

# The Warren Record

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## Historical ID Tags Needed

A member of the Warrenton Rural Fire Department who was on the scene last week when "Nebraska," ante-bellum log home built by the daughter of Francis Scott Key, burned posed a good question in the fire's aftermath.

"Why doesn't someone let the fire departments know where these historic homes are located?" he asked.

He had asked his question because firemen, who had fought hard to contain a blaze that had a great head start, allowed the home to burn to the ground when it was obvious that the structure would never again be fit for habitation.

It may have been possible, had firemen known of its historic value, to salvage something of the house. When firemen contained the blaze, the back end of the house had been burned away, but the front wall was virtually intact.

The fireman who asked the question reasoned correctly that a photograph of the house made at that point may have been of some value, and certainly to historians and others interested in the county's early architecture, such a photograph would have been worth taking.

Although not marked by an historical marker, "Nebraska" was of real significance to today's scholars. That it was unmarked, and its value unknown to firemen, suggests that more needs to be done to identify these endangered structures.

Letting the county's firefighters know where these historic buildings are located could increase the chances that something might be salvaged in the event of fire. It certainly seems a project worthy of consideration.

## As Others See It

### Silliness Of Changing Change

In The Watauga Democrat

It's pretty well documented that Congress has a problem with money. But a credit-card mentality is but one part of the problem; another is that Congress just doesn't like the way money looks.

Members of Congress are apparently bored with the nation's currency; a majority of senators and representatives have signed on the co-sponsor legislation to redesign America's change.

The weight, size and shape of the coins would remain the same, as would the "heads" adorning coins—although the portraits of Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Washington and Kennedy would be replaced by new ones. But gone would be the familiar Lincoln Memorial on the penny. Monticello on the nickel, and the eagle on the quarter, replaced by flags and themes celebrating the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

It's by no means certain that the coins will in fact be changed any time soon, or at all, given the shifting political priorities and positions of Congress. Too, the memory of the last change in coinage ordered up by Congress—the ill-fated Susan B. Anthony dollars which the government could hardly give away—must still be fresh in some minds. And there certainly has been no great public outcry for new nickels or redesigned dimes—although there is a small but persistent movement to eliminate the one-cent piece.

Come to think of it, perhaps Congress should put the whole idea on hold for awhile. After all, it's got no business redesigning quarters until it figures out how to pinch some pennies.

## Looking Back Into The Record

October 21, 1949

The Commodity Credit Corporation will purchase from Warren County's farmers, for \$46.50 per ton, cotton seed to be stored as an additional measure to support the price of 1949 cotton seed at 90 percent of parity.

The job of renovating and modernizing the Norlina depot has been practically completed and, where not many years back stood a dingy little station in which persons stood around a potbelly stove trying to keep warm, or passed boring time under lights too poor to read by, now rests an attractive station which both railroad men and other citizens view with pride.

Miss Catherine Read, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Pettus Read, became the bride of Julian Walker Farrar, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Walter Gaston Farrar, on Oct. 15 at 4 p.m. in Zion Methodist Church.

October 23, 1964

During September, Warren County had 19 deaths and 35 live births, with the "stork" making almost twice the visits as the "Grim Reaper." Dr. Robert F. Young, health director, said this week.

Bull riding—a decided hit at a recent horse show here—will

again be featured in the Warrenton Rural Fire Department's Show-deo to be held Sunday at Currin's Arena on the eastern outskirts of Warrenton.

The Warren County Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy won two top awards—one for outstanding historical work done in schools and the other for imaginative programs for youths—at a recent state convention held at Wrightsville Beach.

October 25, 1979

In a brief called session on Monday afternoon, the Warrenton Board of Town Commissioners repealed an ordinance making it mandatory for all town citizens to place their leaves in bags or boxes and place them at the curb of the street.

The Warrenton Tobacco Market will close at the end of sales today, boasting total sales for the year of 7,122,653 pounds, George W. Shearin, sales supervisor, said.

Richard C. Tunstall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin D. Tunstall of Rt. 3, Warrenton, has been appointed department supervisor in the new Resistor Network Operation at Corning Glass Work's Bradford, Pa. plant.

