

# The Warren Record

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## Signs Of Inflation

In adopting the tentative budget for the Town of Warrenton last week the town commissioners provided for a 5 percent raise in salaries of town employees to cover the increase in the "cost of living."

The County of Warren provided a 6 percent increase for all its employees. In neither case were the raises based on merit. Reading papers coming in from other counties one finds similar action.

As we listened to the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Town of Warrenton state his reasons for asking for the raise, we were reminded of the constant boast of the Reagan Administration of how the President has practically wiped out inflation. The actions of town, county and state does not jive with the claims of the President, nor with the six dol-

lars we paid last week for a fluorescent light tube for a small bathroom light fixture, nor with the increased prices our company has to pay as it re-orders goods sold to our customers.

From our own observation and a statement by David Rockefeller, who must bear his share for part of our fiscal troubles, it was the rise in oil prices that brought on the 20 percent rise in inflation in the Jimmy Carter Administration, and it is the drop in the same oil prices that has largely been responsible for any decrease in the rate of inflation.

What is of more concern is a trillion dollar deficit, and the announcement Tuesday morning of a \$19.4 billion trade deficit during the first quarter of the fiscal year. The old record, \$17.2 billion, was announced only three months earlier.

## Fighting And Drinking

The Littleton Observer, in its issue of June 14, uses the 21-year-old drinking bill as an example of how the Federal Government browbeats states into complying with national policies it thinks are best for the states. The means are to withhold the state's share of its money; a portion of the highway fund would be withheld if a state fails to make it illegal to sell alcoholic drinks to persons under 21 years of age.

Our sister paper opposes both the age limit and the principal of federal enforcement of such and similar laws. "The argument in favor of the bill is that its passage would reduce highway fatalities," says The Observer. "Of course it would. Highway accident deaths could be reduced even more by passage of a bill increasing the drinking age to 25, 30 or 35."

Then the paper brings up the old cliché, "If a man is old enough to fight for his country, he is old enough to take an alcoholic drink." This is the same kind of foolish reasoning responsible for lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 — one of this editor's pet peeves. This writer was under 19 when he entered the U. S. Army, and never worried about not being able to vote. If the reasoning had been carried to its logical conclusion during the Civil War we would have had 14 year-old boys voting. The main purpose of the proposed bill is to reduce beer drinking in the nation's colleges. Except for ROTC students, there are few military men in our colleges, and an exception could be made of these. As for the right to vote, it has little to do with the duty to fight.

## Short Memories

By JAY JENKINS  
In Southern Pines Pilot

When Governor O. Max Gardner (1928-32) completed his term and returned to his home in Shelby, Bill Enloe of Raleigh wrote him a letter thanking him for his service and complimenting him on his administration.

Enloe, a theater executive who later would serve as Mayor of Raleigh, said that a few months later he was in the lobby of the Hotel Sir Walter when Gardner spied him.

"Max broke off a conversation and came across the lobby to give me a warm handshake," Enloe said. "He said that after he left office, mine was the only kind word he got."

Governor Jim Hunt in his campaign against Senator Jesse Helms already has discovered that some favored constituencies pledged their fealty and support in disappearing ink.

In its original round of endorsements, the North Carolina Association of Educators—the organization of the public school teachers—refused to bestow its blessing upon Hunt. It would wait, the NCAE said, to see what Hunt produced in the way of a pay raise at the short legislative session this month.

This, despite the fact that Hunt during his seven and a half years in office had given his unstinting support to virtually every request, large or small, advanced by the NCAE. It was another example, of the but-what - have - you - done - for - me -

lately syndrome.

Since Hunt is the first Governor in many years who was eligible to serve a second term, it is far too early to try to assess the impact of two terms on the personal political fortunes of a chief executive who seeks to move from the Governor's Mansion to Washington.

Even after the Hunt-Helms race is over, any immediate attempt to weigh the pluses and minuses on that score would be futile. The evaluation must be left to future historians, who will want to rely upon more than one case history before reaching judgments. However, a few conclusions are valid now.

A Governor who serves eight years has more time to launch and implement initiatives. His appointive power, one of the major tools for the only Governor without the veto, is broadened. That valued political asset, name recognition, is firmly established. And in Hunt's case, his record has been one of solid accomplishment.

But at the other end of the scale there are the short memories of political beneficiaries, as typified by but not confined to the NCAE. Favors rendered during the first term aren't counted by recipients unless they continue to flow during the second term also. And as Governor Gregg Cherry was fond of saying, "When you make an appointment, you create one ingrate and 99 enemies."

