

# The Warren Record

Published Every Thursday By  
Record Printing Company

P. O. Box 70 - Warrenton, N. C. 27589

BIGNALL JONES, Editor

Member North Carolina Press Association

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE  
IN WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, UNDER THE LAWS OF CONGRESS

Second Class Postage Paid At Warrenton, N. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: ONE YEAR, \$5.00; SIX MONTHS, \$3.00  
OUT-OF-STATE: ONE YEAR, \$7.00  
SIX MONTHS, \$4.00

## Differences Will Be Forgotten

The trouble with elections in small towns and counties is that everyone knows everyone else, but church, civic and fraternal ties, keeps one from always voting for the best candidate, and in the process there are many hurt feelings.

So the elections in the three incorporated towns of Warren County created ill feelings to a degree, but in the friendly atmosphere of these towns ill feelings will not last, and differences will soon be forgotten.

The results of the two state bond issues and the Constitutional Amendments will not suit everyone. As these comments are being written in late afternoon of election day the results are not known. So far as the bond issues are concerned, we will be hurt if they are not passed, because we feel that the

state badly needs the funds the issues would provide at this time.

We strongly support the passage of the Succession Amendment, for reasons stated before in this column. But if a majority of voters fail to express these views, we can console ourselves in the knowledge that such vote will only be a postponement and not a defeat. Basing our conclusions on national trends which leave only seven states where governors can not succeed themselves it will only be a few years until North Carolina adopts Succession. It is our hope and belief that it will only be a matter of time until an advancing state will also give its governor the veto power.

Win, lose or draw, we believe that most of our citizens will be glad that the election is over.

## Little Doubt Remains As To Governor's Resting Place

By BIGNALL JONES

There can be little doubt that James Turner, first governor of North Carolina from Warren County, is buried at his boyhood home South of Fishing Creek in the Creek community of Warren County, as has long been maintained by residents of that area.

Although several residents of that section have told of visiting Governor Turner's grave and of the brick vault which covered his grave, historians have refused to accept this verdict, because the biography of Governor and Senator James Turner in "Biological Sketches of the American Congress" said that he was buried at Bloomsbury, his home in the Ridgeway-Drewry section of Warren County.

On the other hand, Alton Pridden told me that his father, and grandfather had told him that Governor Turner was buried in the Creek Community, that there was considerable delay in the body's arrival from Bloomsbury, that he had often visited the gravesite in earlier years, and that on one occasion he had taken the late Lunsford Long to the site. Over the years, visitors to the grave have removed the brick as souvenirs, or because they needed brick, and today there is nothing but periwinkle marking the site of the cemetery.

A letter from Mrs. Emma Duke Bouknight of Colum-

bia, S. C., granddaughter of the late Mark Clanton Duke, who once owned the land upon which the grave is located, said that her father, James Walter Duke of Arcola, told her as a child that Governor Turner was buried on their old farm. He said that the grave was near the old Duke home and was marked by a pile of brick and stone.

The difficulty in accepting this version lay, first in the claim that he was buried at Bloomsbury, where he died on Jan. 15, 1824 and secondly in finding any logical reason for his burial in the Creek community. The mystery was cleared up during the past week by a couple of telephone conversations and by searching the 1825 records of the Register of Deeds.

One night last week Janice Seaman (Mrs. P. G. Seaman), who was reared in the Axtelle Community, telephoned to tell me of the location of Camp Beaurgard at Ridgeway. She said that it had been pointed out to her as a child by her uncle, the late Austin Allen; she also said that her uncle had told her that Governor Turner's body, first buried at Bloomsbury, had later been moved to a site on Fishing Creek.

The next day, for further verification of Mr. Allen's statement, I called Miss Eula Allen, Janice's aunt. She told me that not only had Austin Allen told her that Governor Turner's body had been moved, but that her father, Walter

Allen, who often hunted over that section, had told her the same thing. Miss Eula also told me where the Turner cemetery at Bloomsbury is located. This I plan to visit as soon as the ground dries.