## The Warren County Scene



The tranquility of autumn is reflected in this photograph of a Warren County farm pond taken early on a misty morning.  
(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

## Here and There

Howard Jones

## Two New Books Arrive

A pleasant part of newspapering has to do with getting your name on publisher mailing lists, and thus coming into possession of new editions of books sent for review purposes. Not only are the books often valued additions to our library, but they offer food for thought as well as column fodder.

Two have been sent to me within recent weeks which I consider worth mentioning.

The first is actually a revised and enlarged edition of Bill Neal's *Southern Cooking*, first published in 1986 amid the applause of food critics and lovers of good food in all parts of the country.

This new edition is brimming over with some 25 recipes of new dishes most frequently requested by Neal's readers and some of the hallmark dishes of his Chapel Hill restaurant, Crook's Corner.

You'll find in the new book a recipe for shrimp and grits, which is about as Southern-sounding a dish as you are likely to encounter, and which has won the praise of *New York Times* reviewer Craig Claiborne. The revised edition—which another reviewer said "(mixes) the best of the South's classics . . . with a contemporary, light approach to cooking"—also contains recipes for many traditional dishes such as crab cakes and tomato aspic that have graced southern tables for generations.

The second book coming to my attention was *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, a periodical published each year since 1792 and perhaps best known for its accurate long-range weather forecasts.

According to legend, sale of this almanac was boosted in 1816 when an erroneous prediction for "snow in July" actually came true in New England. The cold summer of 1816—which was caused by volcanic dust from the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in the East Indies—resulted in widespread crop failures but gave the almanac considerable publicity.

In 1943, at the height of World War II, a copy of *The Old Farmer's Almanac* was found on a Nazi saboteur captured on Long Island, and federal authorities threatened to stop publication of the almanac for fear the enemy would be able to use the long-range weather forecasts to advantage. The editor mollified the FBI by promising to print only weather "indications" for the duration of the war.

The almanac contains a wide range of information, ranging from historical anecdotes and folklore to consumer trends. There are recipes, predictions on clothing fads, and even this little-known geographical fact: "Southernmost Canada is not only south of northernmost Pennsylvania, it is within 138 miles of being as far south as the Mason-Dixon Line."

And finally, in the fashion of *The Reader's Digest*, the almanac is a treasury of good quotes. One of my favorites, found on Page 189 of the newest edition, suggests: "You don't want to marry a man you think you can live with. The one you marry is the one you can't live without."

...

Speaking of matrimony, a friend of mine who shall remain nameless stopped by the office last week and said he wished to place the following advertisement for a mate in our classified section: "WANTED—Woman who can cook, dig worms, clean fish, and owns boat and motor. Please send picture of boat and motor."

## 'Extra' Hour Drawing Near

How would you like to have an extra hour of sleep next Saturday night?

That will be the effect of the shift from Daylight Savings Time to Eastern Standard Time, which will occur at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29.

Before going to sleep on Saturday night, Oct. 28, "fall back" by setting your clocks back one hour. At 2 a.m., for example, it will really be 1 a.m. under Eastern Standard Time.

"Standard time" was developed by railroad concerns who wished to standardize their schedules. Daylight Savings Time was developed to allow farmers more daylight hours for their chores.

Eastern Standard Time will be in effect here until the return of Daylight Savings Time at 2 a.m. on Sunday, April 1. Before going to bed on Saturday, March 31, you will need to "spring forward" by setting your clocks ahead by one hour. On April 1, 2 a.m. will become 3 a.m. and the extra hour of sleep gained the night of Saturday, October 28 will have been lost.



Thurletta Brown

## Barnum Was Right

Every year about this time, my mailbox becomes filled to the gills with mail order catalogues, all promising to provide the perfect gift for that special person on your Christmas list.

The catalogue offerings are selected to appeal to shoppers with varying amounts to spend. Neiman Marcus, for example, has outrageously expensive items, most of them well outside my anticipated income for the next millenium. Spencer Gifts and others contain more reasonable items, some even offered as "six-fer" specials.

But, according to my Uncle Allen and Aunt Lola, who visited last weekend on their way from the annual convention of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) in Baltimore, Md., the most outrageous "gift" of all (for that person who already has everything) could be bought in the exhibit hall there. The item: a full-size, reproduction of the innermost sarcophagus of King Tutankhamen!

