

The Warren Record

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Unfortunate Results

A few nights ago Superior Court Judge James Pou Bailey appeared on television and discussed the difficulty of imposing fair sentences upon convicted criminals. He said that if he should sentence a prisoner to serve 20 years in jail, that under the law, the sentence would automatically be reduced to 10 years. In addition, the prisoner would be given time off for good behavior and for other reasons the sentence would be reduced to six years.

This may be a well-known fact to the general public, but was certainly news to us, and we believe to most readers of this newspaper. Finding it hard to believe we checked with the office of the Clerk of Court. Here we were told that before the law was changed, that it could be expected that a prisoner would serve one-fourth of the time that he was sentenced to serve, but

now the formula was more complicated, but was only a fraction of the sentence.

The reason for changing the formula, we learned, was the adoption of the "fair sentencing law," because of difference in sentences imposed by different judges for the same crimes. Maybe the decision was necessary, but we think that the results have been most unfortunate. As a result of tampering with sentences, laxness in the parole system, and plea bargaining, our courts and prison systems are in a mess. This is borne out by the fact that more than 200 cases were on the District Court docket in this small county last week, as a result of repeats and build-up.

This state of confusion is not limited to North Carolina, unfortunately, but North Carolina has an opportunity to something about it.

More Notable Quotes

From "Observations, A Collection of Notable Quotes," compiled by Ed Williams, Charlotte Observer Associate Editor, we select two quotes. **THE TROUBLE WITH IACOCCA**, and **A MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR REMINDER**. They follow in that order:

Tom Bethell in National Review on U. S. import restrictions on Japanese automobiles and Chrysler President Lee Iacocca:

The quotas were imposed by the Reagan administration in 1981 to help Detroit meet the competition...Under the government-furnished protectionist umbrella, GM, Ford and Chrysler have been able to set prices perhaps \$500 a car above what a free market would permit; while, according to Robert Crandall of the Brookings Institution, Japanese cars here cost about \$1,500 more than the same models shipped to other foreign countries....

Now here comes Iacocca with his hand out, winning from Washington first a bailout for Chrysler and then protection from the competition. . . You might think Iacocca would be regarded as today's robber baron par excellence. But Joseph Kraft reports, "Today's heroes embody enterprise (Lee Iacocca of Chrysler)..."

Enterprise! Chutzpah would be more like it. The main problem with protectionism, and the reason why it does so much harm, is that it undermines real enterprise and real innovation, which require all-out effort and self-sacrifice on the part of en-

trepreneurs. Most businessmen, like everyone else, would really rather not make the effort, if there were any way of taking it easy and staying in business simultaneously. And of course Washington is the way. Go and talk to government officials, and simply ask them to keep the competition out by force.

In the long run, of course, keeping the quotas in place will spell disaster for the U. S. auto industry. The 10 Japanese car makers compete with one another fiercely...and from this competition will emerge innovations that could reduce our own companies to dinosaurs on a game preserve.

A Multibillion-Dollar Reminder

From The Washington Spectator:
A few weeks ago, Rep. Byron L. Dorgan, D-N.D., was flying in a small plane over the northern part of his state, and "I looked down once again on that concrete pyramid that the government built in the 1970s. It is the Free World's only antiballistic missile system. It cost us, with research and development, about \$5 billion."

"It still sits up there on the prairies, but it is just a shell. When it was debated in Congress, we were told the ABM was absolutely essential for the country's defense. We went billions of dollars on that ABM system, and within 30 days after they opened the doors, they announced they were dismantling it."

"Why? Because they said it was not useful; it was obsolete. So we understand in North Dakota about wasting money for defense projects."

Why Won't Reagan Face Fiscal Reality?

By WINGATE LASSITER
In The Smithfield Herald

One thing we can say for sure about President Reagan's approach to federal fiscal problems: he's consistent. He's telling us the same thing now that he told us four years ago—that it's possible to cut income taxes, boost military spending, and reduce the federal deficit all at once.

Yes, and two plus three equals four.

Mr. Reagan did it again during a press conference this week. He said his administration would not advocate increasing taxes despite an alarming deficit that's approaching \$200 billion and his administration's commitment to continue a steady buildup of U. S. arms.

