



Sixth grade students at Warren Academy practice a Mouseketeer selection which will be a part of a "Disney on Parade" performance scheduled Friday night in the gymnasium. First row performers (left to right) are Greg Wilson, Lee Brinkle, Kelly Fleming, Joanne Robertson,

Tondra Lynch, Paula Hayes and Wanda Carroll. Second row Disney characters are (left to right) Stewart Johnson, Martha Newman, Stephanie Johnston, Caroline Shearin, Virginia Davis, Josh Harris, Daryl Kilian and Kevin King. See additional picture and story on Page 16. [Staff Photo]

## Spring Arrives With Taste Of Death Beauty Is Wrapped In Poison

By ROBERT C. RADCLIFFE

"Please don't eat the daffodils" the next time you are out in the flower garden. Or the jonquils, or the azaleas, or the rhododendrons.

They can be mouthfuls of death. With spring bustin' out all over, the warnings—in the opinion of botanists—are timely and in no way as silly as they may sound, according to the National Geographic Society.

"After a long winter these spring flowers look just about good enough to eat," one naturalist said. "And anyway, for many it's just sort of an automatic thing to do when you're strolling around admiring Mother Nature's handiwork. You know, you snap off a blade of grass or whatever and absentmindedly stick it in your mouth."

### Plentiful Poisons

It could also be a dangerous thing to do. Many of the popular flowers, ornamental shrubs, and colorful weeds are loaded with poison, even enough to kill a grazing horse, as farmers occasionally find.

All parts of the plants—seeds, berries, roots, stalks, flowers—may contain poisons that do their work on heart, nerves, brain, blood, muscles and in breathing. They have done in victims throughout history, by accident and by murder in real-life, fiction, and folklore.

However, these often lethal chemicals also are being tested for curative properties. Many familiar plants long have been used as medicines.

And they also have been valued as poisons, love potions, and freckle-faders, stimulants, hair-restorers, cathartics, wart-shrinkers, and the like.

Some eye-catching plants, like parts of pokeweed, are prized by down-country gourmets, but the "edible" parts also have killed.

Less publicized may be the casual nibblers, victims of curiosity, unthinking impulse, or accident.

### Baby-Killing Berries

Crawling children escaping their mothers' eyes have gobbled the sweet shining berries of deadly nightshade, the bluish berries of privet hedges, pokeweed berries, and the tiny round seeds of the ornamental yew trees—all with bad, often fatal, results.

Eating one leaf of a poinsettia can kill a child. Other houseplants—dieffenbachia, cyclamen, philodendron among them—may be dangerous temptations to bored tots in city apartments.

Parts of honeysuckle, wisteria, Carolina jasmine, the leaves of cherry trees, azaleas, and rhododendrons, and many other commonplace plants should be admired, but never eaten. Mistletoe berries are particularly dangerous.

A couple of glossy, dark green leaves of English ivy, on a whim tossed into a picnic salad to brighten it up, may be deadly.

A twig of oleander used to stir a campfire stew has felled hungry hikers. Whistlebush whittled out of the hollow stems of nightshade have been fatal.

Three youngsters died after mistaking the bulbous roots of water hemlock for an edible forest vegetable like ground artichoke or wild parsnip. Discarded bulbs of garden flowers have brought death within reach of curious children.

A thirsty little girl swigged the water from a vase of lily of the valley flowers and died.

## Third Nursing Home Looms On Warren County Horizon

A third proposal to construct a nursing care facility in Warrenton has been revealed with the filing of notice of intent by a Henderson woman to construct a 90-bed unit here at an estimated cost of \$800,000.

Mrs. Louise B. Parham, project director of the Pine Haven Convalescent Center in Henderson, gave notice Monday of plans to construct the project by January, 1978.

The proposal of Pine Haven, least expensive of the three

announced thus far this year, calls for erection of a facility, consisting of 30 skilled care and 60 intermediate care beds, one-half mile from Warren General Hospital on Ridgeway Road.

Earlier this month J. B. Martin of Warrenton unveiled a plan to construct a \$1.5 million nursing home west of Warren General. In February, plans were announced to erect a 90-bed unit on property owned by A. K. Mustian north of the hospital at a cost of \$850,000.

