 1982 to 1987, local sales of field crops and nursery/greenhouse products fell by 34.5 percent during that period.

At the same time, however, sales of livestock and poultry increased by eight percent, a significant change in local farm production.

In North Carolina, the market value of all agricultural products in the state was \$3,541,419,000 in 1987. Of that amount, \$1,436,988,000 (40.6 percent) had been in the form of field crops, while \$2,104,430,000 (59.4 percent) had been in livestock/poultry sales. Total agricultural sales in North Carolina increased by 1.2 percent from 1982 to 1987, while field crop sales had declined by 24.3 percent. At the same time, livestock/poultry sales increased by 31.3 percent.

In 1982, there were 183 Warren County farms with inventories of 3,489 beef cattle, and 30 local farms with 570 milk cattle. By 1987, however, there were only 134 Warren County farms with inventories of 3,851 beef cattle and only 14 local farms with 459

Last In A 3-Part Series

milk cattle. Some 159 Warren County farms had sold 2,756 cattle and calves during 1982. During 1987, 152 local farms had sold 3,498 cattle and calves.

There were 115 farms in Warren County with inventories of 21,402 hogs and pigs in 1982. By 1987, 61 local farms reported inventories of 10,364 hogs and pigs. In 1982, 75 Warren County farms sold 44,461 hogs and pigs. By 1987, 48 local farms had sold 23,435 hogs and pigs.

Only two farms in Warren County raised lambs and sheep in 1982, while four did so in 1987. The Department of Agriculture did not provide sales or inventory information for these farms.

Farmers in Warren County sold 1,380,000 broilers and other meat-type chickens in 1982, and 2,264,000 in 1987. Six local farms sold broilers or other chickens in 1982, while 10 reported such sales in 1987.

...But Not So Good For Grains Or Seed

Production of corn for grain or seed in Warren County declined sharply between 1982 and 1987. In 1982, 183 farms had harvested 163,267 bushels from 2,353 acres. But in 1987, only 83 farms reported a harvest of 79,364 bushels from 1,568 acres. Local acreage of corn for grain or seed fell by 33.4 percent from 1982 to 1987, while local production fell by 51.1 percent during that period.

Production of wheat for grain in Warren County also fell sharply from 134 farms harvesting 126,170 bushels from 4,422 acres in 1982, to 59 farms harvesting only 53,258 bushels from 1,890 acres in 1987. Local acreage of wheat for grain declined by 57.3 percent from 1982 to 1987, while production increased by 57.8 percent.

The number of local farms reporting sales of nursery and greenhouse crops increased from six in 1982 to seven in 1987. The Department of Agriculture did not provide acreage figures for either year. But declines were seen for other crops:

- Soybean production in Warren County declined from 190 farms harvesting 225,572 bushels from 10,613 acres in 1982, to 95 farms harvesting 110,646 bushels from 6,078 acres in 1987. Local soybean acreage fell by 42.7 percent from 1982 to 1987, while local production fell by 50.9 percent during the period.

- Warren County farms produced 6,938,477 pounds of tobacco in 1982, but only 4,909,195 in 1987. There were 271 local farms harvesting 3,529 acres of tobacco in 1982, as compared to only 174 local farms harvesting 2,410 acres in 1987. Total production of tobacco was 29.2 percent less in 1987 than in 1982.

- Some 30 farms in Warren county harvested 110 acres of vegetables for sale in 1982, while 26 farms harvested 96 acres of vegetables for sale in 1987.

- Production of hay, grass silage and green chop in Warren County increased from 5,233 dry tons in 1982 to 6,179 dry tons in 1987, an increase of 18.1 percent. Some 136 local farms harvested 3,983 acres in these crops in 1982, while 125 local farms harvested 4,533 acres in 1987.

- Some six farms in Warren County reported nine acres of land in orchards in 1982. In 1987, only three local farms reported having land in orchards. The Department of Agriculture did not make orchard acreage information available for 1987.

Second-Part Figure Was In Error

The second installment in the three-part series on farming statistics, which appeared on page one of last week's issue of The Warren Record, reported in error that over half of Warren County's farmers in 1987 had gross sales exceeding \$100,000 annually. The correct amount of gross annual sales for 53.3 percent of Warren County's farmers in 1987 is \$10,000.