

The Warren Record

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Gaston Lake Development

A number of years ago when the building of Gaston Dam was in the discussion stage a group of Warren and Halifax County citizens met with VEPCO officials at Littleton. At this meeting Vice President Hutchinson and other company officials painted a rosy picture of what the development of the lake would mean to Warren County.

More than five years later as one visits the development on Lake Gaston at the opening of another season, one knows that VEPCO officials did not exaggerate at the Littleton meeting. If anything the picture they gave was under painted. No one single thing has done more to halt the economic decline of Warren County and to start it on its upward climb than has the creation of Gaston Lake.

As a result of building this lake, millions of dollars have already been added to the tax base of Warren County, and many of the developments are just getting started. Millions of more dollars will

be added to the tax valuations within the next few years and many people are making their summer homes in the county, and a surprisingly large number of persons are making homes on the lake their all-year residences. Industries are beginning to come into Warren County and the influence of the lake on the decision to locate industries in Warren is a great factor.

Not only is Gaston Lake a great drawing card to the county but the fishing, swimming, boating and picnicking makes the county a much more attractive place for all the county's inhabitants.

With the decline in population checked, with a fine factory employing men assured, and chances for other industries bright, with a continuing rise in the economic base, Warren County is headed upward.

One of the best tonics we know for new faith and new hope for Warren County is a visit to the many developments on Gaston Lake during the spring.

For Campus Order

The Christian Science Monitor

There is no longer any excuse—social, political, pedagogical, or theoretical—for college authorities, city officials, or the police to allow rioting, vandalism, terrorism or just plain nastiness to continue on campuses of higher learning. The time has come for a decisive, final crackdown on terroristic, as distinct from legitimate and constructive, protest has come. Such activities must be brought to an end. And, there is reason to believe, if college and university officials are not strong enough and wise enough to do this on their own, the public will step in and do it for them.

Happily, there are signs that the era of weak-kneedness and bootless shilly-shallying on the part of some institutions of higher learning is drawing to a close. Harvard University has had arrested five outsiders who have been arraigned on charges of disrupting a classroom. And there is a gradual move towards similar action on some other campuses. But in far, far too many cases youthful destructionists are still being allowed to trample on the rights of the great majority of students and faculty who merely wish to get on with education.

Highly significant is the overwhelming public support for strong and decisive action on behalf of campus order. More than four out

of five persons questioned by the Gallup Poll believed that students who break laws during demonstrations should be expelled and stripped of federal education loans. And the surprising—and gratifying—thing is that more than seven out of every 10 persons aged 21 to 29 think the same.

This is a powerful public mandate and demand to end once and for all the lawless, destructive permissiveness which has enabled small groups, both white and black, to terrorize campuses and withhold from the majority its civil right to education. It is also a warning that there are vast numbers of Americans who might quite easily support strong outside, off-campus intervention wherever a college or university showed itself unable or unwilling to take the needed strong steps to produce lasting order. The situation must not be allowed to reach such a point.

We repeat what we have often said in the past, none of this should mean a stifling of legitimate and reasonable student protest or request. It could be a great gain for society that so many students are now concerned with the quality and the circumstances of today's higher education. Such interest should be fostered, listened to, and where reasonable, followed. It would be a tragedy if violence were to create an atmosphere where intelligent protest was no longer welcome.

Man Above Mandate

The Smithfield Herald

One of the myths of American politics is the belief that a President can hardly be a strong leader if he does not go into office with a clear and resounding mandate from the people. Many of us have wondered whether Richard Nixon has much promise of achieving a successful administration since he is to become a "minority President," having polled only 43 per cent of the votes cast in the November 5 election and having run only slightly ahead of his closest rival, Hubert Humphrey. On second thought, after "leaping through the history books," as the Christian Science Monitor phrased it, editors have begun to give Mr. Nixon a good chance of rising above mediocrity.

The Christian Science Monitor reminds us that Thomas Jefferson was a minority President. So was Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson when they began their first terms in the White House. Harry Truman, no weakling, failed to win a majority of the popular votes. John Kennedy ran ahead of Richard Nixon, in 1960 by only 112,000 votes, but he became a strong President even though the assassin's bullet deprived him of opportunity to fulfill his presidential aspirations.

