

The Warren Record
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What Will Rate Be?

While an amendment to the special act of the Legislature to establish the Town of Warrenton as a special school administrative unit did not kill hopes of voter approval, it did serve to damage hopes of approval in the town election of July 1.

The original bill provided that the town commissioners be authorized to levy a tax of not more than 50¢; the amended version of the bill, which was enacted, provides that a

tax of not less than 50¢ shall be levied. This, in effect, grants the board the authority to levy an unlimited tax.

The provision is unique as all other acts imposing a tax in a referendum that we can recall requires a limit on the amount of tax to be levied. The purpose of the amendment, it was stated, is to test the good faith of the town in providing money for an improved educational system.

Valuations Rise

Tax valuation figures following a new revaluation of real property in Warren County and showing an increase of more than 50 per cent, comes as good news to Warren Citizens reflecting the growth of the county, and allows new hope to property owners who were disturbed by a rise in the valuation on their property. The increase in property valuations should mean a considerable reduction in the tax rate for the 1969-70 fiscal year. It should

also make the job of the commissioners somewhat easier as it should mean more money in the general fund, previously limited by a maximum tax for this purpose.

While much of the increase is due to a rise in prices reflecting an inflationary trend, a great deal of it is due to developments on Gaston Lake, which is expected to further increase as building on the lake is accelerated.

The Call For More Negro Students

The Carolinian (A Negro Newspaper)

Among the demands of the Students for Democratic Action at the various universities, is one calling for an increase in the enrollment of Negro students, or more popularly "more Negroes." Last week, thirty-seven students held a quiet demonstration amid shouts of "nigger go home" from some white students to push for more Negroes at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

This demonstrating group of students had information that the University of Florida had admitted only 98 fulltime Negro students in the past fifteen years.

Currently, there are more than 19,000 students at Florida's biggest state university. Only 49 of them are Negroes, enrolled on a fulltime basis, while 50 others are enrolled only part time.

The 30 - minute afternoon demonstration by the Negroes was held in front of Tigert Hall. Most of the Negroes wore black shirts and carried black placards lettered in white: "The University of Florida is 99.5 Per Cent White" and "end Tokenism."

While the demonstration was taking place, some 50 white students gathered around the Negroes and heckled them.

What happened in Florida has happened many times in other states at other state universities. Although the doors for enrollment are open to students of all races at all formerly

white state universities, only a few Negroes are enrolled. First, only a few Negroes actually apply for admission and academic standards.

There is a reason why many Negro students cannot gain admissions into the formerly all-white state universities. They cannot pass the entrance tests, because they are the products of more than a century of school discrimination.

Since we have been advocating integration in our schools, it would seem that student demonstrators would face the facts. They should not want a university to accept a lot of Negroes just to say more Negroes are enrolled. Perhaps the demonstrating slogan could have read: "Let's push for enrollment of more high-risk students on an experimental and undergirding basis."

Instead of a campaign for more black studies, protestors should call for community action on tutoring and undergirding of black students who need to be strengthened so that they can enter any universities on a par with other students. Certainly, black students should not want any institution to accept the unqualified entrance applicants.

A first - class student begs no special favors with regards to the enrollment of more Negroes because he realizes that he wants to be treated as first-class. All protestors should remember this.

A Nation On Wheels

Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

If you thought that there was an additional car and driver pushing you on the way in this morning, you were right.

It was the 100 millionth motor vehicle on American highways.

Actually, there may be more than this number of vehicles in service. Estimates are of 83 million passenger cars and more than 17 million trucks, buses and tractors. For the first time in history, there is one vehicle for each two persons.

Motor vehicles traveled a trillion (1,000,000,000,000) miles on American highways last year, or more than the equivalent of two million round trips to the moon. Federal and state governments took in 3 billion dollars in fuel taxes and almost that much in other excise taxes.

America's shift from a rural to an urbanized society has created something of a paradox. The need for additional vehicles would seem to be in the wide open spaces, and not so much in the cities, where mass transportation is available. Yes, the reverse is true. So many vehicles pour into the core cities daily that there must be some means sought to curb congestion.

It is not enough to build superhighways to get more automobiles—with one driver to each car—to their jobs or to places of recreation. There has to be more emphasis on mass transportation. There have to be better city highways and channelized interchanges as long as so many Americans insist upon going everywhere on their own "wheels."

Some engineers have used slide rules and computers to figure that, on a linear foot basis, automobiles are being built quicker than highways are being constructed for them.

