

The Warren Record

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Seymour Speaks Out

By BIGNALL JONES
From 1950 to 1953 Robert Seymour served as pastor of Warrenton Baptist Church and during that time I learned to admire him for his tolerance, compassion and devotion to his faith. At this time, I, like many others, was disturbed over the question of integrating our schools, which was legally required, and the admission of Negroes into white churches, which the school question raised. Bob was very liberal on both issues as was Bill Wells, young Methodist minister. He, Bob and I spent many hours in the Warrenton office discussing moral ideas in general and integration in particular.

One thing about Bob Seymour I have always remembered. Naturally I grew very fond of him during the months he was in Warrenton, and while my own faith does not tend towards revivals my friendship for Bob caused me to attend a particular revival in the Warrenton Baptist Church. Although that was 30 years ago, I have a vivid recollection of Bob leading the singing with a hymn book in his hand and his face literally shining with happiness.

I recalled this Monday as I read a letter written by Bob Seymour to the editor of The News and Observer. The letter was headed, "Pastor Discussed Christianity and Helms."

My own dislike of Jesse Helms is no secret to readers of The Warren Record, although not expressed too often in this personal column. It started in the 1950's when he was editorial columnist for Radio Station WPTF of Raleigh with his bitter attack on Senator Frank Graham, a personal friend, and on the University of North Carolina with his unsubstantiated charges that Graham was affiliated with communists and that the university was a hotbed of communism. Willis Smith defeated Senator Frank Graham for the position of United States Senator and Jesse Helms went to Washington as executive secretary of Senator Smith, following an unusually bitter and dirty campaign. Willis Smith died in office, and Jesse Helms resumed his position as editorial columnist, where he built up quite a following. My objection to Jesse Helms then was his easy solutions to deep problems and his failure to realize the ramifications of his remarks.

The Seymour letter follows:

The letter urging support of Sen. Jesse Helms, "the outstanding Christian," which used the state Baptists' address labels reflects a serious misunderstanding of the historic Baptist principle of separation of church and state. The letter also revealed a narrow understanding of what members of The Christian Action League consider "Christian action."

The issues addressed were all matters of personal morality; prayer, pornography and abortion. What about the weightier matters of the law; economic justice, reversing the arms race

and an inclusive democracy that is sensitive to the needs of the poor, blacks, women and the elderly?

Our senior senator's record shows a consistent opposition to nearly every piece of legislation aimed at improving the health, education and welfare of North Carolina's people. How can we ever forget the Helms who for years fought integration and, until politically expedient, refused to employ a black on his staff?

It is a questionable

brand of Christianity that can support and endorse Helms. Indeed, I maintain that his defeat may be the most important thing Christians can do in our lifetime, not only for this country but for the world. We need a senator who represents all the people, who is committed to peace and who understands the social dimensions of Christian morality.

ROBERT SEYMOUR
Pastor
The Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, Chapel Hill

Today's N. C. Poem

HAY FEVER TIME
Some ten or fifteen million Americans know what it means to sniff and sneeze and to blow and blow—
From the middle of August to the end every year;
So now is the time when hay fever is here;
And these millions have joined me, I suppose,
For the annual battle with ragweed and nose.
We sneeze through the night and all through the day,
Regardless of whether we work or we play;
We sneeze until noses

are red as a beet,
And we get aggravated from our heads to our feet;
In fact, we're disgusted as the hay fever grows,
And at times we just wish that we didn't have a nose.
ERNEST C. DURHAM
Raleigh
—The late Mr. Durham was pastor of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Warrenton many years ago. "Today's N. C. Poem" was a feature of the editorial page of The News and Observer.

News Of Yesteryear

Looking Back Into The Warren Record

September 15, 1944

Sgt. Howard Riggan, Jr., bombardier with the U. S. Army Airforce, who is at home with his parents at Vaughan after completing around 80 missions over Europe, will talk on his experiences at a meeting of Limer Post of the American Legion to be held at Panacea Springs near Littleton on Tuesday evening, according to Alston Twitty, post commander.

The outstanding social event of the summer season was the lovely garden party given by Mesdames F. M. Drake, T. H. Rowan and E. H. Russell at the home of the latter in Macon.

The carload of registered Guernsey cattle bought in Wisconsin last week by County Agent Bob Bright are expected to arrive at Warrenton next week and will be delivered from the car to the farmers without charge by the Pine State Dairy.

September 11, 1959

Warren County is a storehouse rich in early American history and tradition...All of this history of Warren County — its settlers, its geography, its contributions—is included in a new book, "The County of Warren" by Manly Wade Wellman, noted author and historian and published by the University of North Carolina Press. It will be released September 26.

