

# The Warren Record

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## Meaning Of Holiday

Since this week's edition of The Warren Record is printed on the Fourth of July, it is meted that editorial expression be devoted to the occasion. We are aided in this task by the heading selected by Pete Hulth for his column for The Smithfield Herald of June 29, "How High Is Your Patriotism This 4th of July?" which is a question we all may ask ourselves.

Hulth's column is based on a note he received from a friend, I. C. Mzingo of Pine Level, who for many years has served as Johnston County chairman of the American Legion's high-school oratorical contest. "And as the Fourth of July approaches, Clyde's emotions on the subject well up inside and have to come out."

While we have reason to believe that there is a great deal less sentimentality in our expressions of patriotism than there were when we were young, it is always dangerous to engage too heavily in generalities. So we will rely on a partial report of the article from Pete's friend, as follows:

"During the last 30 years, we have seen the American way of life gradually change. We have seen more people voting,

discrimination abolished, and women's rights enhanced. In other words, we have seen an increase in equality for opportunity.

"Also during the past 30 years, it appears that there has been a decline in respect for the U. S. Flag and for our country. There has been a decline in law and order and the willingness of each citizen to participate in helping to keep the peace. Our founding fathers, who wrote the Constitution, assumed that each person would keep the peace and respect each person and his property."

Mzingo says there is one way we can help our citizens to be more aware of our heritage, and that is through the American Legion Posts who sponsor for our youth in grades nine through 12 an oratorical contest each year. Its purpose is to "develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States. It also develops leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and prepares an individual for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship...."

## You May Have Missed

By WINGATE LASSITER  
In The Smithfield Herald

The nation's news media are constantly under attack from politicians and the public for some of the news we choose to play big. But what about the stuff the news media ought to be covering but aren't?

Project Censored is a national newsmedia research project that identifies stories about important issues which are not widely reported. Here is the group's Top 10 "censored" stories of 1983:

(1) Israel supplies arms to Central America. According to the CIA, Israel is the largest supplier of weapons to Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa.

(2) U. S. never dropped out of the arms race. While the Reagan Administration would have Americans believe the U. S. hasn't been in the arms race for the past 15 years, statistics show the United States still leads in many areas of strategic arms development.

(3) U. S. ignored Soviet nuclear-freeze proposal. Last October Andrei Gromyko, U.S.S.R. minister of foreign affairs, made sweeping proposals for freezing nuclear weapons and condemning nuclear war; but the Reagan Administration ignored them and so did the nation's news media.

(4) Farm program failed. President Reagan's "Payment In Kind" farm subsidy program of 1983 "was one of the worst agricultural disasters in American history," says Project Censored.

(5) Korean Air Lines plane was a victim of a "spy war" going on between the U. S. and the Soviet Union. Sources indicate that KAL planes regularly fly over Soviet air space to gather military intelligence and that the U. S. could have interceded in the Soviet attack on the Korean jet that killed 269 people.

(6) Conservative editor rejects U. S. policy in Central America. Peter Fox of the Billings, Mont. Gazette reversed his opinion of what was going on in Central America after he visited there. He resigned his commission in the U. S. Army National Guard to protest American interven-

tion in Latin affairs.

(7) Media neglect South Africa politics. While the U. S. media provide substantial coverage of Poland's Solidarity Movement and the fight against Communism, they ignore the struggle going on in South Africa against the racist apartheid regime there.

(8) Navy experiences nuclear accidents. An unpublicized list now documents 126 accidents of nuclear-powered U. S. Navy vessels, including 37 involving reactors and 13 resulting in discharges of radioactive material into U. S. coastal waters.

(9) Biological warfare research proceeds. Under the guise of "defensive" research, biological warfare, researchers in the U. S. Department of Defense are delving into recombinant DNA (gene splicing) technologies.

(10) Pentagon swindles taxpayers. The Department of Defense uses a federal contracting system for military weapons which encourages cost overruns, inefficiency, and fraud. "Cost-plus" is nothing more than an open-ended price tag which, in the words of Project Censored, "allows contractors to overcharge America's taxpayers and reduces our military strength."

What the people don't know won't hurt them? Who says?

## Fall Of Man

By BILLY ARTHUR  
In The Chapel Hill Newspaper  
Story is told about a couple at Ackland Art Museum (in Chapel Hill). The husband paused before the painting of an extraordinary beauty. She was covered with only a few leaves. For some time he stood there admiring the painting. Then his wife nudged him and said, "Come on, dear. We can't wait here for autumn."

## Mistake Making

A bachelor is a man who can make a mistake without ever knowing it.—Franklin P. Jones.

## Snake Story Is Told

By BIGNALL JONES  
Reading over the editorial page of The Wake Weekly last Thursday morning I learned that an "8-foot snake changes drastically when dead," that the Wake Forest Methodist Church is served by a woman as pastor, and that Bob Allen, editor of The Weekly actually likes snakes.

