

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Duplin Favors Old Timey Tax Service

Duplin County officials retain the "old timey" tax listing service because it "can better serve our people," tax supervisor Frank B. Moore said.

"We are a rural county and in a rural county we can better serve our people by having township (tax) list takers the 'old timey' way where people can sit down and go over their listing with them," Moore said. "The list takers live in the communities where they are working and know the people they are dealing with. We think we get a more accurate listing this way," Moore added.

A list taker knows when someone bought a tractor and can remind a forgetful taxpayer of forgotten property, he said.

Moore said residents can take 10 percent of the value of their houses for the value of their household goods for tax listing purposes instead of listing each household item.

"Some legislators are talking about eliminating personal property taxes, but we here in Duplin oppose that move. Duplin is now the No. 1 turkey-producing county of the United States and all that equipment in the turkey houses is listed as personal property," Moore said.

He said personal property valuation makes up about one-third of the county's assessed valuation of \$600 million because of the large amount of farm machinery and equipment. Duplin

County's gross agricultural income was estimated at \$238.7 million last year, the highest in North Carolina and enough to keep it among the top 100 counties of the United States in gross farm income.

Real and personal property taxes due in 1981 in Duplin County total \$4,559,942, Moore said. About two-thirds of the county taxes are paid in December. The county tax rate is 70 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Moore said the county collects 95 percent of the taxes due each year within the allowed time.

"That's considered good. Anything over 95 percent is considered excellent," he said.

While the county's main

tax base is its agricultural enterprise, Moore noted, the largest single taxpayer is an industry, J.P. Stevens & Co. of Wallace, which paid more than \$200,000 in property taxes last year.

Tax listing will begin in Duplin Jan. 4 and continue through Jan. 30, Moore said.

There will be 23 tax list takers in the 13 townships of the county. Some townships have more than one taker, depending on population. Three will be employed for Rockfish Township in which Wallace is located.

Moore said most of the towns cooperate with the county in providing office space for the list takers. List takers will be paid \$3.75 per hour and work 40-hour weeks for the four weeks of the listing period, he said.



WARSAW FIREMEN "APPRECIATION SERVICE AWARDS" - The Warsaw Volunteer Firemen honored three former members who had a combined 110 years of service during their annual Ladies Night and Christmas Party last Saturday night. Jimmy Creech, a new member, was the evening's speaker. Creech related his experiences

as a volunteer during a fire on the island of Ocracoke. Pictured, left to right, Warsaw Fire Chief Frank Steed; John Anderson Johnson, Warsaw fireman - 40 years service - retired; J.B. Herring - Warsaw fireman - 30 years service - retired; and Carroll Best, Warsaw Fireman - 40 years service - retired.

Duplin School Board To Meet In 3 Schools

The Duplin County Board of Education will meet in three different schools over the next three months.

The first of the rotated sessions will be Jan. 5 in James Kenan High School east of Warsaw.

The board, which meets twice a month, deals with curriculum matters on the first Tuesday and business matters on the third Tuesday. The meetings in the schools will be curriculum

meetings.

Principals will be asked to review goals, procedures and problems during the rotated meetings. Band directors will be asked to announce where their bands will appear and why.

The site of the other two meetings in schools will be announced Jan. 5.

Business meetings will still be held at the O.P. Johnson school administration building in Kenansville. Board members indicated

that more general interest is shown in the business meetings than in curriculum sessions.

The board learned that competency test results will be announced Jan. 5 for the county's high schools.

It also recognized the six nominees for Duplin County teacher of the year: Thomas Newman, James Kenan band director; Mavis Pigford, Warsaw Elementary School; Maggie Newkirk, Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary

School; Willie Glaspie, Warsaw Junior High School; and Larry Cooper, North Duplin Middle School. Mavis Pigford was named the winner and will be entered in the district Teacher of the Year competition.

The board will visit Cumberland County in January to study the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program there. Duplin County has been studying establishment of such a program.

Historical Society Receives Award

The Albert Ray Newsome Award was won by the Duplin County Historical Society at the recent Culture Week events in Raleigh. The award included a grant of \$250 and is given each year to the county historical society "which conducts the most comprehensive and outstanding program of historical activity."

The award was presented by the Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies to the Duplin society for its publication of nine volumes of historical abstracts and records concerning Duplin County history, a quarterly magazine entitled "footnotes" and the establishment of a substantial library of local history and genealogy named for Leora H. McEachern of Wilmington, a noted authority on lower Cape Fear history and a member of the Society.

The McEachern Library is located at 306 East Main Street in Rose Hill and is open every evening from 7:00 until 12:00 for the use of local citizens and visitors from many states who are searching for records concerning their families. The Library has an excellent microfilm reader and what is probably the best collection of historical records, books and microfilms concerning the county and its families east of Raleigh.

The Society meets quarterly, the first Saturday in January, April, July and October. In case the meeting date falls on a holiday, the meeting is usually postponed one week. Meetings are held at noon at the Rose Hill Restaurant and annual dues are \$2 plus meals. New members are welcomed.



WARSAW FIRE CHIEF RECEIVES GIFT - "We felt that every fire chief needed his own red fire truck," stated Fireman R.P. Wood after presenting Chief Frank Steed a framed cross-stitch little red fire truck during the

Warsaw Volunteer Firemen's annual Ladies Night and Christmas Party held last Saturday night. Wood was emcee for the evening. Pictured, left to right, Chief Steed and Fireman Wood.

Start Construction On Warsaw Waste Water Treatment Plant

Ground-breaking ceremonies and site preparation marked the start of construction on a waste water treatment plant for the town of Warsaw with Miller Building Corporation of Wilmington as general contractor.

