

Strength from the Shoulder - Right from the Heart of Duplin

Duplin Board Fails To Set New Tax Rate In Proposed Budget

The Duplin County Commissioners will meet again Monday in an effort to find additional funds, or to cut the proposed 1978-79 budget. In order to bring the budget in line with a tax rate of 60 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, nearly \$500,000 will need to be cut from the budget.

The Board failed to set the new tax rate at their meeting this past Monday. It had been indicated they hoped to hold the rate to 60 cents per \$100 assessment. The proposed budget would require \$3,568,000 from the county ad valorem tax. To meet this requirement, the tax rate would have to be about 69 cents, based on the county's new valuation of \$559,719,748.

Based on the old valuation, the current tax rate is 99 cents. The new valuation is slightly lower than had been expected. It is an increase of 63 percent over the valuation of eight years ago. In work sessions during the past month, the commissioners have trimmed the proposed budget sharply. Monday they eliminated the request for new cars for the Sheriff's Department, cut \$25,000 it has been giving the Library fund annually, and eliminated proposed funding for a building inspection division.

It also reduced funding of the Kenansville elementary school from \$1.8 million to \$1.2 million. If the Board can attain the 60-cent rate, the Board of Education would be getting 46 cents out of each tax dollar, even with the building fund reduction. This would not include the \$840,000 in revenue sharing funds planned for the school building projects. County Accountant Russell Tucker said each penny of tax levy will bring in \$55,971.97. However, he deducts 8 percent of that total as uncollectable. Thus, he estimates one cent of tax actually yields \$51,494.22. On this basis, the proposed budget would have to be cut about \$460,000 to \$500,000 to cut nine cents of the tax levy. The Board approved \$6,074 to repair the former Chinquapin teacherage now being used for community classes by James Sprunt Institute of Kenansville. It is extensively used, officials said. The roof and some rotted timbers need replacement. Three persons were appointed to the Airport Commission. They are the Rev. Joe Morrison of Wallace, I. J. Sandlin of Beulaville and W.J. Knowles of Warsaw.

Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

There has been a great to-do about violence on television and its influence on the young ones, but I think we here in Duplin County better be more concerned with the influence

Mother Goose fairy tales have on our County Commissioners. It seems they believe that if they put off setting a tax rate long enough, the Good Fairy will appear and do it. They have met several times, and each time they have adjourned before setting the rate. To fund the budget they now have in hand will require a tax rate of nearly 70 cents. And they have cut every new program from it. The recreation programs are gone. The building inspection is gone. But get this... Using last year's figures and last year's budget, 70 cents under the revaluation would be the same as \$1.08 tax rate last year. The rate last year, by the way, was 99 cents. If the Commissioners were to meet tomorrow and throw away the 1978-79 budget and pick up the 1977-78 budget (last year's, or the one they are presently on), and fund it... add \$126,589, a 5% wage increase for all employees, also add \$360,000 to the \$840,000 Revenue Sharing they are giving the School Board to build the Kenansville school (K-6), a tax rate of 61 cents could be set. A tax rate of 61 cents will produce just about the same revenue 99 cents produced last year....

For those of you who like figures, last year's tax rate was 99 cents. The amount of county tax required to balance the budget last year was \$2,744,000. The 1977 tax values, \$342,925,369. The amount of taxes collected (with two weeks to go), \$3,151,000. Plus \$209,000 in back taxes. Now for the 1978-79 figures, taxable property value, \$559,719,748, an increase of 63%. The amount of taxes required to balance the budget now in hand, \$3,947,508. One penny in tax levied yields \$51,494.22 in spendable funds. 8% has been deducted as uncollectable, double-listed, etc. Thus, 61 cents will produce \$3,141,147 in spendable funds. This is not counting back taxes, which should be in excess of \$200,000, nor is it including arrearages....

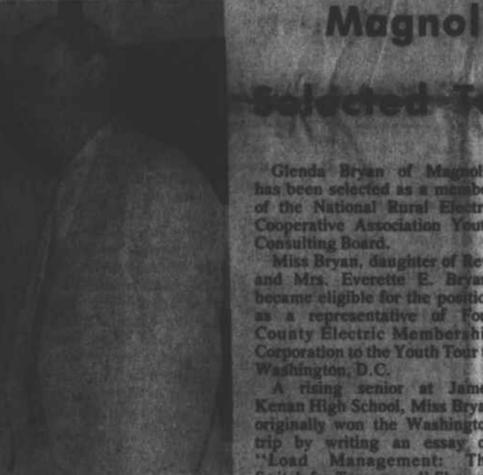
E. J. (Rusty) Lanier, Jr., Duplin County's new County Attorney, has a knot on his head because he has more in the middle than on the end. The story, according to reliable reports... It was hot Tuesday. He went swimming in his pop's pool. When he dived, the water tugged at his swim trunks and pulled them slightly down. Realizing this, as he was surfacing, he was pulling at his suit and paying more attention to getting them back to their proper place than where he was going. He ran head-first into the wall of the pool. Modern conveniences are not always what they are cracked up to be. Had he been swimming in a pond or a hole in the river, he would have had mud on his noggin instead of a knot. Also, had he eaten less, he and would be larger than his middle. Why, too... (Continued on Page 2)

planned Opening Night Special with a barbecue dinner and pre-show entertainment by Soft Leather, a musical group from Beulaville. The professional company has arrived in Kenansville to begin a busy schedule of continuous rehearsals to ready the play for the 1978 season.



