

The Warren Record

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Racism Not A Factor

For nearly 50 years transformer oil laced with PCBs has been scattered over Warren County and into its food chain, water and the fatty tissues of most of us, with what harm remains to be seen. It was used as the base of a sweeping compound, manufactured in Warrenton and widely used; as a dust preventive on rural roads, and as a paving agent for many service stations. Numerous power company linemen have testified that they often plunged their arms nearly to their armpits in transformers containing PCBs with no apparent damage. There can be little doubt that PCBs were in the food chains years before they were dumped on over 200 miles of state highways four years ago.

There seems to be no evidence whatsoever that the site was chosen by the state for racial reason. It was not mentioned in Warren County's suit against the state seeking to block the landfill; and the federal judge who heard the suit of the NAACP said there was not a "scintilla of evidence" that racism was a factor in the site selection.

Certainly the majority of our citizens did not want more PCBs dumped in our county, and preferred that it be left alongside the roads. We further believe that the vast majority of our citizens do not want school children involved in the protest, nor the over-emphasis of the danger of PCB, and most certainly do not want self-seeking Civil Rights leaders and other outsiders involved in the protest.

The News and Observer rendered a public service in a long front-page article Sunday, in which the prevalence of PCBs is told, as is the test of PCBs on rats, at some length, as well as the history of PCBs and why it was banned; and in three editorials, the first appearing on

last Wednesday morning under the heading "Calm Needed In Warren County. The opening and closing paragraphs follow:

"By any measure, the threat that PCBs pose to the health of Warren County residents appears minimal as the state begins dumping the soil into a federally approved landfill near Afton. Further, the state's use of the site to receive dirt contaminated by PCB spills along 210 miles on highway has met the required test under law. Therefore, anyone who helps provoke unlawful resistance to the dumping does the protesters and other North Carolinians a disservice.

"The dumping in Warren County involved the application of the best-known technology for the safety of nearby residents and has been validated by the judgments of the courts. It's the duty of law-abiding citizens to allow the state and the Environmental Protection Agency to proceed with the necessary cleanup as expeditiously as possible."

The second editorial appeared on Sunday morning, Sept. 19, under the heading "Demagoguery At Dump." The opening and closing paragraphs follow:

"The minor drama being played out at the PCB dump site in Warren County should cause no one to forget what the issue is and what it is not. To do so would be a disservice to the concerned local opponents of the dump and to state officials who overrode that opposition out of concern for the general welfare.

"The Warren County protest began as an environmental issue. It had its roots in local concerns. It was led by local people. What a travesty it will be if this sincere effort, no matter how misguided, is now turned into a showcase for persons whose concerns have little to do with Warren County and North Carolina."

The third editorial, appearing on Tuesday morning, and headed, "Afton Dump no 'Love Canal,'" is published elsewhere on this page in its entirety.

No 'Love Canal'

In The News And Observer

Mrs. Lois Gibbs of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has stepped out-of-bounds by linking her neighborhood's Love Canal problems and Warren County's concerns over a PCB landfill. The differences between the two sites and their methods of toxic-waste disposal are so different that she is playing with the emotions of North Carolinians rather than dealing with the facts.

Mrs. Gibbs helped to organize protests and legal action against Love Canal — and for good reason. But, she engaged in reckless overstatements when she told protesters: "Ten years from now, you'll be the recipients of cancer and sickness. Your dump's not that different from Love Canal, except that you have the ability to stop it."

Not that different? Come now, Mrs. Gibbs. The landfill site near Afton has been so carefully prepared that, if anything, it overcompensates for safety. In Niagara Falls, a chemical company dumped many kinds of toxic wastes at a site that was neither suitable nor carefully prepared. Unlike the Afton landfill, Love Canal was in a residential neighborhood and no monitoring was used to protect people and property from its toxic contents.

Other contrasts between the two sites are dramatic. The dumped dirt at Afton contains a single chemical, PCB, to which activated carbon was applied long ago to prevent it from migrating into plants and water. The

site is lined with both six feet of compacted clay and a plastic liner. It will be buffered by acreage that will keep human activities from encroaching on it. Finally, after the dump has been capped and sealed, the state will monitor it regularly for leakage and for any potential danger to humans and the environment.

Mrs. Gibbs does a disservice to North Carolinians, in suggesting that unlawful conduct by protesters is merely an assertion of constitutional rights. What the Niagara Falls visitor ignores is that the disposal of PCB-tainted dirt in this landfill has come about through the legal processes that keep the Constitution from being just a worthless piece of paper. That Constitution guarantees Mrs. Gibbs the right to speak her piece in Warren County, but it does not guarantee that she 1) will make sense, 2) will provide a suitable alternative to the landfill or 3) will not do more harm than good by her pronouncements.

Quotes

Merely having an open mind is nothing. The object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid. — Gilbert K. Chesterton.

