

Here and There

Howard Jones

Museum Is Town Asset

"It's things like this that bring a community together," Annie Pearl Brantley, president of the Spring Hope Historical Association was quoted as saying in the March 31 edition of the Spring Hope Enterprise.

Ms. Brantley was speaking of the location of the Spring Hope Museum on a triangle of land made available by the Spring Hope Board of Commissioners.

According to the news account, last fall it seemed as though the town's museum would have to share space with the library in an old depot. But the historical association had an abandoned old house donated for use as a museum.

As the house was moved to its new location, a stream of cars began to go by, with occupants taking a look at the new museum facility.

"It's going to be like this all day," Mrs. Brantley aid. "Once the word gets out around town, just about everybody is going to want to ride by and see it."

She said the historical association plans to display rotating exhibits, with the exhibits probably changing every three months or so.

Spring Hope has learned what Warrenton has not, and that is the value of a museum which could be a big drawing card for visitors. Warrenton's legacy is just as rich as Spring Hope's. We simply lack the will to get a museum project under way here.

Speaking of things of historical significance, I am indebted to Mrs. Margaret Comer of Warrenton for providing me with a paper which details the founding of the Town of Warrenton.

Mrs. Comer's document shows that the General Assembly in 1779 created a commission to find a place suitable for a county seat.

"Under the direction of William Christmas, a surveyor, the commission selected a well drained site for the new county seat to be named Warrenton. Christmas laid off the land and the commission sold lots at \$50 each. In order to have the town grow, purchasers were required to build permanent dwellings on these lots within a certain amount of time or lose their lots," Mrs. Comer's document relates.

Today, when half-acre lots on Lake Gaston are selling for \$50,000, it seems incredible that a town lot could be had for \$50. However, a person probably had to work a year in the Eighteenth Century to afford a lot; today, lakefront lots are perhaps being bought by families with an annual income of at least \$50,000.

Sam Ragan, respected editor of The Pilot in Southern Pines, noted in a recent edition that "it's nothing short of ridiculous for the federal government to serve hard liquor to any and everyone and not let a single paying passenger smoke one little cigarette."

An acquaintance who formerly practiced law in Charlotte was recalling a trip to Europe recently. He said partners in his law firm had given him a fool-proof modern camera just before he began his trip, telling him that they did not want him to fail when it came time to record his visit on film.

"They called it a Phd. camera," he said. "The Phd. stood for 'push here, dummy.'"



Pictured here are two of the actors in UNC-G's Theatre for Young People in a scene from "Reasons To Be Cheerful" during a performance at Mariam Boyd Elementary School last week. The cast's performances at all six elementary schools last week were sponsored by Warren County Schools Cultural Arts Program and funded with a Grassroots Grant through the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency. (Community Schools Photo by Mary Hunter)

Letter To The Editor

A Legacy Of Debt

To The Editor:

Concerning the bond issue to be voted on in May, I am not in a position to understand or voice an opinion on the true need for same. However, I have coped with financial problems since the time of President Hoover. I learned early in life about such words of wisdom as, "a penny saved is a penny earned" and "a fool and his money are soon parted." I would like to offer one viewpoint concerning economic sanity in the county.

Like most persons around here, I was born poor, but I was taught the advantages of saving for the future. At about age 30, I bought a farm—mostly with borrowed money—and tried to make a living by farming it. Here I began to realize the problems of being poor and became determined to do something about it. I didn't like to pay interest, so with the help of a thrifty wife, we paid that debt as soon as possible. Since that time, things have been easier for me, but I sympathize with persons who have never been taught to get out of the revolving debt habit and the high interest rates that go with it.

It has been said that poor people are pushing the bond issue as a means of breaking out of the poverty cycle. Actually, the entire capital improvement program is more favored by the rich than by the poor. Big business, which includes big banking, is really the advocate. Both are constantly trying to sell on credit or to loan money—both for the purpose of collecting interest.

