

The Warren Record

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Dr. Thomas E. Powell

With increasing frequency one sees the impressive achievements of a native son of Warren County who has gone elsewhere to make his mark upon the world. Seldom has one accomplished more, or left more of his heart in Warren, than Dr. Thomas E. Powell, Jr. who died Thursday at the age of 88.

Funeral services for Dr. Powell were held Saturday morning from his home church, Burlington's Front Street United Methodist Church. Those who learned of his death learned also that he had always continued his affiliation with the United Methodist Church of Macon.

Warren County seemed always in the thoughts of Dr. Powell, who was born in Warrenton before the turn of the century, the son of Thomas Edward Powell, Sr. and Clara Morton Bobbitt Powell. He left to enroll in three North Carolina schools—Elon College, the University of North Carolina and Duke University—and he succeeded at each, eventually receiving a Ph.D. degree in biology from Duke in 1930.

Dr. Powell's special area of research dealt with the life history and control of the tobacco beetle, but his interest in research was truly broad. That can be seen in his active involvement with Carolina Biological Supply Company, a company he founded in 1927 and which now has operating units in Warren County and elsewhere.

What his life has meant to research can be seen in the honor Dr. Powell received in 1981 for his involvement in the establishment of Duke University Marine Laboratory's research vessel, the "Cape Hatteras," an internationally known marine research laboratory.

Dr. Powell's abilities to get things done was known to both his peers and to the leaders of the state. He

received numerous honorary degrees from educational institutions and in 1958 Gov. Luther Hodges appointed him to the N. C. Citizens Committee for Better Schools.

Despite his accomplishments, Dr. Powell never put Warren County on the back burner. He maintained the Powell homeplace on the Airport Road in a fine manner, and he restored his grandfather's house between Warrenton and Macon near the site of where he constructed a motel with dining and meeting facilities for company officials who paid frequent visits here.

Few visited more frequently than Dr. Powell. Between 1967 and 1974, when he was putting together most of the 2400 acres in his Warren holdings, he was here at least once every two weeks. As the years passed, he came less frequently, but with the same enthusiasm that seemed to accompany each visit to see the genetic research under way on his Warren research farms and to visit with "his folks."

Dr. Powell did much to distinguish himself during a full and useful life. We are grateful that Warren County profited so much from his life and that over the years he never forgot his roots.



Youth comes but once in a lifetime. Longfellow

Looking Back Into The Record

December 5, 1947

Henry Seaman, farmer of the idgeway section with a 114 ushel yield, has been named champion of Warren County and presented with a \$50 award at a meeting of the Warren County Farm Bureau.

Warren County is enriched by 10,367.77 as a result of a statute enacted by the last legislature, which gives counties and towns a certain percentage of the tax derived from the sale of beer and wine.

The wedding of Miss Annie Luriel Weaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin J. Weaver, to Earl Jackson Pinnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunter Pinnell, took place on Nov. 27 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Perkinson.

December 7, 1962

Tobacco allotments in Warren County will be cut more than 300 acres as a result of a five percent increase in national allotments ordered Friday by the state secretary of Agriculture.

Amos L. Capps has been re-elected chairman of the newly elected Warren County Board of County Commissioners.

A bond issue of \$165,000 for a sewer system and sewage treatment plant at Norlina has been called for Jan. 8 by the Norlina Board of Commissioners.

December 8, 1977

An apparent low bid of \$156,302.05, submitted by a Tarboro construction firm for site development at the consolidated high school, has been accepted by the Warren County Board of Education.

Gusty winds or small tornadoes touched down in several sections of the county late Monday afternoon causing considerable damage in the Embro community and twisting off house tops in other areas.

The Warrenton Woman's Club was among 12 other groups or individuals receiving state awards of merit during the luncheon held recently in Raleigh.

The Warren County Scene



Looking as though it is fed up with the rat race, a young cat peers from the snugness of a used tire which provides something of a refuge from the cold. The scene was found on a farm near Paschall. (Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

Carolina Commentary Jay Jenkins

Pastor Sees Opportunity

Now that the momentum of fundamental inerrantists in the Southern Baptist Convention has been halted in North Carolina, at least temporarily, the Tar Heel laity has a "wonderful opportunity" to further the moderate cause.

That's the view of the Rev. W. W. Finlator, a retired Baptist minister of Raleigh. He referred to the recent election of a slate of moderates at the Baptist State Convention, which he attributed in part to "outrage" over the fundamentalist takeover of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest and the resignation of President Randall Lolley.

A true seminary is a community of theologians who together under the leadership of the Holy Spirit are in a quest for light and truth, Finlator said, "as opposed to someone who has the whole truth and requires the faculty to accept it, believe it, teach it or get out. That's indoctrination, totally destructive of the concept of a theological community and the Baptist faith."

The election of a president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) at San Antonio, Texas next year will be crucial, he added, because the president names the committee that selects members of the boards which control the seminaries, foreign and home missions and literature produced by the Sunday School Board.

To take advantage of an opportunity, Finlator said the laity should take several steps:

—Churches right now should set aside in their budgets enough money to send to San Antonio every messenger to which the church is entitled "to defend Baptist beliefs," Finlator said. "The fundamentalists will be busying people in, trying to win the 'body count.'"

