

The Warren Record

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Penalties Increased

The North Carolina General Assembly is to be commended for putting some much needed teeth into the state's litterbug law.

For those of you who might have missed it, effective last October 1, any person caught littering and dumping trash illegally can be fined up to \$200, with a minimum of \$50 for 15 pounds of trash or less.

Of greater significance is the fact that motor vehicles and equipment involved in more serious cases of littering—that exceeding 500 pounds—can be declared contraband and sold by the state.

The lawmakers in Raleigh also classified littering from a motor vehicle as a moving violation, and conviction will result in one point on a driver's license.

We wish the state legislators would go one short step further, and instruct the Department of Transportation to return to the road signs of old which proclaimed the penalty for littering in dollar terms.

The new signs, which one sees all along the state's highway system, consist of a logo which indicates that littering is illegal, but does nothing to tell of the fine for not observing the anti-littering law.

It just makes good sense to let people who are marring the beauty of our roadsides know just how much their abuse will cost them if they are caught and convicted.

The Warren County Scene



A TIME FOR GRAZING—A spring-like day dawns ever so often in the midst of autumn, and the resulting picture, such as the one above taken near Warrenton, becomes a common-place sight in Warren County.

(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

'Prancer' Is Clean Movie In Time For Christmas

By DORIS CANNON
In The Smithfield Herald

Johnston County has the town of Four Oaks. "Gone With the Wind" has a plantation house named Twelve Oaks. And now the Howell Theatre in Smithfield has the small town of Three Oaks, where much of the plot of the movie "Prancer" unfolds.

Anyone who believes in Santa Claus—or has ever believed in the old gent—should not miss "Prancer," which has a "G" rating, a rarity this day and time. It is about a little girl who finds a reindeer in the woods and thinks it belongs to Santa Claus. But it is also much more than that.

How fine to be able to go to a movie and hear no filth coming out of the mouths of young and old alike. How beautiful to see no blood and gore. How wonderful to witness no sex scenes thrown in for no reason other than throwing in sex scenes. How comforting to see no car chases that use up 20 minutes of screen time.

Sam Elliott, who plays the little girl's widowed father, is one of the finest actors around (not to mention one of the most handsome), and it is good to see him playing something other than a scheming womanizer or a psychopath. How good to watch this single father mellow from his hard-hearted approach to his own heartache and hardship on a struggling farm.

If you have advanced far beyond childhood, "Prancer" is a movie that warms the heart and rekindles fantasies that made Christmas Eve so magical long ago. If you are still a child, it is a movie that reinforces that precious and fleeting time of life.

"Prancer" is the kind of movie that not only renews feelings of childhood Christmases; it also renews faith in those who make movies. It demonstrates that there are film-makers alive in our land who realize we have been fed enough hog slop and skunk droppings—and those of us who plunk our dollars down at theatre box offices deserve something other than a spit in the face in return.

America was shocked when Rhett Butler came out with a mild four-letter word near the end of "God With the Wind," but in a few decades Hollywood took the country on a downhill roller-coaster ride into a sewer. I suppose Tinsel Town can't be blamed for the entire trip, because it was only pandering to the public "needs" arising out of moral decline. But at the same time, film-makers must be found guilty of not using their great power and influence for greater good. The same goes for those in the television industry.

"Prancer" is about adults and children coping with the harsh realities of life. It is about sorting out the distorted fragments of everyday existence and learning what is important and what is not. And it is about what Christmas is about: love.

Frankly, my dear, I'd rather see "Prancer" again than find a whole mound of expensive gifts under my tree on Christmas morning.

In my childish heart is a wish to actually visit Three Oaks and surrounding areas on Christmas Eve. But my adult mind says, "Grow up. Get real. You can't go to Three Oaks, because there is no such place. The movie is fiction. Face it."

But my heart replies, "You're right. I can't go to Three Oaks. But I can do the next best thing. I can go to Four Oaks on Christmas Eve, watch the skies around midnight and listen for the sound of sleigh bells."

Looking Back Into The Record

December 2, 1949

The John Graham High School football team closed out its 1949 season Thanksgiving night by winning over the Norlina High School Blues by the score of 21 to 0.

At Warrenton's Colonial Store: sirloin steak—89 cents per pound; center-cut pork chops—49 cents per pound; Armour Star smoked hams—49 cents per pound and boneless stew beef—69 cents per pound.

From Leggett's "Santa's Toy Parade": scooters—\$2.98; mechanical train sets—\$2.98; metal wagons—\$2.98; and tricycles—\$8.95.

December 4, 1964

Warren County's tobacco growers will take a cut of more than 1,000 acres under the allotments ordered for 1965 last Friday by Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman.

The annual visit by Santa Claus to the Norlina Post Office next

Tuesday afternoon will be taped for broadcast on Dec. 9 by WRAL-TV, Bill Delbridge, postmaster, announced this week.

About 42 live trees, each decorated with 30 lights of various colors, will be prepared by the Warrenton Woman's Club and placed at intervals on either side of Main Street in preparation for Santa's arrival on Dec. 11.

December 6, 1979

Mrs. Rachel Ricks and James Jordan, both veteran educators in the Warrenton County school system, were promoted this week to assistant superintendents.

Bobby Dean Bolton, Wise resident and former deputy sheriff, rejoined the Warren County Sheriff's Department on Dec. 1, succeeding E. L. Paynter, of Norlina.

