

The Warren Record

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Prevention Stressed

According to a recent report by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an 8.7 percent increase in 1988 in fire-related deaths in residential properties was a contributing factor in the seven-percent increase in fire-related deaths seen in 1988—the highest since 1981.

Last year, over 6,000 persons died in fires in the United States. Of those, 5,065 persons—nearly 80 percent of all 1988 civilian fire fatalities—lost their lives in residential fires. For the report, residential properties include single- and two-family dwellings, mobile home, hotels and motels.

Among other national statistics for 1988 included in the report were:

- Public firefighters responded to 2,436,500 fires, a 4.6 percent increase over 1987.
- The South leads the nation in fires, with 11.5 fires per thousand in population.
- Nearly 31,000 civilians were injured in fires, almost 75 percent of them in residential fires.
- Over \$8 billion in direct property damage resulted from fires, with an average loss per fire of \$3,428.
- While fires caused by arson and suspected arson dropped by 5.2 percent, the 99,500 cases caused \$1,594 billion in property damage.
- Wildfires in brush and grass increased by more than 22 percent, causing property damage of \$185 million.

Since the dawning of time when prehistoric man first knocked two stones together (or otherwise harnessed a blaze begun by lightning), fire has been a mixed blessing for mankind. It provides warmth for comfort and food preparation, but it can also destroy property and squelch life as well.

Fire Prevention Week—October 8-14—is a time to focus on the management of fire and incendiary substances. The 1989 Theme—"Big Fires Start Small: Keep Matches & Lighters In The Right Hands"—focuses on the need for parents to teach their children that matches and other fire-makers are for adults only.

In addition to instruction for children, however, the NFPA has recommended other preventive strategies. These include: the use of residential sprinklers and smoke detectors; increased manufacture and purchase of fire-resistant upholstered furniture and mattresses; rehearsals by schools, families and businesses of fire escape plans; and more widespread fire safety education.

During this week especially, it behooves each of us to develop a healthy respect for fire, and resolve to be attentive to safety and hazard reduction methods. And remember: The safe practices initiated during Fire Prevention Week cannot stop at week's end, but must continue each day of our lives.

The Warren County Scene



Halloween is really in the air as this photograph taken at a Warren County pumpkin farm north of Ridgeway strongly suggests. A ghost windsock rises above pumpkins which will soon be fashioned into jack-o'-lanterns.

(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

Here and There

Howard Jones

Recollections Of St. Albans

A friend who lives in Littleton called several days ago to tell me that Dr. Lawrence London, the former historiographer of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, is planning to place the September 20 issue of *The Warren Record* containing the writeup of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Littleton in the permanent file records maintained by the diocese at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I am happy that the feature story will be thus preserved, for I have received a number of comments by readers who seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the piece. Several said they have fond recollections of many of the Littleton people named in the article.

The lovely, small church at the corner of Mosby Avenue and College Street in Littleton was named for Saint Alban, the first Anglican martyr, whose memory is not only preserved in church buildings in this country, but in towns as well.

I was unaware that one of these towns lies in New York State until last October, when Walter O. Pinkney, a resident of Norlina and an avid reader, wrote pointing out that we had incorrectly written "St. Albans, N. Y." in a listing of marriage licenses issued in Warren County.

Mr. Pinkney, a native of New York and a former resident of St. Albans, pointed out our mistake, saying his former town is written either St. Albans or Saint Albans.

The village bearing the name of the Anglican martyr with which I was most familiar was St. Albans, Vermont, a community whose name loomed large as I was doing research many years ago on Jacob Thompson, a native of Leasburg in Caswell County, who was a Confederate secret agent in Canada.

St. Albans, Vermont is located about 15 miles south of the Canadian border, and it was this town which was the target of one of the most daring raids ever made by the Confederacy—the invasion of Vermont from Canada in October, 1864.

Led by Lt. Bennett H. Young, a 21-year-old cavalryman from Morgan's command, the raid was launched to give the North a taste of war and to rob the St. Albans banks.

After robbing the banks, and setting fire to buildings and engaging in a gun battle with a citizen force augmented by some Union soldiers, Young and some of his men made their way back to Canada, where they were rounded up and held in the custody of a large contingent of British regulars, who treated their captives extremely cordially, according to one account.

Young, along with other members of the St. Albans raiding party, were subsequently brought to trial in Montreal—following refusal by the Canadian government to grant the United States' request for extradition—and were allowed to go free because popular sentiment in Canada was strongly in favor of the Confederate raiders.

As Others See It

Grand Month Of October Has Name That Confuses

In The Coastline Times

For many people in our latitude October is the finest month of the year. Days are comfortably warm, nights comfortably cool as a rule, and skies are as blue as those reputed to exist in June.

Although October is the tenth month of the year, its name is derived from the Latin for eight, and if that causes one to ask how that came to be, it is pointed out that it was the eighth month of the Roman calendar.

The old Romans, a pretty arbitrary bunch, played games with the calendar, Julius naming one month after himself and Augustus following suit. Since Julius' month, July, had 31 days, Augustus was not to be outdone, so August has 31 days as well.

When they got around to naming October, several Romans had ideas of self-glorification. Antoninus was proposed for the name, as were Faustinus and Tacitus.

Most people no doubt are perfectly satisfied with the name October, for by any name, the month usually is a happy one.

It's the month of harvest, the World Series, football, chrysanthemums, and coeds. If the weather holds true to form, who could ask for anything more?