State and federal health planning agencies will examine all three proposals to see which, if any, are needed, and whether they would prove economically feasible.

### Coupons Pushed

Warren consumers are reminded to clip and use coupons giving discounts on food and grocery items during "Cents Off" Week, March 27 through April 2. This project, sponsored by the Warrenton Junior Woman's Club, is intended to cushion the increasingly greater portion of family income consumed at the grocery centers.

Warrenton Juniors hope that "Cents Off" Week will only serve as a kickoff and that the consumer will continue to take advantage of the savings offered them through the use of coupons, a club spokesman said yesterday.



MISS DANIEL

### Norlina Student Gets High Honor

Patsy Burton Daniel, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was one of 26 junior and senior women tapped into the Order of the Valkyries of the Grail/Valkyries on March 18.

Established in 1941, the Valkyries is the highest honorary organization for women and selection is made on the basis of scholarship, leadership, service, character and outstanding contribution to the University.

Patsy, an English and Speech Communications major, is a 1973 graduate of Vance Senior High School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen A. Daniel of Norlina.

Her other UNC-CH activities include UNC Orientation Commission, Chancellor's Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee and speech professor's assistant.

## Poster Contest Winners Announced By Warren SCS

Winning essays in the 1977 Conservation Essay Contest sponsored by the Warren Soil and Water Conservation District were announced this week by District Chairman Melvin Shearin of Arcola. The contest was sponsored in the sixth grades in Warren County

schools with the essays being written on the subject: "Why Should My School Practice Conservation On Its Grounds?" Winners of this year's contest are Cynthia King, first place, Warren Academy; Stewart Johnson, second place, Warren Academy; Wendy Howard, third place, Vaughan School; and Kelly Fleming, honorable mention, Warren Academy.

The first-place essay will be entered into the Area IV Association of Conservation Districts Conservation Essay Contest where it will be judged against essays written in 11 other counties.

George Koonce, Larry Rivers, and Tom Watson were judges for this year's contest. "We thank these men for taking their time to contribute to our program," Shearin said. "The students and teachers are to be congratulated for the understanding of the subject and the ideas given for solving conservation problems."

## Bishop To Give Norlina Sermon

Bishop Robert Blackburn, bishop of the Raleigh area, N. C. Conference of the United Methodist Church, will give the morning message, Sunday, March 27, at 11 a. m., at the Norlina Methodist Church.

Bishop Blackburn, a native of Florida, came to North Carolina after being elected a bishop from the First Church in Orlando, Fla.

The Rev. Nat Burgess, pastor of the church, said the public is cordially invited to attend the service.

## Soul City Adversely Affected

# Blocked Water Grant Dampening Local Hopes

By BIGNALL JONES

Failure of Warren County to receive an EDA grant to build a water line from Soul City to Warrenton not only dampened local hopes for increased stimulus for industrial development, but also could prove costly to Soul City.

Hope that funds for the construction of the line will be obtained have not been abandoned, but the delay is going to prove expensive to the new city which finds that it has too much water.

Soul City not only has its own water system, but has a contract to buy a minimum of a million gallons a day from the regional system also serving Henderson and Oxford when the system goes into operation in early April.

Floyd McKissick, the father of Soul City, in an interview with John Coit, Durham Herald staff writer, this week, said "We have a nice problem. We have plenty of water."

Coit also interviewed Melvin Holmes, manager of Henderson's city government, and Tom Ragland, Oxford's city manager, in preparation for a front page Morning Herald feature article.

McKissick said the water won't go to waste. We're trying to find some one who can use it.

"The fact is," Holmes said, "that Soul City must pay for the one million gallons whether it uses it or not."

"I'm not real concerned about it," Holmes said. "We've got a contract with Soul City. If they don't use a drop they still have to pay for the production of one million gallons."

McKissick said he didn't know how much Soul City would have to pay daily for the water it can't use. Coit said that "sources" have put the cost at about \$150 to \$190 a day.

Oxford, Coit said, which will cut back the production of its old municipal plant and start bringing the system's water into its lines, will pay about \$230 per day for its own million gallons.

