

The Warren Record

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Our Fiscal Interest

"There is more to life than fiscal interest," Wingate Lassiter pointed out in a thought-provoking editorial in last Friday's *Smithfield Herald*.

"Perhaps it's nothing new. But there's mounting opposition across this nation against taxing ourselves for the public good," he said. "No doubt many Americans are alarmed that so much of their income is taken by federal, state and local taxes. It's in everyone's self interest to keep as much income as possible for personal use."

The writer points out, however, that there is another side of this coin of anti-taxation. He says we may be depriving ourselves and our children of future peace of mind as well as real prosperity by our short-sighted opposition to much that our government strives to do with our tax dollars.

"Examples of this danger are endless," Lassiter says.

"Protection of the national environment is one. A decade ago, the Federal Government provided grants to almost every local government across the land to upgrade sewage disposal systems and to upgrade our rivers." He mentions several

more illustrations that could also be applicable to Warren County.

The sad thing about this reluctance to pay taxes is that pennies saved in tax payments are eventually paid for by dollars lost. A fine example is the huge amount in tax dollars that has been spent, or yet to be spent, in repairing roofs of public buildings and their foundations. This is true in several of our school buildings and in our hospital. Unfortunately, this neglect of roofs has been carried into the private sector.

Sometimes the spending of money for collective work can actually save us money. If Warrenton did not tax our people to collect garbage and the removable trash, it would cost the individual citizen much more to dispose of his own trash. And perhaps much more is that as a result of our community efforts we have a much more attractive town where the quality of life is higher.

A rather long life has taught us that we usually have to pay for what we get, in one way or another, and that cooperative action is not only desirable in many cases but also essential.

Salute To Finlator

By JAY JENKINS

In The Southern Pines Pilot

Wake Forest University in 1984 is observing its 150th birthday, and the university magazine recently devoted an issue to some of the personalities who have helped build its reputation during its lifetime.

Atop a picture of a smiling fellow wearing a Tyrolean hat is a quotation by him: "There is more sorrow in heaven over one dissenter squelched, than over all conservatives who brook no dissent." The author is the Rev. W. W. Finlator, *Wake Forest* 1934.

He has been, says the magazine, "Wake Forest's finest revolutionary and radical, in the classic tradition inspired by the Christian faith."

Two years ago at the age of 69 Finlator retired as pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh. It would be more accurate to say that he switched pulpits, because since he left Pullen he has kept a busy schedule arm-wrestling the Devil and smiting injustice over an expanded territory.

He still opposes capital punishment, the Reagan policies in Central America, the deportation of Chicano migrant laborers without due process of law, the nuclear arms race.

He never misses an opportunity to promote equal rights for women, inside and outside the church, and to support movements designed to protect the environment. He remains a staunch advocate of civil rights.

Finlator made public a letter he wrote to House Speaker Liston Ramsey in which he contended that the Good Friday services traditionally

celebrated in the capitol building violated the principle of separation of Church and state. He also outraged some of his fellow Baptists by contending the principle also was violated by the program under which state tax funds are used to subsidize church-supported institutions of high education.

In sum, Finlator has been doing in retirement what he did from the pulpit for more than 40 years: proclaiming the same themes, rocking the same boats, and provoking thought.

Back in the early days when Finlator was espousing or opposing volatile social issues, in opposition to the majority sentiment of the Baptist State Convention, there were mutterings that preachers "ought to stick to religion." Finlator must smile at that memory as television evangelists today seek to emulate Boss Tweed.

Folks who have been angered by Finlator's words always are disarmed by Finlator in person. He is witty, well-read, personable, free of any clerical stuffiness and a boon companion. He is sincere in his beliefs, and never lays claim to infallibility.

Playwright Paul Green of Chapel Hill, a few months before he died, stated the matter clearly when he wrote in a letter to Finlator:

"Dreams that often get fastened down in steel and concrete, ritual and rote may prove obdurate and evil, cruel and oppressive, but we must keep at the business of awakening the sleeper, mustn't we? You do!"

