

# The Warren Record

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## Census Figures Offer Challenge

Preliminary census figures showing that Warren County's population is only slightly more than 15,000 is very disappointing to many of our people who had hoped that the checking of emigration from the state since 1967 would be reflected in a check of population loss in Warren County. In spite of a boost to the economy through the development of Gaston Lake, such has not proven to be the case and the population figures are actually more than 400 less than had been predicted by experts for 1970.

With the creation of an industrial committee and the levying of a 5¢ tax for the promotion of industry, the location of a large furniture factory here, and other industries expected, plus the continued development on Gaston Lake, leaders of the county feel that at long last the turn has been made and hope is expressed that the population of the county will show an increase before 1980, when projected figures are for 12,370.

But certainly nothing dictates any let up in efforts to obtain more jobs for Warren County people, and if Warren County is not to have further decay in its economy and probable loss of some of its essential facilities then the combined efforts of our county and all of

our towns, and all of our people, black and white must be forthcoming.

Warren County is fortunate in its location and is a natural for sites for many expanding Piedmont industries, plus the recreational facilities offered by Gaston Lake. But these natural advantages can be nullified unless our people demonstrate that the county offers a favorable climate for industry, unless our people are willing to expend their energy and their money to provide a great many jobs for our people.

It seems to us that Warren County has now reached the point where it has no choice but to grow or die. Unless a great many more jobs are provided and a great many more people induced to come to Warren County it could well be that the projected population of slightly more than 12,000 could become a reality in ten short years. One does not have to be a Jeremiah to realize that the county could not operate effectively with only 12,000 people. It could mean the loss of our hospital, and with it little or no hope for doctors; it could mean higher taxes, a decline in the calibre of our schools, and a weakening of its ability to attract industry. In short, it is something that Warren County people can not afford to let happen.

### A Story Of Hate And Love

## Two Black Men And A White Boy

By JACK WILLIAMS

In The Chapel Hill Weekly Steve Turner, 13, of Eden, N. C. used to shoot basketball for hours every day and dream about the time when he would come to Chapel Hill and work magic like his heroes in Carolina blue.

"Basketball always has been Steve's first love," says his mother. "He watches every Carolina game on television and then he goes out and tries to make the kind of shots that Charlie Scott makes."

But Steve Turner isn't playing any games these days. He is locked in a different kind of struggle as a patient in the intensive care unit at Memorial Hospital here.

Two weeks ago on a playground near his home, Steve was playing basketball when he was savagely attacked. A man forced Steve into the woods and tied the boy to a tree. Steve was beaten and then, in an act of horror, his clothing was set on fire.

Steve suffered severe burns on his face back and legs. He was rushed to Memorial Hospital. This week, as doctors prepared for the first of a series of operations on Steve, the boy's mother searched for ways to lift his spirits.

"What would you like more than anything else?" she asked him.

"I'd like to have Charlie Scott come to see me," Steve replied.

University officials got in touch with Scott and arrangements were made for him to visit Steve on Wednesday afternoon. Someone got the signals crossed, however, and when Scott arrived at the hospital, he was told that he could not enter the "burn ward" where Steve is a patient.

But Charlie didn't give up. Through a University official, he got in touch with the boy's mother and arranged to make another visit that evening. "You'll never know how disappointed Steve was this afternoon," Mrs. Turner said. "He waited and waited for you. And when you didn't come, he said to me, 'I'll never have faith in anyone again. I knew Charlie wouldn't come.'"

But now Charlie had come to the bedside of Steve Turner. The little boy was asleep when Charlie entered the room.

"Wake up, Steve," said his mother. "Look who's here. It's Charlie Scott."

Steve awoke and, gripping a strap above his head, managed to turn from his stomach to his back. A big smile crossed his face when he saw Charlie.

"You look just like you do in your pictures," Steve said to Charlie.

"Oh, you mean I'm just as ugly as I am in my pictures," Charlie said, smiling.

"No, that's not what I mean," Steve said.

The two basketball players then engaged in a lively conversation.

"I saw you make that shot in the Regionals against Davidson," Steve said. "I almost jumped out of my skin when it went in."

"Well, I hope you didn't see me the next week against Purdue," Scott said. "I didn't play so well that night."