If Soul City were using the water, it would pay about the same as Oxford.

Holmes said that Soul City would pay a reduced cost because Henderson will not treat the water and thus the chemical cost would be subtracted from the total.

Ton Ragland, Oxford's city manager, said his town had to refuse a Soul City request that Oxford buy Soul City's share of

the water. "Our demand for water has been reduced by one-third," Ragland said.

In 1974-75 the recession drastically reduced the industrial demand for water in Oxford. Burlington Industries cut its two plants there by nearly 80 per cent.

"There was a time when we

could have purchased the Soul City share," said Ragland. "But with Burlington gone...there is just no demand."

Coit said that "McKissick hinted there are a couple of industries who are 'hot prospects' for Soul City, prospects who would need the water the system will provide."

In the meanwhile, Coit said, engineers are finishing work on the system, cleaning a 28,000-foot section of pipe that was flaking sealant.

Holmes said that when the system gets going, "it will be able to process more than 10 million gallons a day from Kerr Lake."

## Standing In Line Foreseen

# Only 120 Farmers Have Listed Choice Of Leaf Sales Sites

Only 120 farmers designated flue-cured tobacco warehouses during the first two weeks of designation, T. E. Watson, executive director of the Warren County ASCS Office, said yesterday.

Last year, 879 growers filed designations during the initial designation period, he said.

"If approximately the same number of growers designate in 1977, it will be necessary for an average of 50 to visit the county ASCS Office each day," Watson said. "This will have to be a substantial increase from the

average of 12 per day during the first two weeks."

Watson encouraged growers to not delay filing the designation in order to avoid having to wait in line during the last few days of the designation period which ends April 8.

At the same time the warehouse designation is filed, tobacco producers will indicate the number of marketing cards they wish issued for the farm and the number of pounds to be designated to each card, Watson said.

# Majority Endorses Capital Punishment

Capital punishment has received an overwhelming endorsement from persons responding to a public opinion poll conducted by state representatives from the 13th House District.

Some 79 percent of the respondents to the poll indicated their preference for the death penalty, according to the poll's sponsors. Results of the findings were revealed yesterday by Rep. William T. Watkins of Oxford and Rep. Tom Ellis and John Church of Henderson.

The three lawmakers said that 527 persons took part in the poll, which sought to uncover sentiment on four basic issues under study by the North Carolina General Assembly.

On the capital punishment question, 409 voted in favor of the death penalty, 71 voted against and 38 were undecided. A third of the poll participants indicated their support of liquor by the drink, with 63 percent saying they were opposed and four percent expressing no opinion.

The Equal Rights Amendment, being debated in both houses while the survey was being conducted, failed to get the support of respondents. Some 74 percent indicated their opposition to ERA, with 33 percent favoring and four percent undecided.

Those polled also opposed any change in the North Carolina constitution which would allow the governor and lieutenant governor to succeed themselves. Some 51 percent expressed disapproval, 43 percent were in favor and five percent were undecided. Neither the prospect of two four-year terms or one six-year term for the state's two chief executives appealed to those taking part in the poll.

## High Wind Fails To Stop Firemen

Members of the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department were unable to save a log storage house at the home of Wallace Robinson during the high wind of Tuesday night but were able to keep the fire from spreading to nearby woods, Fire Chief A. A. Wood said yesterday.

Nine firemen, two trucks and a crash wagon were dispatched to the Robinson home on Highway 43, Route 3, Warrenton at 7:55 p. m. Tuesday. The home is the property of Eleanor Williams.

Wood said that the storage house and its contents were a total loss. A liberal use of water prevented the fire, burning when the firemen arrived, from spreading to the nearby woods.



Bernard Miller, Warren General Hospital employee, is shown with one of two scooters obtained by the hospital from the Coastal Plains Regional Commission. Hospital Administrator Col. H. S. Andersen, said that the three-wheel vehicles are economical to operate and will be used for errands around the hospital and in nearby Warrenton. Miller said the vehicles, which came equipped with pick-up bodies and cabs, said the scooters "sure beat walking." [Staff Photo]