

The Warren Record

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BIGNALL JONES, Owner and Editor

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Give To Foundation

Several years ago a small group of local people found John Graham High School football players engaging in the game without adequate protection afforded by good equipment, and the school athletic department deeply in debt for what equipment it did have.

This group founded the Warrenton Boosters Club and with around 200 members at \$10 each, managed to pay off the debt, buy good equipment, and a bus for the transportation of the athletic team. They have subsidized the coach, put athletics in the John Graham School on a sound footing, and were instrumental in having a gym built here which has not only served the physical education program of the school, but has proven of general worth to the school and the community.

But laudatory as the Boosters program has been, there are many persons in the school district who are genuinely interested in the John Graham School, but who feel that athletics are being overdone. For this reason they refuse each year to buy a Boosters ticket and show no enthusiasm for the construction of the physical education building. In their refusal to buy Boosters tickets, some of those persons have been rather vocal about the needs for scholarships and a general improvement in the scholastic attainments and opportunities given the children. Well now these persons have an opportunity to practice what they preach.

The Boosters Club has incorporated a Foundation for Better Education for

the John Graham High School, the Mariam Boyd and the Nathaniel Macon schools. Having incorporated the foundation, the Boosters Club has stepped out of the foundation picture as an organization, although many members will support the foundation because of their interest in the schools.

Money donated to the foundation will be handled by the school officials, and will not be used for athletic programs. It will be used to subsidize the salary of the principal, and other key personnel, perhaps. If funds are available it can mean in some instances the difference between an exceptionally able man or woman, and an average man or woman. It can mean the difference between a well equipped laboratory and a well stocked library, and even possibly the employment of a good librarian or an extra teacher.

There is no doubt that the educational program of the state will help the John Graham school. But it will not help it relatively. The community is still too small to pay supplements through a tax levy as do many of the better schools. If the Warrenton district schools are to make real progress, additional money is needed.

We hope that not only members of the Boosters Club, but that all others interested in the district schools will make a donation to the Foundation for Better Schools. Checks may be made to the Foundation For Better Schools, and addressed to the Foundation for Better Schools, Warrenton.

Deserves Thanks

The thanks of Warren County citizens in general and of the Warrenton School District in particular are due to W. R. Drake, chairman of the district school committee, for the fine planning and smooth operation of the Education program here and at Macon last Wednesday.

The program was as near perfect as one could hope to attain, and the occasion one of the most enjoyable events ever staged in Warren County, with not a single incident to mar the occasion.

Warren County was honored in having Governor Sanford, Dr. Graham and Dr. House visit here, and seldom have three men of such calibre been on a Warren County platform at the same time. The great pity is that more of our people did not take advantage of the opportunity of hearing them. Not only were the principal speakers notable men with a record of fine accomplishments, but among the alumni here to honor the late John Graham were a number of distinguished men. That more of our citizens were not present for the occasion was the loss of those who failed to attend the exercises.

But one must wonder, with some feeling of dismay, the genuine lack of interest in quality education as demonstrated by lack of public attendance at the exercises. The occasion had been advertised as Education Day, and two noted educators were on the program, and both talked on education. The man whose principal plank in his platform was and is the improvement of our schools, and who happens to be the Governor of North Carolina, and as such deserving of the courtesy of an audience, failed to receive the audience to which he was entitled.

The State of North Carolina can tax our people to the limit of their ability; fine buildings may be erected; the best teachers employed, and we will fail to reach our goals of a first rate educational system unless our people back the educational program.

More people were present at each of the high school football games on Friday night than were present to hear

MOSTLY PERSONAL
By BIGNALL JONES.

The progress of people is measured in time as the only real measure of progress, and thus we do not say that the North and West are smarter than the South, but that the South is ten years behind the rest of the Nation. This does not, of course, mean that all northern and western people are smarter than all Southern people, for it is quite obvious that this is not the case. There are those who would deny that the South is behind the rest of the nation, but every index of progress, literacy, per capita income, high school and college graduates, books read, etc., are against those who hold this view.

Anthropologists, in their study of the history of the races, point out that while a savage may be possibly a thousand or more years behind enlightened man in cultural development, significantly they say that a thousand years can be bridged in a generation through education. Even here most people know of many cases locally in which an underprivileged and lowly person has managed to obtain a good education and seen this person, if not in one, in two generations, reach a high economic and cultural level. Some time ago The Readers Digest carried an article about a child being found in the Andes mountains and brought back home by a scientist. This child's parents, according to the article, were living in the Stone Age. Given a fine education, the child revealed a high IQ, and became an excellent scientist.

Even in this country, the pioneers of only a few hundred years ago, mostly illiterate, offer a picture of evolution. The great mass of these people were violent, they drank heavily, fought with savagery, with knives, gouged an opponent's eyes out, bit noses and ears, and showed in many other ways a lack of refinement. Lawson, in his History of North Carolina, tells how the pioneers would go into the woods and capture an Indian, as if he were a wild animal, and sell him into slavery. Some men has said of the pioneer women

that they should be praised for their virtue and their stamina, for they not only had to endure the rigors of a savage land, but also had to endure the pioneers.