Editor Allen also writes a weekly column, "Roving Around" (a Mostly Personal sort of thing) which is well read. Snakes were the subject of his interesting column this week, and it was from this column that I learned that all policemen do not like snakes, and that Bob does not only like all kinds of snakes, but has a snake terrarium which his family enjoys.

Since this is the height of the snake season and since I have not borrowed anything from The Wake Weekly for a long time, and because I believe our readers will enjoy the column, I am reproducing his article, as follows:

This is the time of year when snake stories abound.

Our pastor, the Rev. Helen Crowell, pastor of the Wake Forest United Methodist Church told one recently during morning worship about finding a long snake with markings all down its back. She was nearly petrified and said, "It was nearly 8 feet long" and its head was triangular like a poisonous snake.

She didn't want to call her genial neighbor, Dwight Lowie, because she felt like she had bothered him too much already. Instead, she called the Wake Forest Police station for help.

Now, the police are always eager and ready to step into action, whether it be to stop speeders or to investigate a shooting. But, to catch or kill a snake....well, that's a different story.

It seems one burly officer lost out and he was elected to go to Helen's rescue. She pointed to the area where she found the snake in her garden near the house. The officer, who already had begun to break out in a cold sweat, diligently searched the area in hopes probably that he wouldn't find it. No such luck. . .he, too, saw the 8 foot monster and quickly proceeded to chop it with a long-handled hoe as Helen stood her distance shivering.

All she could think about was getting rid of the terrible, poisonous serpent or she would never feel safe in her yard again.

Now comes the strange part. After the snake was killed, it turned out to be only 4 feet long, the diamond-shaped markings on its back disappeared and its head was not pointed after all.

The terrible, "poisonous snake" turned out to be a harmless black snake which is good to have around for the control of rats and mice.

Every member of our family of six now shudders when we hear of a story like this because we all have learned to appreciate harmless snakes. It started back in the 70s when 14-year-old Greg accepted a snake from a "friend."

## Mostly Personal

One thing led to another and he talked me into helping him build a snake terrarium to better view his pet and soon got another one when someone learned we liked snakes.

I'll have to admit it took some getting used to before I could relax with these new pets. I soon learned the best way to appreciate them was to learn everything I could through books and from talking to the late Jesse Walls, who used to go on snake hunts to pull fangs from moccasins.

We ended up with several black snakes, a king snake, which was very tough and showed us why they could kill poisonous snakes and the best of all...a spreading adder.

The adder was a regular little showman. If you approached the glass front cage, it would start rattling like a rattler. This is usually enough to scare you out of your wits, but to some of us others, who became snake fanciers, we continued to get

closer and the adder would then stand up and spread its neck just like a cobra.

Now, if you haven't seen this, you have a scary treat in store. This sight would absolutely petrify you unless you knew him like we did. We continued even then to advance toward the "cobra" behind the glass and just when we came within a foot, it would turn over and play dead.

We often then played the game a little further and righted the "dead" snake. He would immediately roll back over and we all would have a good laugh. Everyone knows a dead snake can't roll back over.

Naturally, a lot of people thought we were crazy and maybe we were. It at least taught us to understand snakes a little better and sympathize with them. How would you react if your legs and arms were cut off and you had to crawl around on your belly? I'll bet you would try to be "mean as a snake," too.

## News Of Yesteryear

### Looking Back Into The Warren Record

July 7, 1944

W. R. Strickland, Warrenton plumbing and heating contractor, was named president of Warrenton Railroad Company at the annual stockholders meeting on Tuesday night, succeeding W. N. Boyd, Warrenton warehouseman who had served in this capacity for the past four years.

Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Clark have been notified that their grandson, Pfc. George Duke, son of Vernon Duke of Middleburg and the late Lela Clark of Marmaduke, has received the Purple Heart.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tarwater spent Saturday in Williamsburg, Va. They are visiting relatives in Maryland this week.

July 3, 1959

Announcement of the sale of Radio TV Center, Inc. to Allen Tucker of Warrenton was made yesterday by Van D. Alston, president.

Viewers of the late-night Jack Paar TV show Monday saw a Warrenton woman, Mrs. R. H. Bright, make her appearance on this nationwide program.

The election of a Warren County native, F. Perry Wilson, to the newly created office of executive vice president of Union Carbide Canada, Limited, has been announced recently by A. A. Cumming, president.

July 4, 1974

Warren County Democratic faithful Saturday elected W. E. Terry, principal of John Graham High School in Warrenton chairman of the county's Democratic executive committee. Terry succeeds Warrenton attorney Frank B. Banzet, who was ineligible for re-election.

Members of the Warren County Historical Association agreed Monday night to publish a brochure on Nathaniel Macon's homeplace to help raise additional funds for restoration at "Buck Spring."

