

# Resident Of Warrenton Records 100th Birthday At Warren Hills

By DIANE DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanan Morris, a resident of the Warren Hills Nursing Center, celebrated her 100th birthday Monday with family and friends and received a letter from Senator Jesse Helms and a birthday card from President and Mrs. Reagan to commemorate the special occasion.

Mrs. Morris was born on September 26, 1888 to Richard and Mary Buchanan. She was the second oldest of nine children, and is the oldest surviving child in her family.

She says that she doesn't know what changes in the past 100 years have affected her the most. "There are just too many to even think about," she said. But she

did say that she has always enjoyed Warrenton because it is her hometown, and that will never change.

She couldn't remember the name of the one-room schoolhouse she attended, but said that she can remember her parent's telling her, "Your lessons come first."

Mrs. Morris received a surprise last weekend when her granddaughter, Ms. Janice Merritt, flew in from Tampa, Fla. to wish her a happy birthday. Janice was raised by Mrs. Morris until the age of 14.

On Sunday, Janice and a host of relatives carried Mrs. Morris to her home on Battle Avenue, her first visit there since she became a resident of the

nursing center in May of 1985. They all enjoyed making the occasion special for Mrs. Morris and presented her with several gifts.

Mrs. Morris was married at 16 to Walter William Morris. They had three children, a daughter, the late Gwendolyn Morris Zabloski, and two sons, Randolph Morris of South Boston, Va. and William Walter Morris, Jr. of Warrenton. Her husband died in 1968 at the age of 84.

Mrs. Morris was a homemaker and attended Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church with her family.

Mrs. Morris made her opinion known when she asked what she thought of all the changes that have come about over the past 100 years. She said that the world "has not gotten better."

A century of knowledge and understanding easily stated.



MRS. MORRIS

## Local Students On Dean's List

Twelve Warren County students who attended the summer quarter at Vance-Granville Community College earned Dean's List status, according to VGCC Dean of Instruction Fred H. Wilson, Jr.

To attain the honor, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.25 (B) or better while taking at least 12 credit hours during the quarter.

The Warren County students achieving the honor and their individual area of study are Tracie Lynn Bennett, special education; Nick B. Patel, air conditioning, heating and refrigeration; Richard M. Dames, carpentry; Shirley A. Boswell, Tomeka D. Carter, Sabrina U. Coleman, Calandra M. Jones, Roberta Allgood and Charlene Y. Burchette, cosmetology; Robert Henry Shearin, electrical installation; Charles Elton Hayes, welding; and Sara Solorz, college transfer.

## Mollie Paschall Named President

The United Methodist Women of Drewry Church met in the home of Sallie Mitchell Thursday night and elected their officers for the 1988-89 year.

Mollie Paschall was elected to serve as president of the group. Others elected were Louise Ranes as vice president, Becky Paschall as secretary and Jean Weston as treasurer.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mollie Paschall. Nancy Finch led the group in the devotion and also gave a program on her trip to Mexico.

Each member brought a gift for the baby of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitchell, Jr., who entered Durham General Hospital for surgery.

The hostess served the group refreshments after the regular business session and the group sang "Happy Birthday" to Becky Paschall.

## Mowing Vs. Growing: Lawns On Defensive

POTOMAC, Md.—One person's natural garden is another's weed patch.

When Walter and Nancy Stewart's tractor broke down a few years ago, they decided to turn about six of their seven acres of lawn in this affluent Washington suburb into a natural meadow.

The shaggy grasses and plants prompted an unsigned hostile note in their mailbox. Some people shout catcalls at the Stewarts as they drive past. Someone tossed a flare into the meadow.

Faced with a county order to trim their lawn, the Stewarts are standing firm in what has become a fight for a principle. They are challenging the ordinance that limits the height of lawns to 12 inches. A public hearing was held on the issue in June.

The Stewarts, he's a research chemist, she's a lawyer, are the latest in a succession of U.S. homeowners and renters who have attracted national attention by opting, not out of sloth but out of concern for the environment, to let their yards go natural.

Things got even rougher for Stephen Kenney and his wife after they planted wildflower seeds in the small front yard of their rented house in Kenmore, N.Y. As flowers blossomed amid uncut grass, neighbors' cholera rose proportionately.

In the summer of 1985, the Kenneys received threats to burn down their house. Herbicides were sprinkled in their yard. Their cat was stoned. Birds were shot on their property. Snakes were placed in their nascent meadow-only to slither away into better-tended yards.

A local court convicted the Kenneys of "creating conditions hazardous to health" and fined them \$50 a day, which they refused to pay. When neighbors cut down the growth, the Kenneys filed a complaint of their own. They ended up paying a \$100 fine.

Today they live in rural Bear Creek, Pa., surrounded by patches of wildflowers. Kenney continues work on his doctorate in English, and Mrs. Kenney teaches mathematics. Their departure was hastened by the "pressure cooker" atmosphere in Kenmore, Kenney tells

National Geographic News Service. "It was all getting pretty tense and scary."

But deeply instilled habits are hard to break. One authority on lawns, biologist John H. Falk of Annapolis, Md., traces Americans' fixation on close-cropped grass from the longtime English obsession with tidy grounds-keeping to the explosive growth of look-alike suburban yards after World War II.

"What sort of got lost in the process were the aesthetics," he says. "I think our tastes will change. Gradually, this love affair with grass monoculture will disappear."