Shaw in his Pygmalion develops the theme of betterment through education, as he has a girl taken from the gutter, trained to the point where she became a "lady." Incidentally, it was from this play that the great stage play, "My Fair Lady," was developed.

One may go to the jungles of Africa, to some remote sections of South America, or to some isolated islands, and find today inhabitants who have not even developed the wheel. If left alone these people may continue their existence for a thousand years before some one learns how to build a wheel, the beginning of mechanical development. But if some of the people are taught to read and given a drawing and description of a wheel, they could build one. This illustrates how in one particular education can bridge a thousand years in a generation.

There are a number of people who deeply love the South, and are proud of its heritage and its many virtues. But they are seriously disturbed by its relative lack of progress. They believe that the poverty of the South is due to the ignorance of the South, and they preach education as a solution.

In an effort to bring North Carolina to the national level, Governor Sanford has inaugurated a program of quality education for the state, and his program has received the support of our people. A believer in the value of education, I determined to support

Sanford Sanford for Governor when I heard him tell a small group here that his main plank would be better schools. I have had no occasion to regret this decision.

But as long as the sales tax on food is considered an unjust hardship and unfair tax on our people, as long as our people count only the cost and can not or will not see the goal and the necessity for the program; as long as our people are not willing to sacrifice for their children; as long as the worth of a school is judged by its athletic teams, and the rare student instead of the general average; as long as we put community pride ahead of quality education, we are apt to find ourselves footing the bill without any commensurate gains.

Beckwith Funeral Held On Saturday

Funeral services for Miss Winifred Wilson Beckwith were held Saturday at 3 p. m. from the First Presbyterian Church with burial in the family plot in Cedarwood Cemetery. The Rev. John M. Walker and the Rev. Stanley White officiated.

Miss Beckwith died at her home in Roanoke Rapids on Thursday morning of last week after an illness of several months.

She was born in Lexington, N. C., and was a graduate of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina. She had lived for a number of years in Plymouth, Pa. The major part of her life was spent teaching in Shelby, Greensboro, and Roanoke Rapids.

Surviving are one brother, Dr. R. P. Beckwith of Roanoke Rapids; two nephews, James P. Beckwith of Warrenton and Dr. R. P. Beckwith, Jr., of Richmond, Va.; and one niece, Mrs. Sam T. Gregory of Scotland Neck.

Charles M. Roper Dies At Durham

HOLLISTER — Funeral services for Charles Meredith Roper of Hollister were conducted Saturday at 11 a. m. at the Holloman Brown Funeral Home in Norfolk, Va., with burial in Rosewood Park at Norfolk.

Mr. Roper, 40, died at the VA Hospital in Durham on Thursday morning of last week. He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. James Overby of Norfolk, Va., and Miss Susan Roper of Hollister; one son, Charles M. Roper, Jr., of Hollister; one brother, Albert C. Roper of Norfolk, Va.;

and two grandchildren. Mrs. J. J. Nicholson, Jr., and little son of Pinetops will be weekend guests of Mrs. J. J. Nicholson of Macon. Miss Harriet Gillam of Virginia Beach, Va., was a weekend guest of friends here. Mrs. S. A. Robinson of Lincolnton was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Williams.

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Governor Sanford tell how North Carolina schools may be improved, or to hear his views on this pressing matter, or to hear our own Bob House pay tribute to a great educator and suggest how the lessons he taught may be of value in bettering present day schools.

They are the facts; each one may draw his own conclusions.

NEWS OF FIVE, TEN AND 25 YEARS AGO

Looking Backward Into The Record

October 12, 1956

The Warrenton Tobacco Market will reopen Monday morning following a two-day holiday on all bright leaf markets to permit redrying plants to remove a glut.

The C. C. Granger Company of Henderson opened a store in the Perman building on Main Street Monday.

District Boy Scouts will hold their fall camporee at Kerr Lake this coming weekend.

Owen Smith of Raleigh has been employed by the Board of Education as architect for a Negro elementary school to be built near Nolina.

October 12, 1951

A million dollars is needed by Warren County schools, W. B. Terrell, school superintendent, told members of the local PTA this week.

Amos Harmon, a 4-H member, told the Warrenton Rotary Club members Tuesday night how the Rotary Pig Chain gave him a start in the pig business.

The Wise PTA will sponsor a square dance at the school building next Friday night with Norman Ball's musicians furnishing the music.

The annual Boy Scout drive will begin in Warren County on Monday morning.

October 9, 1936

The Warrenton Telephone Exchange will switch over to the dial system on Tuesday morning at 6:30 o'clock.

The Warren County Fair, which opened on Monday morning under the sponsorship of the Warrenton Lions Club has been well attended and the number of exhibits have been varied and large.

The Warren County Memorial Library will make its annual canvass for funds next week.

The Littleton football team opened its season at home last Friday night with a 26 to 0 victory over Weldon.

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