

The Warren Record

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The Warren County Scene



The train doesn't pass here anymore and what used to be the track from Warren Plains to Macon now bears more resemblance to a country path seldom traveled. The scene was captured recently from in front of the Warren Plains Depot. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)



Mary Catherine Harris

Pump Malfunctions

"Traverse the desert, and then you can tell
What treasures exist in the cold deep well,
Sink in despair on the red parch'd earth,
And then ye may reckon what water is worth."
The truth of these words penned years ago by Miss Eliza Cook was driven home to our family last week. It happened in our own back yard, miles from the arid lands of the Sahara and the Gobe and even America's Mojave. Stated simply, our water pump malfunctioned; not so simple was the dilemma it posed for our family.

During the approximately 18 hours while we were without water, we were reminded of a number of the familiar lessons one would expect to result from such experience, beginning with "you don't know how to appreciate something until you are without it."

We reaffirmed that Law of Supply and Demand which informs that the demand for a commodity increases as the supply decreases. One Harris, who almost daily awaits a reminder before brushing her teeth, at once became concerned how that and similar tasks before ranked as low priorities could be accomplished without water.

Water conservation took on new meaning as did the biology books' listing of that simple hydrogen-and-oxygen compound as one of the few real necessities for life.

Additionally, as would be expected, my ignorance of the workings of a water pump was diminished somewhat through the efforts to identify the problem. "Pressure tank" and "foot valve" were added to my still inadequate plumbing vocabulary. I can now locate, blindfolded I believe, the water pump circuit breaker in our switchbox, as I seemed to be the only person either inclined or capable to make the numerous trips between well and house to disconnect or reconnect electricity.

We identified, though in a different way, with the predicament of Coleridge's "ancient mariner" when we realized that an adequate supply of water was in the well and yet we had not one drop of it to drink, confirming that access to a commodity is equally as important as its supply.

Added to all the expected lessons, I reached yet another conclusion: One absolute cure for (and prevention of) a small problem is a bigger problem. I cannot recall a single complaint or concern voiced by any member of our family during those 18 hours which did not relate to the lack of water. I wonder what molehills failed to become mountains that day.



Kay Horner

No Football Fan

I am not, by any stretch of the definition, a football fan.

I do admit, however, that there is something exhilarating about gathering with enthusiastic alumni on a cool, crisp autumn night to watch your college team claim a well-deserved victory.

Saturday night was not one of those occasions. My husband had two extra tickets to the opening game of the season where his alma mater, N.C. State, was to face East Carolina. We invited another couple to join us for the trip to Raleigh, a tailgate dinner, and the game.

Since we provided the tickets, they agreed to provide transportation.

As we loaded their car with food and drink, I noticed that our driver had brought along two beach towels.

"Why," I asked, "do we need beach towels?" Driver's Wife rolled her eyes.

"Sweat," he replied. "When you get in that stadium in this heat and humidity under those lights with 50,000 other people, you're gonna sweat. We can dry off with these."

With the prospect of such fun ahead, we hit the road.

Subtly, my husband suggested a route to Raleigh that would get us into the stadium and into our parking place with the least amount of traffic.

"Nope, that road is too straight," Driver replied, explaining that his high-performance European car did its best on crooked, rural roads, not interstates. "That's the only way you can see how this car really handles."

We all settled in for our trip to Raleigh from Warrenton via Epsom and rolled along troublefree until just outside of Wake Forest, where Driver announced that High-Performance European Car had a tendency to overheat, especially in traffic on hot, humid days.

Driver's Wife rolled her eyes. We all knew that it was close to record-breaking hot and humid, and it was decided the less said about traffic, the better.

We chatted as we motored along in High-Performance European Car, which took the backroads so well that, had I closed my eyes, I would have sworn I was traveling on a logging trail in the Bavarian Alps.

As we pulled onto Interstate 40 about 10 miles from Carter-Finley Stadium, we were greeted by two

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Far-Reaching Judgment

A suit filed last week in Wake County Superior Court could have far-reaching implications for many Tar Heel landowners, including some in Warren County.

The legal action may affect thousands of acres of abandoned railroad tracks across North Carolina, according to court observers.

In the action, the North Carolina Attorney General's Office is suing Seaboard System Railroad over its practice of selling abandoned railroad easements to people who otherwise have no claim to the property involved.

This could have ramifications for Warren County residents who have a legal interest in the miles of abandoned right-of-way Seaboard relinquished several years ago between Warren Plains and Littleton.

The suit in Wake County seeks to strike down Seaboard's sale of about 100 acres of easements in New Hanover and Pender counties to a North Carolina businessman for \$27,767.

The Attorney General's Office claims that the railroad owned only 22.6 acres of the line outright, and had obtained easements during the 19th Century to operate on the remaining 1,132 acres.

The state's suit contends that once Seaboard abandoned the line, its easements were extinguished and it no longer owned any marketable rights to use the property. Selling rights to the easements created a cloud on the title of the underlying fee owners, who were the successors in interest to the original deeds, the lawsuit states.

