

The Warren Record

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Public Education Needed

In our Mostly Personal column, found elsewhere on this page, the writer recalls that when it was proposed that Warrenton build a water and sewage system, it was paid for by a bond issue. The proposal was fought by two of the town's respected and well-to-do citizens. Each of these men had his own private water and sewage system. While their attitudes showed a wonderful ignorance of the true value of a sewage system and the danger of dumping raw sewage into an open ditch or shallow stream where it was picked up by rats and flies and spread over the community, it showed a perfectly human quality and did not mark either of the men as bad or thoughtless citizens. They were just citizens who were ignorant of the need to protect the environment. They had their own systems, bought with their own money.

Neither do we think that our board of county commissioners are bad men, or that they have less interest in our county than we. But we do think that they lack an understanding of the value of the public school system and the necessity for it to be strengthened. The fact that not a member of the Board of County Commissioners has a child in public school and one of them has three children in private school (that he is able to bear the considerable cost testifies to the sincerity of his belief) could explain their willingness to give credence to the exaggerated failure of our public school system.

We are not discounting the criticism of our schools for their lack of teaching reading skills and welcome the efforts being made to correct the deficiency by local, state and national agencies. We went through the public schools of this county and in our work we have almost daily contact with the graduates of our public and private schools. A surprisingly large number of them who have attended school since the late twenties when we began to get our first good public schools, can neither read nor write nor spell in the true sense, construct a correct sentence nor speak good

English or have any understanding of the value of good literature, from which we largely learned our very limited knowledge. This is also true to a degree of the small private schools where too often more emphasis is placed on sports than on a good library.

But this does not mean that these good persons who have failed in an important respect have not learned much of lasting value including the ability to discharge the duties of citizenship. Neither should it be forgotten that where there are failures there are increasing numbers of good students. The truth of this matter is the extreme difficulty of educating a person in one generation.

In Iceland, we recently read, the level of literacy is probably the highest of any country in the world and their appreciation and enjoyment of good literature is extremely high. A student in this small country must learn five foreign languages before graduating from high school. But these people have been literate for hundreds of years. There is but one jail in this country of 210,000 persons and one murder in the country during the past year. Contrast this with the money spent on the police in this country, the responsibility for which may easily be the mark of social injustice.

Recently we attended the graduation exercises at Norlina High School here 89 students received their diplomas and where Principal Hege announced that 58% of these students would continue their education beyond the high school level, highest in the school's history. We felt good as we watched black and white students express themselves with clarity and good sense, and we reflected that hundreds of Warren County black students have at last attended a reasonably good school.

Later we reflected on the remarks about the graduates who would continue their education being 58% of the class. This means, most likely, that 52 students will never go on welfare. It could mean that we would need fewer policemen in the years to come.

Convention A Success

We have attended precinct meetings for more than 40 years with little pleasure and less inspiration for the practice of politics.

Saturday, we attended what was the most interesting, the most democratic, the fairest and most inspiring convention we have ever attended.

For the first time we left a convention with a desire to attend the next precinct meeting. This is due to the excellent work of Chairman Eva Clayton and her assistants and to the fine talk made by Mrs. Jane Patterson of Raleigh, assistant director in the N. C. Department of Administration, and former

Chairman of the Guilford County Democratic Committee.

A white woman who is a leader in the party said of the convention, that it was interesting and informative, and that she considered Mrs. Clayton's handling of the convention considerate, fair and proper. She added that she has been closely associated with Mrs. Clayton in the work of the party and that she had always found her courteous, fair and considerate.

We mention this because we feel it is deserved by Mrs. Clayton for her superior work as party chairman, recognized by her unanimous re-election to the post.

Heritage Of Bond Issues

By BIGNALL JONES
Somewhere around 1915 the board of Town Commissioners called an election to decide whether or not Warrenton should issue bonds to install a waterworks system. At the time there were a few private waterworks systems in Warrenton, possibly less than half a dozen. Among these were those of the late Walter Boyd, Edmund White and a very primitive system installed in the home into which we had moved in the spring of 1909. Across the street from our home the Alston family had a windmill which pumped water for a private system. There may have been other private systems which I can not now recall.

My father, who had bought The Record in the spring of 1909 was active in the efforts to have Warrenton install a waterworks system and The Record worked to have the citizens of Warrenton vote a bond issue for such a system to serve the town. Walter Boyd, a tobacconist, and my father's first cousin, and Edmund White, a cotton gin operator, and miller with other interests, who had their own private water systems both worked to defeat the bond issue. Both these men were good citizens and I feel certain that neither of these gentlemen knew of the connection between open wells and typhoid fever, although Mr. White had suffered the disease as had many other citizens of the town, including the late Henry Boyd, my father's first cousin and my very good friend, Mrs. Shipp McCarroll, the former Mary Burwell who as a child was my neighbor, and has been a lifetime friend.

The water bond issue passed with no great opposition. Previously the town had voted bonds for a railroad, and an electric light plant, and was to vote later for an ice plant, and a hotel and later for bonds to expand and improve the water system and bonds to build the John Graham High School.

During the years that The Warren Record has been in our family, neither the newspaper nor its owners have ever opposed a bond issue and never has it had occasion to regret its action in this respect. While we have never established any records for our financial ability, I was pleased to learn in a recent conversation with Raby Traylor of Norlina that he has never voted against a bond issue.

Some prospered and reinvested their money in local enterprises and we passed

Late Planting Proper For Some Vegetables

Time is rapidly passing when many of the commonly grown garden vegetables can be planted in North Carolina, but there are a few that can still be added to your garden.

One of the most popular among North Carolina gardeners is the southern pea. It can be planted until July 1, give or take a week depending on whether you live in the mountains or southern coastal area.