Searching the county records for further light on the subject, I found in Book 24 (1825) on page 189, the following deed:

Turner Executors to Burwell Davis -

"One parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the said county of Warren on Big Fishing Creek . . . and adjoining the lands of Matthew Davis, the said Burwell Davis and others, and being on the south side of Big Fishing Creek, owned and possessed by the said James Turner, and which descended to him from his father, and containing an estimated 300 acres, more or less, to have and to hold the aforesaid premises with the appurtenances thereon, to the said Burwell Davis, his heirs and assigns forever; the same having been sold at public auction in pursuance of the powers vested in the executors to the last will and testament of the said James Turner, dec'd, after having been advertised in the Warrenton Reporter and at other public places in the said County of Warren, when the said Burwell Davis did bid the sum of four thousand and five dollars and was the last and highest bidder. . . ."

The sale was dated the 20th day of December, 1825. Executors signing the

deed, registered by Burwell Davis on the 8th day of March, 1826, were Thomas Turner, Daniel Turner, Richard Bullock, Peter R. Davis and Robert Park. I hope to find written or printed documentation of the removal of Governor

Turner's body to Creek, in the weeks or months ahead. It will be greatly appreciated if any readers with any information as to the time of burial at Creek and or any other information about the subject will share it with me.

## Citizen's View

### Learning From Nature



by John W. Gardner

There is validity in the widespread apprehension today. An era is ending. Known landmarks are fading. We are leaving a familiar world behind.

The instinct of us humans to stabilize our environment—both outer and inner—inevitably leads us to invest our institutions with a sense of permanence, of sacredness, of unchallengeable rightness. This human need for stability leads over the years to an institutional rigidity that is essentially anti-nature. Nature is tumultuous, moving, changing, always in flux. Things are being born, maturing, adapting, competing, surviving, dying. One thing waxes, another wanes. Things ebb and flow.

Humans create organizations and societies to serve their shared purposes, and then gradually rigidify those institutions as though in a vain attempt to shut out the tumult of nature. But nature wins. Eventually, in trying to shut out the great ebb and flow of life, societies and organizations smother themselves.

Almost no one is hostile, in principle, to the idea of renewal. Why is it so difficult? Partly because decay starts from within. When individuals close their minds, stop learning, become set in their ways, it is not—as a rule—because anyone forced them to do so. They are impelled by inner needs or failings. So it is with nations? Nations aren't pushed into senility and oblivion. They die of their inner rigidities.

In short, one must look for the villain within—within oneself, within one's society. That's no fun. That is why the critics who tell us what our trouble is may be fiercely resented. As a general thing, we do not know ourselves and don't want to. It isn't that we can't find the truth that will save us. We run from it. We cry "Where is the voice that will tell us the truth?" and clamp our hands over our ears.

We shout "Show us the way!" and shut our eyes apprehensively.

Those who understand what we must do in order to stave off self-destruction are unwelcome because they tell us to rearrange things within ourselves or our society that we have no intention of rearranging. There's nothing more unwelcome than a savior when you're not ready to be saved.

The status quo is a fabric not easily unraveled. There are precedents, traditions, customs, written codes and unwritten rules. Some are still useful, and others are the petrified remains of something that was once useful. There are procedures, techniques, methods and standards, some still sound, some long outworn. There are arrangements that cannot easily be changed because to change them would alter the distribution of power or wealth. There are institutions that cannot be overhauled because their long existence has conferred on them a certain sanctity.

Renewal involves both continuity and change. The continuity of the generations and of traditions makes possible change that doesn't descend into chaos—or veer wildly in directions no one had foreseen. Societies change in ways that are closer to organic growth than to mechanical restructuring.

A healthy society is one in which, at any given time, some things are being born, some things are flourishing in maturity and some things are dying. At the time of World War I, air and automobile travel were in their infancy, railroads were in their prime, and the horse-drawn buggy was headed for extinction.

