

# The Warren Record

Published Every Thursday By

Record Printing Company

P O Box 70 - Warrenton, N. C. 27589

BIGNALL JONES, Editor

Member North Carolina Press Association

ENTERED AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE  
IN WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA, UNDER THE LAWS OF CONGRESS

Second Class Postage Paid At Warrenton, N. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:	
In Warren and adjoining counties	Out Of State
\$ 6.50 Per Year	\$ 8.50 Per Year
\$ 4.00 Six Months	\$ 5.00 Six Months

## Value Of New Districts

With the certification Monday by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners of the Hawtree and Inez Fire District all fire districts covered by the Warren County Rural Volunteer Fire Department and its auxiliaries will have been certified, and as soon as the Wise and Inez Departments have been approved as to their equipment by the Warren County Fire Commission and approved by the state, insurance costs in these two districts are expected to take a considerable discount as they have in other certified fire districts of the county. According to A. A. Wood, Fire Chief of the Warrenton Rural Fire Company, approval of the two districts by the Fire Commission and the State Insurance Department is a routine matter and expected to be given in the next few weeks.

The act of certification Monday marked the completion of a goal of the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department not only to provide rural citizens of Warren County the best fire protection possible, but in the process to lower insurance rates charged rural inhabitants for fire insurance. This is a continuing

goal, and Fire Chief Wood said Monday afternoon that extension of fire hydrants along water lines in northwest Warren County would greatly aid the firemen in their work.

As an illustration of how certification of fire districts reduces fire insurance rates, Wood said it was the cause of a \$200 annual reduction in the cost of fire insurance on the Warrenton Country Club. Wood, like other firemen frustrated by lack of funds at times to buy needed equipment, remarked that if the property owners in the certified districts had donated just the first year's savings on fire insurance premiums, the fire companies would have plenty of money. A gleam of hope came into his eyes, as he suggested that when the insurance costs drop in the Inez and Hawtree Fire Districts it might be a good time for rural property owners to reflect on this.

The Warren Record is happy to be able to use the act of certification of the districts as an opportunity to recognize the years of devoted service by a fine body of men who make up our rural volunteer fire departments.

## Principal Has Principles

In The Durham Sun

We nominate Victor V. Langston of Millbrook High School in Raleigh for this basketball season's MVP (Most Valuable Principal) Award.

Langston merits the honor because he stared almighty athletics squarely in the eye and didn't blink.

When he learned that eight basketball players had cut class on a recent morning, the principal unhesitatingly

forfeited Millbrook's game that night with Northern Durham High School.

"It's an unfortunate situation, with the team winless and badly needing a victory," he explained, "but rules were broken."

That's telling it like it is, as the sportscasters say.

By doing so, Langston proved just how valuable he is -- a principal with principles.

## How To Reach Heaven

In our parish the pastor celebrates a special Mass for preschoolers once a year. Adjusting his height and his thoughts to the little ones, he kneels for the homily. This year he talked to the children about being good and going to heaven. At the end of his sermon the pastor asked, "Where do

you want to go?" The little voices shouted out "Heaven!" Father then asked, "And what must you be to get to heaven?"

Without hesitation, a loud chorus yelled, "Dead!" The rest of the congregation broke up. - Marian Chao in Catholic Digest.

## News Of 10, 25 And 40 Years Ago

### Looking Back Into The Record

Jan. 14, 1971

Jim Elam, center on the John Graham High School football team, was recently chosen on The News and Observer's All-East Football Squad, it was learned here this week.

Albert Seaman of the Ridgeway community received the top count award for highest yield of soybeans at a luncheon sponsored by the Ralston-Purina Soybean Processing Plant at Raleigh and Warren Feed Mills of Norlina at the Warren Plaza on Wednesday of last week.

Seaman produced a net yield of 34.6 bushels per acre on a 3-acre plot.

The Board of Town Commissioners at their regular meeting Monday night rescinded a town ordinance forbidding the Sunday sale of beer within the corporate limits of the Town of Warrenton.

Jan. 13, 1956

A Ford Fairlane automobile with a Thunderbird engine will be given away to the holder of the lucky ticket on Monday, Jan. 23, at 2:00 o'clock, Roger Limer, chairman of the ticket committee of Limer Post of the American Legion, said yesterday.

The retail value of the car is \$3,216.00, Limer said.

Walter Fredric Robertson of Rt. 1, Littleton, has been nominated by Congressman L. H. Fountain as first alternate to take examination for admission to West Point Military Academy this year, a wire from the Congressman's office on Tuesday night stated.