Marketed to funeral directors as an alternative to the plain old everyday casket (Who'd be caught dead in one of those ordinary, four-cornered things?), the sarcophagus is available from Pyramid Enterprises, a Nevada concern. Designed by an aerospace engineer, each unit is hand-sculpted. Over 3,200 feathers cap the back of the unit; over 4,000 chevrons adorn its front.

The text of the marketing piece for the 91-pound unit reads like the gown-description portion of a bridal news story:

"The neck is adorned with a two-strand necklace of beads. A broad collar depicting the gems of lapis lazuli, turquoise and carnelian spans the chest and wrists. The crook and flail are crossed and held in each hand. The entire sarcophagus is tastefully lined and padded with exquisite, quilted, gold Qiana. The six handles supplied are in the shape of rings, symbolizing the Egyptian sign of eternity. Hand-etched on the base of the sarcophagus is a beautiful Egyptian scene..."

King Tutankhamen's solid gold sarcophagus was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter. Made of 296 troy pounds of gold and inlaid with rare gems, the real thing has an estimated value of more than \$2 million. It is on display in the Cairo Museum.

The Pyramid Enterprises fiber-composite reproduction—available in polished brass, polished gold or satin gold finishes—costs a mere (?) \$8,000—retail.

Says the company's marketing piece: "As an object of art, the sarcophagus is a work of true beauty. As a casket, with the life-like facial features, the focus on life is emphasized and remembered, rather than death, and symbolizes the pride and respect you owe yourself and your loved ones."

And here's the kicker: "Whether you consider your sarcophagus for personal treasure or public display, you can be assured of the ultimate in uniqueness, quality and everlasting beauty."

Yep, that's right folks. The sales hype is that you buy this thing now, put it on display in your living room and then, when the time comes...

Currently, only the male model is available, but the engineer is working on a female model. One day, you can own the pair!

While the whole idea is really too outrageous and overly rich for my blood, the Pyramid Enterprises unit is probably just what some rich Texan or Shah is searching for to round out his Christmas list. As for me, however, I'm content with plants in my living room and more reasonable items for my Christmas list.

But the folks at Pyramid Enterprises know: There's probably a "Tut-buyer" born every minute!

## Notes From All Over

Diane Davis

## Important Item Overlooked

From time to time, in the course of writing news stories, I tend to overlook some of the important facts, thus forgetting to include them in an article.

That happened to me last week. After interviewing Mrs. Elizabeth P. Harris, I wrote a story about the Child Support Enforcement Agency, where she serves as supervisor. During the interview, I asked Mrs. Harris about the caseload each of the agents in the office handles. She told me that there were only two agents, not three as I had first thought.

Ms. Delphine Sumler, who is Mrs. Harris' hard-working assistant, does not handle a caseload, so to speak, but keeps the office running smoothly by knowing what's going on and what's not. Mrs. Harris told me this, and inadvertently, I forgot to put Ms. Sumler's name in the article.

I'm sorry about the omission in the story. For those of you who know Ms. Sumler, you also know that she is a hard worker. Just because she doesn't carry a "caseload" in the state's definition of what a caseload means in the Child Support Enforcement office, it doesn't mean she's not an important part of the agency.

For those of you out there looking for a different way to package gifts, talk to Mrs. Pat Schuster.

She'll show you how to wrap your gifts in a balloon. Now, how does she do that, you might ask? Well, it's something that I cannot explain very well. She has this machine that enlarges the opening of the balloon to a certain diameter so she can place items down inside.

Really neat, you might think. And it is. The balloons end up looking like big Easter eggs filled with all sorts of things. And the way she arranges the items is fascinating.

To open a gift, the balloon has to be popped. It's different, that's for sure.

And just when I thought all the gift ideas were the same . . . the wheels in the minds of Warren's citizens are turning.

WARRENTON TOBACCO MARKET			
	Wednesday, Oct. 18	Tuesday, Oct. 24	TOTALS
Pounds	425,361	410,566	8,036,155
Money	\$730,655.19	\$696,707.53	\$13,517,997.13
Average	\$171.77	\$169.69	\$168.21
Stabilization	73,389	141,859	449,030
Percentage	17	35	6