

The Warren Record

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The Invisible Food

Writing under the heading: "Profits vs. the Poor, Reductions Mean Less Cheese for Hungry," Coleman McCarthy, whose syndicated column appeared in Monday's News and Observer, takes the Administration to task for reducing free cheese to the hungry in the face of rising hunger among the poor. The reason given is to protect the profits of cheese manufacturers.

"In 1979," Coleman writes, "USDA warehouses had 50,000 pounds of cheese. The stockpile today is 851 million pounds. Record surpluses exist in butter and non-fat powdered milk. While warehouses fatten, the mayors of cities see an unprecedented rise in emergency food appeals from the poor. Food centers and soup kitchens that fed a few hungry people three years ago now see double and triple that number."

McCarthy adds that "officials of the Reagan administration appear determined not to see anything unfair about bulging warehouses and empty stomachs, nor anything shameful about a nation of food lines."

On June 27 media camera crews, accompanying a delegation from Washington, were barred from photographing the stockpiles. "Our government," said Mary Rose Oaker (D-Ohio) "didn't want the public to see the 700 million pounds of stored food, while we have 20 million people going to bed hungry every night." This comment drew from McCarthy, the remark: "The poor are no longer invisible, only the food."

McCarthy said the question is being asked "Why is the USDA cutting back 50% of its cheese distribution when this year's cheese sales are down less than 7% and last year's by less than 2%?"

The question might well be asked "How are the cheese manufacturers still retailing cheese at \$2.29 a pound un-packaged? A retailer here says the wholesale price has been steady for the past 12 months, and he has not been able to determine any drop in demand. The law of supply and demand for cheese does not seem to work as it does with other farm products.

Writes To Magazine

Mrs. Lucy Boyd Mead, a Warrenton native now living in Lynchburg, Va., appears among writers of "Letters to the Editor" in the current issue of the Smithsonian Magazine, we learned this week through the courtesy of Mrs. Crichton Thorne Davis, a subscriber to this popular magazine.

Writing under the head, "Winterthur Museum," Mrs. Meade writes as follows:

Dear Sir: Mr. Olmert's description of the Montmorenci spiral staircase at Winterthur reads, "That this example of neo-classical elegance could be plunked down in backwoods Carolina—so far removed from New York, Philadelphia or Charleston—seems indeed

miraculous."

Mr. Olmert's research leaves a great deal to be desired, as does his flip writing. North Carolina was, it is true, among the poorest of the Southern states, but there were always areas of education, culture and wealth. A cursory investigation would have shown him that Warren County, where Montmorenci was located, was, from the 18th century, one of these areas.

LUCY BOYD MEADE
Lynchburg, Virginia

Nothing Stronger

There is nothing stronger than human prejudice. — Wendell Phillips.

News Of 10, 25, 40 Years Ago

Looking Back Into The Record

July 2, 1943
Warren County will be asked to raise \$5,000 in the national War Fund campaign to be held in October, it was announced at a district meeting of War Fund committeemen on Thursday of last week in Durham.

Gen. and Mrs. W. C. Rivers left Wednesday to spend the summer in the mountains of North Carolina. They were accompanied by Mrs. Will Bowen who will spend a few days there.

Additional cotton blooms have arrived at The Warren Record office since last Friday. One bloom was mailed in by Mary Hunter with the notation that she pulled another bloom on the farm of J. N. Wynn on June 24. The other bloom was raised by Charlie Cleaton on the farm of Mr. Mustian near Norlina.

July 4, 1958
Mrs. William S. Davis, case worker assistant with the Warren County Welfare Department for more than five years, has resigned effective July 15.

Clyde Rodwell, fertilizer business operator, is the new president of the Warrenton Rotary Club. Dixon Ward was elected vice president.

Tommy Byrne, former baseball great with Wake Forest College and the New York Yankees, is slated to start on the mound in today's opener of a double-header between White Level and Norlina.

July 5, 1973
The first systematic purge of voter registration books ever conducted in Warren County is underway with election officials

hopeful that the task can be completed by August 1.

A four-foot-long black snake has drawn the blame for a large-scale power outage which left a large area of Warren County without electricity Thursday night. The charred remains of the reptile were discovered late Thursday atop a circuit at the Warrenton substation.

Mrs. Rhada Currin successfully defended her Ladies Golf Crown here on Friday afternoon for the third consecutive home win in championship tournament play.

James C. Harris, Jr. was one of six North Carolinians recognized for outstanding achievement during commissioning ceremonies at the N. C. Military Academy in Raleigh last weekend.



The Eleutherian Mills residence of the du Pont family features this staircase and a view from the piazza overlooking the Brandywine River, along which black powder mills were constructed.

