

Warren County

(Continued from front)

Lutheran minister, who stood to the side until the first truck turned into the site. Then he flung himself in front of the truck and yelled "no way."

Arrested protesters were charged with obstructing traffic and trespassing. Most of them were later released on their own recognizance.

Minutes after the arrested protesters had been hauled off, ten bright yellow dump trucks loaded with some of what is to be approximately 60 tons of soil laced with a toxic, cancer-causing chemical, rolled down the secondary road, wheeled into the 140-acre dump site, and headed for the deep pit in the ground.

The state had won the first round. Over the next six weeks, about 256 state employees, members of the N.C. Department of Transportation will haul tons of soil from the shoulders of more than 200 miles of highways in 14 North Carolina counties to this site in Warren County. They will dump the soil, laced with the chemical officially named, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs for short, in a 21-foot deep pit that has been specially prepared according to standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The cleanup will cost \$2.8 million, 90 per cent of which will come from the EPA Super Fund. The Super Fund is money that comes from taxes charged companies that generate toxic

waste. The EPA ranks North Carolina as the 11th highest generator of toxic waste in the nation.

This is North Carolina's only state-owned toxic waste dump site. But the real questions are: why did the state win, and why were more than 100 Warren County citizens willing to go to jail to express their displeasure?

The answers to both questions are embodied in the history, the tradition and the economic deprivation of Warren County.

Warren County, a virtual rural wasteland tucked into the northeastern corner of North Carolina, 55 miles north of Raleigh and just south of Virginia, historically has had little to brag about.

There's almost no industry there. Farming provides most of the area's income, estimated at about \$5320 per capita in 1980, third from the bottom in the entire state. Politics has always been mostly provincial and blacks, though they've always been at least half of the Warren County population, were just never included.

Then in 1974, Durham attorney and civil rights activist, Floyd McKissick moved to Warren County with his plans for Soul City, a federally-funded new town. Soul City flickered a flame of hope in the hearts of Warren County residents, especially blacks. But the project failed. Some say it failed because it was ill-conceived and grossly mismanaged by McKissick who became a

registered Republican during the Nixon administration to help coax millions of dollars from the federal government for the project.

Others say Soul City was killed by white politicians, notably N.C. Senator Jesse Helms, who just didn't like the idea of blacks being self-sufficient. The project was officially closed down earlier this year.

Meanwhile, in 1978, the chemical waste question came up, and some of Warren County's more astute political leaders began gearing up for a bitter fight. They launched a broad-based, interracial political education campaign.

And in January this year, Durham attorney, H.M. "Mickey" Michaux launched his campaign to become North Carolina's first black U.S. Congressman in about 80 years. He ran in the 2nd District which includes Warren County and nine other counties, including Durham.

Armed with a new political awareness and ticked off because the state persisted in its effort to dump the toxic waste in their county, Warren County residents went on the offensive. They filed a suit in Federal Court, and though they ultimately lost, they promised to continue the fight, even if it meant flinging themselves in front of the trucks hauling the toxic waste. They also went to the polls in record numbers to vote in candidates sensitive to their views.

But it seems the state picked Warren County because dumping the PCBs there would appear to create less political fallout than some other places. Travis Payne, a Raleigh lawyer, hired by the Warren County citizens group that has been battling the toxic waste dump controversy four years now, maintains that position.

"Ultimately, they stuck it where the political realities allowed them to stick it," Payne said. "Unfortunately, in this state, those realities come down to race. It was a decision where they wanted to put it; somewhere where there was the least flak."

State officials deny that charge. "I can see how these people can feel that way," said Herman Clark, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety that is coordinating the cleanup operation. "But I am certain that the racial composition of this area was not a factor that was considered when this site was selected. On hindsight, maybe some attention should have been paid to that fact."

Warren County overall is about 60 per cent black, and the area where the dump site is located is about 75 per cent black. But state officials have met with the resistance they have from Warren County residents because of an increased political awareness that allow them to understand political realities, articulated best by Luther Brown, pastor of Coley Springs Baptist Church in Warren County. "We have been working hard to educate the people here that you just can't

The Roundtable Predicts

By Elson Armstrong, Jr. Well, football fans, the first complete weekend of Triangle prep and collegiate football is now history and it's time for The Roundtable of Sports Experts to look back at the results and try to give an analysis of what happened and what area teams need to do to win next week.