COMFY HONORED BY SEARS - Comfy Mfg. Co., a division of Reeves Bros., was presented Sears Symbol of Excellence Award last Tuesday at a special luncheon at The Country Squire. For the 13th consecutive year, Sears has chosen outstanding suppliers to receive the award. Sears buys merchandise from more than 12,000 manufacturers, yet the Symbol of Excellence Award is being presented this year to only 619 of that number, of which only 216 have received it four or more times. Comfy Mfg. Co. is in this select group. Bryon Zimmerman, buyer for Sears, presented the award to Fred Shank, vice president of Comfy's Consumer Product Group. From left to right, are Fred Shank, Zimmermann, Dannie Bell, plant manager at Reeves Bros., Kenansville, and Sr. Haber, vice president of Reeves Bros.

planned Opening Night Special with a barbecue dinner and pre-show entertainment by Soft Leather, a musical group from Beulaville. The professional company has arrived in Kenansville to begin a busy schedule of continuous rehearsals to ready the play for the 1978 season.



Glenda Bryan of Magnolia has been selected as a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Consulting Board. Miss Bryan, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Everett E. Bryan, became eligible for the position as a representative of Four County Electric Membership Corporation to the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. A rising senior at James Kenan High School, Miss Bryan originally won the Washington trip by writing an essay on "Load Management: The Switch for Tomorrow." She was one of four students sponsored on the June 11-16 tour by Four County EMC. As the state representative on the Youth Consulting Board, Miss Bryan will become familiar with NRECA's goals and objectives and help promote the Rural Electric Youth Tour. In addition, she will help educate other youth on the role electric cooperatives play as energy users and suppliers. Miss Bryan's one-year term began during her stay in Washington on the Youth Tour. She will also attend the NRECA Annual Meeting in February 1978 as guest of the national association. One of the 1977 Youth Tourists sponsored by Four County EMC, Brian West of Warsaw, was last year's Youth Consulting Board representative from the state. Other Four County EMC youth on this year's tour are Michelle Shiver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Shiver of Rocky Point; Alison Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rogers of Rose Hill; and Sylvia Singletary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Singletary of Bladenboro.

Magnolia Youth Selected To EMC Board

Glenda Bryan of Magnolia has been selected as a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Consulting Board. Miss Bryan, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Everett E. Bryan, became eligible for the position as a representative of Four County Electric Membership Corporation to the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. A rising senior at James Kenan High School, Miss Bryan originally won the Washington trip by writing an essay on "Load Management: The Switch for Tomorrow." She was one of four students sponsored on the June 11-16 tour by Four County EMC. As the state representative on the Youth Consulting Board, Miss Bryan will become familiar with NRECA's goals and objectives and help promote the Rural Electric Youth Tour. In addition, she will help educate other youth on the role electric cooperatives play as energy users and suppliers. Miss Bryan's one-year term began during her stay in Washington on the Youth Tour. She will also attend the NRECA Annual Meeting in February 1978 as guest of the national association. One of the 1977 Youth Tourists sponsored by Four County EMC, Brian West of Warsaw, was last year's Youth Consulting Board representative from the state. Other Four County EMC youth on this year's tour are Michelle Shiver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Shiver of Rocky Point; Alison Rogers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rogers of Rose Hill; and Sylvia Singletary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Singletary of Bladenboro.

National Spinning Formally Announces Beulaville Plant Expansion

According to Don Barham, Corporate Vice President and Director of Manufacturing Services for National Spinning, a change in the operation of the Beulaville plant about three years ago has resulted in the addition of 70 employees and brought the annual payroll to 116 million dollars. Barham, formerly of Warsaw and now residing in Wash. Inlet, N.C., made the above statement during a dinner on Wednesday at The Country Squire, at which time National Spinning formally announced their Beulaville plant expansion. The dinner was hosted by the Duplin County Development Commission.