The construction site is located at Warsaw's present sewage treatment installa-

tion off Pinecrest Drive near Stewart's Creek in the eastern section of the town. The project will cost \$1,758,000 and is scheduled for completion in late November, 1982, according to Bill Prosser, project manager for MBC.

When completed, the new facility will upgrade the town's existing sewage treat-

ment plant, and will meet the new requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency, says Prosser.

Early stages of construction call for grading and storm drainage, followed by building of oxidation ditches and sludge drying beds. The project also calls for pump enclosures, and a one-story masonry building of 1,300

sq.ft. which will house a quality control laboratory. The facility's waste water treatment capacity will be 610,000 gallons per day.

The construction contract was awarded Miller Building on a competitive bid basis, and the plant was designed by the engineering firm of McDavid Associates, Inc., of Farmville.

Duplin County FWB Churches Raise \$8,760 For MOC

"Duplin County Free Will Baptist Churches recently raised \$8,760 at their annual gift support dinner for Mount Olive College," announced Jan Ackiss, associate director of development.

Thirteen area churches participated in the dinner with 177 people in attendance. As dinner chairman Fitzgerald Bostic of Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist Church presided over the

program which included the Mount Olive Singers, a musical group from the college, and a report was given on plans to develop MOC into a four-year institution.

Dr. Burkette Raper, president, explained that the gift support provided by the dinners will assist in the transition of MOC to senior college status.

The "bridge to the future" program approved by the board of trustees calls for the

addition of the junior year in 1984 and the senior year in 1985. Under this timetable, students who enter in 1982 will be the first baccalaureate class of 1986.

Three \$100 scholarships were presented at the annual fund-raising event. Sandy Plains Free Will Baptist Church received the scholarship given to the church bringing in the largest contribution. First Free Will Baptist Church of Warsaw

was awarded the scholarship given to the church contributing the greatest amount of money per capita. Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church received the award presented to the church with the most high school students present.

Mrs. Ackiss coordinates the 17 annual dinners. Since the dinners were begun in 1963, they have been the source of more than \$1,478,816 in gifts to the college.

Christmas And Volunteers Appreciation Party

The nutrition and life enrichment Services for the Aged will have its annual Christmas and volunteers appreciation parties at the Warsaw, Wallace and Lyman sites from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on the following days: Wallace at Wallace, Tuesday, Dec. 15; Warsaw and Faison at Warsaw, Wednesday, Dec. 16; and Lyman at Lyman, Friday, Dec. 18. All senior citizens are invited to attend.

The Twelve Days Of Christmas In Historic Kenansville

Monday, December 14 - Christmas officially begins with church bells and chimes ringing in the Holiday Season, 6 p.m.

"Lighting of the Community Christmas Tree" in the Municipal Park. Caroling around open bon fires followed by hay rides, 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments, Grove Presbyterian Church, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15 - Christmas Covered Dish Supper, Kenansville Elementary School, 6:30 p.m. Share your picnic basket with your community.

Wednesday, December 16 - "Christmas Memories" - Sue Clark and David Dickey reflect on the Yuletide Season in a program of staged readings, Grove Presbyterian, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments.

Thursday, December 17

Christmas Cantata, Kenansville Baptist Church, 8 p.m. Refreshments.

Friday, December 18 - "Sounds of Christmas" by the Sounds of Music of Wallace. A selection of the light, happy songs associated with the Holiday Season. Kenansville United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 19 - Merchants' Open House - Area businesses will be open for late shopping and a visit with Santa Claus.

Sunday, December 20 - Special Christmas lunches at The Graham House Inn and The Country Squire from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. (Charge for lunches)

"Christmas at Liberty Hall," open house at the ancestral Kenan Home, decorated in the period of the early 1800's, 2 to 6 p.m.

Refreshments. Christmas tree programs at individual churches.

Classical guitarist, Gordon Kreplin, in candlelight concert, Kenansville United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Duplin county Arts Council. Refreshments.

Monday, December 21 - The James Kenan District Band, under the direction of Tom Newman, and the James Kenan District Chorus, under the direction of Melanie Moran will present a musical program at the Kenan Memorial Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 22 - "Amahl and the Night Visitors," Carlo Menotti's Christmas story of the three wisemen, will be presented by the Kinston Community Theater at the United Methodist Church, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments.

Wednesday, December 23 - "Movie Magic" - films and refreshments for children of all ages. James Sprunt Technical College, 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Celebration - Combined community church service, Kenansville Baptist Church, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments.

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day - Family activities.

Christmas Party And Story Hour At Library

The Duplin County - Dorothy Wightman Library staff is planning a Christmas party and story hour for all children from 2-12. The party will be Thursday afternoon, Dec. 17, from 4-5 p.m. in Kenansville. The program

will include a puppet show, Christmas music and stories and a very special visit from Santa himself.

All children are invited to attend and help the staff celebrate their first Christmas in the new library building in Kenansville.

N.C. School Of Science And Mathematics Official To Visit Local School

Ola F. Stringer, head of admissions at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, has announced that an official representative of the school will be at James Kenan High School, Warsaw, on Thurs-

day, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m. to answer questions. Tenth grade students and their parents are encouraged to attend this information session if they are considering attending the school next year.

The N.C. School of Science

and Mathematics was created by the General Assembly to provide education for high school students who have intense interest and potential for high achievement in mathematics and science. The school, located in Durham, opened in Sept.

1980, and now has an enrollment of 301.

Students and parents interested in finding out more about the school should contact the schools counseling office for the exact location of the meeting.