Pittsburgh 7 UNC 6:

This nationally televised encounter was a good hard hitting football game between two of the nation's better teams, according to the polls.

Most of us expected an sit back and let things happen to you. You have to be prepared to move from a position of strength."

The Warren County citizens fought hard. They filed a federal lawsuit, charging that the state's decision violated the civil rights of the area's black citizens. But a federal court judge ruled against them several weeks ago. Opponents of the dump site had lost a previous suit, that charged that the cleanup plan was environmentally unsound.

But with the final court decision, the way was cleared for the state to move forward with its plans. The plans clashed with the people Wednesday.

"We have got to stop this dump," said Ms. Laura B. Davis, 29, a lifelong Warren County resident, who marched to the dump site with her five-year-old daughter, Mariah. "My daughter and I want to live here the rest of our lives without having to worry about cancer-causing stuff in our water."

State officials say the people don't have to worry about their water being contaminated by the PCBs.

The clean-up will cost \$2.8 million, 90% of which will be paid from the EPA Super Fund.

"We have chosen the best possible alternative, and the only safe one available to us," said Clark. "The EPA would not let us treat the toxic soil where it was, and we couldn't leave it there untreated. This way we have it all contained in a specially designed safe site, and when we can treat it, we will."

At a press conference following the confrontation, Secretary Clark said the 200 protesters are "making a whole lot over nothing."

According to this impressive array of officials, the dump site is 21 feet deep, and has a layer of sand in the bottom. This is covered by a plastic liner, another layer of soil, and then five feet of tightly impacted impervious clay that they describe as "hard as a brick." Then there is another plastic liner on which the PCBs will be dumped. Once all the toxic material is all in the pit, it will be covered with another plastic liner that will be fastened to the one at the bottom, creating what EPA Public Affairs Officer Gordon Kenna called a "sealed envelope."

Finally, they will put another two feet of compacted clay on top, cover that with soil, add some top soil and sow some grass on top of that.

The area will then be fenced in.

According to the officials, it is not likely that the toxic waste will seep into the county's water table. The water table, according to them, is about seven feet below the bottom of the pit.

The toxic waste is about eight feet from the bottom of the pit, giving the officials a 15-foot clearance, and while this is 35 feet less clearance than is normally required by EPA regulations for such dump sites, the consulting engineering says the bottom plastic liner more than adequately makes up for the difference.

But no matter how nice it all sounds, the people of Warren County don't believe it.

offensive show, especially between UNC's running back Kelvin Bryant and Pitt QB Dan Marino. Neither was spectacular at all and this game came down to defense and mistakes.

For the most part, UNC was more than ready to upset the nation's No. 1 team but the Tar Heels committed too many infractions that cost them dearly. UNC had one last chance, but again offensive mistakes killed them.

This week, the Tar Heels play Vanderbilt in Chapel Hill and they must forget about the Pitt game. UNC Coach Crum is a master of taking it one game at a time and the Heels should break into the win column this week.

Virginia Union 26:

Chris Fisher, NCCU's SID, said it best during the heat of last Saturday's monster game at O'Kelly Field: "Central needs a game like this (the score at the time was 18-14 after NCCU had trailed 18-0). Now they know that they can score on Union. Regardless of the outcome, they know that they can play with the best."

We were very impressed with the way Central came together as a unit following a near disastrous first half and early third stanza.

Once the Eagles got on the score board, the defense went on the prowl and forced normally poised Union into mistakes that broke their long string of CIAA victories.

On offense, the Central line jelled and made it possible for Central's ground game to click. QB Fraylon did an outstanding job of mixing up his plays which kept Union off balance in the second half.

Even when Union went back on top 26-21, Central remained confident and poised and this helped to insure the victory.

This week Central faces old and dangerous rival Winston-Salem State in Durham. Central, still basking in the glow of the Union win must now turn its energies to WSSU.

Coach Henry Latimore also a great believer in the one game at a time concept will stress that, and we see the Eagles picking up their third win of the young season.

Duke 25 Tennessee 24:

Duke pulled down a big one in Tennessee two weeks ago. The Blue Devils, like Central, showed tremendous poise when they trailed 24-12. Playing before 95,000 mostly hostile fans, Duke rallied and once they got the lead, they controlled the ball during the game's final five minutes going from their own one to the shadow of the Volunteer goal as time expired.