The average price per pound for aromatic tobacco grown in North Carolina this year was 80 cents per pound.

Jan. 10, 1941

Cold weather over the week end the first two days and nights of this week resulted with Fleming's Pond being covered with several inches of ice.

Congressman John H. Kerr is in Washington attending the 77th session of Congress, which opened on Monday.

The Citizens Bank of Warrenton paid its stockholders their annual dividend on Monday of this week. The amount of the dividend was \$6.00 per share of stock.

Three recruits returned with Company B, Warren County's military unit, to Fort Jackson, S. C. last week.

The new men who left here to join up for service with the 120th Infantry are Wylie Washington Edwards, Lee Alex Wortham and Wilbur Arthur Hester.

## Mostly Personal

# 'The Fat Of The Land'

By BIGNALL JONES  
Some forty or fifty years ago when most of the better farmers of this and other counties were growing most of their food, I read a book entitled "The Fat of the Land," the author of which has long been forgotten. In this novel a family leaves the city, as I remember, and returns to the farm, where its members enjoy fresh eggs, milk, butter and real cream, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables in season, and truly lived on "the fat of the land."

I don't know when I had thought of this old book before, but on last Friday Frederick Williams, a retired farmer and gin-ner, living on his ancestral acres near Inez, was in the office and remarked that he did not have a cow, a chicken, or a mule on his place and added "we used to farm with 16 mules."

In the days recalled as a result of Frederick's visit, Locust Grove, the Williams plantation, not only had cows, chickens, a large garden and plenty of labor to work it, and grape vines as well as many mules, and was one of the largest cotton producers in the county, but had its own gin. There were many other smaller self-sufficient farms in Warren County, where owners "lived at home," and sold surplus eggs, butter, and some vegetables at Warrenton, and after purchasing the few items they could not grow on the farm, built this surplus fund into a nest egg, that led to many of them lending money to business men in the towns.

However, these farmers were in the minority, and I remember one summer day, sitting on the railing of the front porch of Mr. George Scoggin's home and talking with Chancellor Bob House of the University of North Carolina about the needs of the state, particularly Eastern North Carolina, and hearing Bob mention the number of farms in the section without a milk cow, almost in the same tone that one would describe an illiterate as one who could not even write his name.

Mrs. George Scoggin was Bob House's sister. He attended school at the John Graham Academy here and later married Hattie Palmer of Warren County, and in later years I got to know him pretty well, and to greatly appreciate his friendship. I don't know how long I have known Frederick Williams. It seems to me that around 1914 as I was visiting William Davis on the Davis farm near Warrenton, that Frederick and the late Kearny Thompson came to a pond on the Davis farm where William, Van and possibly Boyd Davis and I were swimming. But I could have just as easily have met him at Shady Grove Sunday School, then located near Park Town, and of which "Cousin Johnnie" Davis served as superintendent.

A few nights ago I was listening to the "MacNeil-Lehrer Report" on Channel 4, when a reference was made to the quality of production in the "good old days." The charming panelist from Boston remarked that only the best from products of those days remained, and she suspected that many shabby products were also produced. And looking back to those days described in "The Fat Of

The Land," one knows that a more accurate description for most of our farmers would be a time of sweat and toil, and abandonment of the farm by thousands of farmers children who sought an easier way.

Mules began disappearing from Warren County farms with the invention of the small tractor, and the concentration of tobacco culture, just how many are left in the county is not known, but I doubt if a third of the farms have any mules on them. Also gone are the wagons, the roadcarts, the steers as draft animals, the cradles of my boyhood, with which wheat was still cut, and shocked and later threshed with a thresher powered by a steam engine. Also gone are the professional ditchers, well-diggers, the blacksmiths, and the cotton pickers, and the cotton that provided jobs for so many poorly paid unskilled persons.

Cotton was a beautiful and a romantic crop, suitable perhaps for slave

labor. At one time in my recollection 18,000 acres of Warren County lands were devoted to the crop. The last I remember seeing was being grown in the Elberon section of Warren County. A half dozen or more black women and children were chopping cotton in a two-acre or more field. I looked and I knew that there is no way that a man with a hoe can compete with a man with a tractor. I also knew that the South's philosophy of cheap labor was to keep us poor.

A few days ago I heard a man blame high prices for automobiles on labor unions, a rather common view in this vicinity, and one touched upon that night in the "MacNeil-Lehrer Report." Here management was blamed for most shoddy goods, and as to trained and skilled labor, it was pointed out that 70 per cent of Germany's labor force belongs to labor unions, and that lifetime jobs are guaranteed to all Japanese workers.