All problems become smaller if you don't dodge them but confront them. Touch a thistle timidly, and it pricks you; grab it boldly, and its spines crumble. — William S. Halsey.

Walking To The Depot

By BIGNALL JONES

As the result of eating a dessert when I should not have one day last week, I decided to walk any ill effects off and as a result I walked to the Warrenton Depot, the end of many walks taken over a great many years. Frequently when we lived in South Warrenton and before my marriage, my brother Howard and I would walk to the depot and back for exercise before going to bed. But the walk last week was in the day time and brought back many memories.

The last house on Main Street before the depot is the former home of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Price, parents of my boyhood friend, Will Solomon Price, whose presence brought forth many happy events. He, like all the Price children, had a fine sense of humor, and he and Pat Hunter (the late Dr. Frank Patterson Hunter) brought forth many laughs as they kidded each other. Will was very popular and another of his close friends was the late John H. Kerr, who was to become speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives during the Broughton Administration.

Will, who married Elizabeth Rodwell of Macon, sister of Mrs. Herman Rodwell, were the parents of two distinguished sons, Reynolds Price, well known writer and teacher at Duke University and Dr. William S. Price, Jr., with the State Department of Archives in Raleigh.

And there are many memories of the house, recently purchased and being renovated by Mrs. Margie Grzelak, who operates North Main Street Grocery in North Warrenton. The small group of boys with whom I grew up in Warrenton were naturally familiar with the interior of each other's homes. I was almost as much at home at the home of my pal Robert Davis, next door, as I was in my own. Once I remember being at a party at the home of Will Price, when I grew thirsty and went to the back porch of the home with my date where was located on a shelf a bucket of water and a tin dipper. She was a honey and a fond memory. It is odd how the little things stick with one.

Next to the Price home was the home of Judge and Mrs. John H. Kerr. Judge Kerr was then a Superior Court judge and I remember the front hall had hardwood floors. Here lived John and Jim Kerr, close friends for many years. I remember on one occasion John was playing a waltz on their Victrola as we waited, and I decided to practice my dancing and I remember to this day John's look at my hardnail shoes.

Next to the Kerr home was the home of Mrs. Nannie Moore, mother of an entertaining family among whom was Sarah, who was to marry Fitzhugh Read. How things came about I do not know, but it happened that I had a Model T Ford Run-about and took Will Price and Sarah Moore to a party at the home of Mr. and

Mostly Personal

Mrs. Howard Palmer in Sixpound Township. The party was given in honor of Mary Primrose, who later was to marry Ollie Palmer. We left for home around 11 o'clock but lost our way. As cars in those days had a habit of doing, our car heated and we landed at a well at the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stallings. If I remember correctly it was near daybreak when we reached Warrenton and Jim Moore was just starting out to look for us. This must have been around the early twenties.

One memory leads to another and thinking about the car in which Will, Sarah and I had our adventure, reminds me of another incident in which the car was involved. "Joy riding" was quite an event in those days and one afternoon Will Jones (now Mrs. Branch Bobbitt) a popular member of our crowd, went for a spin on what is now the Henderson Road and then unpaved. On the hill above Horse Branch I passed a buggy being driven by a colored boy. I must have cut in too soon, or maybe the road jolted the car into the rear wheel of the buggy, which disintegrated. I told the boy, or young man, that I was sorry and that I would pay for all damages, which I

did. The boy was very nice about the matter, and asked me if he could take my license. I agreed, but had to stop him when he approached the front of the car and tried to remove the license plate. Cars were still fairly rare, and I suppose he had been told by friends that in case of a wreck to obtain the license number of the car.

On this past Sunday, Howard and I, with many other friends, attended the graveside services for Miss Effie Ellington. She was the sister of a boyhood friend of the same age as I, and for a long time lived at the old Burroughs home place in South Warrenton. Miss Effie at that time owned and operated a Millinery shop in the Taylor Building on Macon Street. She also kept on hand a supply of books, many of which I read courtesy of Willard Green Ellington, whom we always called Greek. As our rector read the beautiful Episcopal Burial Service, I thought of this good woman whose accomplishments were less conspicuous than many to whom I have paid tribute, and I realized for the first time that her entire life had been devoted to service for others. I am glad that I knew her.

News Of 10, 25, 40 Years Ago

Looking Back In The Record

Sept. 18, 1942
John H. Stegall of Hawtree Township has named an insect that has been damaging tobacco in this and other counties the Hitler fly. Reason of the name, said Mr. Stegall, is that it does so much damage so fast.

Sept. 21, 1972
Franklin D. Daniel has been promoted by Carolina Power & Light Co. to service representative in Franklinton, according to Roy A. Burch, CP&L district manager in Henderson.