—"Women believe in the priesthood of believers and have two great fundraisers for foreign and home missions, Lottie Moon and Fannie Heck," Finlator said, yet the foreign and home mission boards of the SBC will not commission or recognize an ordained woman minister. "Women should rise up and ask their churches to put this money in escrow until these boards change their attitude," Finlator added.

—Moderate, mainline churches finance a majority of SBC functions, Finlator said, yet the fundamentalists want total control. "When we give money to the church, a portion goes to the Baptist State Convention. The state convention keeps 60 percent and

sends 40 percent to the SBC. Churches may very well say, as long as the fundamentalists are taking over and changing the Baptist faith, we're going to withhold that 40 percent and spend it on our own causes—colleges, orphanages, retirement homes, hospitals, youth work on college campuses. We don't have to underwrite something that is defeating our Baptist faith."

—"The laity should require of their ministers that they undertake a program of educating the congregations on the Baptist faith, in such areas as rights of public conscience, freedom to interpret the Bible under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, openness to truth and protection of dissent, church-state separation, local autonomy of the church, priesthood and equality under God of all believers," Finlator said. "All of these beliefs are destructive of the fundamental beliefs. Other denominations as well as Baptists should invite seminary professors to come in and talk to them about what's happening. If it can happen to Baptists, it can happen to others, too. Inerrancy is a mind-set, like Fascism."

—"There's an organized campaign to place fundamentalist preachers in every church looking for a pastor," Finlator said. "It's going on in Maryland and Virginia now. Every church should be alert as to who will be brought before its pulpit committee. The churches can get help from the Baptist State Convention office or a seminary to make sure in the screening process that future ministers represent traditional historic Baptist faith."



Thurletta Brown

'Twas Almost A Waste

'Twas the day of "Messiah" and there in my house I awoke feeling sick—much worse than a louse. My tickets, ordered early, had been pocketed with care In hopes that for the performance I'd be there.

Duke's choir and "imported" soloists at two p.m. would be led In Handel's "Messiah" by Ben Smith at their head. And I, with Aunt Mildred, would be right there—on tap To enjoy the performance (with my recorder in my lap).

When out of my chest there arose such a clatter I thought: "Oh, no, the flu—that's what's the matter." Away to my phone, I flew like a flash To call "music lovers" to share with them my stash.

When what to my wondering ears they should say: "We're too busy to go to 'Messiah' this day." With tickets for what was "sold out" for weeks (Boo Hoo!), I knew in a moment just what I should do.

"Ben, are they taping? I'm sick and can't stand In line for an hour." (The protocol they demand). "I'll reserve you two seats," he said, not with stealth. I cried when he said it—in spite of myself.

We were late. They'd begun Handel's Part I, song three, But there on the front row was a seat saved for me. Which I gave to my aunt whilst I sat on the floor To hear the Christmas music that I adore.

Ben spoke not a word, just conducted and filled The Duke Chapel with beauty. Handel would have been thrilled With the beauty of voices and instruments honed with skill In the tradition of excellence for which Duke has been billed.

The soloists were the best; The trumpets, sublime. I sat there transfixed and had a good time. But, Ben, without you, I surely would have missed My first "Messiah" since '80. YOU SHOULD BE KISSED!

And, to you here in Warrenton, I say, "Get ye hence To Wesley Methodist on the 20th. when choir and musicians will commence

A locally-sung "Messiah" led by Steinert—and done right. Happy music to all. (Hope this wasn't too trite.)

As Others See It Millions For Art

In The (Roxboro) Courier-Times

No other acclaimed artist so ignored in life is so valued, posthumously, as Vincent van Gogh. In his 37 years, van Gogh produced more than 800 oil paintings and 700 drawings, but he sold only one—for \$30. Just one article was written about this genius while he was alive. He lived to see few of his bold, impressionistic canvases exhibited. One-man shows of his work were not held until two years after his death by suicide in 1890.

Van Gogh's fame and reputation are so great today, however, that prices for his paintings continue to soar, immune from the impact of stock market convulsions on the rest of the art world.

Recently, van Gogh's "Iris," painted in 1889 during the first week of year-long confinement in the asylum at St. Remy, France, commanded a record-shattering auction price of \$53.9 million at Sotheby's in New York.

Actually, van Gogh holds the record for the three most expensive paintings ever sold at auctions. His "Sunflowers" garnered \$39.9 million and "The Bridge of Trinquetaille," \$20.2 million at Christie's in London earlier this year.

Amazingly, none of these are listed among van Gogh's major works, although "Iris" did

cause a stir when first shown, along with the more famous "Starry Night," at the Salong de Independents exhibition in Paris. Critic Felix Feneon found van Gogh to be an "amusing colorist" but was taken by the aggressive quality of the violet petals and swordlike leaves. In 1947, Joan Whitney Payson liked the strong, lyrical quality of "Iris" enough to pay the then-handsome sum of \$80,000 and hang the painting over the fireplace in her living room.

One can only wonder what the always-poor van Gogh would say about the incredible growth in stature and investment value of his paintings. His asylum writings to his beloved brother, Theo, are filled with touching passages of hope and despair. But the van Gogh inflationary spiral is something few would have predicted even a few years ago.

At least one aspect of the spectacular financial bloom of "Iris" might have cheered van Gogh, who once gave away all of his belongings during a brief attempt at missionary work. John Whitney Payson, the late Mrs. Payson's son, has pledged \$6 million of the after-tax proceeds to an unrestricted grant to Westbrook College, the former temporary home of "Iris," and another \$6 million to Maine charities.

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