

The Warren Record
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DOG-GONE HAPPY—This dog, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Blaylock and family of Bragg Street, Warrenton, has found a warm sleeping place on cold nights. The pile of leaves makes a cozy bed, but one that is not always safe from passing cars. This photograph was taken last week by the Blaylock's next-door neighbor, Mary Hunter.

Here and There **Howard Jones**

Capitalizing On A Name

On the banks of the muddy Yadkin River some miles from Lexington there is a state historic site whose welcoming sign proclaims that here can be found a cave that was once employed by Daniel Boone as an overnight shelter.

The cave, if one can be so generous in describing a place that is little more than a crack in a wall of rock, is a short distance from the river, and a considerable amount of money was obviously spent in constructing a series of wooden stairs which run from the rim of a fairly high cliff, past the cave, to the river valley itself, where tourists can be found meandering among the ferns and wildflowers in the summer season.

A small shelter and a board containing a brief sketch of the life of Daniel Boone can be found nearby. That is all. Yet the place is a tourist attraction of some standing.

The point I wish to make is that the historic site pales by comparison with several sites which the state might justifiably develop in Warren County. Take Nathaniel Macon's Buck Spring plantation, or Jacob Holt's house and all that could be done with it to put antebellum carpentry skills in the fore, as just two examples. Surely, neither Macon nor Holt has the same wide name recognition as does Daniel Boone, but there is much more here to capitalize on than what the State of North Carolina found to build upon on the muddy banks of the Yadkin River in a remote section of Davidson County.

Elsewhere in this issue I wrote an account of a trip recently taken by members of the early morning breakfast club with which I frequently gather, but I did not point out in the article why a group of Warren County men would wind up in Townsville for breakfast.

We went to Ralph Pegram's Olde Place Restaurant to try his breakfast buffet as a direct result of his lending a helping hand earlier this year when newspaper editors and publishers from Warren and nearby counties met for a shrimperoo at Henderson Point on Kerr Lake.

Henderson Point is perhaps a five-minute drive from Townsville, and when our Kerr-Tar newspaper group met there some weeks ago, we learned that the persons charged with providing the tossed salad for the meal had not received the word.

As a result, our family took it upon ourselves to try to find a source of tossed salad in a relatively remote area of Vance County.

We drove no further than Mr. Pegram's restaurant, which was doing a brisk night business, in our search for the salad. I introduced myself to Mr. Pegram and told him of our plight. He quickly agreed to have his cooks prepare 20 tossed salads despite their being busy at this particular hour.

Soon the salad was prepared, and he gave me a large stainless steel bowl with which to take it back to the community building at Henderson Point where our shrimperoo was planned. He gave us a reduced rate on the salad, and he did not require of us, all perfect strangers, any deposit on his large bowl.

As a result of his generosity, our breakfast club made a Sunday morning visit to his eating establishment, and this past Thursday, our entire family, including my sister's family from Raleigh, met at the Olde Place Restaurant for a delicious Thanksgiving buffet dinner.

The business came Mr. Pegram's way because he was nice to some people he had never met. In the truest sense, he cast his bread upon the waters, and it came back several-fold.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK
 DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

- November 30, 1939—The Soviet Union invaded Finland.
- December 1, 1965—An airlift of refugees from Cuba to the U.S. began.
- December 2, 1970—The Environmental Protection Agency began operating under its first director, William Ruckelshaus.
- December 3, 1828—Andrew Jackson was elected president of the United States.
- December 4, 1942—U.S. bombers struck the Italian mainland for the first time in World War II.
- December 5, 1929—The American League for Physical Culture, the first nudist group in the U.S., was organized.
- December 6, 1957—America's first attempt at putting a satellite into orbit blew up on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla.
- December 7, 1836—Martin Van Buren was elected the eighth president of the U.S.
- December 8, 1962—A 114-day newspaper strike began in New York City.
- December 9, 1958—Robert H.W. Welch Jr. and 11 other men met in Indianapolis to form the anti-Communist John Birch Society.



Ouch!

By the time this paper hits the streets next week, the last month of the year will have begun.

The coming of December means that, in addition to having the hassle of getting all of our Christmas shopping done, we must also give some serious thought to strategies to be used in those final 31 days to reduce Uncle Sam's tax bite on our hard earned resources.

Accountants tell us about bunching expenses now to make sure they reach the levels needed to qualify as deductions. (If you had been planning to have a "nose job" done, for example, tell your surgeon to go ahead and do the eye-bag lifts, tummy tucks, saddlebag liposuction—the whole nine yards.)

If we are self-employed, we are encouraged to delay receiving income until the next calendar year. ("Sure, I'll lay your bricks for you in December, but you better not pay me until after January 1!")