STICK 'EM UP—There's room for eight skewers stacked with goodies in WearEver's Kabob-It, an appliance which makes kabob-cooking easy and convenient.

## Age-old cooking method is perfect for party foods

Entertaining at home in the '80s will see a heightened interest in both nutritional and economical food values and a renaissance of one of the oldest known cooking methods, kabobbing.

The '80s hostess will turn wholesome foods from all nations into informal or elegant appetizers, main dishes, side dishes or desserts.

With WearEver's Kabob-It, time-tested kabob cooking has been updated to meet the eating styles of the '80s and the desire for unusual party foods.

If you can thread a piece of food on a skewer, you can probably Kabob-It. Kabob-It combines convenience, easy-care and sleek design with the ability to cook traditional and ethnic skewer delicacies indoors. The unit consists of maize-

colored thermoplastic base, eight skewer assemblies symmetrically located around a vertical heating element, and a PYREX® brand glass cover through which you can view the kabobbing process.

Operating at 1000 watts, the Kabob-It is an energy-efficient small appliance. With moderate use—once per week—you can operate the Kabob-It for an entire year for only \$0.65, based on an average utility rate of 5c per KWH.

The "SilverStone" surface drip tray, removable drip cup, and a self-cleaning, non-smoking heating element make cleanup minimal. Complete with 24-page recipe and instruction booklet containing recipe suggestions from all nations, the Kabob-It—the hot hors d'oeuvre/meal maker—retails at a suggested \$49.95.

## Letters To Editor

MISINFORMED  
To The Editor:

In the December 31, 1980 issue of The Warren Record, you printed an article written by Talmadge Edwards, Jr., questioning in particular my positions as member of the Warren County Commissioners. The Area Mental Health Board, and The Council of Governments. In his article, Mr. Edwards raised the question of dual office holding. I am responding to his question.

On August 22, 1973, an opinion on the question of a county commissioner also holding a position as a member of an area mental health board and/or a council of governments board was issued by James F. Bullock, deputy attorney general. A copy of this opinion is enclosed. You will note that the positions other than county commissioner are "ex-officio" and, as such, do not constitute dual office holding but are extensions of the commissioner position.

It is odd that Mr. Edwards would bring the matter up. When I was appointed to the mental health board, Mr. Talmadge Edwards, Sr. was a Franklin County Commissioner and also a member of the mental health board.

Could it be that Talmadge Edwards, Jr., needs to do his homework more thoroughly or to leave free-lance writing to someone who will???

WALTER J. HARRIS  
Chairman,  
Warren County Board of Commissioners,  
Mental Health Board and Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

pressure but counselling those persons with high blood pressure and educating the public in ways to prevent this disease.

My problem is this: in counselling and educating the public of the risk factors of high blood pressure I hit a snag when it comes to exercise. I know we have a small town but does that have to stop us from developing a public park and recreational area?

There are several viable civic groups for both men and women in Warrenton, the majority of whom are young to middle aged adults. This is the age group who should be interested in not only maintaining their good health but promoting physical activity for the prevention of hypertension, heart disease, obesity, and all other conditions which go along with lack of physical activity.

It is difficult to encourage the public to exercise for their good health when we have nothing to offer adults or young adults, or even young people outside school P.E. programs.

I have seen the different civic groups in action when it comes to raising money for dances, festivals and the like. If they all joined forces, just imagine what type of public park and recreational area they could put together!

We all would gain if we direct our attention to promoting biking, jogging, walking, calisthenics and recreation in a joint community project. It may sound like a dream, but folks, high blood pressure, or the effects of it can be a nightmare.

ANN COPLEY

### PRESSING NEED

To The Editor:  
I have been employed by the state of North Carolina and by the citizens of Warren County for two months. I work at the Public Health Department, in the Hypertension Program. My job is not only taking blood

### Holiday Guests

Holiday guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Powell were their son J. C. Powell and fiancée, Giner Pittenger of Richmond, Va., also Mrs. Frances Harrell and children, Dodd, Linda and Forest of Archdale, N. C.

## Good Luck

We're making a wish that all our valued patrons enjoy a very joy-filled year... all wrapped up in health, happiness and lots of love. Sincere thanks to our special friends for their support!

### Warrenton Furniture Exchange, Inc.

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Visit your nearby First Citizens office for complete details about CHECK with INTEREST 5 1/4% NOW Accounts. CHECK with INTEREST lets you earn money while you're writing checks. And that's pretty hard to beat. At First Citizens, North Carolina's most convenient bank.

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