Just how much effect a ruling will have on the property along 368 miles of track abandoned in North Carolina since 1980 remains to be seen, but it could have a bearing on the status of Warren property.

Making the suit of more timely interest is the fact that earlier this summer, owners of the Warrenton Railroad announced intentions to cease operations. The three miles of track lying between Warren Plains and Warrenton owned by the Warrenton Railroad and Seaboard's nearly two miles of track between Warren Plains and Norlina could be affected by the shutdown, and those having vested interest in the abandoned acreage will probably keep a close eye on the disposition of the suit filed in Wake County.

A Tax Scandal

In The Southern Pines Pilot

The report made this past week by the Citizens for Tax Justice on how major corporations avoid paying taxes is no less than a major scandal, and every taxpayer in America should be outraged.

The report disclosed that five major defense companies not only didn't pay any federal income taxes during the 1981 through 1984 period but they applied for and got billions of dollars in refunds.

Those companies were General Electric, General Dynamics, Lockheed, Boeing and Grumman.

Another three defense companies—McDonnell-Douglas, Martin Marietta and Westinghouse Electric—had a tax rate of less than one percent.

Boeing according to the report, had profits of more than two billion dollars but paid no taxes and collected a refund of \$285 million.

All in all, according to the report, 129 out of 275 profit-making corporations studied paid no income taxes in at least

one of the past four years. These companies had \$66.5 billion in domestic profits during those years. They also collected \$6.4 billion in tax rebates.

The 1981 tax law pushed through Congress by the Reagan administration made this tax swindle possible, and it is going to continue until the American taxpayers who are being robbed rise up and demand an end to the outrage being perpetrated upon them.

This is a scandal without parallel in American history and the people should be screaming to high heaven about it.

Looking Back Into The Record

September 20, 1945

The first steps toward establishing a commercial airport at the United States Government Airport near Warrenton were taken on Friday night when G. M. O'Leary, president of O'Leary's Flying Service of Henderson, discussed with members of the Lions Club a proposal to establish such a field here.

William Rivers discussed India at the Warren County Memorial Library on Tuesday night.

Mrs. A. D. Harris opened her kindergarten this week with a full attendance. She stated that due to the fact that she is unable to enroll over 16, she was unable to take all the children who wanted to come.

September 9, 1960

A warning that water consumption might have to be curtailed was issued to Warrenton residents yesterday by H.R. Skillman, superintendent of the Water Department. His warning came on the heels of a series of storm advisories indicating that the season's fourth hurricane might strike this area, Skillman said.

Carolina Commentary

Jay Jenkins

A Fitting Conclusion

For the legions of people who knew Rudy Pate during his 35 years at North Carolina State University it was fitting that his retirement party this summer produced more funds for his alma mater.

After friends had needed and praised him, Alumni Director Bryce Younts presented Rudy and his wife, Paige \$5,000. There was also a typewriter for Rudy and a contribution of \$31,000 for a scholarship named for him.

Rudy put in 19 years as director of the NCSU News Bureau, spent five years as associate director of the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta and one year as assistant to UNC President William Friday before returning to State as Vice Chancellor for Foundations and University Relations.

He is one of those fellows who collects and keeps friends because friendship radiates from him wherever he goes. He always seemed to have time to trade an outrageous

yarn or two, and he always left smiles in his wake.

"He could cover more ground than anybody I've ever seen," says his former boss and former NCSU Chancellor, John T. Caldwell.

Media types who dealt with him while he ran the news bureau will testify that he was highly efficient at providing information with a keen appreciation for deadline pressure. While he churned out the good news about NCSU, he also provided accurate accounts of unfavorable stories on campus.

The result was a bond of mutual trust that won for his institution influential friends throughout the 35 years.

Rudy is a native of the rural community of Barker-Ten Mile in Robeson county. As a boy, one year he was the corn-growing champion of the county and in later years he heard many versions about how he allegedly accomplished that feat.

After graduating from N. C. State in 1943 with a degree in agricultural education, Rudy returned home to teach in Barker-Ten Mile High School for a few months, then took over the NCSU News Bureau. Unlike some directors who enjoy filling scrapbooks with stories bearing the dateline of the main campus, he liked to see datelines on NCSU extension activities bearing the names of towns large and small all across North Carolina.

"Then people begin to realize that N. C. State performs public service in all of the 100 counties," he said.

As Vice Chancellor for Foundations and University Relations, Rudy was the school's chief fund raiser. Once again, he did an excellent job, pushing the revenue from NCSU's foundations to record highs. Most of the donors found themselves laughing at the latest Pate joke as they reached for their wallets.

At his retirement dinner, Rudy obliged with several stories. He said a retired colleague had this counsel on retirement: "He advised me that when you retire you have to learn to pace yourself. For example, on the day you get a haircut, do not mail a letter."

The stocky little fellow from Barker-Ten Mile obviously won't keep the rocking chair warm. He's serving as a consultant by advising N. C. State on plans for its centennial celebration. He is active in a \$2.5-million building campaign for the American Cancer Society, and recently he was named to the Raleigh board of directors of a statewide bank.

Oh, yes, and soon after the retirement dinner he flew to Florida to talk

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