Miss Edwina Rooker has recently resumed her English classes in Southern Pines High School.

Former Sheriff Roy V. Shearin yesterday began the operation of his own business in Warrenton. He has purchased the Warren Seafood Market on Market Street from J. Morris Grissom of Henderson, who has been operating the market here each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for several months.

September 12, 1974

Opposition to proposed annexation of six areas lying on the outskirts of Warrenton surfaced Monday night at a meeting of the town board when two spokesmen of the area's oldest industry argued against inclusion of industrial property.

The Warren County Farm Bureau has moved its offices from Bragg Street in Warrenton to a new facility recently completed on U. S. 401, a half-mile north of Warrenton.

Members of the Warrenton Woman's Club moved a step closer to their plan to refurbish the Warrenton Depot Monday night when the Town of Warrenton agreed to a 10-year lease of the property on the northern edge of town.

Vaudeville Revue To Be Presented

Lakeland Cultural Arts Center in Littleton will again present its "Roaring 20's/Vaudeville Revue" on Sept. 14, 21, and 22 due to popular demand, according to Mark Taylor, executive

director of Lakeland. The show features vaudeville skits and rousing renditions of many favorite songs from that era, and the cast includes Star Abbott, Marvin Bobbitt,

Glaring Difference

To The Editor:

Having just listened to the latest "debate" between Governor Hunt and Senator Helms, I am constrained to point out a glaring difference between the two men. Senator Helms consistently referred to his opponent as "Governor" thereby according to him the respect due his office. On the other hand, Governor Hunt did not once refer to Senator Helms as "Senator" but consistently called him "Jesse."

Admittedly, this has nothing to do with any issues, but it certainly is striking testimony as to the character of the individuals seeking the office of senator. My vote will go with Senator Jesse Helms who has the dignity to be respectful.

GEORGE A. BURWELL
Warrenton

Future Pioneers May Settle Among The Stars

By DONALD J. FREDERICK
National Geographic News Service

Tomorrow's space pioneers will display the same gumption common to yesterday's settlers of the Polynesian islands and the American West.

But instead of traveling in outrigger canoes or covered wagons, they may someday ride into the unknown on microwave-powered rockets and hitch their fortunes to passing comets.

"It won't just be the restless, explorer-adventurer types such as the Magellans and Amundsens who will break the human bond with Earth, but self-reliant, imaginative people who are willing to take their chances raising families among the stars," predicts Eric M. Jones, an astrophysicist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Extraterrestrial Babies

One of the few scientists in the country studying the implications of future space migration, Jones thinks that the first human children could be born in space "within the first few decades of the next century."

Jones refuses to predict where this happy event might take place, but he concedes that a permanent base either on the moon or on a nearby asteroid could be a likely site for the first extraterrestrial nursery.

After that, the galaxy's the limit. History has proven that frontier folk multiply much faster than stay-at-homes. And there's no reason to believe that the space frontier will be any different, the experts say.

"Population-doubling once a generation—every 25 years—is not uncommon in frontier circumstances, so we can imagine a total solar system population approaching a trillion in 500 years," says Jones.

But where would they all live? Many might end up in the vast region of widely separated comets in the farthest reaches of the system. In a scenario advanced by Gerard O'Neill, a Princeton University physicist, they would not live on the comets, but in habitats built from materials from the comets such as silicon, aluminum and carbon.

A budding comet colony's energy needs would be provided by solar power and by deuterium extracted from the comet's frozen nucleus. The comet would also be a source of water.

There is some evidence that some comets aren't confined to a particular region, but wander through interstellar space.

Small groups of colonists might decide to tie their fortunes to these interstellar wanderers by accompanying them in large, microwave-powered spacecrafts. A group tagging along with such a comet could then tap the comet's many resources to help sustain itself almost indefinitely.

"They, like the Polynesians who learned the seafarers' trade among the islands north of New Guinea, would have learned the nomad life in the comet cloud and then could move outward," Jones says.

Drifting With Comets

"Drifting through interstellar space, the nomad groups would 'fission' from time to time and gradually spread toward the distant stars. Even if there were no fast ships, by drifting with the comet, our descendants could reach the nearest stars in 100,000 years and fill the galaxy in a billion, a time still short compared with the galactic age."

As Jones points out, interstellar migration would be a process of diffusion, the spread of a growing population that would touch virtually every speck of use ful territory before it was over.

Ben Finney, a University of Hawaii anthropologist, is convinced that "once people have settled other places in the solar system and beyond, humanity will never be the same again. It will change utterly and unalterably."

Finney foresees different cultures, governments, and economic systems once the settlement of the galaxy begins. Different species will evolve, he says. "there will not be one humanity in space, but many different intelligent life forms descended from homo sapiens," he predicts.