"Yeh, I saw that one on television, too," Steve said.

"Do you pull for the Tar Heels?" Scott asked the little

boy. "Oh, yes, all the time," said Steve. "I've always pulled for Carolina."

Scott autographed a picture of himself for Steve and handed the little boy a Carolina Basketball Bluebook. "You're going to play in Washington now, aren't you?" the little boy said to Scott.

"Yes, I hope you can come to see me play," Scott said.

"Oh, I will," replied Steve. Steve's mother and doctor thanked Scott for coming and then Scott walked out into the night.

As Charlie headed for the parking lot, he said to a friend, "Why would anyone do such a horrible thing to such a nice little boy?" His friend shook his head, but didn't speak.

The significance of that brief visit in Memorial Hospital becomes all the more poignant when you consider that Steve Turner is white. Charles Scott is black, and so is the man who beat and burned the little boy.

## Boy Remembered By Heroes

GREENVILLE—Tim Hawks is eight years old. Because he has a bone disease he is now lying on a bed in Duke hospital in Durham.

During the idle hours in the hospital, the Norlina youngster has had lots of time to think about his favorite baseball team—the East Carolina University Pirates. His biggest wish was for autographs of ECU stars like Ron Hastings, Skip Taylor, Dennis Vick and Hal Baird.

He got his wish. One of the last things Coach Earl Smith's Pirates did before leaving for the NCAA District 3 Playoffs in Gastonia last Wednesday was to autograph a baseball for Tim. All 24 players signed it. "This is really going to make Tim happy," said ECU student James Hicks of Norlina, a close friend of the Hawks family who was going to deliver the ball to the hospitalized boy last Thursday night in Durham.

The Pirates, who recently won their third Southern Conference Championship in five years, became favorites of Tim because his older brother, Jack

Lee Hawks, Jr., is an ECU student.

Tim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lee Hawks of Norlina. Besides his brother, Tim also has two older sisters.

## Bible School To Be Held At Warren Plains

The Warren Plains Baptist Church will hold a Vacation Bible School from June 15 through June 19, from 7 to 9 o'clock each evening.

The school will be divided into three departments, beginners, primary and juniors. Commencement exercises will be held on Friday night, June 19, at 8 o'clock. The public is invited.

The Rev. Ted Fuson, pastor of the church, will be the principal of the Bible school.

Jean Francois Gravelot ("Blondin") made the earliest crossing of the Niagara on a 1,100-foot long three-inch rope 160 feet above the falls on June 30, 1859.

## Mostly Personal

By BIGNALL JONES

In a basket of unattended mail on my desk is a letter from the late Mrs. Charlotte Story Perkinson, a friend of many years who died at the home of her daughter in Newport News, Va., on May 27 and was buried at Wise on May 29.

The first notice I received of her death and burial was in a letter from her daughter, Mrs. Margaret Perkinson Black. Since no account of her death was carried in North Carolina newspapers and the funeral was conducted by a Norfolk funeral director, no notice of her funeral reached this paper, which I deeply regret. Mrs. Perkinson was a remarkable woman and a great woman and left her impression on Warren County to which she was deeply devoted and which she served to the best of her ability.

The letter with the check came in response to an article in The Warren Record concerning difficulties the library was having. She told of the organization of a Friends of the Library in Norfolk and suggested that a similar organization be formed at Warrenton, enclosing her check as a start. I contacted a leader of a woman's civic club who indicated interest, but weeks passed and then in the pressure of other affairs, I held the check.

No one could write a true history of Warren County in the twenties without giving considerable space to Mrs. Perkinson and her activities. She possessed much energy and much determination and no one ever questioned where Mrs. Perkinson stood on any public question. One remembers her interest in the schools, particularly the school at Wise, which was the first public high school in Warren County and in the Warren County Training School where Prof. G. E. Cheek was principal. I remember she once quoted Prof. Cheek as saying that he knew he could earn more money elsewhere but felt

## Mrs. Charlotte Story Perkinson Dies

Mrs. Charlotte Story Perkinson, 85, former feature writer for Norfolk, Va., and Raleigh newspapers, died on Wednesday, May 27, in the home of a daughter, Mrs. Samuel Black of 62 Rexford Drive, Newport News, Va.