The Christian Science Monitor also reminds us that "massive mandates can fade away." President Lyndon Johnson scored the greatest landslide victory in presidential history when he defeated Barry Goldwater in 1964, but his popularity dwindled as his administration bogged down in Vietnam and became a nightmare, despite some creditable accomplishments which future historians will not likely overlook. General U. S. Grant entered the White House acclaimed as a war hero. He is still remembered as a general, but nobody can cite a single notable achievement of his presidential administration.

The myth has been that an incoming Pres-

ident needs a clear and resounding mandate from the electorate, and such a mandate undoubtedly benefited some men who served as President. But the reality is that the man in the White House is more important than the mandate at the polls.

Richard Nixon is not doomed to presidential mediocrity by his narrow victory at the polls on November 5. Whether his destiny is mediocrity or greatness will depend on human qualities. As the Christian Science Monitor concludes, Mr. Nixon "will be judged by the caliber of his appointments, by the wisdom of his advocacies by his ability to persuade and enlighten, and by the skill of his appeal to Congress."

Democrats, Republicans and supporters of George Wallace should join in the hope that Mr. Nixon will be a strong President and an effective President, a President who leads the nation to sensible solutions to the pressing problems at home and abroad. We should not regard him as "the Republican President." He is to be "our president," as Hubert Humphrey reminded us in his graceful acceptance of defeat.

Quotes

"I'll not listen to reason... Reason always means what someone else has got to say." — Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell.

Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war. — Herbert Hoover.

The average man goes to church six times a year and has attended Sunday School for two afternoons and can sing half a hymn. — Stephen Leacock.

Letters To Editor

WRITES FROM JAIL

To The Editor:

Due to circumstances that are not pertinent to the letter, I find myself confined in your local jail. However, I would like to take the time to give some praise where praise seems due.

I have found your sheriff, Mr. Davis, to be an honest and capable officer. The only indignity and lack of privileges that he inflicts upon the people in his care are the ones dictated to him by the established law.

Mr. Pegram, his jailer, is qualified and efficient at his job. The jail is clean and well run, and no inmate, regardless of his length of stay, would suffer any nutritional harm.

In this era of rats, sit-ins, and great confusion, it is reassuring and gratifying to find people who still believe in the Constitution and, what's more important, work to defend and preserve it.

ARTHUR SIEMNER
Warrenton County Jail
Warrenton, N. C.

REPLIES TO EDITORIAL

To The Editor:

Judging from the number of telephone calls your librarian has received, the Warren Record editorial of April 3, 1969, has given the Warren County Memorial Library a lot of publicity.

Not that we need any publicity, as the State Library Supervisors, who travel from Murphy to Mantoo, have rated us as one of the best small libraries in North Carolina. As you may not know, the State pays for all of our books and periodicals and heartily approves our methods and schedule of operations.

Our esteemed editor appears to be the only one around who doesn't know the Library hours. In spite of his accusations, we have NEVER closed at four o'clock. I can't imagine who gave him the false information as the sign on the door clearly states 4:30.

Students are in the Library five days a week, coming directly from school at 3:15 or 3:20 with their text books and their lists. They browse, ask questions, search and generally find a book or several books on the required subject. Thus, the more than an hour after school is ample time to transact library business. On a busy day your librarian has checked out new books and old books to the amount of 98 in the hour before closing with each student on his way well before closing time.

Louisburg College students, as well as those from other colleges and universities, regularly check out books at our library. Several of the professors at Louisburg College have sent messages to your librarian via their students to the effect that many of the books at the local library are not obtainable in Louisburg. A lady from Louisburg recently spent the whole day going through our genealogical records.

The head librarian from the Henderson Library recently visited us at the suggestion of some of her patrons. While looking around, she made notes of numerous titles from our new books, which the Henderson Library did not have.

Many Warren County citizens, as well as those from various other cities and towns, have expressed the belief that the Warren County Memorial Library is a vital, growing,

expanding source of information and education in this community.

Your librarian knows as well as any other parent, that Saturdays were not made for study unless it is to make up a day of school on account of bad weather and even that is not considered a satisfactory solution by the great majority of teachers and students.