The Beulaville plant began operations in 1969-70 with approximately 92 employees and an annual payroll of \$650,000. In 1966, National Spinning's first operation in Duplin County, the Warsaw plant, had 239 employees with a payroll of approximately \$1,700,000. National Spinning was represented at the dinner by: Phil Wampler, Corporate Financial Vice-President, Director, and member of the Operating Committee; Don Barham; Fred Archer, Plant Manager of the Warsaw plant; Bob Williams, Manager of the Beulaville plant; Mickey Bassom, Production Superintendent and Jerry Jordan, Administrative Manager, both of the Beulaville plant; and Ben Ellenburg, Personnel Director of the Beulaville and Warsaw plants. Others attending included: Wally Howard, Senior Vice-President of Wachovia Bank, Greenville; Bob Tyndall, Vice President, Wachovia, Washington Branch; Austin Brit, Vice President, Wachovia, Greenville Branch; the Duplin Development Board members;

the County Bond Authority Board; and the Beulaville Town Board. In announcing the expansion, Barham made these observations about National Spinning operations in Duplin County: "Approximately three and one-half to four years ago, National Spinning made a decision to change over the Beulaville plant from a texturing operation to an open-end spinning operation. This change has allowed us to become a leader in the hosiery market. The leadership, and the demand for our product has enabled National Spinning to expand the Beulaville facility from a 62,000 sq. ft. to 103,900 sq. ft. operation. We have added the newest and most modern equipment in the world to the Beulaville plant. Our operation in Beulaville looks good, and with our loyal people and community support, we look forward to a bright future. With our latest addition, we have space to increase our production by an additional 25% over the next 3-year period, if and when the wool arrives. "We take equal pride in our Warsaw facility," Barham continued. "The plant underwent major surgery during recent

Pink Hill Liberty Festival June 30-July 2

Final plans and schedules have been completed for the 1978 Liberty Festival in Pink Hill June 30 and July 1st. The 1978 Liberty Festival Brochure contains photos, etc. from last year's Festival and is being distributed free to surrounding communities and on request to other areas. The brochure is dedicated to Dr. H. A. Edwards, long-time Pink Hill civic leader. The flags are being erected about the village and last minute touches added for this year's celebration. Banners are waving as Festival time approaches.

- SCHEDULE**
- Friday Night, June 30th**
- 7:30 p.m. - Miss Liberty Festival Pageant, 1978 - Pink Hill School Auditorium
- Saturday, July 1st**
- 6-10 a.m. - Pancake Breakfast - Front of First Citizens Bank, downtown
 - 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Wilbur A. Tyndall Museum Open - Kingston Blvd., North
 - 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. - Softball Tournament - Men's and Women's Teams - Double Elimination
 - 10 a.m. - Festival Parade - Downtown Pink Hill
 - 11 a.m. - Games Begin for Children - 11 a.m., Tug of War; 12 Noon - Spoon Race; 1 p.m. - Sack Race; 2 p.m. - Club Switch; 3 p.m. - Rope Jumping; 4 p.m. - Flower Game; 4:30 p.m. - Bubble Gum Blowing
 - Team Horseshoe Pitching Championship
 - Festival Arcade Opens (until Bingo Opens (til 4 p.m.))
 - Announcements at Bandstand on Town Square
 - Introduction of Liberty Cart Cast from Kenansville
 - Craft Demonstration and Displays on Broadway Street
 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Gospel Singing by Young in Christ and Four in Christ - Town Square
 - 11:30 a.m. - Adult Marble Shooting Contest
 - 12:00 noon - CEMF Skydivers
 - 12 Noon - Eastern N.C. Antique Car Show and Display - West Broadway Street
 - Corn Eatin' Contest - Downtown
 - Barbecue or Chicken dinners available on Broadway St.
 - 1 p.m. - N.C. Skillet Thrown' Championship (behind bandstand)
 - 1:30-2:30 p.m. - Square Dancing Demonstration (Town Square)
 - 2 p.m. - Tobacco Spittin' Championship - (behind bandstand)
 - 2:30 p.m. - 1978 Festival Queen Contest 4 (bandstand)
 - 2:30 p.m. - Arm Wrestling Championship 4 (downtown)
 - 3 p.m. - Judo Demonstration by Lemuel Stroud
 - 3:30 p.m. - Beard Judging - bandstand
 - 4 p.m. - Wilbur Howell Band - Town Square
 - 4:30 p.m. - Albertine Fire House Square Dancers - Town Square (on Central Ave., North)
 - 6 p.m. - Space Cowboys Rock Band - bandstand
 - 8 p.m. - Dance on Broadway - Music by The Young Countrymen til 12 midnight
 - 12 midnight - Super Aerial Fireworks Display - the biggest yet
- Also - All Day on Saturday, Broadway Street** - concession stands with soft drinks, food, crafts, accessories and restrooms (on Central Ave., North)
- Sunday, July 2nd**
- 11 a.m. - Attend Church of Your Choice
 - 1 p.m. - Softball Tournament - Trophies Awarded
 - Introductions made on Broadway and Front Squares
 - Master of Ceremonies at Bandstand may make changes in schedule of activities