

The Warren Record

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A Job Superbly Done

A fire here late last Wednesday afternoon destroyed the old Warren Theatre building causing an estimated loss of \$100,000 to its owner J. T. Fleming, as the flames threatened a block of building.

Mixed with a sense of sympathy for the J. T. Fleming family, is a feeling of gratitude for the fine work of voluntary fire companies that confined almost all of the fire to the one building in which it originated.

The people of Warren County are familiar with the service that the Warren Rural Volunteer Firemen have rendered over the years in reducing fire losses and the contributions made by individual firemen. But they are perhaps less familiar with the fine organization of the companies centered in the Warrenton Rural Fire Company communication center, with all trucks connected in one large

network.

This was demonstrated at last Wednesday's fire here. As soon as Warrenton Rural Company Fire Chief A. A. Wood glimpsed the extent of the fire, calls went out to other fire companies for assistance. Fighting the fire were the Warrenton Rural Fire Department, the Warrenton Town Volunteer Fire Department, and the Norlina Fire Department, whose pumps can be attached to the town fire hydrants; manpower, pumpers, and tankers from Hawtree, Drewry, Macon, Arcola, Inez and Cokesbury, and manpower from the Afton-Elberon and Churchill-Five Forks Companies. Unable to save the theatre building on account of the fire's headstart, these firemen kept the flames from spreading to other buildings, and soon had all flames under control. For this we are all deeply grateful.

Some Promising Aspects

The Charlotte Observer

News that black students have made substantial gains in achievement test scores over the past decade could hardly have come at a better time. The results ought to give pause to those who would ban busing and allow public schools to resegregate.

The scores, gathered and analyzed by Dr. Lyle Jones of UNC and Dr. Nancy Burton of the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N. J., show that black children aged 9 and 13 have narrowed the distance between them and their white classmates on a broad range of tests measuring skills in reading, writing, social studies, math and science.

For instance, in 1969 the average reading scores for 9-year-old blacks were 17% behind those of 9-year-old whites. By 1980, the average scores of 9-year-old blacks were only 10% behind those of 9-year-old whites. In a decade, black students closed the gap by almost half.

Similar results are showing up on achievement tests of state and local school systems in the Carolinas, where blacks historically have lagged far behind their white counterparts.

Dr. Jones said he could not confidently attribute the gains to desegregation or other social programs of the late 1960s and 1970s. "Nevertheless," he said, "our findings do cast doubt on judgments that these social programs have failed."

In the South, where massive

desegregation of public schools began in the early 1970s, gains among young black students were stronger than for blacks elsewhere in the country, he said. That has to be significant.

Two aspects of the test-score analyses are especially promising.

One is that the younger the student, the better the performance — 9-year-old blacks consistently do better than those who are 13. That suggests that as old barriers fall and blacks perceive new opportunities opening for them, their classroom performance improves accordingly.

The second is the thought that the black children making these scores are probably the offspring of parents who were in school themselves during the 1950s, when desegregation began. As these young people mature and become parents themselves, they will pass on to their children an even better educational environment and a greater classroom potential.

The caste system and racial stereotypes that caused differences in academic achievement were deeply rooted in our society, and those differences will not disappear in one decade or one generation. But the fact that substantial gains are now being made is reassuring and ought to spur us all to even greater efforts to wipe out old inequities.

The gains of those 9- and 13-year-olds represent a vast increase in this nation's human potential.

News Of 10, 25 And 40 Years Ago

Looking Back Into The Record

May 1, 1942

With its quota for May set at \$18,400, Warren County under the direction of Chairman W. N. Boyd will on Monday begin a systematic canvass to the end that every income-earning citizen may be given an opportunity to pledge voluntarily some portion of his or her income to the regular purchase of defense bonds and stamps.

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Odom entertained 125 guests at a dance at Hotel Warren on Friday evening for members of the senior class of John Graham High School, Juniors and a few other friends.

The Rev. W. F. Little of Wylesburg, Va. has accepted a call to the Warrenton and Littleton and Gruver Memorial Presbyterian churches and will begin his work by the middle of June.

Warrenton hardware merchant, was chosen "Lion of the Year" at the regular meeting of the Warrenton Lions Club at Hotel Warren last Friday night.

Four dogs were found at a whiskey still in Nuthush Township near the Vance County line on Wednesday morning by raiding officers. Davis said two dogs were drunk and that one was so drunk that it staggered into beer barrels. The other two dogs were in better shape.