Actually, the whole public finance system is quite unfair to the poor and even to persons of moderate means. Correctly stated, the poor pay a greater proportion of sales tax on their income. But, that is nothing compared to what property tax does. A person may buy a house and pay down only 10 percent on it. He then owns only 10 percent, but he pays tax on 100 percent. The lender actually owns 90 percent, but pays no tax.

With regard to education, the struggle lies not in the quantity of buildings, but rather in what is being taught. Not nearly enough attention is being given to the values of individual economics, personal health and the "golden rule." Until these three are better attended to, we will need only another courtroom and a larger jail.

Under present proposals to borrow money, we will have to pay back double what we get. I hate paying all that interest! But, even more, I think it greatly unfair for our generation to leave a legacy of debt for generations to come. If we think it necessary to spend, for whatever reason, then let us also be willing to pay for it as we go.

We have a choice! We can borrow \$14 million and subsequently pay back \$28 million or we can pay as we go and get it all for half-price. Doesn't the latter option make more sense?

WILLIAM A BENDER
Rt. 2, Norlina

First In A 3-Part Series

Who Sets Goals Of Public Policy?

By CHARLES P. HAYWOOD

I am deeply grateful to those who have read my previous articles and taken time to share your comments with the editor of this newspaper; the more so, because I am a layman, unqualified in the field of journalism. I comfort myself with the reflection that we are all laymen for most of our time, especially in a field so close to our concern as the public issues of decision and action. It is as laymen, not as academicians, that we make our most daring speculations. So it is not inappropriate that it should be a layman who invites you to pursue a speculation that will take us beyond the boundaries of the known, even beyond the scope of our present conceptual apparatus, but not beyond the challenges of practical life.

I ask what sets the goals of public policy in Warren County. I do not ask how the public chooses the policy makers, for manifestly that choice is only one element in a manifold process. When we open our eyes to the scene around us, we find nebulous goals vaguely set. Policies are being implemented; institutions are in action with all of the historical momentum of the horse and buggy days. This dynamic configuration is resistant to the modern reality. So the most obvious answer to my question springs to mind at once. History sets the goals of public policy in Warren County. Progressive thinking influences them no more and no less than there is a willingness to sever the umbilical cord of history.

The process of interaction and mutual adaptation that we call history is an obscure though familiar mystery. Looking into the future we see a widening vista of possibilities. Tomorrow is almost committed, but next year, ten, twenty years hence, what might be possible? Yet, when we look into the past, the vista seems too narrow from past to present. We see a thin line of actualities detaching itself from all that might have been, and those who will someday look back over what is now the uncommitted future will

see the same. Of all that competes for realization, only a tiny fraction is realized and in the process excludes a host of alternatives. The external enigma of history is: "Why, from all these possibilities did these, rather than any of the others come to birth?" Somewhere in the answer to that question lies, among many other things, the scope and meaning of human initiative.

Among the forces that make history, one of the most obvious is human need. Some would say that needs set the goals of public policy. New needs emerge and evoke the measures that will satisfy them. At any moment, with a more or less significant time lag, the goals of public policy reflect the dominant needs of the power structure.

This statement is not so simple as it looks. The needs that evoke response are those which are recognized as needs by the power structure and this process of recognition has odd features. This county accepts some conditions of living that in other epochs would have moved slaves to rebel—such as standing in line for a public handout of honey and meal on one hand—and on the other hand having no public policy with goals and objectives for economic development and full employment. How are they resolved, these conflicts between needs fighting for satisfaction? Are they resolved by human choice? And, if so, by what criteria?

Whatever the criteria its limitations are manifold not only by money and technical skill but

also by the area of space and the span of time to plan and profit from past experience, which goes far to determine how the technics can provide focus for future objectives. And apart from these direct limitations each authority is limited by its own current activity, and the habit of placing something at the focus of attention implies the habit of leaving other things in the periphery.

So let us add another to our list of goal setters. Ideology sets the goals of public policy.