Innovation, decay, renewal and death occur in parallel—affecting different parts within the system. So it is in the body of a living thing. At any given moment, some cells are dying, some are coming into being. So it is with plants in a garden. A vital society is one in which the forces making for disintegration and death are more than balanced by new life, growth and health.

It is often true that the only way to conserve is to innovate and change. And it is also true that the only stable society is the society in motion.

A former Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, John Gardner is the Founding Chairman of Common Cause.

## Change In Public Attitude Is Needed To Improve Education

(Editor's Note: The following is a portion of the address made by Vermont C. Royster, Raleigh native and former Editor of The Wall Street Journal, to the Phi Beta Kappa Association of Wake County.)

Forty years ago the country was in the grip of the Great Depression, and we ought to all be grateful that whatever economic troubles we have now, they are not such as in those days.

The mores and customs of Raleigh, and of the whole South, have also changed much in the years between. The process of that change made for a turbulent time. But we are all better off for having put behind us the idea that there were two classes of citizens, white and black. We can see now that the blacks were not only gainers of that change, so are we all.

But there are other changes of which I am not so certain. I am referring to the changes in our educational system or to changes in our attitude toward the nature and purpose of education which have come to be reflected in our educational system.

On the simplest level we see this change as expressed in the common complaint that Johnny can't read. Or do arithmetic. As a blanket indictment that is exaggerated. As a professor at the University in Chapel Hill, I can tell you that we have many able and well-educated young people in the rising generation.

All the same, there is enough substance in the indictment to make it disturbing.

In 1963 the average score of all high school graduates taking the College Entrance Board verbal examinations was 478 out of a possible 750. This year the average verbal score on those same tests was 429.

In 1963 the average score on the College Entrance math tests was 502. This year it was 470. This 14-year decline did not come in one sudden drop in one particular year. The scores have progressed relentlessly downward.

There are still outstanding students whose performance is excellent, whether on the College Board exams or in their records in college. What we are talking about is not the exceptional student but the average one, about the decline in the general level of performance.

It's that decline in average skills that raises some questions. What has caused this steady decline? Does it make any difference? If it is a proper matter of concern, what can be done about it?

To probe some of these questions with regard to the College Entrance exams, a special study group was set up, headed by Willard Wirtz, chairman of the National Manpower Institute and former Secretary of Labor. It came to some interesting conclusions.

It concluded, for example, that the test score decline did not result from

any change in the tests or in the methods of scoring them, a charge that has sometimes been made. The Wirtz study did find, as you might expect, that part of the decline in average scores from 1963 to 1970 was due to a large increase in the number of students taking the tests. There were consequently more test-takers who had comparatively lower high school grades. In other words, the average was lowered in those years because the total was diluted.

But since 1970 this has not been the case. In the past seven years the composition of the test-taking group has changed hardly at all. Yet the average scores have continued to decline. So some other explanation must be sought.

What of television, that familiar villain? The study group noted that by age 16 children have spent some 10,000 to 15,000 hours watching TV, more time than they have spent in school. It agreed that this detracts from homework, competes with schooling generally and has contributed to some of the decline in the scores.

But the panel rejected that as the chief villain. Television itself can be educational, it noted. Where it hurts education is in the abuse, not the use.

The main problem, said this group, is that there has been (and I quote) "a significant dispersal of learning activities and emphasis in the school."

There is a clearly observable evidence of diminished seriousness of purpose and attention to mastery of skills and knowledge—in the schools, the home and the society generally."

The panel pointed its finger specifically at automatic grade-to-grade promotions, grade inflation, the lowering of the demand levels of textbooks and the reduction in the requirements of homework. In consequence "There has been a marked diminution in young people's learning motivation."

That is a diagnosis with which I will not quarrel. But that still leaves us with the question of why there has been a diminution in young people's learning motivation, why the educational system has succumbed to such things as grade inflation, automatic promotions and lowering levels of textbooks and teaching materials.