Mostly Personal

Exploring The Brandywine

By BIGNALL JONES

As soon as we completed our visit to Winterthur Museum on Friday afternoon, we omitted a tour of the Winterthur Gardens, and hurried to Hagley Museum. A brochure we picked up at the museum was captioned "Industry and Life in the Brandywine Valley," and read as follows: "Located along the Brandywine River on the site of the original du Pont black-powder mills, the Hagley Museum offers a unique glimpse into American industrial life in the 19th century. Your trip in time begins at the main museum building, where exhibits trace America's industrial development from colonial water-powered flour mills to the giant steam industries of the 19th century.

"Leaving the main museum building you enter the powder yards. Here massive granite mills recall the time when waterpower provided industrial energy. Water still flows through the mill races at Hagley, turning the machines you can see in operation as you follow the powderman on his round of demonstrations.

"From the powder yards a jitney bus carries you a short distance upstream by Eleutherian Mills, the house built by E. I. du Pont in 1803. This charming Georgian-style residence contains twelve rooms furnished to reflect the five generations of du Ponts who lived there. A barn filled with carriages and wagons, a cooper's workshop, a stone office building, and a garden planted in the French style complete the world of the 19th century mill-owner and his family.

"All of this and more are set amidst 200 acres of trees, shrubs and flowers, ever changing with the seasons. Whenever you come to Hagley you will find much to see and do, as you re-enter the world of industry and life in 19th century America."

When we first arrived at Hagley Museum, Howard, who was acting as treasurer, bought tickets for a tour of the museum and a jitney tour of the grounds. As we entered the museum we discovered that the jitney tour was over and that there would be no jitneys until the following day. Under the circumstances, the museum re-stamped our tickets, and we toured the museum, and waited for Saturday afternoon for the jitney tour. As it turned out, it was a

our plans as after seeing Longwood Gardens Saturday morning, we would have been hard-pressed to have seen both museum and jitney tour in time to head for our destination in Eastern Maryland.

The museum proved quite interesting, and displayed were several grain mills, so familiar to those of my generation, and tools for sharpening the granite mill stones, similar to the many in Warrenton yards. The races were similar to those at a dozen mills around Warren County before the Second World War, only here there was a chain of such mills. Also displayed was the governor of a steam engine, used later to supplement water power as demand for energy increased.

All the mills we saw in the museum were motivated by the familiar overshot waterwheel so familiar in Warren County. We saw one mill where the water was directed to a vertical waterwheel. Most of these, we understand, have given way to turbines. Another difference was that the mills along the Brandywine were for the grinding of flour, while almost all the mills in Warren and surrounding counties were used for the grinding of corn into corn meal.

Black gunpowder is a mixture of charcoal (carbon), sulphur and saltpeter, and not a chemical reaction, our guide at the E. I. du Pont home told us. Remembering my high school chemistry under the late J. Edward Allen, I asked her if saltpeter was an element. She said it was not. However, I found by referring to a dictionary that she was mistaken, saltpeter is a combination of potassium nitrate. This makes no difference from her standpoint, but it stimulated me to find out more about the manufacture of gunpowder, when and if I can find the time.

The powdermakers found the old millstones suitable for grinding up the three substances going into the mixture. And millstones which ground much of the flour used by troops in the Revolutionary War, were used to make up most of the black powder used by Northern soldiers in the War Between the States, and for blasting powder on millions of farms in the nation.

Unlike the South, farmers of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware built many of

their mills, homes and stables of stone. E. I. du Pont's home was built of rock, and stuccoed in the French style, our guide told us.

In early afternoon Saturday, we returned to the Hagley Museum, and after a short wait, we boarded a jitney, with scores of others, for a tour of the du Pont home. After a beautiful ride, we reached our destination, where we were told that we would have an hour to tour the home and other buildings, before the jitney would return. We were met at the jitney stop by a guide who took us through the home and answered our many questions.

The home was spacious and well appointed, as might be expected of a wealthy family of good taste. Unlike Winterthur Museum, where runners were used to cover rugs, rugs and furniture were roped off, as they were in other homes we had visited. As a result we saw various items of interest and beauty. Among these were a beautiful stairway, chandeliers, tables and table settings in a large dining room.

Displayed on one of the walls of the nearby office were two quill pens. Our guide told us that gentlemen carried small pocketknives to sharpen these quills, which came to be known as penknives. I had heard the designation of a small knife all my life without learning of its origin.

From the house, after a small rest on its porch, we went to the stables where were displayed wagons and carriages, and buggies, in great variety. One of the walls of the stable a grain cradle was displayed. It was similar to ones that I had seen as a boy still being used to harvest wheat. Although by that time most wheat was cut with a mowing machine, raked up and threshed by a thresher.

