

The Warren Record

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BIGNALL JONES, Editor

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Loss Of Three Women

The tragic death of Mrs. Ola Hunter in an automobile accident here on Tuesday afternoon cast a pall of gloom over the town. Although Mrs. Hunter, the widow of the late Dr. Frank Patterson Hunter, was 70 years old, she was active and in full control of her faculties. The sympathy of the community also goes to young Billy Hunter, who was involved in the wreck and to his parents, who were friends of Mrs. Hunter.

Mrs. Hunter was a quiet, fascinating and attractive woman who numbered her friends among her acquaintances. She participated in all facets of the life of Warrenton and will be sadly missed.

Mrs. Hunter's death followed within the week the death of two other noteworthy Warren County women, Mrs. Lila Gardner Harris, 96 of Macon, and Mrs. Eva Allen

Watson, 95 of Axtell. Mrs. Harris had served as postmistress at Macon for 40 years and during her long life had made many friends, as had Mrs. Watson due to their friendliness and consideration for others and their strong personalities. Unlike Mrs. Hunter, these two good women had practically lived out their lives and both were in rest homes at the time of their death. In the natural course of events, in spite of her age, Mrs. Hunter would have been expected to live for many more active years and her friends regret that this was not possible.

We feel that those who knew any of these three women were fortunate for all left a rich heritage, and those who know all three were truly blessed. In their sorrow that they are no longer with them, their loved ones and friends can be grateful that they had them for so long.

Letter To The Editor

THANKS PEOPLE

To The Editor
We are turning to you again this year in an effort to publicly thank the people of Warren County for their generosity toward John Umstead Hospital. Operation Santa Claus. The local Mental Health Association, churches, schools, organizations, businesses, and individuals have again made it possible for us to lighten the lives of each of our patients with gifts, parties and contributions.

Without the kind thoughts and love of the people of Warren County, there would be none of the warm and gentle touch of home folks, for which the hospitalized person especially at this time of year.

We are deeply grateful to have such good friends throughout Warren County. We can only hope that more generosity is returned many thanks to those who have given, thoughtfully and heartily. New Year!

LEAH SIMON
Physical Therapy Service Department, Umstead Hospital, Raleigh, N. C.

L. J. PETERS, MD
Assistant Director, John Umstead Hospital

The World Of Books

In The Warren County Memorial Library

We have so many books on so many subjects that the best way to find what your library has to offer is to come in and look. For the inter and "after Christmas blah," we have numerous craft, handwork and bird books, and some older books, "Rape of the Taxpayer," Stern, "Manage Your Money and Live Better," Markstein, "How To Clean Everything," Moore, "Rights and Risks of Animal Ownership," Loring, "21 Day Shape-Up Program," Craig, hints on how to "work off" the Christmas cookie recipes from our cookbooks. Also poetry and escape novels to read with or without a fire.

NEW BOOKS "You All Spoken Here," Wilder (booklets first and second verse), "Your Dog," "Dogs, Devils and Demons," both by Louis Vine, DVM of Chapel Hill, "20th Century J. J.," Shriver, "The Working White House," by Haynes Johnson and Frank Johnston, an inside look into the workers in the White House, namely electricians, plumbers, etc. "My Heart Belongs," Mary Martin, "The Shepherd," Forsyth, "Steinbeck: A Life in Letters," "Past Forgetting Love After With Dwight D. Eisenhower," Morgan, "The Post Office Cat," Haley, for ages six through 10, "A Demon In My View," Ruth Rendell mystery, "Dostoyevsky: The Seeds of Revolt," a biography of Frank, paperback edition of "The Right and The Power," Jaworski, "Vester God, This Is Anna," Fynn, so touching that the author had to wait 30 years to write this true story.

MEMORIALS "Colonial North Carolina," Burney, from the Warren County Chapter of the U. D. C. for Miss Jennie Crofton Wilson.

Winners of the Conservation Department's Art Contest on display, an excellent way to be informed and view talent from our schools. Numerous reading books out on display.

We are planning to have a puppet show on a Saturday later in January, more details later.

OVERDUE BOOKS: PLEASE return all overdue books so that others may enjoy them. Books are the property of the library.

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Speaking of ailments, don't...

What book influenced Serrano the most? His bank book.

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J. H. Gatling stands for photograph beside old Edison cylinder-type phonograph at his home at Warren Plains.

Mostly Personal

Visit To Gifted Craftsman

By BIGNALL JONES

Readers of this column may recall that several months ago I recounted a dream of Mr. J. H. Gatling concerning his ability to jump over a stream of water. This past week, and I received a phone call from him concerning an old Edison phonograph for which he was to find a missing part. I went with his camera, and I rode out to the Gatling home at the Warren Plains. I was in good luck for what turned out to be a pleasant and remarkable visit and from which we returned filled with amazement and admiration for this remarkable 80-year-old man.