Mostly Personal

More About Hendersons

By BIGNALL JONES

The article about the Hendersons which appeared in this column on May 23, following the death of Mrs. Agnes Henderson Taylor in Goldsboro on the previous Saturday, was not only well received, judging by the number of persons who have mentioned it to me, but also has had its ramifications which may be of some interest.

The only daughter of Agnes Henderson and Joe Taylor, Douglas Taylor first married Ben Haas, author of "The Scavenger," a Civil War novel and for several years they made their home in Raleigh. Following his death, she married Willard Bennett, a State College professor. She owns and operates Raleigh Creative Costumes store in Raleigh, where Mrs. Mark Bickett, the former Ruth Weldon of Warrenton, is employed.

When the article appeared in this column, Mrs. Bickett's mother, Mrs. Elsie Weldon mailed Douglas a copy of The Warren Record.

Following the receipt of this paper, Douglas telephoned me to thank me for the article, and to request that I mail her some extra copies of it.

She was very gracious and we had what was to me a delightful conversation. She told me that my nephew, Rives Taylor, was one of the pallbearers at her mother's funeral, and that he quite often visits her when business calls him to Raleigh. Rives is the son of my sister, Ella Brodie Jones, and Dr. Rives Taylor of Oxford and for a number of years has been employed in John Umstead Hospital at Butner.

Douglas was not only very gracious, but has a nice telephone voice. When I mentioned this to Elsie Weldon, she replied "She is just as sweet as she can be."

Douglas, in reply to a question, said that her uncle, Douglas, and his wife, Bell, were both living in a nursing home in Philadelphia and promised to send me their address. She also told me that I was mistaken about her family operating a five and ten cents store in Warrenton, which I regret. Since the entire article was written from memory, it could have been that at some time in my teens that one or more of the Henderson children worked there. I am reasonably certain that there was that kind of store operating where the old Warren Theatre was later operated.

Checking the facts, I turned to my copy of "Sketches of Old Warrenton, North Carolina," by Lizzie Wilson Montgomery. I found that Mary Cook Green was postmistress of Warrenton from 1865 to 1906. Mrs. Montgomery said "In the southwest corner of the Old Cook Place there stood until recently removed a small one-story building in which Mrs. Green kept the Postoffice, in the rear she had her residence."

After her death I am reasonably sure that a small store was operated there.

Mrs. Montgomery also comments on the Henderson family in part as follows:

"On the north side of the Maria Campbell

home was the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Henderson, built about 25 years ago on the site of the old Presbyterian Church, which is now the schoolhouse in the yard of the home of Miss Lucy Hawkins. Mr. Henderson was a native of Granville County, now Vance, and was the son of Dr. Bill Henderson, for many years a practitioner of medicine in that county, well known and much liked and was also the grandson of Chief Justice Henderson of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and a worthy descendant of that noble man. He was a Presbyterian in faith and lived up to the tenets of that church. He was a very intelligent man, well educated and a good conversationalist. He and my husband were more than friends. He first married Nellie, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sol B. Williams, then her sister Daisy. There were three children born to them. Mr. Henderson came to Warrenton when it first became a tobacco market and the warehouses were built, and he became a successful buyer of leaf tobacco.

"After Mr. Henderson's death in 1904, his widow and children continued to make their home in this place. Her father and mother and three younger children resided with her. Mr. Williams did not long survive Mr. Henderson, and died leaving Mrs. Williams a hopeless invalid from paralysis, but always cheerful and

hopeful, imparting her lovely spirit to all that were thrown with her. She was a benediction in the home. Her children rendered her years of beautiful devotion and unselfish service.

"Mr. Williams was a most exemplary man in his home and community life, a devoted Methodist, and in manner very much resembled his distinguished father, John Buxton Williams.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams were the parents of seven children that reached manhood and womanhood. They were John, Buxton, Percy, Nellie, Daisy, Susie and Alice Vaiden.

In view of our experiences with murderers during the past several days, it may be pertinent, to relate a gruesome experience in the Warrenton Episcopal Church, as told by Mrs. Montgomery in her sketch of Mrs. Mary Cook Green. She wrote of Mrs. Green: "She had a very retentive memory, and was full of reminiscences of the town and county. One of the most striking and gruesome incidents of her childhood that she told, was seeing her uncle, Mr. Marshall, while acting as a specially appointed guard to a man convicted of murder, carry the prisoner to the Episcopal Church, the Sunday before his execution, with a rope around his neck, and seated him on the bench just under the pulpit, in order to have his funeral sermon preached."