Duke needed such a win in the worst way. Now it's on to South Carolina and another hostile crowd. Although the Gamecocks are 2-0, they don't appear to be as strong as recent USC

teams. It will be tough but Duke should win their second straight.

N.C. State 33 East Carolina 26:

The Wolfpack seemed to have the game in hand as they were out front 33-18 with less than three minutes left. The Pack then proceeded to give up a late TD and with everyone in the stadium knowing what the ECU Pirates would do (outside kick), the Pack wasn't sharp and let ECU regain possession. Only ECU's impatience in throwing an interception saved NCSU.

State's QB Tol Avery has been impressive in two outings and so has running back, Joe McIntosh, but the Pack has yet to test their stuff against a team in their class.

This week State should beat Wake Forest in Raleigh but the game should be a wild, high-scoring affair.

State's defensive secondary will be severely tested because Wake lives and dies with the pass.

Durham Metro Preps:

Hillside finally stopped its 11-game losing skein. Although they reportedly played well, they only managed to tie. This week the Hornets have their hands full against Washington High of Danville, Va. If HHS wins it will be a big upset — the kind the Hornets need to get untracked.

Durham High got on the scoreboard for the first time but still lost the war. They could give Raleigh Broughton a game this week.

Northern Durham's knack for penalties caught up with them last week in Cary. The Knights should make Raleigh Millbrook pay dearly this week.

Southern Durham, which is on a roll, should have no problems with Western Harnett.

Young Chapel Hill, which has yet to play at home, should find the going tough at High Point Central.

Roundtable Picks

Durham Metro Preps

Raleigh Broughton 17, Durham High 14, Danville Washington 33, Durham Hillside 20, Southern Durham 38, West Harnett 7, Northern Durham 41, Raleigh Millbrook 10, High Point Central 25, Chapel Hill 14.

Collegiates

NCCU 31, WSSU 21, S.C. State 40, NCA&T 9, Virginia Union 14, Hampton 13, UNC 38, Vanderbilt 7, Duke 24, South Carolina 19, Stantford 36, San Jose 14, Michigan 10, Notre Dame 7, Fresno State 21, Oregon 19, N.C. State 35, Wake Forest 34.

NFL (if not on strike!)

Buffalo 20, Minnesota 14, Miami 31, Baltimore 10, Pittsburgh 21, Cincinnati 20, Dallas 45, St. Louis 23, Los Angeles Rams 22, Detroit 17, Chicago 25, New Orleans 7, New York Jets 23, New England 7, Atlanta 19, Los Angeles Raiders 14, Cleveland 23, Philly 16, San Diego 40, Kansas City 31, San Francisco 10, Denver 7, Houston 16, Seattle 14, Tampa Bay 28, Washington 26, New York Giants 22, Green Bay 18.

NCAA TOP TEN

- 1. Pittsburgh
- 2. Georgia
- 3. Washington
- 4. North Carolina
- 5. Alabama
- 6. Nebraska
- 7. Arkansas
- 8. SMU
- 9. Florida
- 10. Penn. State

Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for September 13: Ladies high game: 224 - Flo Roberson, 212 - Ros Leslie, 198 - Bernice Snipes and Anne Reed. Ladies high series: 556 - Bernice Snipes, 552 - Flo Roberson, 535 - Nancy Rowland. Men's high game: 233 - Willie Finch, 220 - Charles Parker, 200, 217 - Linwood Taylor. Men's high series: 590 - Linwood Taylor, 570 - Willie Finch, 568 - Charles Parker. Others: 529 - Priscilla Malloy, 528 - Anne Reed, 523 - Erma Reid, 214, 525 - Jamin Paddy, 213, 529 - Ken Snipes, 212 - 553 - Ronald T. Miller, 207, 542, Wallace Royal, 534 - James Parker, 510 - James S. Harrington, 503 - Joseph Parker, 505 - Clifton Parker, 501 - Jimmy Harrington. Split conversions: Bill Jones, 4-6-10.

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DR. DAVID L. MALLETTE is the newly elected chairman of the Garner Road Y.M.C.A., Raleigh, Board of Directors. He is employed as Assistant Director of the Division of Science Education with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. He succeeds Morris W. Johnson, Jr.

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- Guard Rail
- Seeding and Mulching
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