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Conservation May Fuel Interest In Warren Man's Invention

By BIGNALL JONES
A Warrenton man holds a patent on an attachment to an automotive engine which his tests have shown will not only cut the consumption of gasoline in half but will eliminate the emission from the standard engine that causes air pollution. The President's warning to the Congress of the United States last week that the world's oil supplies were being depleted and that America is facing a crisis, not only caused oil and automotive industries to

suggest relaxing governmental controls on the marketing of oil and the elimination of environmental considerations, but also caused older Warrenton citizens to remember that David Hight years ago had applied for a patent for a vapor engine and had used such an engine on a lawn mower for some time and that he and his partner the late J. T. Mitchiner had claimed that it greatly reduced the consumption of gasoline. The amount of gasoline used by a lawn mower was not a

great deal and its consumption would have very little effect on the sale of a lawnmower. In addition the supply of gasoline seemed inexhaustible in 1960 and its price was relatively low. There seemed at that time to be no great demand for a more economical lawnmower. But sixteen years and the Vietnam War has made a difference and today more efficient use of gasoline is essential. A visit to David Hight seemed in order. He talked freely of his discovery.

At the time that Hight made his discovery Economy Auto Supply was managed by the late J. T. Mitchiner and David Hight was the repairman in the mower repair department of the store. Hight was working on a lawnmower on a summer day around 1960 and had taken the covering off when he noticed that the motor would keep running from the vapors from a nearby oil tank. He recalls that when the tank was brought closer to the engine the engine would speed up and slow

down when the tank was moved further away. Hight was fascinated and called Mitchiner over to watch. For some time the two grown men were little boys again as they played with the lawnmower engine. And thus did David Hight invent his vapor engine, an engine that might well have revolutionized the automotive industry in less prosperous times. That summer day the two men playing with the lawn mower finally tired of playing

and resumed their regular duties. But when David Hight went home that night he could not forget the lawnmower running from vapors. In the next several days he fashioned a vapor instrument and fastened it to his lawn mower. It worked. Ordinarily, Hight said, it took two quarts of oil to cut his rather large yard. This time there was no pause to refill the gasoline tank. Finally the cutting of the grass was completed. This time David found that a coffee cup of

gasoline was sufficient to refill the tank. By now Hight knew that he had something, but he was not completely satisfied. He next fastened his vapor attachment to a farm tractor. Again it worked. He said he detached the ignition wires one by one until only one was left. The rear of the tractor was fastened so that it could not move, and yet the wheels continued to turn, digging into the earth as the engine ran on one cylinder. David commented this week

that a tractor will not run on only one cylinder as long as raw gasoline is the fuel. Hight had the idea, but not the money to patent his invention. He told Mitchiner that if he would pay the cost of patenting and marketing the vapor engine patent that he would split all profits. A patent lawyer in Raleigh was employed and sixteen years ago Hight received a patent on his invention. It has one more year (Continued on page 4)



These Warren County farm laborers set out tobacco plants behind a tractor driven by Raymond Seaman. Transferring the young plants on a farm near Axtelle are (left to right) John Durham, Amos Durham, John R. Bullock and Jim Durham. Mr. Seaman, who has 35 acres of tobacco land under cultivation, is one of many Warren and Vance farmers taking advantage of a week of warm weather to transplant tobacco. (Staff Photo by Don Stith)

Vance Will Get \$64,404 Monthly Increase

Benefits Hike To Add \$24,450 Monthly Here

An estimated 3,730 Warren County residents will receive an additional \$24,450 a month when they receive their Social Security or Supplemental Security (SSI) checks in July. Marie Brubaker, field representative of the Social Security branch in Henderson, said the increase will be the result of a cost-of-living hike in monthly Social Security and SSI benefits starting July 1. Approximately 7,137 residents of Vance County will receive an additional \$64,404 in payments, she reported. "The increase," she said, "will amount to 5.9 percent for most people getting Social Security and SSI income payments."

The Henderson office is located at 425 South Chestnut Street. The telephone number for Warren County residents is 257-2426. The cost-of-living increase will automatically be added to the July checks, Ms. Brubaker stressed, and it is not necessary for anyone to make application for the hike.

The increase in benefits was announced last week by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Nationwide, larger checks will be going to 33,400,000 Social Security recipients and 4,300,000 aged and disabled recipients of federal SSI payments. Approximately 2,500,000 persons receive checks under both programs. The average Social Security monthly benefit for an elderly couple, both of whom are on Social Security, will go from \$377 to \$400. The maximum benefit for a working woman retiring at age 65 this year will rise from \$422.40 to \$447.40, and the maximum benefit for a working man retiring this year at the same age will go from \$412.70 to \$437.10.