For the first time in more than 50 years, Fairview Cemetery at Warrenton is to have a running water supply. A well is being drilled near the north gate of the cemetery by Manley Martin and, according to Archie Davis, president of the cemetery association, three pipelines will be extended into the cemetery.

Gen. Claude Bowers have been named Warren County managers of the local Sanford for President committee. According to Woodrow Teague, state campaign manager, they will head local efforts for Terry Sanford, former North Carolina governor, in the May 6 primary.

Thomas George Bender, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Bender of Ridgeway, has been selected to attend Boys State at Wake Forest University in June. He is a junior at Vance High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society and the Beta Club.

The appointment of Mrs. James Payne Beckwith to the Board of Governors of St. Margaret's School in Tappahannock, Va. has been announced by the Right Reverend Robert F. Gibson, bishop of the Diocese of Virginia of the Episcopal Church.

'Do You Remember This?'

By BIGNALL JONES

The old postal card with its cancelled 13 cents stamp where a place for a one cent stamp had been printed arrived here last Thursday morning from Norlina where it had been mailed the previous day. It had been mailed to me at the office of The Warren Record by Leon P. Pridgen. "Do you remember this?" he asked.

On the other side was a picture of the Main Street of Warrenton which I remember very well, but not that particular card, with its picture occupying only about three-fourths of its space. Later cards, in the late teens, carried a similar and more legible scene of an unpaved street occupied by a number of horses and wagons. No automobiles were to be seen.

Under the picture mailed by Leon was the caption "Main Street, Warrenton, N. C." There was no date. However, the card bore the imprint "New Era Pub. Co." which dated the card somewhere between 1910 and 1914.

When my father bought The Record from J. C. Hardy in the spring of 1909, it was located in a frame building where P. H. Rose Company now stands, and was one of several businesses located within the building. The office was illuminated by kerosene lamps, all type was set by hand, and the press upon which the paper was printed was also operated by hand power. The job press was also operated by a pedal.

A year or more later Uncle T. Lewis Brodie, who had been operating a printing shop in New York, moved to Warrenton and with my father organized the New Era Publishing Company. Uncle Lewis brought with him from New York an Italian pressman named Sisto, and a number of presses. The original office was too small to house the additional machinery, so the office was moved into the Katzenstein building, a multiple-story and multi-purpose building. A Babcock power operated newspaper press was installed and for a few years this was the home of The Warrenton Record.

Around 1912 my father and uncle, for personal reasons, agreed to separate the business, with my uncle moving his plant to Norlina and my father moving his plant to what was later the Hilliard and White store building, run for years as B. C. Hilliard and until recent years by his son, the late Allen Hilliard.

Around 1914 we moved The Record from this building to the Dameron Building where The Warren Record has been located for some 68 years. The New Era Publishing Company went out of business in 1914, a victim of the panic of 1914. Uncle Lewis was soon employed as a salesman by Storr Printing Company of Warrenton, and would always stay at our house upon his monthly visits to Warrenton.

While I do not remember that particular post card, the imprint New Era Pub. Co. does trigger many memories of my childhood and teenage. For instance, there was no running water in the office in the Katzenstein building. Water was kept in a bucket containing a dipper from which all drank. We washed our hands in a tin water basin, and the black water resulting from ink-covered hands, we tossed out of the back door. The back of the building contained the printing department, and the front, with its large windows was the office from which we sold books and magazines, and perhaps office supplies. One of these magazines bore the title "The Liberty Boys of 76" and

Mostly Personal

from which I received many thrills after school. A pleasant time, sometimes interrupted by my Uncle Lewis' "foolish" idea that I should sweep the floor without further reward. However, I read and I sometimes swept, but they were happy days.

In front of the Katzenstein building were long steps on which citizens in town to shop or loaf would rest and chat. Among these were many Confederate veterans, as they would tell and re-tell incidents of the Civil War. And among the more fervent listeners was a little unconverted Rebel. I remember hearing tales of the night Stonewall Jackson was shot, and how spent bullets from the sentry's fire that killed Jackson fell among Warren County men. I remember talks of General Stewart; my hero, and talks about Marse Robert E. Lee and other tales of

heroic men fighting for a lost cause.

In those days there were many frame buildings lining the Main Street of Warrenton. In their eaves were many sparrow nests jutting out above the street, and after more than 50 years I can still hear the clapping of horses' hooves, and the chattering sparrows as they flitted to the streets to eat the droppings of the horses, upon which they large subsisted. I also remember the racks to which horses were tied, and the long watering trough filled from the town pump on the southeast part of the court square. And I also remember the scores of persons who operated these stores from early morning to late at night, and the hundreds and perhaps thousands of citizens who have walked those streets since I have called Warrenton my home.