If our incomes are below the level which would allow a deduction, we are told to consider making a contribution to our Individual Retirement Accounts. (Even if the contributions cannot be used for a deduction, IRA contributions are still a good idea since the money can grow without being taxed—yet.)

But do you know something that makes me absolutely sick? No matter how legally-creative we are with our tax planning, there are still some folks out there who manage to outdo us.

A case in point is the large number of wealthy persons in these United States who figure out a way to avoid paying any federal income tax at all.

According to a recent Associated Press account, 595 of the 529,460 individuals and couples who said they had incomes above \$200,000 in tax returns filed in 1987 paid no federal income tax.

Want to get even sicker?

On top of that 595 persons, an additional 33,805 persons with incomes above \$200,000 paid their tax at a rate of less than 15 percent. (In case you've forgotten, that 15 percent rate is less than that slapped on the average middle-income family!)

But it still gets worse.

Nearly 3,000 of those rich persons paid tax at a rate of less than 10 percent. How did they do it?

According to the IRS report, some of those rich persons lessened their tax bites by taking big investment losses on farms and partnerships. Others claimed itemized deductions, which for the group averaged \$262,000. Still others claimed credits for taxes which had been paid in other countries.

But 133 of those creative 595 rich folks who paid no taxes claimed itemized deductions, usually interest payments which exceeded their total income.

Interesting. If you make \$1 million and then you borrow \$1 billion, I guess the interest would sort of eat you up. (Just thinking about numbers that large gives me the "willies.")

The IRS report gave a bit of historical information as well. For returns filed in 1977, only 53 persons were making more than \$200,000 per year. In 1984, there were 579 persons in that income bracket who paid no federal taxes. In 1985, the number of zero-taxpayers was 325. In 1986, the number was 613.

Is there no justice?

Congress has attempted over and over to close up these legal loopholes, but somehow, the creative rich (aided by their financial planners and accountants) still manage to squeak through. And they get away with it.

If I were elected President of the United States, things would be different. The tax laws and tables would be applied as they should be. Everyone would pay his or her fair share. I'd be on YOUR side. (This is not a criticism of the current administration. It is just a wish for fair play and equal treatment.)

In the meantime, however, do the best you can, but be careful. For some reason, when plain folks like you and me try to get away with something, we are caught. If our charitable contributions are above a certain level, we are audited and then there is hell to pay.

Evidently, there really is some truth to that old adage: "The rich get richer, and the poor..."

Notes From All Over **Diane Davis**

Parading, Turkey-Style

Boy has this been a crazy week. I mean, CRAZY!!

Thanksgiving was great, the turkey was fine, and the company was terrific. But I still ended up with that same bloated and over-stuffed feeling. (I'm sure the double helpings of Mom's stuffing, macaroni and cheese and string beans had absolutely nothing to do with it.)

Besides taking time out to eat turkey, I've had to worry with partially organizing this year's Warrenton Christmas Parade. As a child, I thought it only natural for herds of cars, people and floats to pass me by as I waved frantically trying to gain recognition from the small depths of my childhood. But folks, it's not that easy anymore. Growing up has made me realize just how much work goes into a hometown parade.

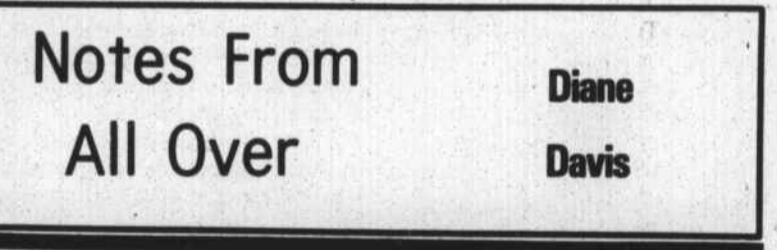
There have been numerous band leaders to call, Girl Scout troops to organize in marching order and attempts to pass on the responsibility to some of my fellow Jaycees. Whoever was in charge of putting me in the co-chairman position can hang up any thought of doing this to me again next year. No way, not me. I'd rather sit at home with my new cat ("Boo Boo") and sing Christmas carols to the ceiling.

Of course, it's not to say that the other people working with me haven't taken a big burden off my shoulders by just being there. Aubrey Hines, who for some reason finds it fun and has done this TWO YEARS IN A ROW, has been a terrific asset. Although he won't be in town for the parade himself, his hard work and dedication to the event's fruition will be. Aubrey is in Duke Medical Center this week undergoing heart surgery, and all of us in the Jaycee community (and many others as well) wish him the best of luck and pray that he will come back home in tip-top shape (especially since he'll probably have to organize next year's parade, too).

And then there is honorary Jaycee member Ruth Haymore, who kindly volunteered her time (and phone) to gather parade participants. I'm sure she's still muttering those ugly four-lettered words to herself about us Jaycees.