News Of Yesteryear

Looking Back Into The Warren Record

June 9, 1944

The invasion of the West Coast of France by Allied forces was this morning reported to be progressing favorably following landings on the beaches of Normandy early Tuesday morning. Resistance is steadily increasing but the Allied armies are still making progress.

Mrs. Lanie M. Hayes was on Wednesday afternoon appointed Clerk of Court of Warren County by Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids after consultation with the Warren County Democratic Executive Committee.

S-Sgt. William K. Delbridge, Company K, 395th Inf., has been commended by Capt. Roy Leuders, commanding officer of the 99th Reconnaissance Troop, for his instruction with the bayonet.

June 5, 1959

Wade M. Woodall, principal of John Graham High School for the past two years, has resigned to accept a position with Scott-Foresman Publishing Company in Chicago.

Officers and men of Company B of Warrenton will be among the more than 9,000 National Guardsmen from North Carolina who will arrive at Fort Bragg on Sunday for two weeks of active duty for training.

J. B. Martin was appointed Civil Defense Director for Warren County by the board of commissioners at their meeting here Monday. Martin will serve without pay.

June 6, 1974

A proposed \$114,142 town budget was tentatively approved and a tract of land was donated to the Town of Norlina in action taken at the monthly meeting of the Town Board Monday night.

Miss Laraine Alston, a senior at John Graham High School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Alston of Warrenton, will receive a four-year scholarship from the Oxford-Henderson Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for her college studies.

The marriage of Miss Connie Sue Holloman, daughter of Mrs. Henry Curtis Holloman, of Dillwyn, Va. and the late Rev. Mr. Holloman, to Russell Clayborn King, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Clayborn King of Wise, took place on Saturday, June 1 at 4 p. m. in Salem Baptist Church in Sparta, Va.

Letter To The Editor

Writer Takes Issue

To The Editor:

I would like to take issue with The Warren Record editorial on allegiance and loyalty to the party in the May 30th issue. What I would like to question is, should this be a blind and deaf allegiance and loyalty?

I am a registered Republican and proud of it, but I am not so tied in that my mind and heart are not in tune with the issues of the times, national and state. I wish the election process could be tailored so that I could have a more active vote in the county primary elections, but I am thankful that there has just recently been a change in the election law making it easier to split ticket voting in the general election. I lost something over six hundred votes by this ruling the time I ran for clerk of court along with the other eleven hundred votes it would have given me a fair showing. But with this change in the election law it is going to make it easier to build from those grassroots and be able to stand on principals for better government within the state.

I do not look at it as a sad truth if Jim Martin is elected governor, he probably has more basic background to govern than his opponent will have to offer. He is the son of a preacher, and he has been a school teacher, county commissioner, chairman of the state county commissioners association, and for twelve years he has been a congressman.

LELAND GOTTSCHALK
Afton

Cub Scout Meeting Planned In Vance

More than 50 Cub Scouts in the Occaneechee Council, Boy Scouts of America, which includes Warren County, will take part in the Great Northern District Cub Scout Day Camp which opens on June 11 at E. M. Rollins Elementary School. The Cub Scout Day Camp will be directed by David Flory, district scout executive with eight years of summer camp staff experience.

The first day, June 11, will begin at 9 a. m. and continue until 3 p. m. through Friday, June 15. On Friday, events will be from 3 p. m. to 8 p. m.

Many of the activities of the day camp will be related to the achievements and electives of the Cub Scout advancement program, as well

as such activities as archery, woodworking, crafts, games and an obstacle course.

The program of the day camp is designed to meet the needs and interests of individual boys, Flory explained, and is part of Scouting's educational program for youth.

"Cub Scout day camping is fun and adventure with a purpose," Flory said, "and it meets a need for eight, nine and 10-year-old boys in our area."

Information about the Cub Scout day camp, which costs \$20, is available from David Flory at 492-9647.

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