

# The Warren Record

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## Re-Thinking Location

Voters earlier this year gave their approval to a multi-million-dollar bond issue which, among other things, is expected to fund the cost of constructing a law enforcement center in the county seat.

From what we have been told, no definite decision has been made as to the placement of this new facility, which was initially conceived because of shortcomings in the existing county jail.

We hope that a new look might be taken as to the center's location, if, in fact, commissioners are looking toward utilization of property which the county owns immediately behind the existing courthouse.

Certainly, from the standpoint of logistics—such as bringing a prisoner from the jail to court—the location has merit. But there are negative features, too.

One, which is not of overriding concern, we know, to many who will make the decision, is that location of the new facility directly behind the court house could cause the destruction of the Hendricks House, and perhaps the Peter Davis Store. Both are of historical importance, and are included in the national recognized historic district of Warrenton. The Davis Store is the county's oldest commercial building, and beside its north window passed the stage line that ran from Halifax to Louisburg via Warrenton.

## High Mark Is Deserved

It is certainly good to note that persons throughout the state have drawn the same conclusion as many in Warren County have, and that is that Superintendent Michael F. Williams is doing a superior job in directing the operation of Warren County's public school system.

State recognition of just how good a job Supt. Williams is performing came last week at the statewide superintendent's conference held in Charlotte.

There, Williams received the state's Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Communications. That is no small achievement, and it shows the commitment of a man who has long told each and everyone of the good works taking place in our public schools.

Those who knew Mike Williams as a principal more than a decade ago have long been convinced of his abiding love of children. Those who have seen him operate as superintendent for ten years have marvelled at his calm ability to oversee the everyday operation of every facet of the school system.

### Editor's Quote Book

Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to provide for human wants.  
Burke

We understand that state preservation officials have expressed interest in the disposition of these two buildings, along with that of the existing Warren County Jail, situated a block east of the Court House.

A real drawback, in our opinion, of locating the new law enforcement center almost in the heart of Warrenton is that it is bound to eliminate space for parking, which is now at a premium here.

Surely there is other property available. One piece which comes to mind is the old Bryson Chevrolet property lying adjacent to the existing jail. That property, we understand, can be purchased, and with it ample property for parking, which should be no little consideration when the new facility is built.

In addition, the old Chevrolet agency property would allow the county to build a new facility in an area with convenient access, and might allow the continued use of the jail as, say, an office building. Certainly the jail is too good a building to go the way of demolition.

A new law enforcement center is of unquestionable need here. So is the creation of new parking areas, or at least the maximum use of existing ones. Any final decision to upset the parking situation here, or to endanger buildings with real historical significance, should not be made lightly. We feel sure it won't be.

It is highly appropriate that state officials have seen fit to give Williams a great big "A" for his efforts to establish and keep open the lines of communication to pupils, teachers and patrons. We in Warren County think he merits just such a high grade.

## Looking Back Into The Record

**July 30, 1948**  
Warrenton is being sprayed with DDT as a possible means of preventing and checking the spread of polio and it is expected that similar precautionary measures will be taken in other municipalities and throughout the entire county.

The first case of cattle rustling to be reported in Warren County in about two years occurred Monday night, when a thief drove up in a truck to the residence of an Inez man and stole his cow. The cow was carried to the livestock market in Rocky Mount where it was sold, but the animal was later identified and payment on the check was stopped before it was presented to the bank, area law officers said.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Lanier are at the beach this week.

**August 2, 1963**

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Thompson are visiting relatives in Oklahoma.

## The Warren County Scene



There will be no more midnight snacks for the owner of this abandoned refrigerator spotted recently in rural Warren County.  
(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

### As Others See It

## Feeble Exercise In Futility

**In The Watauga Democrat**  
Should a ceiling be imposed on campaign spending by candidates in North Carolina?

The General Assembly after due deliberation and debate, has taken a firm stand on the issue and proclaimed that, well, maybe so, but only if candidates want to and only if it doesn't apply to legislative races.

This type of gee-whiz approach to countering a troubling trend makes it hard to believe lawmakers are actually serious, yet the popular political view is that this is just the thing to bring the skyrocketing costs of campaigning back down to earth.

While the cost of running for public office has soared to such an extent that fund-raising is now a time-consuming and staggering requirement of campaigning—from 1976 to 1984, for instance, spending in the gubernatorial race rose from less than \$1 million to more than \$7 million—it is by no means clear that legal limits can or should be placed on campaign spending.

The idea is to reward candidates who stay within mandated spending limits with public matching funds. But limits would still have to be high enough for candidates to get

their message out, so the demands of fund-raising would not be eliminated. Too, campaigns would become increasingly bogged down with the paperwork sure to be required to qualify for the matching funds. And the implications of any types of restraints, however well-mentioned, on political speech are unsettling.

Given the nature of political campaigns, and of contributors, it's doubtful that any method of imposing ceilings can be effective—unless it's to shorten the campaign season so that the political effort is more concentrated—and it's a pretty safe bet that the one enacted this month by the General Assembly will prove to be totally ineffective. Participation is voluntary, which raises the unlikely prospect that one candidate will decide to put a cap on spending while watching his opponent opt for a more free-spending campaign. And then there's a question of whether enough public funds can be raised by 1992, when the matching funds will be made available; legislators don't know whether enough taxpayers will donate part of their tax refunds to make the idea work so they plan to review it in 1991 and if there isn't enough money they will dismantle the whole program. Further questions about what the spending ceilings would be for multi-seat districts forced lawmakers to exempt legislative races from the program, so it applies only to gubernatorial and other state-wide races.