At the rate America is going, one day an automobile will come off the production lines and take its place on the highways — and the highway puzzle will be complete. This car could

be the last piece. Everything would be locked in place. Nothing could move.

Summertime

Commercial Appeal (Memphis)

As we recall the Ira Gershwin lyric to his brother George's song, "Summertime," this is the time of year when the living should be easy. Hal

For all practical purposes it is summertime, and the grass has to be mowed every week or 10 days. The outdoor chores which you could get out of when it was cold, windy and wet demand attention—especially due to the prodding of wives, who don't forget you said you would do them when the weather was nice.

The house needs paint. The shrubs need trimming. It's time to clean out the clutter in the garage. It's a good time to fix the roof and lay a patio. Dig up the multiplying flowers and move them. Build the wall you've been talking about since Thanksgiving.

So much for the easy living myth.

Quotes

"Where your will is ready, your feet are light."—Herbert

"Pressed into service means pressed out of shape."—Frost

"Where liberty dwells, there is my country."—Franklin

"Stone walls do not a prison make—Nor iron bars a cage."—Loveless

Mostly Personal

By BIGNALL JONES

For the past several months I have been digging through the minutes of the town commissioners covering a period of from 1891 through 1916, for a series of articles which have appeared in The Warren Record from time to time as space permitted.

The series was activated by a belief that a history of the town would be revealed in the action of the town commissioners. I think this has been true. Sometimes I have felt that the purpose had become too complicated and often I wondered if the series had any interest to our readers many of whom had no recollection of the men whose deeds I recorded for the public. It was a bigger job than I anticipated and, naturally, I grew tired of it and sometimes wondered if readers were not tired of it, too. However, I have been pleased with favorable comments from our readers, many of them relatively young, and hope that the efforts have been worthwhile.

Our family moved to Warrenton in the spring of 1909 and naturally I remember many of the events recorded and the men concerned with the events as town commissioners. Later, as a newspaperman, I was to attend many board meetings where several of the commissioners mentioned in the series were still serving in this capacity and I had known many others who had no longer served, among whom were Mr. Frank Rose, and Mrs. A. D. Harris. Memory is a tricky thing and I am afraid I remember the foibles of the commissioners better than I do their accomplishments. I remember Mr. H. A. Moseley chiefly for his discussion of hay for the town's horse and I remember Mr. Frank Seris as the commissioner who almost always moved for adjournment, accused in part by his desire to get home in time to hear Amos and Andy over the radio.

Letter To Editor

IN DEFENSE OF WARREN COUNTY

To The Editor:

Just a word in defense of Warren County from a native and lover of the county. There has been so much publicity stressing "poverty and backwardness," let's look at it from another angle.

I think living conditions are much improved. Just one item: there were no paved roads in my day, no electricity in the countryside. But without these conveniences, it was such a lovely existence.

The countryside was so beautiful. Reedy Creek, Fishing Creek and all the "branches;" the woods full of dogwoods and stately trees. Of course, I have not lived there for the last fifty years, but I still think of it as "home" and not a backwoods section.

I am the daughter of the late Peter Powell and granddaughter of Morgan Powell.

NANNIE POWELL DAVIS
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 Buffalo, N. Y.

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Our next door neighbor, Mr. Will Davis, was a rural mail carrier and kept two horses as well as a couple of cows in a large stable located just across the street from the home of Mr. Seris and now understandably objectionable. I remember Mr. Seris' complaints to the commissioners and his largely unsuccessful efforts to have legal steps taken to have the stable removed. That, too, is understandable as there were many other stables in the town and some of these were owned by some of the commissioners.

During the nineties two Negroes served on the town board. They were John M. Ransom and John S. Plummer. When we moved to Warrenton the Ransoms operated a carriage factory about where the Warren Theatre is now situated. I suppose that John M. Ransom then worked there but I never knew him, but later knew his brother, or possibly his son, Jimmy, who was the town's Negro undertaker, who was well thought of by both white and colored.

John S. Plummer, long active in and for many years state president of the North Carolina Colored Volunteer Firemen's Association, was a successful business man of the town, and operated a livery stable on a large parcel of land next to the old Graham (now Horne) property on Front Street. When we came to town he lived in the house across the street from the J. Boyd Davis home, next to the Hendricks building. He operated an ice house in the basement of the home, having ice shipped in by rail in large blocks and retailed by the pound. He was a man of dignity and courtesy and was respected both for his accomplishments and his character. He was the father of the late Baker Plummer, well remembered here.