The President would still have

American voters believe Congress can balance the budget by simply further dismantling social programs that have become entrenched as essential ingredients of the U. S. economy. He fails to recognize that Congress has gone about as far as it can go to cut spending on non-military programs. Balancing the budget by doing away with things like food stamps and farm programs and federal aid for sewage treatment plants would be self-destructive acts of political short sightedness.

The only realistic alternatives left to balance the budget are either to cut military spending or to raise federal taxes. Without bold leadership from Washington, the American people apparently aren't willing to



Several saplings are now rising from the grave of Nathaniel Macon and his wife, Hannah, located at Buck Spring plantation north of Vaughan. What remains of the plantation buildings need maintenance, a task made more difficult by lack of county funds and the remoteness of the historic site.

(Staff Photo)

Mostly Personal

Macon's Life Recalled

By BIGNALL JONES

A portion of the plantation of Nathaniel Macon on Hub Quarter Creek near the Roanoke River is and has been for several years owned by Warren County. During a restoration effort, headed by Warren County citizens, a number of years ago, funds for the restoration of the corn crib were furnished by the federal government. I am under the impression that the Macon house and smokehouse were restored with private donations, although there may have been some state funds involved. Whether any county funds were involved I do not remember although the timber from this land was sold by the county a number of years ago.

A full history of this distinguished North Carolinian is beyond the scope of this column or the ability of its writer. However, from a review of the "Life of Nathaniel Macon," by William E. Dodd, some facts of interest have been gleaned, and will be elaborated upon or condensed as space allows.

I digress to say that Friday morning as I looked at the badly burned proudly restored home of Macon, I paid particular attention to the conventionally installed weatherboarding. In the original home, which Dodd said in 1903 was in a perfect state of preservation, and which had been built of poplar timber, "...for some unknown reason the finished planks were turned upside down—that is just the reverse from what is the ordinary turn in weatherboarding."

Dodd's book was written in 1903. The reference volume in the Warren Memorial Library bears the name Marvin Davis, 1903, on the flyleaf. Davis was the brother-in-law of our next-door neighbor,

Mrs. Hannah Martin Barham Davis, a direct descendant of Nathaniel Macon. In her dining room was a large and beautiful dining table once owned by Nathaniel Macon.

Nathaniel Macon, the sixth child of Gideon and Priscilla Jones Macon, was born at Macon's Manor in Shocco Township in W. County on Oct. 17, 1758. This home is said to be the first home in Warren County to be fitted with glass windowpanes, although Macon was not as wealthy as the Hawkins family.

Gideon Macon died when Nathaniel was five years old, naming his wife Priscilla his executor.

In his will Gideon bequeathed to his son Nathaniel 500 acres lying on each side of Hub Quarter Creek near the Roanoke, as well as several tracts of land near his home in Shocco Township. He also left Nathaniel his blacksmith tools, upon the death of his mother, Priscilla, and three Negro slaves, George and Robby and one girl named Lucy.

Macon married Hannah Plummer on October 9, 1781, and moved to his plantation, named Buck Spring. Here with the help of a carpenter and his three slaves, he built a frame home of poplar wood, 16 by 16 feet square and one-and-a-half stories high, on a slight hill. The house contained one room on each floor and covered a large wine cellar. On a back corner of the ground floor, a narrow winding stairs led to the upper floor.

In front of this building Macon built a second building, with exterior similar to the first building, but with a larger fireplace. This was to serve as his kitchen. The upstairs room served as a bedroom for his daughters. Here Macon and his family

lived. His wife died in 1791. Although only 33, Macon never remarried.

Dodd said that little is known on Macon's college career, only that his mother appreciated the value of education and sent him to the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) where Benjamin and Joseph Hawkins were already attending, and which was attended by many young men from what is now Warren County, instead of William and Mary College at Williamsburg, Va. Afterwards he read law under some unknown lawyer at Bute Court House, but never practiced.

In 1828 Macon notified the North Carolina Legislature that because of the condition of his health, he was resigning as United States Senator, member of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina and Justice of the Peace of Warren County.

