

# Tribute To Dr. John G. Smith

By **BIGNALL JONES**

Dr. John Goodrich Smith died on Tuesday, July 12, in Nash General Hospital and a small notice of his death was carried in last Wednesday's edition of The Warren Record because of the large number of his relatives and still larger number of his patients in Warren County.

Dr. Smith was my wife's brother-in-law, was married in Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Warrenton, and was a good friend of many years. He was a very distinguished physician, as will be shown from his death notice in his hometown newspaper which I will use later in this tribute.

First I would speak of John Smith, the man, and warm personal friend for more than 40 years. He was a kind and both a gentle man and a gentleman. A good friend in time of trouble, and a good companion in times of joy. He was a very religious man and often would attend services at the Church of the Good Shepherd at Ridgeway, where his father-in-law, the late Rev. B. N. de Foe Wagner, was rector for many years.

The Wagner family, into which both Dr. Smith and I married, are a very close and a very devoted family, easy to love, as both John, who married Mary Lillian Wagner in 1939, and I, who married Grace in 1936, were quick to find out. John was both appreciated and loved by his in-laws and their children. I know that my wife loved him for his many excellent qualities and for the many acts of kindness shown to her and her family. Because of my own affection for the man, his wife and son, John, Jr., and the affection I feel toward each member of the Wagner family, I am republishing the account of his death as carried in the Wednesday, July 13, issue of The Rocky Mount Evening Telegram and the editorial published in that paper on the following day, as follows:

## DR. JOHN GOODRICH SMITH

Dr. John Goodrich Smith, 73, died Tuesday. Dr. Smith was born Feb. 10, 1910 in Scotland Neck. He conducted his pre-med studies at the University of North Carolina where he received his B.S. degree in 1931. Smith also received his M.D. degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1935. His internship and residency was at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., 1935-37, and his postgraduate studies were at North Carolina Tuberculosis Sanatorium, London School of Medicine, London, England.

Smith was in private group practice of Internal Medicine beginning in 1937 with the Boice-Willis Clinic, P.A., Rocky Mount. Additionally, he served as a Diplomat on the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1950. He was a life-time fellow of the American College of Physicians and served as a Fellow of the Council of Clinical Cardiology with the American Heart Association.

In Armed Forces services, Smith was Captain of the Medical Corps from 1942-46 and served with the Fourth Infantry Motorized Division from Utah Beach. While serving in the Germany Campaign he received the Combat Medical Badge and Bronze Star Award.

Among Smith's contributions to medical literature are "Abnormal Heart Rhythms," "Pericarditis," and "Coronary Occlusion Before the Age of Forty."

In 1952 he was founder and past president of the Edgecombe-Nash Heart Association and served as president of the North Carolina Heart Association. In 1957 Smith was the first to receive the association's highest award, the Silver Heart with Scroll. In 1960, he received the Award of Merit with Bronze Medallion by the American Heart Association.

In 1957 he was chairman of the Fund Raising Advisory and Policy Committee of the American Heart Association, served four years on the Nutrition Committee of the American Heart Association and was vice-chairman of the Council of Clinical Cardiology in 1962. He served six years on the Board of Directors of the American Heart Association, five years on its Executive Committee of the Board and three years as vice president of the American Heart Association.

At the 1965 annual meeting of the American Heart Association he received the highest award within that association, its Gold Heart Award. He was the first North Carolinian to receive the award which

was given "in recognition of the utmost in service, contributions and accomplishments in the conquest of cardiovascular diseases."

In February of 1964, he was named "Tar Heel of the Week" by North Carolina's News and Observer.

At home in Rocky Mount he served a three-year term on the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce's board of directors and served three terms as Senior Warden in the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

He was a member and past president of the Edgecombe-Nash Medical Society; member of North Carolina Medical Society and the American Medical Association; member of North Carolina Society of Internal Medicine and American Society of Internal Medicine and a member of the Council of Medical Staffs of the American Society of Contemporary Medicine and Surgery. Smith received the American Medical Association's Physician's Recognition Award in Continuing Medical Education from July 1, 1970, through Dec. 1, 1984.

He was currently on the medical staff of Nash General Hospital and Rocky Mount Sanitarium and past president of the Boice-Willis Clinic, Professional Associates in active group practice of medicine.

Smith was married in 1939 to Mary Lillian Wagner of Warrenton, native of Canada. They have one son, John G. Smith, Jr., of Florence, S. C.

## A Fortunate Community

### An Editorial From

#### The Rocky Mount Evening Telegram

Because of his significant contributions to medicine, his outstanding achievements in varied fields and his unique personality, Dr. John G. Smith stood out like Mars at perihelion. True, the popular Rocky Mount physician had achieved such distinguished honors as the Gold Heart Award and the Award of Merit from the American Heart Association and the North Carolina Heart Association's Silver Heart with Scroll, each of which has been awarded extremely sparingly. At the same time he was just as happy over being a member of the Area Chamber of Commerce board of director or a senior warden of his beloved Episcopal Church.