MRS. I. DANIEL,
Librarian

Personal

By BIGNALL JONES

Last week Duke went down to the jail to take a picture of officers pouring a quantity of moonshine whiskey down the drain. He said that the odor of the whiskey almost made him sick, and we both wondered how people can drink the stuff with its evil smell, and any lack of official standards in its manufacture, knowing that the mash in the open barrels often is a trap for flies, ants, rats, maybe an o'possum, or what have you, and that often the whiskey is poisonous because of the metals used in its manufacture.

Actually, we have been informed that some people like moonshine whiskey better than the legal brands, claiming that it has much more "authority". However, persons telling me this always qualify their statement. They say they like it better if it is made in a copper kettle and aged. Most moonshine whiskey is neither made in a copper still nor is it properly aged, and from that I have smelled since the end of prohibition I can't understand how one can swallow it.

The chief appeal of moonshine whiskey, I suppose, is that it is cheaper and its principal users are those with limited funds but with the same appetite for alcohol as the affluent. During the days of prohibition when intoxicating beverages was a little more trouble to obtain by strangers, many persons drank hair tonic and distilled canned heat for its alcohol. Sometimes they died from drinking wood alcohol.

I don't suppose that today's moonshine is any less poisonous or smells any worse than it did during prohibition when a surprisingly large number of people of all ages were drinking this type booze, bought in half-gallon jars from bootleggers or in pint bottles from service stations. I have seen persons holding their nose as they swallowed the concoction and I have seen them mix it with Cokes so that they could swallow it and I have seen the mixture pitched back the moment it hit the stomach, and I have seen others drink the same booze and smack their lips.

The damage to stomachs and the drunkenness that almost invariably followed the drinking of moonshine was not all the harm done during the years that Herbert Hoover called the "Noble Experiment," when those who knew the harm of alcohol tried to abolish its use through prohibition of its manufacture and sale. It bred disrespect for law and finance organized crime and its evil creation still lingers with us. Its evils were not confined to the large cities but the disrespect for law touched many of those in the small towns and rural areas.

The pouring of whiskey down the jail drain last week recalls the capture of a tremendous still in the twenties, during the years of prohibition, and the

History Of Town Commissioners

By BIGNALL JONES

Routine matters were before the board of Town Commissioners at their regular meeting on Jan. 3, 1915.

On Jan. 26 the commissioners had a called meeting, the purpose of which was to have the town charter amended. The minutes fail to state what changes the commissioners wanted, but it was ordered that Mayor Allen go over these changes with attorney J. H. Kerr and to report as soon as possible his recommendations and his charges.

The commissioners met again in called meeting on Jan. 27 to discuss an engineering proposition with Mr. White concerning survey for water and sewage for the town. Mayor Allen appointed W. G. Rogers and H. A. Moseley as a committee to meet with Mr. White that night and complete the contract.

At the regular meeting on Feb. 2, 1915, the committee appointed to meet with Gilbert bringing of some 500 gallons of moonshine whiskey to Warrenton where it was stored in the jail and ordered to be destroyed following a hearing of the still operators who were sentenced to the penitentiary. But that whiskey was never poured down the drain but was poured down the throats of a surprisingly large number of Warrenton citizens, including court officials and law officers.

The stature of limitation has run out and all of those who perpetuate the hoax on the law are now dead, so the story may now be told.

After all it was simple. A few highly respected citizens carried the custodian of the whiskey as many empty fruit jars as there were jars of whiskey, and empty jars were swapped for full jars, and for months there was no shortage of whiskey among a certain group in the town. This, of course, could not have been done without a bit of connivance on the part of those elected to enforce the law.

Looking back on the lawlessness and hypocrisy of prohibition, I can recall cases where a person was arrested for violating the prohibition laws by a drinking officer, tried by a drinking judge, prosecuted by a drinking solicitor, jailed in a bastille kept by a drinking jailer, when he was not freed by a drinking jury. And the public knew this and acted accordingly.

White, Civil Engineer, reported that Mr. White would complete his contract in typewritten form and submit same to the board. Among the items of cash received was \$3.00 from the sale of a street lamp. The sanitary condition of the town was reported fair.