Sometime around 1910 my father bought an Edison phonograph from the late Thomas A. Shearin, who operated a jewelry store here for several years. This phonograph was cranked with a handle on its side and used cylinder records. Both are features of the phonograph about which Mr. Gatling inquired. The first phonograph that I ever saw was a Victor and was owned by Mrs. Annie Branch of Wilson and was played by her son Al Branch prior to 1905. Whether it used platen or cylinder records I do not know. It is a coincidence, I think, that Al Branch's father was Paul Branch, founder of Branch Bank and Trust Company which has recently opened a branch of its bank at Warrenton.

The phonograph about which

Mr. Gatling inquired is not his but belongs to a friend for whom he wishes to put it in operating condition. It is an Edison No. 15. The part that holds the needle is missing.

As we entered the home we noticed both of Mr. Gatling's bicycles, which he still rides frequently. Inside the house, we were taken down into a full basement which serves as Mr. Gatling's workshop. Here he has saws, miters, wrenches, many other tools as well as a power bench saw. His grand daughter, Sandra Wood Norwood, was staining a piece of furniture. Around the room were a number of chairs which Mr. Gatling had rebottomed.

As we were leaving the basement, Mr. Gatling showed us the way he had built the stairwell to the basement. He had iron beams clasped in wooden beams. As a result, he said, the floors never shake. He later told us that he had put wooden supports which the flooring planks joined and as a result there are no creaks in the floor.

For years I had heard that Mr. Gatling had a very nice home, but I did not know that he built it himself with the exception of the masonry work. I think that I have never seen a better built house. The home has large cedar lined closets, the basement ceiling is insulated; the lights have a multitude of switches where they will be more convenient. He was not only his own carpenter and plumber but was

also his own electrician.

I had no idea that he built his own home until something was said about his roof and I asked him if he built and covered that and he said that he did.

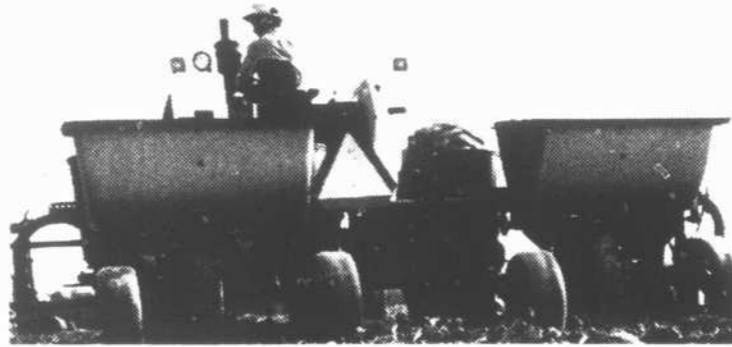
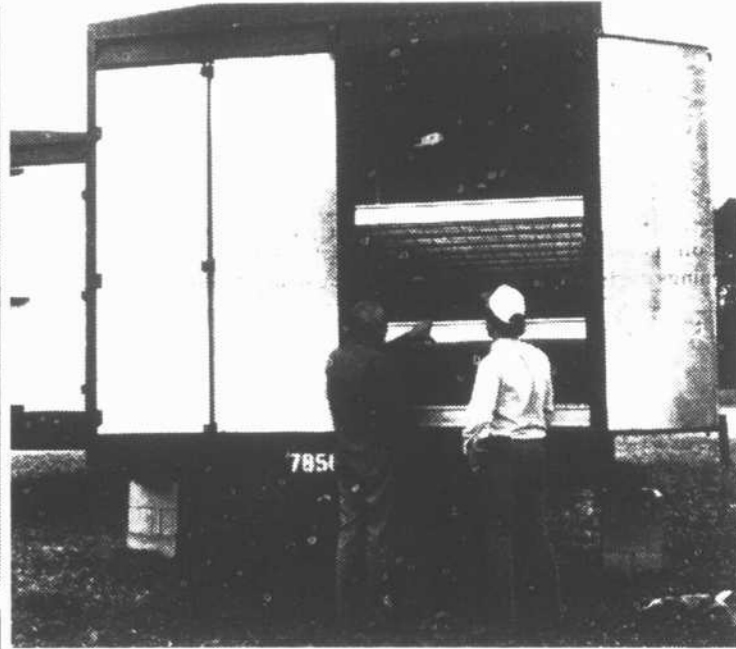
There are many versatile persons who seem able to do almost anything with their hands, and I have known several who were able to do so. The thing that impressed me about Mr. Gatling is not that he could do so many things, but the skill with which he performed whatever he set his mind to. I knew that in Chicago he was a master plumber and I would not have been surprised to find out that he was a craftsman in his field, but it was surprising to find that he was a perfectionist in other fields.

I thought as we left that I had been talking to a truly remarkable man. Don was also impressed. "When I get ready to build my own house," he said, "I surely would like to get Mr. Gatling to help me."

Wary Of Efforts

Some Alaskans who have lived by mining or hunting are wary of conservation efforts to enlarge the state's parks and wildlife refuges, arguing, "If you can't dig it, shoot it, or kiss it, what good is it?" "Look at it," is the answer conservationists give, reports National Geographic.

Average size of a Utah farm is 900 acres.



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