Letters To The Editor

A Tribute To Mothers

To the Editor:

"Perhaps no word in any language is any lovelier than 'mother.'"

One day, the second Sunday in May, is set aside each year to honor one's mother. It is the one day when we tell the one who loves us more than anyone else in the world how much she means to us.

The first Mother's Day was held over a century ago, June 2, 1872, in Boston. It was suggested by the eminent poet Julia Ward Howe, who gained recognition during the Civil War when she penned the words to the musical composition "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Around the turn of the century, Frank E. Hering of South Bend, Indiana launched a campaign for Mother's Day at a convention of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. On May 10, 1908, Miss Anna Jarvis, a native of Grafton, West Virginia saw a dream become a reality—the nationwide recognition of a day to honor mother. The first official Mother's Day observance was held in her girlhood church, Andrews Methodist, on that memorable date. It was she who selected the second Sunday in May, also the custom of wearing carnations to honor mother.

In 1915 Woodrow Wilson, by presidential proclamation, authorized the second Sunday in May each year as a national observance of Mother's Day.

Artists, authors, painters, poets, writers, and famous men and women have given the word mother a regal meaning!

James S. Whistler, the American painter immortalized his mother in the famous painting, "A Portrait of the Artist's Mother." Abraham Lincoln, the martyred president, said "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Helen Steiner Rice, the poet wrote: "It takes a mother's love to make a house a home."

At mother's knee, around the fireside, the foundations of life are laid. Every word and deed of a mother is a fiber woven into the character of a child, which ultimately determines how a child fits into the fabric of society.

When home is ruled according to God's will, the one commandment, "Honor Thy Father and Mother," echoes and re-echoes in every room.

The words to an old song are familiar to the ear: "How dear to me are the scenes of my childhood...."

The scenes of childhood.....there is not a mother who could not recall one memorable moment in the life of her child!

The first.....the first step.....the first Christmas.....the first birthday party.....the first day in school.

Childhood.....a time for discipline, firm, gentle, but of purpose!

A mother's love.....what is more true and lasting than the love a mother bears a child! In sorrow or pain, the soft voice of mother always has sweet words of consolation and endearment to offer, which makes the heart light again.

In sickness, it is from mother, who, with her sweet smile and soft caress, makes one feel that even though one is sick, earth has one bright, golden chain which binds us to it! It is the gentle pressure of a mother's hand on the forehead, which drives away pain; a mother's soft voice in the ear teaching the child the sweet example of patience; and a mother's kiss on the brow, which makes one feel that even heaven would be dreary, were mother not there!

DOROTHY NEWSOM

Wise

Thanks For Your Help

To the Editor:

We want to thank all who helped us during and after the tragic fire Wednesday afternoon at the Warren Auditorium. So many people went beyond their duty in fighting the fire and helping.

In Warren County, we are most fortunate to have fire departments, all volunteer, that are trained so well. Lives were risked and a very successful effort was made to save adjoining property. Only people who have watched their property burn can describe the pain they feel. Friends and business neighbors gave comfort to us and once again we have realized how close the people of our county are in a time of tragedy.

We understand that all rural fire departments in Warren County as well as two in Vance County responded, along with the Warrenton Fire Department. We want to thank each of these departments. Only hard work, bravery, and good training saved the Taylor (Johnson) building next door and the other buildings on the block. We are so thankful that no serious injuries occurred.

Special thanks go to Chet Forrester as well as others who assisted in helping to remove our office records, some office furniture, and three video games.

To Evangeline Ward, Dee and Bryan Perry, Kirk Swain, Al Fleming, Wayne Kinton, Darlene Vaughan, John Coker, and others we may not be aware of, thank you so much.

We want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Bo Carroll for the use of High Dollar Warehouse for storage of damaged property. Others who offered space were Wayne Clower, Brad Carroll, Jim Ward, Bruce Bell, Lillian Ellington, and Gordon Greene.

We were offered use of office space by Monroe Gardner, A. B. Hair, and the John Boyd Davis family. Fleming Realty and construction is temporarily located at 112 Macon Street, the Davis home.

We thank God for taking care of our firemen and giving us the few minutes we had in getting the children safely out of the video game room.

The next time you see a fireman, thank him for his unselfish dedication and good job he does.

JAMES T. AND BETTY FLEMING



KEN FERRUCCIO
Committee Member,
Warren County Citizens
Concerned About PCBs