J. H. Kerr appeared before the board in reference to amending the charter and read the different amendments. Action was deferred until a future meeting.

A called meeting was held at the office of J. H. Kerr on Feb. 18 when changes in the town charter were approved and Mr. Kerr was instructed to have a bill introduced in the General Assembly making the changes. One of these changes was to have authorization for water and sewage bond made in 1911 in amount of \$50,000 changed to \$75,000.

At the regular meeting on March 2, 1915, the board ordered that Mr. Scott, Civil Engineer, be paid \$18.50 for making a survey and map of the Town of Warrenton. The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday night, March 9, in order that Gilbert White, Civil Engineer, might meet with the board.

Mr. White was unable to be present at the adjourned meeting of March 9 and at a second adjourned meeting on March 12, but was present at a meeting on March 16, 1915, when he gave the commissioners the information they requested concerning water and sewage for the Town of Warrenton.

Following Mr. White's report, Commissioners C. R. Rodwell made the motion that led to the establishment of a water and sewage system for the town. His motion was seconded by H. A. Moseley and unanimously carried. Mr. Rodwell's motion was that "Pursuant to chapter 269, Private Laws of 1911 and amendments thereto; and as provided in section four thereof, that an election be called and that there be submitted to the qualified and registered voters of the Town of Warrenton, by the Board of Commissioners of said town, the proposition to issue bonds in the sum of \$50,000 for water and sewer system in said town; that said election be held, pursuant to said laws, on Tuesday after the first Monday in May, A. D., 1915."

At the election of May 17, 1915, voters of the town approved the \$50,000 bond issue for the construction of a water and sewer system for the Town of Warrenton. The vote was canvassed at a called meeting of the board on May 18, 1915, and showed the following results: 100 voted for the bond issue; 23 voted against the bond issue. One hundred and thirty-four voters were registered.

The board elected J. Willie White as registrar for the election. J. Ed Rooker and C. C. Hunter were named poll holders.

The action of the board in the adjourned meeting was confirmed in the regular meeting of April 6, 1915, but the motion to have the bond issue was withdrawn and re-phrased in language to meet legal requirements of bond attorneys.

At the regular meeting of the board on May 4, 1915, the commissioners canvassed the results of the town election on May 3, which revealed that the mayor and seven commissioners were re-elected with each receiving 75 votes. John W. Allen was re-elected mayor. Commissioners re-elected were A. D. Harris, W. G. Rogers, Frank Seris, W. H. Riggan, C. R. Rodwell, H. A. Moseley, and W. N. Boyd.

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Warren Honor Society Participates In Meeting

Twelve North Warren High School students and Mrs. V. J. Gatling, advisor of Excelsior Chapter of the Crown and Scepter Honor Society at North Warren, participated in the 38th annual Convention of the Crown and Scepter Honor Society on Saturday, March 29, G. H. Washington, principal, announced this week. The convention was held on the campus of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh.

The theme for the convention was "The Black Man: Past, Present, and Future." The guest speaker was Dr. Boniface I. Obichere, Professor of History at the University of California at Los Angeles, a native of Biafra.

Workshops were held in the areas of the Black Man of the Past, the Black Man of the Present, the Black Man of the Future, and the Necessary Changes in the Public Schools.

After lunch, campaign speeches were given in the Emory Health and Fine Arts

Center with Miss Linda Johnson of North Warren presiding. Miss Barbara Jean Hunter won the honor of being elected state assistant secretary of the CSC. Miss Mattie Jordan acted as her campaign manager.

Mary Coleman had the distinction of winning a trophy for capturing second place in the talent show which followed the installation service. Her song was "Bless This House."

Washington said that special recognition goes to Larry Boyd, Richard Coleman, Darryl Boyd, Mary Coleman, John H. Bullock, and Nancy Brown for helping with the campaign posters and transportation.

Students attending the convention with Mrs. Gatling were Barbara Hunter, John H. Bullock, Nancy Brown, Darryl Boyd, Linda Johnson, Mattie Jordan, Gwendolyn Hunter, Veronica Anderson, Mary Coleman, Mattie Jordan, Arthur Bullock, and Warren Baskets.