Security. Applications must be screened against central files in Baltimore to make sure that a second number isn't issued to the same person. Screening generally takes several weeks. More than nine out of ten jobs are now covered by Social Security, he said. Persons applying for a number for the first time may be asked to prove their age, identity and citizenship. "You can get information about applying for a Social Security number by calling, writing or visiting any Social Security office," Peraza said.

Nominations Submitted

Board Of Elections Makeup To Change

Political newcomers appear destined to control the Warren County Board of Elections following the appointment of a new board in June. The Warren County Democratic Executive Committee has nominated three persons who have never served on the Elections Board to take two positions on the three-member board. Warren Democratic Chairman Mrs. Eva Clayton said the three Democratic nominees are Mrs. Janice Crump and Mrs. Dorothy Pitchford, both of West Warrenton Precinct, and Mrs. Avis Bugg of East Warrenton Precinct. Their names will be submitted to the state party chairman who will make recommendations to State Elections Secretary Alex Brock. According to state statutes, a list of three names from each political party are submitted to each respective state party chairman who in turn presents the names to the State Elections Board secretary. The names are then chosen by the state board secretary with the majority of members reflecting the party in power at the time of the appointments. Last year, with a Republican administration, two of the county elections board, Mrs. Ada Johnson and Leland Gottschalk, were Republican appointees. Gottschalk served as chairman, while Kenneth

Severance was the lone Democrat on the board. This year, Warren Republicans have told their state party chairman that they want Mrs. Johnson to receive foremost consideration for a seat. County GOP Chairman John Hawkins said Mrs. Johnson was his party's first choice because of length of service. Next in line would be Gottschalk, with Ms. Charmaine McKissick a third choice. Appointments to the board will be made by the State Board of Elections on June 7.

Sale Of License

Tags Will Begin Here On Monday

Mrs. Roy P. Robertson, clerk at the municipal office of the Town of Warrenton, has been appointed a North Carolina License Agent and will open her office in the Warrenton municipal building on May 2. Her office hours will be Monday through Friday from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Mrs. Robertson, who is taking a refresher course in Raleigh this week from Monday through Thursday, has had five years experience as a license agent, serving in this capacity from 1968 through 1973 when she was secretary of the Warrenton Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Robertson was recently encouraged by the commissioners to apply for the position in recognition of the need for an automobile licensing office in Warrenton.

Democratic Women

Will Gather Here

The Second Congressional District Workshop for Democratic Women will be held at the Warrenton Depot in Warrenton on Tuesday, May 3, beginning at 10 a. m. A very informative program has been planned and the Warrenton Woman's Club will cater the luncheon. Those planning to attend must have reservations in by April 28. A check should be sent to Mrs. B. G. White, treasurer, Warren County Democratic Women, reports Mrs. L. C. Cooper, publicity chairman.

Board Of Adjustment Grants Variances On Tuesday Night

Variances were granted in the town's zoning ordinances Tuesday night at a called meeting of the Warrenton Board of Adjustments. Permission was granted for a fish market to be operated in the Jasper Johnson building on South Front Street, and a permit was granted the County of Warren to use "School Days," the former Allen home on Cousin Lucy's Lane, as an office building. Jasper Johnson, owner of the building on South Front Street, appeared before the board on behalf of Johnnie Pitts who asked that he be permitted to operate a fish market in the part of the building formerly used as a pressing club and later as a Watkins Center. Johnson said that Pitts had

retired but that his doctor had said that he ought to carry on some business. Thomas Watson, chairman, presided over the meeting and called for a discussion. Other members present were Mrs. Richard Hunter, who acted as secretary, Charles Fitz and Kenneth Mustian. L. B. Henderson was absent. Fish markets were not mentioned in the town ordinance, although at least two are being operated in the town. Charles Fitz motioned that Pitts be permitted to operate a fish market in the Johnson building since A&P located a fish market on an adjoining lot and to deny him a permit would be a hardship. His motion was seconded by Kenneth Mustian. Mrs. Hunter voted against granting the variance and Chairman Watson avoided a tie by voting in favor of allowing the fish market to

be operated. No one appeared in opposition to granting a variance. Chairman Walter P. (Peete) Jones and Commissioner Jack Harris appeared before the board with County Chairman Charles Hayes, who acted as spokesman. Hayes told the board that the county planned to use the former Allen home as office building in which office space would be supplied to all agricultural agencies in the county, plus offices for the Warren County Historical Society and the Warren County Historical Association. He asked that a variance in the zoning law be granted. Again Charles Fitz made the motion that the variance be allowed and a permit issued to use the former Allen home as an office building. Kenneth Mustian again seconded the motion and

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Red Carpet Treatment Given Visiting Board