Dodd said that not only were the two dwelling houses standing in 1903, but several slave quarters, and stable remnants were still standing. By that time Macon had increased Buck Spring to 2,000 acres and a labor force of some 70 slaves.

Dodd said that Macon loved fox hunting and kept several blooded horses for this sport. He would not only invite friends to join him in the hunt, but would furnish them with superior animals to ride.

With his children grown and his wife dead, Macon often entertained male friends in his ample quarters at Buck Spring. Here on June 20, 1837, having been ill for some time, he arose and shaved carefully, and crawled back into bed, and sent for his doctor, and made arrangements to pay his undertaker and other funeral expenses, and died at the age of 79.

News Of Yesteryear

Looking Back Into The Warren Record

August 4, 1944

Several thousand dollars worth of damage was caused Warren County farmers by the severe windstorm that swept over all sections of the county Tuesday night in its path from the ocean inland, causing damage in eastern Carolina running into the millions.

Miss Bobbie Fuller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Fuller of Norlina, attended the House Party at Meredith College in June and on Sunday evening was crowned queen at the beautiful coronation service which is an outstanding event of the House Party each year.

Mrs. Katherine P. Arrington has returned to Warrenton after visiting her daughter, Mrs. Katherine P. Conway in Washington, prior to Mrs. Conway's sailing for England as a Red Cross recreational worker and visiting friends in New York.

July 31, 1959

The Warrenton Rotary Club went on record Tuesday night favoring an immediate improvement in physical conditions of the Warren County courtroom.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lloyd moved to their new home on North Rose Street this week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Woodall are spending some time with Dr. and Mrs. Dave Tayloe and family in Washington after visiting in the mountains of North Carolina.

August 1, 1974

A health clinic established to provide increased medical and dental services to residents of Warren and Vance counties will go into operation Monday in interim facilities at Soul City.

Miss Debbie Blackwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Blackwell of Warrenton, returned from Lyon, France Thursday, July 11, aboard the luxury liner S. S. France.

A Warren County native, Rix Mustian, was ordained as a minister of the Baptist Church at ordination services held at Rosemary Baptist Church on Sunday, July 28.

Family Reunion Held At Bullocksville Park

The Wilbur Primus, Emma Williams, and Henrietta Boyd Jones 26th family reunion was held Sunday, July 22, at the Bullocksville Park Glass House, near Kerr Lake in Vance County.

Approximately 200 family members and friends attended. Mrs. Beatrice Jones Maye was mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Annie L. Alston and Mrs. Viola Hudgins Brown registered the family members and friends, with other cousins helping.

The Union Grove Chorus from Warren County rendered special gospel music. P. S. Jones from Richmond, Va. was guest speaker. His topic was, "Living in His with Christ."

A historical tribute in memory of the latest deceased member, Mrs. Mabel Jones Davis, a retired Warren County school teacher, was given by her nephew, Robert E. Jones, Jr. of Raleigh.

Miss Cheryl Jones presented a plaque to Mrs. Beatrice Jones Eason of Washington, who was the oldest member attending, while Carmen Justina Mayo, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mayo, Jr., of Charlotte received the citation for being the youngest member of the clan in attendance. Wendell P. Jones of California

received a gift for traveling the farthest.

A memorial service for the five deceased members since last year's reunion was conducted by Mrs. Flora Jones Baskett with special prayer for the sick and shut-ins given by Sylvester Davis, Sr.

The young people enjoyed a cook-out on the spacious waterfront while others ate a variety of appetizing food from tables inside the Glass House.

Relatives from California, Florida, South Carolina, Michigan, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and many North Carolina cities attended.

Picture-taking and watermelon-cutting ended the evening's activities.

Disco music was played by Daniel Davis of Hecks Grove.

Courthouse Squares



from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

- August 2, 1858—First street letterboxes for collection of mail are installed, in Boston and New York City.
- August 3, 1914—Germany declared war on France, invaded Belgium.
- August 4, 1889—Special Delivery initiated.
- August 5, 1914—First electric traffic lights installed, Cleveland.
- August 6, 1945—First atomic bomb used in combat, dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.
- August 7, 1888—Revolving door patented.
- August 8, 1974—Nixon announced resignation.