Walter J. (Jack) Harris, of Warrenton, was re-elected chairman of the Warren County Board of Commissioners at its organizational meeting here Monday.

Loughlin-Goodwyn Jewelers

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Or Used Car Or Truck

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Creedmoor, N.C.

Dewey Edwards
Larry Brim

Don Estes

528-1519 Or 528-1444

Dueward Edwards, Sr.
Kevin Breedlove

VALID 12/4/89 - 1/2/90



Thurletta Brown

Gee, Thanks

Just as little Virginia was assured a while back that there really was a Santa Claus, we are assured by all the sales displays that there really is a Christmas. But there probably would not have been had not a series of events occurred.

Last year, an historic chronology of the holiday written by Dr. Charles W. Lowrey, was printed in *The Pilot* (Southern Pines). Excerpts appear below.

4 B.C.—Biblical account of the Birth of Jesus, relating it to the death of Herod the King in 4 B.C.

A.D. 195—Clement of Alexandria records several speculations as to the Birth of Christ, but sets it on 17 November, 3 B.C.

A.D. 202—Hippolytus, Church leader in Rome, proposed January 2 as the Birthday of Christ.

A.D. 245—Origen, in the 8th Homily on Leviticus, repudiates as sinful the keeping of Christ's Birthday, "as if he were a King or Pharaoh."

A.D. 354—First certain mention of Dec. 25 in a Latin document.

A.D. 386—Christmas, or the Christ Mass on Dec. 25, now becomes widespread. The Romans had long celebrated Dec. 25 as Brumalia, or Day Of Sol Invictus (the unconquered Sun). The date was not accepted in Jerusalem until 549. Armenian Christians are said still to insist on Jan. 6 as the true date of Jesus' birth.

Middle Ages (800-1400)—The Gothic and Northern transformation of the Celebration of Christmas.

The snow, the winter cold, St. Nick as Santa Claus, the reindeer and sleigh, the giving of gifts, the motifs of forest green and many Christmas Carols came into use.

A.D. 1087—Body and relics of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, were forcibly removed to Italy. The origin of Santa Claus, an American corruption of the Dutch San Nicolaas, was brought to New York by early colonists.

A.D. 1215—The first Christmas creche was set up by Francis of Assisi.

A.D. 1664—English Puritans, by Act of Parliament, forbade any merriment or services on the grounds that Christmas was a heathen festival and should be kept instead as a fast.

A.D. 1823—The first publication, in the Troy, N.Y. *Sentinel*, of "Visit From St. Nicholas," which begins "'Twas the night before Christmas..."

A.D. 1846—First Christmas cards are sent out in the United States.

A.D. 1849—Boxing Day, an English Holiday on the first weekday after Christmas on which Christmas boxes are given.

That was an awful lot of rigamarole to go through, but I'm sure glad those long-suffering souls did not give up. If they had, December 25 would be just another day and we wouldn't have all the joy of braving the cold to buy presents and later paying for the darned things!

Notes From All Over

Diane Davis

It Really Happens

It's happened to all of us at one time or another. We go to the phone to call a friend and when we pick up the receiver, that friend is on the other end of the line. Coincidence, you say? Maybe, maybe not. But, keep in mind that this is a strange world we live in.

There are many examples of odd occurrences which happen each day. Some are "normal" occurrences, such as the phone incident, and some are unusual. For instance:

- Connecticut businessman George D. Bryson was traveling by train through the South and decided to make an unscheduled stop in Louisville, Ky., a city he had never seen before. After registering at the Brown Hotel, he was assigned Room 307. Moments later, the clerk handed him a letter addressed to "Mr. George D. Bryson, Room 307." By coincidence, the previous resident of the room had been another George D. Bryson, from Montreal.

- A Chester, Pa. man was arrested in 1949 for vagrancy. Insisting the police were wrong, the man claimed he had a home—at 714 McIlvain St. The police told him to wait until his court date to tell the judge. The defendant went to court and appeared before Magistrate R. Robinson Lowry, who asked him where he got the address.

- "It's just an address," replied the defendant.

- "I'll say it is," Lowry said. "That's where I live. Ninety days."

- The second and third presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, died on the same day—July 4, 1826, 50 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

- In a room with 23 people in it, the odds are better than 50-50 that two of the room's people would have the same birthday.

- There was an incident when all 15 people scheduled to attend a rehearsal of a church choir in Beatrice, Neb. were late for practice on March 1, 1950, and each had a different reason: a car wouldn't start, a radio program wasn't over, ironing wasn't finished, etc. Fortunately, this was one occasion when it was good that every one was late. The rehearsal was scheduled for 7:15 p.m. At 7:25 p.m., the church was destroyed by an explosion. An act of God? Who knows?

- John Kennedy was elected U. S. President exactly 100 years to the week after Abraham Lincoln; both were deeply involved in civil rights for blacks; both were assassinated on a Friday in the presence of their wives; each had lost a son while living in the White House; Lincoln was killed in Ford's Theatre, Kennedy in a Lincoln convertible made by the Ford Motor Company; both men were succeeded by vice presidents named Johnson who were born 100 years apart (1808 and 1908).

Hey, I never thought such things went on in this great big world we live in. But when I think about it, it's kind of scary.

I heard that there were so many members of the first family in Washington, D.C. over the Thanksgiving holidays that you couldn't see the White House for the Bushes.

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES

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