She was the widow of Richard T. Perkinson and formerly lived at 4901 Colonial Ave., Norfolk, Va.

For many years Mrs. Perkinson made her home at Wise and was active in political, educational and civic affairs of the county. A bitter foe of whiskey, Mrs. Perkinson fought the liquor traffic with vigor but without malice and in 1928 was a leader in the fight against Al Smith, who in his race for the presidency advocated the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment.

With equal vigor she worked for better educational advantages for Warren County citizens, and was one of those who worked diligently for the establishment of the Warren

County Memorial Library and kept her interest in this library as long as she lived.

A native of Plymouth, N. H., she was a daughter of Joseph Clement Story, a lawyer and Dr. Helen Smith Story, a physician. Her health curtailed her formal education after high school, but she took courses in English, journalism and magazine writing and a year of law in Raleigh. She lived in Warren County, N. C., from 1907 to 1929 and in Raleigh from 1929 to 1938. She wrote a column in the Warren (N. C.) Record three years. She was a reporter for the Raleigh News and Observer and also did feature writing for many North Carolina Sunday newspapers. She also contributed articles to numerous magazines.

After coming to Norfolk from Raleigh in 1938, she curtailed her literary output. However, she won second prize in an essay contest of Norfolk Museum of Arts and Sciences with her "My New England Childhood." She also wrote on American cookery. Until the late 1930s, she was active in politics in North Carolina and worked for betterment of schools there. She was a delegate-at-large to the Democratic National Convention in 1928. Opposed to Alfred E. Smith, she organized the Women for Hull and helped to carry North Carolina for him. She was secretary of the North Carolina Society for Abolition of Capital Punishment

that he was performing a better service teaching his race carpentry. But what one is apt to remember most vividly about Mrs. Perkinson is the valiant if largely unsuccessful fight she waged against whiskey during the days of prohibition and her fight against Al Smith in a political fight that split the county open. One remembers that she would argue, she would differ, but then she would laugh. She fought issues but seldom engaged in personalities. She made enemies, some of them powerful, but never relented and never gave way to hate.

For several years she ran a column in this newspaper, sometimes differing with the views of this newspaper, and outside the paper differing strongly with the views of those who published it on the question of prohibition. Fighting the election of Al Smith she was opposed by the newspaper who was a staunch supporter of the Democratic presidential candidate. Familiar with the seamy side of prohibition, we felt that Mrs. Perkinson did not truly understand the issue. We worked with Mrs. Perkinson in her efforts for better schools, for the Warren County Memorial Library and for scores of other things she and we thought would make of Warren a better county. But on Prohibition we differed and differed strongly. We would argue, but without change in views.

Strangely enough, in spite of our differences over a major issue, we liked Mrs. Perkinson. I think she loved my brother, Brodie, and as long as she lived she maintained friendly relations with me. She always subscribed to The Warren Record, and from time to time would write to me commenting on some article she had read, and sometimes sending me a clipping or an occasional article for insertion in this newspaper. Usually on her infrequent visits to Warren County she would drop by the office for a visit.

The Reader's Digest once ran a series of articles, "My Most Unforgettable Character," and for all I know still runs the articles. Mrs. Perkinson was certainly one of my most unforgettable characters. She was a good and a decent person, a good and a true friend and I learned of her death with deep regret.

## Letter To Editor

TO THE COMMUNITY

To The Editor: The following article is addressed to the people of the community:

We are happy to know that there are a few folks who understand our efforts, or at least do not spread idle, misleading gossip which is not the truth. However, some folks will never learn the meaning of love, peace, truth, justice, or freedom. May God have mercy on all of us.

We would like for you to know that we have moved to our new office, second floor, at 117 W. Franklin Street, Warrenton. Telephones will be installed in the near future.

Please feel free to come in and look around and chat as we are getting "feedback" that community people have many questions concerning our commitment and efforts. We would appreciate your assistance as it is our community.

Thank you for your concern. JAMES E. SMITH, Volunteer Coordinator, J. Baker Plummer Counseling Service.

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ROSES  
N. M. HILLIARD, MGR.  
WARRENTON, N. C.

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