

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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Thank Heaven, The Table Is Laid" — "THE DUPLIN STORY" WILL SET TO OPEN THURSDAY



FAISON MCGOWEN
Duplin County Auditor and assistant to Sam Byrd and Gilbert Alphin in production of "The Duplin Story".

Photographs Available

Charlie Craft of Craft's Studio, official photographer for "The Duplin Story" asks us to announce that negatives of all pictures of individuals and groups made through out the production of "The Duplin Story" including those during the broadcasts, are on file in his studio in Mt. Olive. Any one wishing a copy of any picture may secure it by dropping a letter or post card to Craft's Studio, Mt. Olive, N. C. The charge is nominal.



MRS. F. W. (PEARL) MCGOWEN
Chairman of Duplin Colonial Dances, English teacher in Kenansville school, Actress in "The Duplin Story". A number one assistant to Mr. Byrd in the direction and rehearsing of the play.

"The Duplin Story" Souvenir Book

A 56 page book of "The Duplin Story" will go on sale in Kenansville at the Duplin Times Office, Wednesday, Sept. 14. The price for the book will be \$4c, ten cents extra for wrapping and mailing. These books will also be on sale in the amphitheatre by the Duplin County P.T.A. Association each night during the play.

The booklet is an attractive 5 1/2 page job, size 8 1/2 x 11 inches, printed on good book paper. The cover is in two colors, designed and drawn by Corwin Rife, scenic director of "The Duplin Story". Fifty histories of Duplin folks who have had a leading part in the celebration are included. Also A. T. Outlaw's history of Duplin County, together with many other interesting items, the program and cast of the play. This book has been made possible by the advertisers. Readers are asked to patronize these advertisers.

"Centralien" On Sale

The "Centralien", 1949 annual of Kenansville School will be on sale at the school house all day Wednesday, Mary Ann Burch, circulation manager says.



SAM BYRD, Playwrite, Actor, Director of "The Duplin Story"



GILBERT E. ALPHIN, JR. President Duplin County Historical Association, Inc., producer of "The Duplin Story".



CORWIN RIFE of Charleston, S. C. Scene and Technical Director of "THE DUPLIN STORY."

I LIKE THE OLD SOUTH

By J. R. GRADY
Kenansville.—I like the Old South, I like old Southern traditions as told to me by my mother; how she lived and played when a child in an old Southern two-story house on the banks of the North East River in Duplin County. I like the way she told of how the young people did in the days of yonder past; how her father, when he was a slave-owner, hired private tutors to come into his home and teach her, her four sisters and two brothers. And then as she would tell how she began teaching near Sarecta, the first incorporated town in Duplin County. I enjoyed listening to her tell of the dances, the real old time square dances, that the young folks enjoyed in the old days.

In my first year of high school at Seven Springs, I studied North Carolina history, and I recall reading about the Battle of Rock Fish fought near Wallace when General Kenna led his militiamen against the British and Tories.

My mother had passed college age when the old James Spence school was organized in Duplin County but she could tell me all

my in Kenansville. Chartered by the North Carolina legislature even before the University of North Carolina was founded.

My mother was a staunch Presbyterian and couldn't help but believe that "what is to be will be." All you good old Presbyterians recall how you were taught with a firm hand to attend Sunday School and church every Sunday and believe everything the Presbyterian preacher told you. Our forebears in Duplin have had this instilled in them since the days of Hugh McAden when he roared horseback over Duplin County preaching the John Calvin philosophy or doctrine of Presbyterianism when he founded old Grove Presbyterian church in Kenansville, first of the Calvinistic faith to be organized in North Carolina.

As a child I recall, slightly, the days of the first World War when your and my brothers were marching off to Europe. I wasn't present in Warsaw at that time because I was a kid in Seven Springs, but I know from what I have been told by Mrs. Ella Womack, a lovely relative who was organized in Warsaw when she was in Warsaw, that



MARIETTA RICHARDS of Cleveland, Ohio. Organist for "THE DUPLIN STORY."

Mrs. Womack, Mrs. Blanche Wilson and other ladies of Warsaw fed hundreds of Duplin boys, white and colored, who marched off to war that day, included among them Charlie Gavin, who was killed in that holocaust.

I don't remember the day that the big barbecue political rally was held in Beulaville in 1906 because that was the year I was born, but I do recall my Uncle "Bob" Maxwell, the orator of Duplin from over in Albemarle Township tell about it and I enjoy now hearing Mr. Stephen Graham in Beulaville reveal in memories of those days. "Uncle Bob" was there, hobnobbing, telling jokes and arguing with all, and Mr. "Steve" was cooking the barbecue that day.

I enjoyed hearing the old tales of the hundreds of Duplin boys who were living in the past as well as in the present. We are preparing to not just tell, but to show, all Eastern North Carolina history of this section for the past two hundred years. Nearly 1000 of us, white and black, some singing, some acting, some working with lights and props, some carrying on in the 8000 seat amphitheatre, some writing, some

the swamps of the North East in Smith Township. I enjoy hearing Judge Grady, native son of Duplin, tell tales of the old days, and he really is a past master at the art, especially when he is in the company of Judge Fizzle of Snow Hill and such other notables.

I enjoy hearing the old tales of the tobacco field and wish I could tell them like some of the old timers. I enjoyed "crapping" tobacco in the "baccar" fields when just a barefoot boy at Seven Springs and they "crap" it in Duplin today the same as they did when I was a boy. The colored folks would work and sing, sway and swing as they could see in their mind's eye the golden weed floating down from heaven in the form of dollar bills. Old Susie the mule would swing her tail back and forth like the old clock pendulum as she pulled the tobacco truck between the rows. They were the good old days then and they are the good old days now.