Legislators say this is a good first step toward controlling campaign spending and admit that it's basically an experiment. But rushing a program into law simply to see how it works is a pale imitation of good government. And enacting half-baked laws is an attempt to impose loose voluntary restraints on politicians who have yet to show any inclination toward controlling their own profligate ways either before or after they are elected shows a naivete that is positively breathtaking.



**Wool Country**  
Wool production in Australia is 30 percent of the world's entire output, says National Geographic.

**August 3, 1978**  
Hardee's, a national fast food chain, began operations in Warrenton yesterday on a newly landscaped site formerly occupied by Fowler-Barham Ford.

Trevor R. O. Selby of England, son of Canon and Mrs. G. R. Selby of Warrenton, will present an organ recital Sunday at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Anton L. Reid of Rt. 2, Warrenton announced the engagement of their daughter, Donna Lynne, to Charles Gregory Haynes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Grady J. Haynes, Jr. of Warrenton.



Thurletta Brown

## Songs Of Summer

An area business last week advertised a "Christmas in July" sale. Continuing on that theme, albeit one week late, here's a set of "summer carols" written for those of you who like to sing in the shower—whether inside the confines of your home or *anyplace* out of doors in Warren County.

Tune: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
The rains still are falling, drowning all my veggies that last week had wilted from the dry July days.  
Sure, it was needed, but not where I had weeded.  
O come slosh in my garden, the mud will never harden,  
O come slosh in my garden and pull weeds with me.

Tune: "Jingle Bells"  
Thunder roars, lightning claps, lights are out again.  
Find the candles, get 'em quick. Don't fall comin' round that bend!  
TV's off. Tapes won't play. Not a thing to do  
'Til the power's back on thanks to the CP&L crew.

Tune: "Silent Night"  
It is so hot that I cannot  
Go outside or abide  
Doing anything that I should do.  
Can't do nothing, but sit. How 'bout you?  
Summer's heat's here again.  
I don't think it will end.

It is too wet and I'll just bet  
More will fall, if I call  
To the Myrtle Beach Holiday Inn.  
They'll have rooms for me and my friend  
But, no sun—storms again.  
I don't think it will end.

Tune: "Joy to the World"  
Joy to the town the storm is o'er.  
Come look outside your door!  
At sunshine bright as day.  
Come on let's go and play.  
Fall's not too far away  
Neither's winter, when we'll say:  
'Hurry summer! we'll n'er complain  
'Bout HEAT OR RAIN!!!!'

## Here and There

Howard Jones

### Having An Affair

Third party candidate George Wallace, running for president in 1968 in the hope of throwing the election into the U. S. House of Representatives, was often quoted as saying "there's not a dime's worth of difference" in the candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties.

This campaign year, George Wallace could be excused if he seemed to find only "a nickle's worth" of difference in candidates George Bush and Michael Dukakis.

Such is the opinion of Michael Kinsley, writing in the August 1 issue of Time magazine. In an essay concerning hypocrisy and the word "liberal," Kinsley notes that there is little to separate the major candidates on their stands on farm price supports, civil rights, Medicare, programs to clean up the environment, Social Security and friendly relations with the Soviets.

That is why, Kinsley writes, that George Bush "has no quarrel with the essence of the liberal agenda" and is basing his campaign "on obscure irrelevancies such as prison-furlough policy and an ancient controversy over the Pledge of Allegiance."

The News Reporter of Littleton has again spilled a bit of humor from its 1922 issues, contained in volume form in our newsroom. A limerick we came across the other day bears repeating:

There once was a young lady named Lena  
Who worked with a vacuum cleanuh;  
But she got in the way  
Of the suction one day  
And since then nobody has seen huh.

Without fanfare, the last of the nation's Playboy Clubs shut down at the end of last month, bringing with it the end of an era.

The last of the clubs, located in Lansing, Michigan, for a time was the only place in the country where one could view the Playboy bunnies in high heels, tails and form-fitting costumes.

In marking the demise of the club, the Associated Press remarked that the bunnies had delighted a generation of men. That was no overstatement.

I never visited one of the "bunny clubs" but once, that being in the early 1960s while with a group of fellow college students in New York City.

For some reason still unbeknown to me, the New York City Playboy Club was having a problem obtaining its cabaret license, and accordingly had to serve every item at a set price. That meant a drink was \$1.50, a pack of cigarettes was \$1.50, and, of real importance to a group of college students, a full meal of roast beef and all the trimmings was only \$1.50.

It was the cheapest place in New York to eat that spring, and the scenery was spectacular, even for a group of college students who didn't know a lot about rabbits.

I was talking recently by telephone with a friend of long standing who lives in Raleigh. She had just celebrated her 50th birthday. "It's terrible," she confided. "When you tell someone you are having an affair, the first thing they want to know is who is catering it."