Sept. 20, 1957
James B. Boyce, III, a Warrenton native, was a guest in the home of Albert Schweitzer at Gunsbach in Alsace last week and heard him play Bach on the organ.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Daniel of Warrenton announce the birth of a son, Marvin Andrew, in Warren General Hospital on September 17. Mrs. Daniel is the former Marge Brown of near Kittrell.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

- September 23, 1952—Nixon delivered "Checkers" speech.
- September 24, 1906—Devil's Tower, Wyoming, made 1st National Monument.
- September 25, 1956—Transatlantic telephone system began operation.
- September 26, 1946—Russians denounced Sherlock Holmes on grounds he protected private property.
- September 27, 1937—First Santa Claus school opened, Albion, New York.
- September 28, 1939—Poland surrendered to Nazis and Russians.
- September 29, 1892—First night football game played, Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

Letters To The Editor

Publicity Seen As Reason

To The Editor:
Every day lately I see on television, hear on the radio and read in the newspapers about the PCB affray in Warren County. I wonder, seriously, just how many of these people would be out there if it were not for all this publicity. I dare say that not one in a thousand would be out creating all this fuss to express their convictions if it were not for the fantasy that they might just happen to get on television.

I'm sure there must be some concern, but not nearly so outspoken and fake, yes fake, emotions if it were not for just these reasons. This chemical has been by the roadside for four years — practically out in the open. Why wouldn't these people much rather have it buried and in a controlled and protective environment — and in one location than to just leave it along the road where we walk and work? They have these little children brainwashed to the point of panic. All the talk will possibly do them far more harm than the chemical itself. I saw one little girl on TV crying frantically that if the PCB was moved that ALL the trees and plants would die and that ALL the people will die. I saw another just as emotional saying she was going to get cancer. A lot of dramatization to say the least.

Also, how many of the "leaders" really believe what they are out there for? Do they have a real heartfelt cause for which they struggle? If we could only see inside their minds I doubt if any measurable amount of love for mankind would register. They get their thrills from their ability to manipulate people and control their emotions. They only seek personal gains through making trouble for those whom they gather under their wings and give false hope as well as trouble for those who seriously are trying to resolve the problem.

Most of them you will see at any kind of a protest that will afford them any publicity. I doubt seriously if they give a cent for the masses they are stirring up. They are just out to feather their own nests. Some of them would come out and get all excited over anything that would give them a spot in the news. They could win an Oscar for their performance.

Why don't we cut down on this publicity? Sure, it is newsworthy and should be covered, but it does not have to be billed as the social event or sporting event of the year. Let's save a lot of trouble, heartache and pain. Let's save a lot of hard feelings, prejudices, and possible injury by keeping this at a lower profile. Let's let the troublemakers know we can handle our own affairs and don't need their help. They have enough to do by staying back in Wilmington or wherever they belong.

Thanks for listening.

D. L. PAXTON
Gaston

Man's Kindness Reported

To The Editor:
Several weeks ago, my car's electrical system failed, leaving me stranded in Warrenton at about 11 p. m. I had stopped at a convenience store, and the lady at the checkout counter told me that there were no service stations open, but she pointed out a customer in the store who was an auto mechanic.

He diagnosed the problem, but he had no tools or parts. However, he called a friend who worked at Randy Currin Chevrolet, just next door, and arranged to leave the car for service the next day.

He then loaded all our bags, ice boxes, and other miscellany (we were going to our house on Lake Gaston for a vacation) into his own car and drove us the 10 miles or so to our house.

When we arrived, he helped us unload, and even offered to help us locate a ride into Warrenton the next day.

After all of this, he refused all attempts on our part to pay him for his time, gas and effort. He remarked that all of us have troubles at times, and that he believed that we all should help each other at such times.

The car was fixed properly the following day, and we had a restful vacation. But the most memorable part of the week was the kindness of Thomas Holtzman of Norlina. (We learned his name the next day.)

Warren County should be proud of such citizens, and the good feelings for the area which his philosophy and actions generate.

I will never forget him.

DR. E. HARVEY ESTES, JR.
Durham

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Singing heart
6. Unhappy
11. Laugh
13. Petroleum derrick
15. Succinct
16. Mystic sound
17. Yes
18. Player
19. Prep in
20. Aware
21. Track
23. Golden Apple
25. Swine
27. Ahead
28. Verbal
30. God of sky
32. Bishop's seat
33. Read
35. Males
37. Wakashan Indian
38. Blotch
42. Merely
46. Jules — writer
48. Ashan
50. Caucho
51. Lamb
52. Exist

DOWN
1. Anyone
2. Sour
3. Gumbo
4. Retreats
5. Rather
6. Pronto
7. Aspire
8. 550
9. Gherkin
10. Bachening king
12. Common era
14. Rumbles
18. Nigerian
20. Possess
21. Burmese

Prefix: Not
53. Glocal ridge
56. Deum
57. Bleat
58. Ghini
60. Quieted
62. Aromatic bark
64. Conjunction
66. Song
68. Japanese seaport
69. Continent

THE WEEK'S PUZZLE ANSWER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60