And what will become of Earth? Biochemist and author Isaac Asimov offers a possibility: "Properly handled, the Earth may become a rather parklike world, a rather low-density world, with most of humanity living in space communities."

Commendable Objective

Representatives of the Warren County Firemen's Association appeared before the Norlina Town Commissioners Monday night in search of a site for a training center for Warren County firemen, each of whom must have 36 hours of intensive training each year. They told the commissioners that they are interested in obtaining around six acres of the old Seaboard Airline Railroad pond and its pumping station for this purpose.

During the discussion, the representatives listed the importance of such a site where training for firemen would be carried on under the direction of Vance-Granville Community College, which also serves Warren County. They said that all the volunteer firemen of the county are required to have such training.

Should the firemen obtain the site, they would have to build a road from Highway 401 to the site, clean out the pond which has filled with debris since it was abandoned, and build a training

house, probably of concrete blocks, where firemen could be trained in rescue work from smoke-filled rooms. In addition they would have the cost of landscaping and grassing the sight to where it could be used as a picnic area. This is in addition to the cost of buying or leasing the property.

It is our understanding that the site which the firemen are interested in purchasing has little real value as it is swampy and overgrown with brush, vines, briars and trees of little value. The saw trees would be retained by the town.

Of course the property belongs to Norlina, and the decision is that of the commissioners who are sworn to protect the interest of the town. And yet the true value of the property is so little, and the opportunity for service so great, we hope the commissioners will go the second mile in helping Warren County firemen realize a dream of years — not for self but for better service to all the citizens of Warren County.

Plan Is Inadequate

In The Charlotte Observer

Perhaps if President Reagan and William Ruckelshaus, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, got their drinking water from a well — as more than half of North Carolinians do — they would have devised a tougher plan than the one announced last week for protecting underground water supplies.

EPA Deputy Administrator Alvin Alm maintained that his agency's "No. 1 priority" is preventing groundwater contamination. But to do that, the federal government must either mandate minimum nationwide standards for groundwater or provide enough federal money to help states handle the responsibility — or both. The plan Mr. Alm described as a "major step forward" does neither.

It sets aside only \$7 million — an average of \$140,000 for each state — for helping states prepare detailed groundwater plans. In contrast, federal, state and local governments, and private industries, are already spending millions trying to undo past damage to underground water supplies. Drilling, geological studies and water sampling to measure the extent of one site's contamination can cost \$250 million.

About half of the nation's water for drinking, washing and cooking comes from underground permeable rock formations known as aquifers. States are understandably nervous about federal regulation of these groundwater supplies because the

geology under each state is different and the uses made of the aquifers vary from state to state. Establishing a national policy that allows states the freedom to devise the most practical methods of protecting their underground water is difficult.

But in the absence of new federal rules or substantial federal money, states have no financial or legal incentives to do the job.

North Carolinians are fortunate to live in one of only 12 states that have adopted strategies to manage groundwater. But this state's groundwater experts lack money for implementation. And while some states may act responsibly on their own, others may not, and residents of one state are affected if neighboring states don't protect shared water resources.

Under the "guidelines" the administration presented last week, states that have not aggressively pursued groundwater problems — and that's most of them — are free to muddle along as in the past. That means industries and farmers — two major users of underground water resources—will continue to withdraw so much water so fast that the land about the underground reservoirs sinks.

The administration also has failed to convey to states the urgency of cleaning up existing chemical lagoons and landfills, whose contents otherwise will leach into aquifers far underground and contaminate the nation's purest drinking water.

Coffee Fights Crime

By Walter Spearman

In The Smithfield Herald

Latest news from the International Coffee Organization is that Americans are drinking more coffee this year. They are also finding more uses for their coffee.

In the winter of 1984, 57.3 percent of all Americans drank at least some coffee, compared to 55.2 percent a year earlier—but still a drop from the 74.7 percent in 1982. Word seems to be getting around that coffee, like so many of our other favorite foods, is really not good for us.

The U.S. is still the world's largest market for coffee, consuming about one-fourth of the world's coffee exports. And we Americans are drinking more of our coffee at work and at restaurants rather than at

home. This year three out of every 10 cups of coffee were consumed away from home, compared with two out of every 10 back in 1982.

If you are wondering why we are drinking more coffee on the job instead of in our homes, you might conclude that it's harder to stay awake on the job!

Or you might recall a recent news story from Glastonbury, Conn. about the volunteer firefighter who thwarted a would-be firebomber in a doughnut shop by throwing his cup of hot coffee at the bomber and dousing the lighted wick of the Molotov cocktail he was holding.

We addicted coffee drinkers welcome any suggestions of new uses for the coffee we like so well.