I'm glad I'm living in Duplin County now for today I am one of the hundreds of Dupliners who are living in the past as well as in the present. We are preparing to not just tell, but to show, all Eastern North Carolina history of this section for the past two hundred years. Nearly 1000 of us, white and black, some singing, some acting, some working with lights and props, some carrying on in the 8000 seat amphitheatre, some writing, some



AMOS Q. BRINSON
Mayor of Kenansville

Extra Copies

There will be something like 400 extra copies of this issue of the Duplin Times for sale. Price will be 15c per copy. If mailed, Enc. When ordering enclose 20c in coin or stamps. The publisher had hoped to have more copies for sale at press time but advance orders have already reduced the number. We advise you get yours early.

Sorry we are late but it isn't often we get out a 42 page paper. Thanks to every one for their cooperation. The Editor



MRS. A. D. WOOD
Minister's wife, director of public school music in Duplin County schools and director of "The Duplin Story" Choir.

Times Reporters Are On The Job

Tuesday morning Mrs. Hattie Barbara Hall died at her home in Kenansville. Shortly after her death a member of the Times staff had written the obituary. That afternoon the body was carried to the Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home in Warsaw. The Times reporter in that city was immediately on the job.

Tuesday night she dispatched a night letter, collect, of 98 words to The Duplin Times in Kenansville, only 8 miles away. The telegram was duly delivered the following morning.

selling tickets, et cetera, to put on the Pageant of Duplin's bi-centennial celebration. We are not going to have big parades with brass bands, highly decorated floats, and what have you. We are not even going to select a beauty queen, if she sold the most tickets. We are merely going to put on a play, a two-act play with music and plenty of singing. We are not going to have a community sing but will have a 100-voice white choir, two 100-voice Negro choirs and one 65-voice Negro choir to sing to the accompaniment of a huge electric organ. We are going to show you how Dupliners and other Southern boys fought for their homes and their way of living during the War Between the States. We are going to show you a replica of the Battle of Rock Fish, not just on a stage, but on a hill beside a clump of long leaf pines as the Tories and the Patriots tug it out.

By GERTRUDE CARRAWAY
Something new, novel and highly entertaining in a modernized treatment of historical drama is promised when Sam Byrd's "The Duplin Story," a two-act historical "play", with music, is presented September 22, 23 and 24 in a scenic outdoor amphitheatre at Kenansville in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Duplin County.

North Carolina has long been nationally famous for its historical dramas through the attainment of Dr. Frederick H. Koch, Hatcher Hughes, Paul Green and many others distinguished in the dramatic arts.

Sam Byrd has written, is directing, and will act in his own play, and it now bids fair to mark another important milestone in Tar Hee dramatic history, which began, strangely enough, just 10 years after the establishment of Duplin County, when Thomas Godfrey, J., in 1759 completed at Wilmington "The Prince of Parthia," a five act tragedy, the first play written by an American to be produced professionally on the American stage.

Native Produces Play
Byrd is staking his reputation on his Duplin County production. Successful on Broadway in acting and producing plays and in the nation for his two books, he now wants to make good in his native section. He was born in nearby Mount Olive, and has come home from New York to put over successfully what he hopes will be the most significant achievement of his career so far.

Duplin citizens are so sure of it that they are devoting their time, energy and money to help in every way possible.

Every North Carolinian interested in Duplin County in particular and in North Carolina history in general, as well as outsiders and all persons in or out of the State who like dramatic entertainment, will be given a hearty welcome on the three gala nights, with Duplin's assurance of wholesome and stirring entertainment.

History Is Fictionized
It will not be the same kind of historical drama as Paul Green's magnificent productions, "The Lost Colony," and "The Common Glory." Indeed, it will be far different from the usual history lesson or historical pageant. It is fictionized history, with actual characters called by name and true events in real places of which Duplin is justly proud, seen through the eyes of a homesick GI in London and from the viewpoint of two English children.

This means that the audience will in a measure form an integral part of the dramatic sequence that Byrd has written graphically to be depicted in strikingly moving and impressive form, with every-day conversation, in action rather than monologue, pictures instead of words, human interest and humor more than tragedy or melodrama.

An ideal locale was found for the open-air production when H. D. Williams offered use of a large field between his home and the community school. This is being arranged appropriately and beautifully, with adequate stage and seats to accommodate 5,154 spectators. There will be nearby parking space for 500 cars, traffic to be directed by State Highway patrolmen.

Cast to Include 500
Thousands of people are expected from a wide area to witness this unusual production, with its 500 actors headed by Byrd himself in the leading role. Various scenes are being handled by different schools of the county. Byrd, as the director, means to have the entire program move rapidly, without lags or delays, from beginning to end in two and a half hours.

Besides the stage proper, there will be a side fountain. The action in 17 scenes of three minutes each will switch from the stage to the fountain, thus permitting quick changes of backdrops for the varied scenes under the overall background of the historic Duplin courthouse.

Eight handsome drops for these scenes are being painted, 20 by 30 feet in size, by Corwin S. Rife, who obtained a leave of absence from his duties as technical director of the Dock Street Theatre in Charleston, S. C., in order to serve as technical director for "The Duplin Story".

Since 1946, Rife has been associated with the famous Dock Street Theatre. Formerly he was with the Kanawha Players in Charleston, W. Va., the Kalamazoo Players, the Cain Park Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio, and the