Pole beans can be planted until July 1 and bush beans until July 15, according to North Carolina State University agricultural extension specialists.

Bush limas have a July 1 cutoff and pole limas June 15.

There are still a few days left for planting sweet potatoes, but don't go much past June 15.

You can continue to set out tomatoes until about July 15.

There are a number of late-planted crops which should not be seeded or planted for another month or so. These include cabbage, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, collards, kale, leaf lettuce, mustard, onions, radish, rutabaga, spinach and turnips.

County extension agents have free literature on suggested planting dates for all commonly grown garden crops.

bond issues for those things too expensive to be built alone, and thus we built a town, with every census showing growth.

And then came the discovery that money could be made in gambling on the stockmarket and folks started investing in stocks and neglected to reinvest in local enterprise and when the bubble burst Warrenton was broke for fair except for those things largely built through bond issues and some few institutions whose owners had resisted the stock market.

When the depression came and for some time afterwards we had some 30 single men of marriageable age in Warrenton and a whole crew of pretty young school teachers as we danced at my parents home and at the home of the late J. Boyd Davis. Ten years later there were not a half dozen.

Those in power, and particularly in the county grew to believe that thrift was the only answer and the commissioners adopted as their goal the determination to get the county out of debt, and as other counties were spending their funds on matching funds to obtain government assistance to rebuild, our commissioners succeeded in their goal and got the county out of debt. There are those who think that they practically ruined the county in the process, and each census report for thirty years showed a decline in population.

We built and paid much of the cost of John Graham High School while largely supporting all other educational costs, payment of teachers, repair of building, etc. Now the state has taken over the operation of the road system, and the bulk of the cost of running the schools. Annually sending nearly \$3 million dollars into the county each year as the schools become our largest industry, and yet our commissioners now have difficulty in raking up \$25,000 for the site of a consolidated school, which the educators are striving to build. This should tell us something I suppose. It served to recall the old truth that "True economy is the wise expenditure of money." Something I think our elected representatives should learn.

Letter To The Editor

CRITICIZES VIEW

To The Editor:

I have had many agreeable comments on my letter in your June 9 issue of The Warren Record. Many said my letter was too short and they have asked me to write another one.

I do not recall mentioning any names in my letter, but as the old saying goes, "If the shoe fits, wear it." Evidently it fit perfectly!

Let me tell you about these young men who play softball. We have six teams in the league in Warrenton County. There are several other teams made up of young Warren County men who also play along with the six in tournaments. These young men are some of our finest and not a group of wild, drunken hoodlums. Drinking is not allowed on the field and I do not remember anyone being assaulted or robbed at any of these games.

We have no control over what they do after the games. There is not much one can do in Warren County for recreation. I had much rather my son or husband be on the ball field than many other places they could be giving someone else something to complain about. Why not let them enjoy softball? After all, they are the ones who pay the taxes to maintain the school fields.

Several weeks ago The News and Observer ran an article on Governor Hunt's proposals. He advocates the use of all school facilities, including ball fields, for community affairs and sports under adult supervision.

Since there has apparently been a lapse of memory, I would like to try to refresh it. A student was using a yard rake to prepare the baseball diamond for a game this spring. Someone screamed for him to stop for he was polluting the air. On another occasion, the same thing happened when the field was being dragged. One day the physical education class was keeping up too much noise while having class on the field. How many baskets of baseballs have been collected? It would have been just as easy to have thrown them back over the fence. These balls are expensive and it would have saved the school

Campout Foods Should Be Simple To Prepare

Campout meals should follow the motto "Think Simple!"

Cooking, refrigeration and storage facilities can limit the kinds of foods suitable for eating in camp, says Mary Ann Spruill, extension foods and nutrition specialist at North Carolina State University.

As much food as possible should be prepared at home, prior to the trip, so the cook has time to join in all the camping activities.

Hamburgers and meat balls, for example, can be prepared at home and packed frozen. If frozen solid, ground beef will defrost in about a day. Freezing such foods at home will help to prolong their life in the ice chest.

Foods that soil quickly should be avoided. Potato salad, cream sauces and sandwich spreads that contain mayonnaise are items that should be avoided on long trips.

Crisp vegetables—carrots, celery, radishes and pickles—are good substitutions.

Convenience foods offer a tremendous variety for hungry campers. Consider packaged and canned puddings or dried fruits, nuts or raisins for desserts or snacks.

Nonfat dry milk is perfect for drinking and cooking and dehydrated soups used as sauces and flavoring for stews are perfect.

Instant rice, mashed potatoes and beverage mixes are ready just as quickly as their name promises.

Dried or canned pre-cooked meats and peanut butter or ready-to-eat sandwich spreads all save time in

meal preparation. Remember that outdoor activity has a way of developing hearty appetites, so plan on cooking a little more than usual.

Be sure to include on each person's daily menu: at least two pints of milk, dark or enriched bread or cereal, two servings of fruit, two servings of vegetables (one leafy, one other), meat or another protein source and butter or margarine.

Stew Sale Planned

Brunswick stew will be offered for sale Saturday by members of the Drewry Volunteer Fire Department. A department spokesman said the stew will be ready by noon and will sell for \$2 per quart.

The Drewry Fire Department Auxiliary will also be busy Saturday as members sponsor a yard and bake sale from 10 a. m. until 4 p. m. All sales will be held at the Fire Department Building.



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some money. Since when have you stopped complaining about school activities?

Sure, I feel sorry for you. I feel sorry for anyone who spends 30 years unhappy and complaining and making so many others unhappy. But, I also think you should be thankful you live in quiet Warrenton instead of around Yankee Stadium or Shea Stadium. Wouldn't it be ridiculous if these people complained about the noise and officials then made them quit playing and told them to move the field?

SHIRLEY C. LYLES

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