However, Dr. Smith was loved and respected perhaps most for those genuine attributes which caused all who knew him to regard Dr. Smith as a learned human being who was extremely interested in his fellow human beings and who had the ability to help countless individuals enjoy fuller lives.

The stories told about Dr. Smith are legion and whole volumes could be written about his unique behavior which might turn tragedy into something anyone could understand.

Many local citizens vividly recall the national tension which prevailed after President Eisenhower's first heart attack. A famed heart specialist from Boston named Dr. White had won national attention and was asked to treat the president. It was while Dr. White was still making front page news all over the country that Dr. Smith, president of the N. C. Heart Association, was able to bring him here for a public interview.

Because of the nature of heart ailments and their affect upon the victims, Dr. Smith had developed an amazing ability to put a sufferer at ease even as medicine's magic was being put into use.

Despite all the acclaim and recognition that naturally came to him, Dr. Smith remained a sincere friend, an individual whose interest in his fellowmen was often displayed.

This whole community is fortunate indeed to have enjoyed the fruits of Dr. Smith's labors during a long and useful life.

## Health Fair Is Planned For Hollister Area Folks

Hollister and the surrounding communities in both Warren and Halifax counties will sponsor a health fair this summer for the benefit of local residents.

The health fair is a ten-day event during which free comprehensive physical examinations, including lab tests and optional pelvic exams for women, are administered by Duke and UNC medical students closely supervised by doctors and medical personnel from the region and state.

The fair runs from July 20 through July 30 and is open from 1 p. m. to 9 p. m. on weekdays and from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. on Saturdays. It will be held at the Hollister Elementary School. Residents can either walk in or make an appointment by calling the school at 586-4344.

The event is planned and organized by Hollister and surrounding communities with assistance from the North Carolina Student Rural Health Coalition. "For these ten days, we'll also celebrate the region's rich culture by holding tribal dances, craft sales, Indian exhibits, gospel singings, talent acts, music ensembles, etc. during the afternoons and evenings of the fair," a spokesman said. "Call Ernestine Lynch at 586-4548 for more information."

## The Public Record

### Deed Transfers

Tar Heel Production Credit Association to Ernest B. Harris and wife, certain lots, Warrenton Township.

Calvin Davis to Calvin Davis and wife, 10 acres, Warrenton Township.

Hugh T. Jones and wife to Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc.

Methodist Retirement Homes, Inc. to King Construction Company of Raleigh, Inc.

Nowell Y. Bradley and wife to John L. Mullinax and wife, certain lot, River Township.

Lorena B. Nelson to Outdoor World Corporation, 1 acre, River Township.

Tanglewood Land Company, Inc. to Owen R. Toler and wife, certain lot Roanoke Township.

W. B. Brown to Twin Oak Shores, Inc., certain lot, Roanoke Township.

Nancy Harris Echols and others to Nancy H. Williams, certain lot, Fork Township.

Nancy H. Williams and husband to Nancy Harris Echols, certain lots, Fork Township.

Peter Bradford and wife to Richard W. Batko and wife, certain lot, Roanoke Township.

Virgie T. White and others to Clarence E. Thompson, II and wife, 1.01 acres, Hawtree Township.

Board of Education of Warren County to Carlton J. Terry and wife, certain lots, Sandy Creek Township.

Foster Brown and wife to David Lee Brown and wife, 1 acre, Fishing Creek Township.

### Marriage Licenses

Perry Almond Milliken of Littleton to Hestine Norwood Boyd of Littleton.

Jessie Arrion Elliott of Henderson to Vickie Rose Loyd of Wise.

Thomas Allen Cameron of Warrenton to Ellen Suzette Currin of Henderson.

Victor Jerome Cozart of Henderson to Jacqueline Denise Seward of Manson.

Council Ruffin, Jr. of Richmond, Va. to Connie Yvonna Ross of Richmond, Va.

William Curtis Carrette, Jr. of Tabor City to Beth Ann Summey of Warrenton.

### Field Survey Is Under Way

Representatives of Carroll-Phelps Co. of Winston-Salem, which handles property appraisals for Warren County, are conducting a field survey in Judkins and Sandy Creek Townships this week, according to Steve Whitacre, a company representative.

The field surveys, which began in June, involve only the gathering of information, Whitacre said. Appraisals are not being made at this time.



First mosquito: "Why are you so happy?"  
Second mosquito: "I just passed the screen test."

## Day Camp Held Here

Area girls attended the annual Warren County Girl Scout Day Camp recently.

This year's camp was sparked with enthusiasm, excitement, and good participation by 26 scouts and non-scouts.

Many activities were enjoyed by the girls including tennis, volleyball, arts and crafts, trail-blazing, pantomime, and storytelling.

Mrs. Louise Hunter and Mrs. Elaine Coleman captivated their audiences with their stories, and the contribution of their time and talent was appreciated by the girls.

Badges were earned in individual sports, group sports, and theater by a large number of the girls attending.

The week's activities were capped with an awards ceremony and cookout. Afterward, the girls enjoyed a swim trip to the Soul City swimming pool.

Those on the day camp staff were: Sandra Norwood, Joann Wright and Vickie Norwood.