Warrenton rolled out the red carpet Sunday as the board of directors for North Carolina Easter Seals met for the first time ever at Warrenton. The meeting and luncheon was held at the depot. Dewey F. Beame, a member of the board, presented a \$25,000 check to the board during the meeting. The money will be used for rehabilitation and upkeep of Camp Sertoma in Winston-Salem, a summer camp donated by the Sertoma Clubs of North Carolina for handicapped children. Beame, a Cherryville businessman, has donated monies for other Easter Seal functions before. "He has no children of his own, and prefers to spend

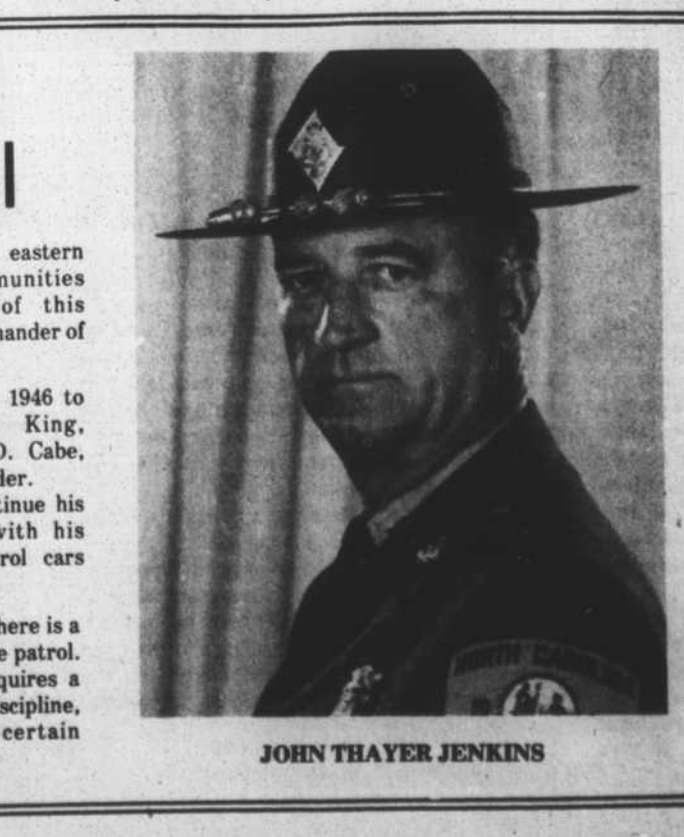
his money on projects like this," Mrs. Anna Butler, president of the N. C. Easter Seal Society, said. The Warrenton Woman's Club catered the luncheon enjoyed by approximately 55 people. The Warren County Historical Society provided a car and Mrs. Luther Lee and Mrs. Mary Hinton Kerr led tours around Warrenton for wives of the visiting board members. Mayor W. A. Miles welcomed all the guests to the town. Mrs. Butler presided over the meeting. The group discussed long-range plans for continued development of some 343 acres of land at the site of Camp Sertoma. "With the completion of Camp Sertoma, we have one in the east, and one in the western part of the state," Mrs. Butler noted. Handicapped children from throughout North Carolina are eligible to attend the summer camp sessions, and are often sponsored by local civic organizations. Counselors and directors are hired during the summer months. A ranger checks on the camp in the off-season.

Governor Taps Deputy's Son From Warren To Head Patrol

Gov. Jim Hunt has tapped the son of a former Warren County deputy sheriff to command the North Carolina Highway Patrol. The new patrol head is Capt. John T. Jenkins, a native of Macon and a 29-year veteran of the Highway Patrol. Jenkins was born in Macon in 1922, the son of the late James T. Jenkins and Mrs. Julia Jenkins Hanna. His father, then a resident of Littleton, was appointed a Warren County deputy sheriff by the late Willis J. Pinnell and given the oath of office on June 5, 1950.

Following Sheriff Pinnell's death in office, Deputy Jenkins was reappointed by Sheriff Roy Shearin and took the oath of office for a second time on Dec. 4, 1950. He served as a deputy sheriff here until his sudden death on Oct. 10, 1954. The new patrol commander was educated in the public schools of Macon, Littleton and Enfield. During World War II he won five battle stars in the European Theater while serving as an army sergeant in the 79th Division. Jenkins joined the Highway Patrol in 1947 and was promoted to captain in 1969. He

has served in several eastern North Carolina communities and at the time of this appointment was commander of Troop "C." Jenkins, married in 1946 to the former Addie King, succeeds Maj. Jack D. Cabe, acting patrol commander. He said he will continue his practice of riding with his troopers in their patrol cars periodically. He said he believes there is a need for discipline in the patrol. "I think everybody requires a certain amount of discipline, and they expect a certain amount," he said.



JOHN THAYER JENKINS