Pushed by organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and the National Audubon Society, it may already be disappearing. They argue for natural ecosystems for animals, birds, and insects, against environment-polluting chemicals.

The Wildlife Federation has been promoting its backyard habitat program since 1973. Toni Pepin, coordinator of the program, says more than 6,300 yards have been certified nationwide. To be certified, a yard must offer sources of food, water, cover and places for birds and animals to raise their young. "This is landscaping for wildlife, not abandonment of wildlife," she says.

Lorrie Otto of Bayside, Wis., a well-known lecturer and naturalist, advocates wildflower-filled meadows in front yards as well as back. "It's the foundation of motherhood to try and take care of the Earth," she says. "The only way you can keep your sanity is to make a landscape as diverse as possible for the insects and the birds. You're just a guest."

Many local governments don't see it that way. But Stewart McKenzie, environmental advisor to the Montgomery County Council, says, "They're unconstitutional, these ordinances."

Among common arguments of the monoculturists: Unmowed lawns attract rats and snakes and pose a fire hazard. "The fact is that none of the health hazards have fared very well in the courts," says McKenzie. As a result, some "weed laws" have been removed from the books.

McKenzie foresees an eventual liberalization of the Montgomery County ordinance. One possible compromise would allow lawn meadows but would require both a mowed strip next to adjoining property and eradication of designated noxious plants.

"This kind of mindless reaching for the chemical gun at the hip is something I think you're going to see the end of in 10 years," McKenzie predicts.



Pointed Egg

The egg of the thick-billed murre, an arctic seabird, is pointed at one end so that, if accidentally nudged, it will roll in a tight circle and not fall off the narrow cliff ledge on which it was laid, says National Geographic World.

## Lake Gaston Taxpayers Group Holds First General Meeting

The newly-formed Lake Gaston Taxpayers Association held their first general meeting at Camp Willow Run on Sunday, Sept. 18 to discuss the formation of the association and its goal.

Joe O'Brien chaired the meeting which was attended by over 300 residents of the lake and the surrounding area. He reviewed with those present the goal of the association, "To preserve the natural beauty and the wholesome quality of life on Lake Gaston and to insure that the rights and concerns of property owners are heard and given full consideration by government councils."

Jan Tomlinson spoke on the organization of the association and explained the functions of the twelve committees in carrying out the association's goals. She stressed the need for active participation of the members in serving on the committees and in at-

tending local government hearings on matters affecting the lake.

Bruce Songdahl spoke on the immediate problems facing the lake—primarily the proposed Bright Horizons development that is seeking zoning changes from residential to multi-use for the placement of a city-like structure on the 145-acre tract of land. Other matters that Songdahl reported needed to be studied by the association were the proposed Woods Landing development, which involves the building of 144 unit townhouses on 46 acres of land, and the extreme noise that is generated by "dry exhaust" power boats.

Tom Skinner, a local attorney, spoke on the need for the association to forcefully speak out on the future development of the lake with a unified message to the five

counties and two states bordering the lake. He also reviewed the appeal procedure to be followed should the association not agree with the decision of the Warren County Board of Adjustment in respect to the Bright Horizons proposal.

Each member of the association was reminded to keep in mind that it is the organization's job to insure that in 20 years the lake will still be a place for children and grandchildren of lake residents to swim, ski and fish.

The Lake Gaston Taxpayers Association requests the support of ALL those who care about Lake Gaston. Annual dues are \$5 (more is welcome) and can be mailed along with name, address and phone number to the Lake Gaston Taxpayers Association, Box 1010, Littleton, N.C., 27850.

## Warrenton Girl Serves As Page

RALEIGH—Paula Manning of Warrenton, served as a page last week in Raleigh with the Department of Correction as a part of Governor Jim Martin's page program for high school students.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Manning, Paula is a junior at Warrenton High School.

Governor's pages are chosen on merit, having been recommended by teachers, principals, or other leading members of the community. Governor's pages assist the various departments in their communications with other state government offices. They are also given the opportunity to tour state museums, the governor's mansion, Legislative Building, and State Capitol.

"This is an excellent opportunity for outstanding young people like Paula to learn about state government," Governor Martin said. "In addition, Governor's pages provide invaluable assistance in helping to maintain the smooth and efficient operation of state government."


## Course Is Slated

Persons interested in obtaining their automobile inspectors license are encouraged to enroll in the auto inspection course planned for Thursday, Oct. 6 at Vance-Granville Community College.

The three-hour class, lasting from 1-5 p.m. in Room 4110, will cover types of inspection stations, vehicles requiring inspection and complete inspection procedures, including exhaust emission controls. Julius Frazier, auto mechanics instructor, will teach the class.


A fee of \$15, payable the day of the class, will be required.


For additional information or to pre-register, interested persons should contact Kim Jackson, Office of Industry and Community Services at VGCC, 492-3061 or 693-6575.



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**WARREN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

540 WEST RIDGEWAY STREET  
WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27589  
TELEPHONE 257-1185



Barry Shields, III

Celebrated his seventh birthday Sunday, Sept. 25, 1988 at his home, Buffalo Branch Farms, with his family.

Celebrating with him were his parents, Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Shields, Jr.; grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Lane; grandmother, Mrs. Sallie Short; Mr. George Lane, Miss Charlene Smith & Miss Betty Jo Lane.