So far as I can learn from the minutes of the town commissioners he and Ransom both served well and without incident on the town board. Both were removed from the board in the "White Supremacy" campaign in 1899, when the Negroes were disfranchised.

Seventy years later, if I may digress, the Town of Chapel Hill on Tuesday elected a Negro as its mayor and several Eastern North Carolina towns elected Negroes to the boards of com-

missioners, which may be an indication of things to come.

At the same time that Ransom and Plummer were serving on the Warrenton town board, Mansfield Thornton, a Negro, was serving as Register of Deeds for Warren County, a position which he held with such competency that he won a commendation from the Warrenton Bar when he was forced out of office when the Negroes were disfranchised. I learned to know "Uncle Mansfield," as we called him, fairly well in later years. He was quiet, dignified and capable and quite a remarkable man. I wish that someone would write a history of this man's life, which should not only be an inspiration to his race, but to the white race as well.

When we came to town, as a small boy I had no concern with either the town or county government, and knew nothing about Negroes having served on the town board and as Register of Deeds. I have never heard until this day much about the fact that Negroes once served on the town board, but I did from time to time hear references to Mansfield Thornton's serving as Register of Deeds, usually in a tone of deep gravity and as a justification for the disfranchisement of the Negro.

Thornton was elected Register of Deeds, or so I have always heard, as the result of a deal between Negro and white leaders. With no restrictions on the vote and the vote the Negro in the majority, things looked bad for the "white supremacists." Because the Negroes had a majority of the voters it did not necessarily follow that they could elect all the office holders, but in the Republican party and led by whites, the danger was there. The men of those days may have been prejudiced, but they were highly practical, so they agreed to permit the Negroes to have one office in the court house under promise of no fight for the other offices. The lesson here, I think, is that in a day when the colored people were far less capable, white and colored leaders were able to meet to discuss their problems and work out a compromise with which they could live. That lesson should be just as applicable today.

Changes To Be Made In Farm Storage Program

Changes will be made in the farm storage and drying equipment loan program effective May 30, according to W. S. Smiley, chairman, Warren Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

The changes are being made in order to slow down the rapid acceleration of the program and reduce Government expenditures as an aid in the fight against inflation, Smiley said.

The changes will affect applications approved by the county committee after May 29, 1969. Farmers who have unfilled applications which can be completed should file them immediately if they wish the county committee to take action on them before May 30.

Bullock Funeral To Be Held Friday

Funeral services for Mrs. Leah F. Bullock, 77, will be held at 2 p. m. Friday at Greenwood Baptist Church by the pastor, the Rev. Kermit Richardson.

Mrs. Bullock, the widow of the late Lemuel Bullock, died on Tuesday. She was a life-long resident of Warren County and had been a member of Greenwood Baptist Church since childhood.

Surviving are two daughters, Mrs. Susie Cotten and Mrs. Lena Williams of New York City; three sons, John Ferrell Bullock of New York City, Henderson T. Bullock of New Jersey, and Daniel Bullock of the home; and 10 grandchildren.

Stegall Funeral Is Held At Macon

Funeral services for Mrs. Jessie Finch Stegall, 79, of Route 2, Macon, who died Monday, were held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the Macon Baptist Church by the Rev. Grady Haynes. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery.

Surviving are her husband, Jack C. Stegall; two daughters, Mrs. Billy Perkinson and Mrs. M. J. Kyriasis of Newport News, Va.; five sons, Milton of Portsmouth, Va., Willard of Norfolk, Va., Julian of Warrenton, C. B. of Macon and Malvin Stegall of Elon; two sisters, Mrs. Ray Hicks of Henderson and Mrs. George Adams of Newport News, Va.; and four half-sisters, Mrs. Hunter Ellis of Kittrell, Mrs. Sadie Thompson of Macon, Mrs. Lizzie Dickerson of Henderson and Mrs. Laura Halthcock of Winston-Salem.

Gaston Eliminated By Vance County

Gaston, which eliminated John Graham with two straight wins to become champions of the Roanoke Baseball Conference, was in turn eliminated in district play by Vance County at Norlina on last Friday afternoon.

After tying the game in the fourth inning, the Vance High Cougars pushed in the winning run in the last half of the seventh frame to edge previously unbeaten Gaston 3-2.

The triumph gave Vance the 1-A District III high school baseball playoff title and earned a berth in the Eastern 1-A championship semifinals.

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