After a little more than an hour, our jitney returned, and we were soon back where we had started at the museum. We soon found our car, and were on our way to the motel where we had made reservations, and in search of a place to eat supper.

We were up early Saturday morning, packed, and checked out as we again headed for the Longwood Inn for breakfast, and I found oatmeal, toast and eggs, while Grace, Howard and Ann found delicious pancakes, as I could attest from the previous morning.

Letter To The Editor

Native Is Upset

To The Editor:

Being a native of Warren County has become terribly complex. Even though I no longer live there, I am from here and my roots are there. In the entire history of the world (Old Testament included), there are not 10,000 people who could honestly say they were natives of Wise, North Carolina.

Growing up (or at least getting older) in Warren County used to be simple. Everybody was poor but nobody knew it. A night sitting on the hood of a car at the Tastee-Freeze drinking beer by the quart was excitement enough for any seventeen year old. Even though the legal age for the purchase of beer was eighteen for the State of North Carolina, "Shot" Halthcock's produce stand, Lannie King's store, and Romie Liles' grocery store were apparently exempt from the sanctions of the law.

If anyone outside the county had heard of it, usually it would be for one of three reasons: (1) The Seaboard Coastline was headquartered in Norlina; (2) John Kerr II of Warrenton was Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives and his father was a United States Congressman after whom Kerr Lake was named; and (3) Reynolds Price of Macon achieved success as a novelist in the sixties. Now, the railroad has moved its operation to Hamlet; John Kerr I and II are deceased and Virginians (with whom we were forced to share a border) have the gall to call Kerr Lake (its proper name) Buggs Island; and Reynolds Price teaches English at Duke. All of these events are tragedies, though in varying degrees.

So, Warren County needed an identity. Action was not long coming. First the town of Littleton voted itself out of the county. Actually, not all of Littleton was in Warren County—only one-half. The powers that be in Warren County took swift and immediate action at this rebuke. An ABC store was immediately built just on the Warren County side of the Warren-Halifax line, within two blocks of downtown Littleton. This store was to complement the one built on Interstate 85 so as not to inconvenience interstate travelers who might not have had enough to drink as they hit the North Carolina line from Virginia.

The next move in the county was truly breathtaking. To replace the loss of one-half of the town of Littleton, an entirely new city was started. City—not town. There are those who have called Soul City a failure. They are very astute—it was—to everybody except the citizens of the county. The two hundred and thirty million citizens of the U.S.A. thoughtfully provided the seventeen thousand citizens of the county a multi-million dollar regional water system and a million dollar industrial facility. Being the home of one of three black Republicans in the whole country under the Nixon administration paid better than the interest on passbook savings to the area.

PCB's. Not one person in a thousand can tell you what the initials stand for, but everybody knows that Warren County is the dumping ground for whatever they are. The only initials previously with any meaning in the county are STP—and then only when plastered in the back window of a car.

The Reverend Leon White and Ken Ferruccio are probably fine people and dearly loved by their families, but they didn't grow up in Warren County. Their outrage, however expressed, cannot know the depths of one who did.

Eel, Critter, Cockamole, Peep-eye, Lucky Chucky, Tight-Man, Dr. Sam. These are my friends who live there and work there and raise families there. Surely the citizens of this state should recognize a treasure and treat it as such—there are plenty of other places in North Carolina more appropriate to serve as the State garbage dump.

RON PERKINSON
Attorney-At-Law
Sanford

Dateline: Washington

By REP. TIM VALENTINE

Our Nation's legal system is based on a sound principle we inherited from England when we were still colonies: the principle of due process. It is a major factor in making our code of laws the fairest, most just in the world.

Basically what it means is that regardless of your legal problem, you have the right to make your case in public. Whether charged with murder, a parking violation or a lawsuit, every citizen is guaranteed his "day in court."

The issue of due process recently came up in the U.S. Congress when it considered coal slurry pipeline legislation. Such legislation would enable pipeline developers to acquire real estate under the power of eminent domain so as to have rights-of-way for pipeline construction across land. But they have to pay the full value of the land taken and for damages to the remaining land.

If property owners contest such takings, they are usually given the right to a jury trial on the question of just compensation—usually, but not always.

When the coal slurry pipeline bill came into committee, it attempted to address this problem by stating that the laws of individual states would govern on such procedural matters. This I believed to be inadequate protection.

Therefore I offered an amendment to the legislation that guarantees a jury trial. It passed and reads in part, "If State law does not provide for or permit trials by jury in such action, an affected landowner shall, notwithstanding, have the right to trial by jury."

The coal slurry pipeline legislation is necessary if we are to have low-cost, plentiful energy, but we cannot simply run rough-shod over property owners. My amendment was an effort to retain the principle of due process in this important area.

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