## Mostly Personal

## Politics Of Long Ago

By BIGNALL JONES  
Because most persons are kind, from time to time some reader of this column will take the time to tell me that they enjoy this column, almost invariably adding "I like your articles about old times."

Perhaps some of these readers may enjoy reading about old time politics in Warren County, although my recollections may go beyond their memory.

My first recollection of politics goes back to 1908 while we were living in Sandy Creek Township near the Vance County line. I remember nothing of political talk of that period, but I do remember my father's going to Vicksboro to cast his vote for William Jennings Bryan for President of the United States, as he had in 1900 and 1904.

Fortunately, he threw his vote away, for time has proved that Bryan was an incompetent windbag with a golden voice. Father was more fortunate in 1912 when he cast his vote for Woodrow Wilson, a very able President, particularly during his first administration.

My father always loved politics and during my teen-years was always actively involved in the various campaigns, including his own as Warren County superintendent of schools. As the various voting dates approached, my father spent a good deal of time with paper and pencil trying to figure how the 12 precincts would add up, according to various promises and rumors. It was a great deal easier then and until after the Second World War, because if one knew how just a few leaders in the 12 townships of the county were going to vote, he would pretty well know how the county was going to vote. One day years after I cast my first vote, a farmer told me that if one of his tenants did not vote as he asked him that he would ask him to move. "If he did not have confidence in my judgment, I did not want him to work for me," he explained.

I am not certain who the first Democratic candidate was that I voted for when I became 21 years of age, but I think it was McAdoo, who was defeated by Warren Harding, with Calvin Coolidge as his vice president. Coolidge was nominated as vice president because he squelched a police strike while he was mayor of Boston. Coolidge became President upon the death of President Harding. I remember two of his remarks as reported by the press. The first was "The business of America is business." It had been since before the election of President Grant. The second remark was in reply to a compromise on World War I debts, "They hired the money, didn't they?" The attitude that brought forth that remark quite possibly brought on the Second World War. Coolidge has also been described as our sleepingest President.

During the twenties when I cast my first vote there were two political factions in Warren County. One was headed by John H. Kerr, Superior Court judge,

and the other by Jack Dowtin, register of deeds. No doubt my first local vote was cast for Kerr for judge, and perhaps the second was for Kerr for congressman. Each two years I voted for Judge Kerr until L. H. Fountain of Tarboro became the party's nominee and I voted for him.

During the twenties the local elections were pretty hot. One year the Kerr faction chose a slate of candidates for court house officials, and the Dowtin faction chose an opposing group. Came election day, or so the story goes, the Kerr faction hauled voters from Peck Mill to the Warrenton polls, where they all voted for the Dowtin faction.

Mr. Dowtin was long remembered for one of his observations. "I have always observed," he said, "when a Democrat obtains \$13,000 dollars, he automatically turns Republican." The figure is somewhat higher now.

From the end of the Civil War until the election of Woodrow Wilson this country was run by the Republican party with the exception of two separate terms by Grover Cleveland, whose philosophy was closer to the Republicans than to the Democrats. Wilson served two terms and was replaced by Warren Harding, who died in office and was replaced by vice president Calvin Coolidge who served until 1928, when he announced that he did "not choose to run."

The choice of the Republican Convention in 1928 was Herbert Hoover. The choice of the Democrats was the popular New York Governor Al Smith, a Roman Catholic, who ran on a platform of repealing the Prohibition Amendment, which Hoover

characterized as "A Novel Experiment." Southern voters, Democrats and Republicans alike, failed to find anything noble about the experiment of running a Catholic for President. Nobody said anything against the Catholic, but, strangely, friends of Prohibition multiplied amazingly. It was a dirty campaign with few holds barred.

On the morning following the voting, we learned from The News and Observer that for the first time since Reconstruction North Carolina had cast a Republican majority. When the Virginia newspapers came later in the day, we learned that Virginia had followed suit. I don't remember how many other Southern states voted Republican, but Hoover won by a big majority. Odd, though when the Episcopalian Franklin D. Roosevelt ran against Hoover on a repeal of the Prohibition amendment four years later, he won by a landslide.

Helping the Republicans carry North Carolina was one of its strongest leaders, Senator Furnifold Simmons. His party remembered, and ended his long career in Washington, and replaced him with Josiah William Bailey, who, incidentally, was born in Warrenton.