Warren County's budget, approved by the Board of Commissioners Monday, calls for total expenditures of \$3,095,528 and a tax rate of 73 cents on the \$100 valuation.

**DID YOU KNOW?** *By Louise*

**The CONCORDE**  
HAS FLOWN FROM NEW YORK TO LONDON IN 2 HOURS AND 55 MINUTES! IT USUALLY FLIES 23 MILES A MINUTE. TO QUARTER A TRIP ON THE CONCORDE YOU'D HAVE TO PAY BETWEEN \$15,000 AND \$20,000 AN HOUR.

**Koalas**  
FOUND IN AUSTRALIA, HAVE SUCH A RESTRICTED DIET THEY EAT ONLY THE LEAVES OF EUCALYPTUS TREES. WHEN MANY OF THE EUCALYPTUS TREES WERE CUT DOWN, KOALAS BECAME ALMOST EXTINCT. NEWBORN KOALAS ARE AS THIN AS A PENCIL AND ABOUT 1" LONG. MATURITY TAKES 4 YEARS.

**NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL**  
IN PARIS, ATTRACTS NEARLY 20,000 VISITORS A DAY. THIS 820-YEAR OLD CHURCH HAS BEEN HAVING ITS 130-YEAR OLD HEATING SYSTEM REPLACED.

**\$12. TO \$14 BILLION**  
A YEAR IS SPENT ON SHOES AND FOOTWEAR IN AMERICA ANNUALLY. FEET CONTAIN 19 MUSCLES, 26 BONES, OVER 100 LIGAMENTS.

## Letters To The Editor

### Young Farmers In Need

To The Editor:

I don't know why I wanted to become a farmer. I knew it would take a farm and the money to buy one. The first ten years of my adult life were spent saving the five thousand I needed to borrow ten more to buy a rather neglected place I could get for that price.

With the help of a good wife we made it our home, raised our family, paid off the debt, built a comfortable house and later saved something for our old age. Having worked so hard to build it up, we wanted to keep the place in the family and hoped one of our children could continue to farm it.

A few days ago I received my notice from the county tax supervisor. Their appraisal says that this farm is worth almost a quarter of a million dollars; and the property tax will be around two thousand a year. At age 68 I will have to give up farming myself. At current rental values I can get enough to pay the taxes and pay for repairs and upkeep. I can live on my social security and some interest money. With reasonable luck my wife and I have it made!

But what about keeping a "family farm"? If one child has to buy out the other four, it means the interest on the two hundred thousand could run as high as thirty thousand dollars a year.

On the basis of productivity and earning ability there is just no way that the net income from this farm, in its present state, could be more than perhaps half of that.

It is my contention that the law requiring the re-appraisal of property in the state was enacted solely to insure equality and fairness among the taxpayers. The contention by the State Property Tax Commission, through its secretary, and through the appraisal firm it approved is that all land in the county has a true value equal to that of selected and isolated sales of far less than one per cent of all county property. While the law clearly states that many other factors including the property's productivity should be considered, they are in fact completely ignored.

The more than doubling of property values in Warren County during just eight years has no doubt disturbed much of the public. It should be even more concerned about what happens to those who produce our food and fibre. When the corporate farm takes over prices may tend to look up a bit at the grocery store.

This letter is written with the hope that somewhere in the non-farm citizenry of the state there will be a few unselfish souls who have not only the courage and the ability but also the willingness to speak up on the farmer's behalf. I have studied the Machinery Act pertaining to the property tax and feel that the law and the intent of the legislature are not really bad at all. What is bad, is the erroneous interpretation by officials that all property should be appraised and rated at its highest possible dollars.

We live in rather difficult times and our foresight is often clouded. I know that we, the older generation are being hard on young people in all walks of life. We are being especially hard on our young farmers. They need our help!

WILLIAM H. BENDER  
Rt. 2, Norlina

## Citizens Are Thanked

To The Editor:

The recent search for the fugitives from the Virginia Department of Corrections was a difficult and sometimes frustrating experience for all of those who took part. However, the aid and support the community gave us made it a rewarding experience as well.

I would like to thank you and the citizens in and around Warrenton for the assistance you gave to the Highway Patrol and the other law enforcement agencies during our stay. It was most gratifying.

If the Highway Patrol can be of assistance to you at any time, please let me know.

COL. D. L. MATTHEWS  
State Highway Patrol  
Raleigh

## Subscribed Everywhere

To The Editor:

I would like to say that your paper has kept me in touch with my home town for almost 23 years, since I graduated from Norlina High School and enlisted in the Air Force. Since this time my mother (Louise Young) has always kept me a current subscription to The Warren Record. I have read it in Texas, Florida, N. C., Alaska, Thailand, Turkey, and currently in San Antonio, Texas, where I retired. No one knows how much this paper has meant to me over the years.

ROBERT YOUNG, JR.  
San Antonio, Texas



"One second, Boss, while I cash my paycheck."