Needs, technics, ideologies—these are the names for aspects dimly in my understanding of the mutually adaptive process called history of the "it takes time" syndrome in Warren County. But among these interacting forces is one, unique and clearly identified—our human selves; either passive observers or willing participants dynamically charged to contribute to the forces for positive change. We must determine our own role if we are to shape the analysis of what sets the goals of public policy in Warren County.

Next week the governors of behavior will be the topic of the second segment of this three-segment article.

The author, a professional social worker who now lives in Los Angeles, Calif., is a former director of the Warren County Department of Social Services. He is the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Haywood of Warrenton.

Vote For And Elect

ROY PAT ROBERTSON

Register Of Deeds
Warren County

Democratic Primary
May 3, 1988



20 Years Experience In Banking, 18 Years Experience In Real Estate, Lifetime Resident Of Warren County

YOUR VOTE & SUPPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

WHAT'S NEW



Cool Stays Cool

The Arctic Shield is a clear plastic strip that fits inside a refrigerator to prevent the loss of cold air. When the refrigerator door is opened, the clear curtain lets you take your time to see what's inside without letting cold air escape. From Miro Products Inc., 6513 W. Pershing Road, Stickney, IL 60402.

CONGRATULATIONS

To The Winners
In Our Recent
Gift Certificate
Drawing

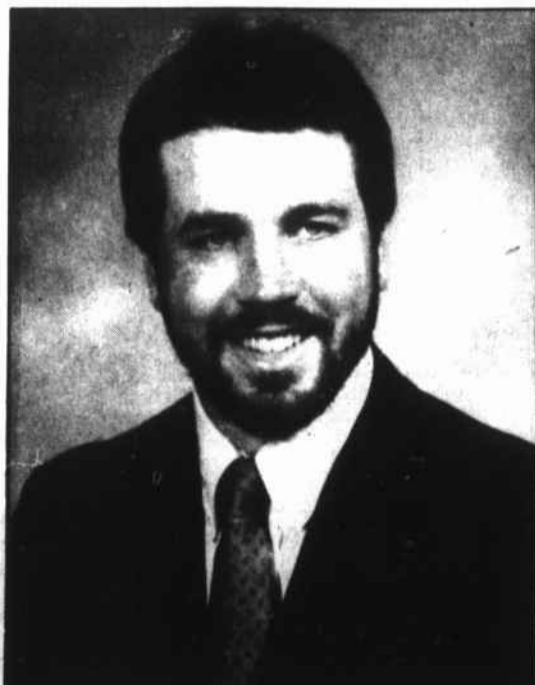
First Prize
\$50 Certificate
Rosco Cheek
Rt. 2, Warrenton

Second Prize
\$25 Certificate
Tracey Grissom
Rt. 1, Norlina

Third Prize
\$10 Certificate
Carol Henderson
Rt. 2, Norlina

HAITHCOCK ELECTRONICS

South Main St.
Warrenton, N.C.



ELECT

WELDON C.
"CHIP"
CAPPS, JR.

MAY 3, 1988

For
Warren County
Board Of Education
District V

Please Vote To Make Your Voice Heard. We Need All Fac-tions Of Warren County To Unite Behind Our Schools In A Common Effort For Our Students.

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT WELDON C. "CHIP" CAPPS, JR.

Who's Joking... REMNANT SALE

Large Selection of Room Size Rugs

Up to **50% OFF**

Also choose from a large selection of discontinued carpet — Large and Small Rugs in up-to-date colors (up to 100 ft. per roll)

— Prices effective thru April 29th —

YOUR BEST CARPET VALUE!



"Du Pont certification mark

Du Pont
STAINMASTER®
carpet in beautiful
new colors and styles.

- Certified and warranted by Du Pont.
- Protects against common food and beverage stains.

Hours: Monday & Friday 8:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

A.B. Hair Carpets, Inc.
U.S. 1 Norlina, N.C.

492-1011 456-3307