The following organizations helped with the camp: Young's Septic Tank Service, General Box, Warren County Jaycees, Warrenton Rotary Club, Willing Workers, Norlina Woman's Club, and area troops.



### Earth Cracks

Despite a deep snow cover and low temperatures during a Yellowstone National Park winter, elk can feed at steaming pools and springs forced by pressure through cracks in the earth, according to National Geographic World magazine. Green plants grow around the pools and springs.

# CALENDAR

## Hot Dog Sale Scheduled

The Church of God of Warrenton will have a hot dog sale Saturday from 10:30 a. m. until 5 p. m. at the fellowship hall of the church. Call 257-3912 to place a take-out order.

## Homecoming Plans Listed

Locust Grove Baptist Church will observe its annual homecoming and family day on Sunday, July 24, beginning at 11:30 a. m. The Rev. Raymond Garnes of Reading, Penn., formerly of Wise, will be the guest minister. Dinner will be served. Revival services will begin on Tuesday night at 7:30 with the Rev. Dr. John McKnight as evangelist. The public is invited.

## Anniversary Is Slated

The Senior Choir of Cooks Chapel Baptist Church of Warren Plains will observe its anniversary at 6 p. m. Sunday. Eight-year-old Alyssa Wright will be one of the soloists, along with other soloists and various vocal groups. The public is cordially invited.

## State Workshop Held For Retired Personnel

A state workshop for the Retired School Personnel met at the Holiday Inn in Williamston July 14.

Members of the Warren County Unit attending were Ms. Ada Waller, president, Betty A. Ingram, treasurer, Annie Mae Alston, chairman of Community Participation, and McCarrroll Alston, substituting for Ada Johnson, chairman of Informative and Protective Services.

Mrs. Phoebe Emmons, state president, presided. After the opening session, the delegation went into

assigned workshops. Following the workshop a delicious luncheon was served by AARP.

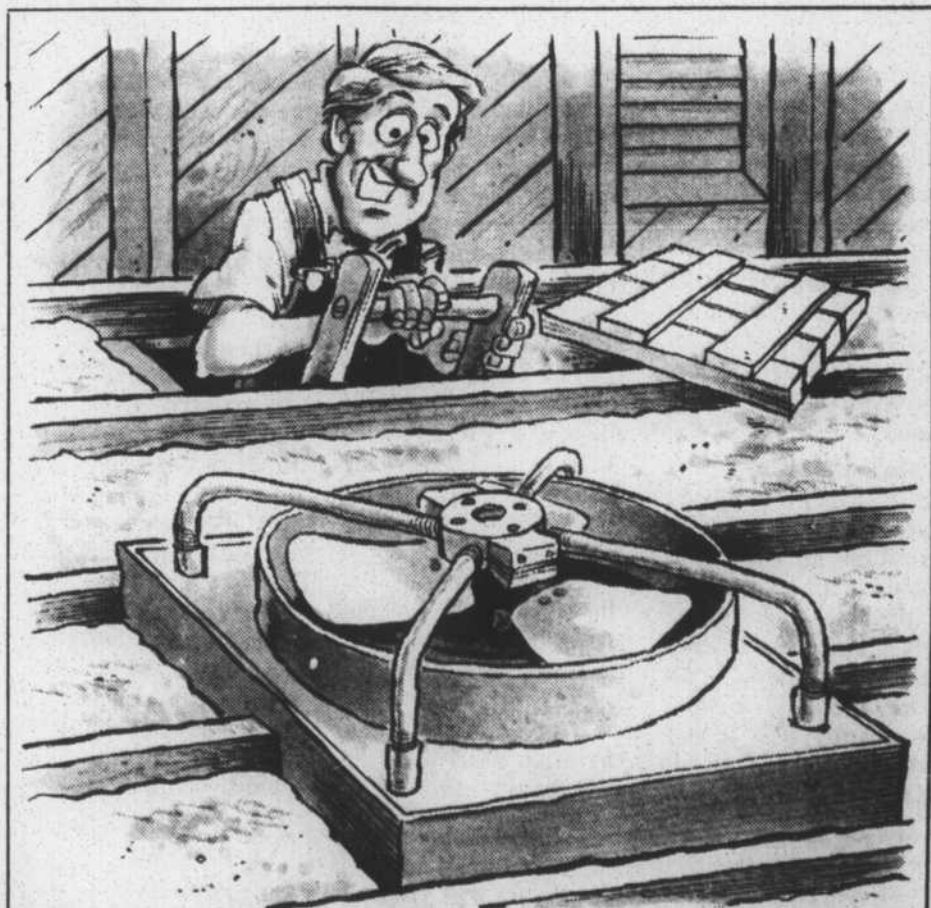
In the closing session, Mrs. Beverly Nicolas from Washington, D. C. headquarters gave an explanation of the advantages of AARP. A report was given from each workshop. Mrs. Emmons closed the meeting with compliments to the delegation for its attendance and participation.

### Harmless Film

The film that forms on opened bottles of olives is harmless and does not affect the olives.

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