It is just as hard to do your duty when men are sneering at you as when they are shooting at you.  
Woodrow Wilson

## News Of Yesteryear

### Looking Back Into The Warren Record

June 23, 1944

Approximately one-half of the stock required to construct a freezer locker plant at Warrenton has been either pledged or subscribed, Bob Bright, county agent, said yesterday.

Lt. (j.g.) George A. Burwell, who has been stationed in the South Pacific, landed in California a few days ago and is visiting his wife and young son in Petersburg.

Mrs. W. R. Woodall entertained the Junior Thursday Card Club last week. Mrs. Irvin Watkins of Henderson, house guest of Mrs. Mack Sloan, and Mrs. R. D. Meade of Lynchburg, Va. both received stationery.

June 19, 1959

Harry Cohen, Warren merchant, was selected as "Lion of the Year" at the regular meeting of the Warrenton Lions Club Friday night. Cohen succeeds C. M. Bullock who held the honor last year.

Town-owned Hotel Warren will be closed on July 31 due to the cost of operation. The closing of the hotel will mean that for the first time in more than 40 years Warrenton will be without hotel facilities.

Lack of doctors in Warren County is offering a serious problem to the health of its citizens and its economic development, a group of Warren County citizens were told at a mass meeting in the courthouse on Monday evening.

June 20, 1974

Mrs. F. D. Draffin has returned home after a trip to the Caribbean and Nassau. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Faye Noneman, and grandson, Mark, of Edenton.

Warren County's two oldest school teachers, Mrs. Lula R. Davis of Liberia and Mrs. Maude Alston of Warrenton, were honored recently at a service at Greater Lovely Hill Baptist Church in Macon.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ormsby are spending sometime in Hawaii.

## Letters To The Editor

### Excellent Example

To The Editor:

I was privileged to be present in Durham on June 9 when Paul Greene of Warrenton graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. Coursework at the school, which is the first of its kind in the country, is widely known to be very demanding. All North Carolinians should be proud of the accomplishments of Paul and his classmates.

The business community has long recognized that continued growth and development in our state will only be possible if it is undergirded by a strong educational system. This must include not only specialized schools like the School for Science and Math, but strong local school systems that enjoy the active support of the entire community. Our state and nation will be inadequately prepared to face the challenges of tomorrow unless we all give strong support to our schools today.

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics is an excellent example of what a business/educational partnership can accomplish. The Business Committee for Math/Science Education urges all businesspersons to become involved in actively supporting education. It's the key to our future.

BLAND WORLEY  
Raleigh

### Liked Convention

To The Editor:

As I reflect on the Southern Baptist Convention held in Kansas City last week, I first of all am thankful for a church that allowed me to attend and also paid my way.

Also, I am thankful for an organization such as the SBC where we can air our differences, and because we have but one authority (God), we can go back to our individual churches still loving one another.

I personally feel that the decisions made, the votes taken, and the resolutions passed represented the grass-roots of the convention churches "back home." While I did not get passed everything I voted "yes" to, as a Christian and Southern Baptist, I accepted the vote of the majority.

As to the new president of the convention, I feel that Dr. Charles Stanley, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Ga. will do a great job for Southern Baptists. I think he represents the views of most people in SBC churches. He is one who holds to the fundamentals of the Scriptures. He is loved by many who attend his church and by those who view his weekly television program, "In Touch." I look forward to a great year with Dr. Stanley as president.

As to the reports I read in several newspapers in the last few days about conservatives bringing in bus loads of people to pass their issues, this doesn't even make sense. No Southern Baptist church can have more than 10 messengers, no matter how many members it has or how much it gives to the work of the convention. So, every congregation who meets very lenient requirements can have 10 messengers to the convention. So, when someone states that it was a bus-packing thing to get the certain viewpoint passed, he or she shows how little they know about the procedure.

In addition, if there had been many buses there, I don't know where they would have parked them for every conceivable parking garage and street area was filled with Southern Baptists. In fact, some of us had such a hard time getting a parking place, we ended up getting parking tickets for parking in the wrong place.

So, as I reflect back on this 1984 Southern Baptist Convention, I am thankful that the "bloody-battles" predicted did not occur and now we can go on with the Bold Mission effort of winning the world to Christ.

REV. JULIAN R. MILLS, SR.  
Sulphur Springs Baptist Church

## GRAND OPENING June 23 & 24

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