So enjoy, for grim winter will follow soon enough.



Thurletta Brown

The Best Laid Plans

Sometimes you can't win for losing.

Last week I wrote an article about the October meeting of the Norlina Board of Town Commissioners. In addition to merely covering the news, however, I decided to do a good deed by providing the hospital address of Commissioner James L. Knight, who was recovering from recent surgery.

"James is a nice guy and will enjoy getting cards from his friends in Norlina," I thought as I neared the final paragraphs of the article.

Having been told that James was a patient at Duke, I called the hospital's patient-information number.

"Duke Patient Information," the voice on the line said.

"Hello, I'd like an address for a patient there, James Knight. He's from Norlina," I said.

"Certainly. James Knight is in Duke North. His room number is 7719," the Duke patient-information employee said.

"Thank you," I responded, and merrily added the information to the news article.

Imagine my chagrin on Thursday of last week when Norlina Town Clerk Jean Frazier called to say that James was a patient at N. C. Memorial in Chapel Hill—not Duke!

"Good grief!" I said. "Who would have thought there were TWO of them," I pleaded, adding that I had specified to the Duke employee that I wanted the one from Norlina.

The best laid plans of mice, men and newspaperpersons... James came home on Friday of last week, so please discard that incorrect Duke address.

Of course, if you mailed your cards already, know that there really is (or was) a James Knight at Duke who was probably overjoyed to receive cards from so many new (and unknown) friends. Maybe something good came out of my blunder after all.

Notes From All Over

Diane Davis

Memories From A Movie

During December of 1988, when I was working at the *Daily Herald* in Roanoke Rapids, I wrote a column about my grandmother's life and her battle with cancer. I was reminded of that column when I was watching a movie Sunday night about a woman who died after suffering from a fatal cancerous tumor. Movies like that bring back so many memories of days gone by, and I felt like sharing that special column with my Warren County readers.

A Remarkable Life

There is never a day that goes by that I don't think of my grandmother. She was a wonderful woman, so strong and independent, and yet so loving and wonderful.

She died from cancer on Oct. 13, 1986.

Pat Griffin was a remarkable person and her name was quite newsworthy. She served the public in many ways—on the city council in Durham, in the state legislature in Raleigh, on the church board of the First Baptist Church in Durham—and she never let a day go by that she didn't make her opinion known.

We spent many days together, talking over things that we felt were important to us. She gave me so much—an insight to life that was none other than unique. So many times when I am "down" and feeling bad, I think of her and remember how she would want me to smile.

She was that way—never letting anything bring her down. I only saw her cry once, and that was the day that her only sister, known to me as Aunt Sissy, died.

My grandmother was the greatest. I've never known such a strong-willed woman. And I never will. But as a tribute to my grandmother and to my family, I have to strive to do my best through the worst of times—just as she did.

In 1983, my grandmother was diagnosed as having a malignant tumor in her large intestine. Surgery was performed to have the cancerous tumor removed, but doctors could only speculate as to whether they had gotten it all. They warned her that if the cancer returned within five years, it would probably be fatal.

The cancer returned, and needless to say, I was heartbroken. I had been so sure that my grandmother had beaten the disease.

But cancer knows no boundaries or limits. My grandmother lost weight rapidly, but all the while remained determined to continue with her life as if nothing had changed.

But it had. I could feel my grandmother losing her zest for life. And I could feel my heart breaking every time I thought about this wonderful person my young son would never truly know.

The day that I last saw her, she was lying in a hospital bed in a drug-induced coma. I spent several minutes alone with her, letting her know how much I loved her and telling her over and over again how I knew she could've won the battle had her opponent not been so strong.

It wasn't until after her death that I realized the cancer did not win. My grandmother did. She won by giving something back to the world, and that was a great understanding and perception of life.

She gave that to me, and I hope that I can only do the same. This one's for you, Grandma.

Looking Back Into The Record

October 7, 1949

The Halifax Electric Membership Corporation has let a contract to Cline Construction Co. for 101.8 additional miles of electrical lines in Warren County due to be installed by Christmas.

John R. Edwards, Jr., of Nutbush Township, has been appointed to the Warren County Development Commission to fill the unexpired term of E. G. Hecht, of Norlina.

Duke University freshman "Roddy" Drake, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Drake of Macon, has been elected president of House M and has been given the privilege of appointing a fellow dorm mate to the Student Council Judicial Committee.

October 11, 1979

Beverly G. White, a member of the Warrenton Town Board, on Thursday of last week filed as a candidate for mayor, challenging incumbent W. A. Miles for the post.

Harvey Conley Mangum, a native of Wrightsville Beach, has been named wildlife enforcement officer for Warren County, succeeding Robert Cornell.

Frank W. Ballance, local attorney, and Robert H. Hobgood, son of Judge Hamilton Hobgood of Louisburg, have been nominated to fill a superior court judge vacancy in the ninth judicial district.

October 9, 1964

Warren County tobacco growers underplanted their 4,432.29 allotment by 118.33 acres, T. E. Watson, ASCS office manager, said this week.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

- October 12, 1968—The games of the 19th Olympiad were formally opened in Mexico City.
- October 13, 1845—Texas ratified a state constitution.
- October 14, 1968—First live telecast from a manned U.S. spacecraft was transmitted from Apollo 7.
- October 15, 1966—President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a bill creating the Dept. of Transportation.
- October 16, 1970—Anwar Sadat was elected president of Egypt, succeeding the late Gamal Abdel Nasser.

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