Here we must beware of putting all the blame on teachers, whether in lower schools or colleges. The problem goes much deeper than that.

Look for a moment at some of these specific causes mentioned—automatic promotions, the giving of inflated and undeserved grades, making the textbooks less challenging. All of these things reflect widespread conceptions about the nature of democracy—or, to my way of thinking, misconceptions about democracy.

Out of our well-intentioned and

rightful desire that a society such as ours should offer, as much as is humanly possible, equal opportunity to all, we have come to think it means equality of result for all. That is, because a democracy such as ours requires that every young person have the right to go to high school, he also has a right to graduate from high school—regardless of his capabilities or his diligence.

In many colleges there has been a war against any kind of grading. The philosophy of this is that we ought not to distinguish between excellence and mediocrity, and especially not record anyone's evidence of failure. Democracy means everyone is equal, does it not? Then how can we permit our educational system to say that some are not equal to others in their performance in English or history or math?

This misconception pervades not only our educational system but much else in our society. We do not like to admit that all persons are not born with equal powers and faculties. If we do, what then of that declaration of our democracy that all men are created both free and equal?

Part of the problem is that the whole question of educational standards has gotten tangled up in the civil rights issue. The argument here is that it is

wrong to require the same standards in educational performance of those who are disadvantaged by their past economic, social or racial background as for others not so handicapped.

Fortunately, there are some faint signs that this attitude toward education is changing. Among blacks there are voices being raised to say that their own people are being cheated by reducing educational standards to a dead level of mediocrity.

Dr. Prezell Robinson, president of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, has been in the forefront of those proclaiming excellence as the only right goal for black education.

There are only a few faint signs. Whether they will mark the beginning of a different public attitude toward education, I do not know. I can only hope.

For if we are to improve education, if we are to have schools that teach Johnny to read, if we are to halt this decline in College Entrance Board scores, if we are to raise the average level of skills of college students, we must first have a change in the public attitude.

And changing that attitude is not just something for the educators but for all of us, especially those of you here assembled.

### As Others See It

#### Tobacco's Road Green With Envy

Greensboro Daily News

Put this in your pipe and smoke it: North Carolina, the world's leading tobacco producer, would experience economic disaster if its tobacco farmers and workers suddenly fell on hard times. Yet that is precisely what might happen if the anti-smoking lobby gets its way.

Now don't get us wrong. We agree that it's a little inconsistent, to say the least, for government to conduct an anti-smoking campaign with one hand while providing federal price supports for tobacco growers with the other. The dangers of smoking to public health are well-known, and they must be recognized.

But that doesn't mean government can or should attempt to stamp out smoking altogether—a costly and thoroughly unrealistic goal. Nor does it entitle government to preside over the severe dislocation of one of the South's most lucrative agricultural enterprises.

North Carolina with its tobacco connection, is fast becoming a kind of domestic Israel: Embattled, isolated and misunderstood. It cannot forever count on the old tobacco alliance in Congress to prevail. Compromise is the only way out.

The Shelby Daily Star

Our friends in Lincoln and Gaston counties will pardon us, we hope, if we exhibit traces of being green with envy over their recent industrial acquisitions.

Lincoln County has broken ground for a new Timken Roller Bearing plant. Gaston County apparently has landed a Freightliner Truck assembly plant near Mount Holly, although the firm hasn't yet said for sure that the plant will go on that site.

Both Timken and Freightliner represent the kind of diversification that the entire state needs, but which we in this area need even worse.

Down East, industrialization of almost any kind is welcomed as a relief from the pressure of a tobacco-oriented economy.

In the Piedmont, there is a better mix in the economy, but we, too, are still overly dependent upon industries such as textiles and furniture.

#### Large Families

I believe in large families. Every woman should have at least four husbands. —Zsa Zsa Gabor.