Anyway, this is just a reminder to let all of you know that it's not the quantity that counts, but the quality. The parade may be small in comparison to those in other towns, but ours has got that hometown spirit helping it chug along.

And believe me, that's the only part of me left that can go into it. Thanksgiving may be over, but I'm still awfully thankful that we are having a parade this year. And you should be, too.



To get Brazil nuts out of their shells unbroken, freeze them until the shells crack.

History And Tourism

For many years we have been of the opinion that Warren County has an advantage over many counties of this state in that it has a rich history which can be tied to tourism.

Persons throughout this country appear starved for places to go, and with little work, Warren County could offer much to the future traveler by capitalizing on its past.

A recent editorial in *The Charlotte Observer* drew the same conclusion about there being substantial profit in linking tourism and history. That editorial held thusly:

"Representatives of North Carolina's 23 state-owned historic sites were in town Monday and Tuesday and learned that the past is becoming more important to the state's future. History is not only a significant asset to the state's convention and tourism business but, increasingly, a vital element in building a sense of community.

"As the calendar enters the 1990s and the end of the 20th century draws near, popular interest in history is rising. People are looking back to see where civilization has been and looking ahead to see where it might go. That phenomenon was evident in the 1790s and the 1890s and, given today's communication possibilities, is likely to be even more so as the 21st century dawns.

"More people can read today than ever before. More people have high school and college educations than ever before. And more people than ever have the time and inclination to speculate about their past, a factor that is already influencing trends in the convention and travel industry.

"According to Doug Stafford, director of the Charlotte Convention and Visitors Bureau, history is one of the top five factors influencing people's choice of a place to vacation or hold a convention. Fewer families are choosing to loll about on beaches and more are opting for a few days of touring historic sites and museums, learning about their heritage. As a consequence, travel and tourism promotions built around historic sites are doing well, and traditional convention and vacation spots are stagnant.

"Urban planners and designers also report that history is a rising factor in the shaping of metropolitan communities. As new housing, shopping centers and office parks spill over into what was once open land, residents of cities and suburbs—whether natives or newcomers—become hungry for landmarks that can help communities identify their roots and maintain a sense of place. Planners predict that the historic fabric of Charlotte and the five cities on its 20-mile perimeter will be of increasing importance to the development of this metropolitan region.

"Now in its 406th year of recorded history, North Carolina has more history to tell and preserve than many other states. From the Lost Colony site and Tryon Palace restoration in the east to the Thomas Wolfe house and Zeb Vance birthplace in the mountains, North Carolina is loaded with historic sites, all of which enrich our own and visitors' sense of the state's heritage.

"Those trends ought to promote Charlotte's civic and political leaders to do more to promote the many historic sites in this area: the Reed gold mine, the Kings Mountain battleground, the James K. Polk memorial, the Andrew Jackson birthplace, the Latta Plantation, the James Torence House and Store, and the Hezekiah Alexander Homesite. All of these places have much to teach residents and visitors alike as we approach the end of the century."

We'll Help Santa Claus

The Warren Record is offering to serve this year as a middle-man for Santa Claus.

Children wishing to contact the bearded old Christmas Eve visitor but not knowing his North Pole address may send their letters to this newspaper. Not only will they be published in our edition prior to the Christmas holidays, but they will be forwarded to Santa at the North Pole.

All letters to Santa should be sent prior to Dec. 16. They should be addressed to Santa Claus, in care of The Warren Record, P. O. Box 70, Warrenton, N. C. 27589.

Looking Back Into The Record

- November 25, 1949**
Warren County will receive \$15,203 as its share of the state's revenues from the sale of wine and beer.
- Jim Hundley, of Norlina, was elected president of the Warren County Farm Bureau Friday night.
- The Harvest Festival at Zion Methodist Church in Norlina netted over \$1,200, the Rev. W. G. Farrar said yesterday.
- November 27, 1964**
Weber MacFarland, nationally known flower arranger who is often seen on WTVD's "Peggy Mann Show," was host to members of the Town 'N Country Garden Club at a Christmas Decorations Workshop held in his Cary florist.
- A group of students from North Carolina College, Duke University and N. C. State University will spend the Thanksgiving weekend together in a work camp in the Memorial Recreation Forest in the Heck's Grove community.
- William Peete Fleming, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sol B. Fleming of Norlina, is employed by the government as an I.B.M. operator at Defense General Supply Center in Richmond, Va.
- November 29, 1979**
Mrs. Louise M. Twitty, a math and science teacher at Hawkins Junior High School, has been named Warren County's Teacher Of The Year.
- The Warren County Historical Association has received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for the continued restoration of the Jacob Holt House.
- Mrs. Portia Barnes, of Warrenton, has been named Outstanding 4-H Leader Of The Year.