



\$50 CHECK PRESENTED - Shown above, left to right, Charles Watson, Levon Koonce drum major, T.J. Turner, Arthur Harris, band director, South Lenoir, and Glenn Turner, melophone player. Harris and his band students presented the \$50 check that they were awarded at the Pink Hill Christmas parade for second place competition back to T.J. Turner to be used for the Pink Hill Medical Center.

Photo by Lynda Stroud

Along the Way

By Emily Killeto

The theft of livestock and cash, and counterfeiting are not new crimes to Duplin County. One of the state's most notorious outlaws during the late 1700s, Spencer Dew, was captured and punished in our county for crimes of theft and counterfeiting.

Dew, a native of Northampton County, traveled and conducted business under one of many alias names. Dew and partners traveled mostly in the eastern part of North and South Carolina. As Dew and a band of criminals traveled, they carried on a steady routine of horse, cattle, hog and money thefts and passed countless amounts of counterfeit currency.

Prior to the Revolution, counterfeiting was a common crime. The persons manufacturing the money often supplied one or several people with counterfeit bills to be passed in public businesses. The revenues produced from the passing of counterfeit bills was shared between the manufacturer and the person cashing the illegal money.

However, Dew met his match in Duplin County where he was arrested by Sheriff Felix Kenan for stealing horses. The June 1773 term of the Court of Oyer and Terminer held at the Duplin Courthouse tried Dew.

The Duplin County courthouse was located in Baltic between Warsaw and Clinton. Dew was convicted and placed in jail to await execution. It was during the days leading to Dew's execution date that he escaped from the Duplin jail. Within a few weeks, he was recaptured in Craven and promptly returned to the Duplin Courthouse where a special session of court was held to deal with the convicted thief's new charges of breaking from jail.

Judge Richard Caswell of Dobbs County, now Lenoir, presided. The case began as Dew's June conviction was read and he confessed to be the same person. Upon Dew's confession to be the same person, the Court ordered "that he be taken from thence between the hours of one and three this afternoon to the place of execution and that the Sheriff there cause the former sentence of the Court to be put in execution to wit: That the prisoner be hanged by the neck until he is dead."

So, August 2, 1773, Spencer Dew was taken from the Duplin jail and hanged before a large gathering of local citizens.

Before his execution, Dew signed a lengthy confession of his numerous crimes and gave the names of several persons who had been in partnership with him. And, Dew dispelled rumors that Sheriff Kenan had taken a bribe to allow the criminals escape prior to his execution.

"It has been maliciously reported and spread about that Felix Kenan, Esq., High Sheriff of Duplin County, received a bribe from me to favor my escape. I now declare before God and the world that neither he nor any other person ever received a bribe or reward from me for that purpose nor was the said Felix Kenan privy to the means by which I made my escape."

The confession was published in the newspaper, Cape Fear Mercury, of September 22, 1773 and reproduced during the early 1900s in a volume of the North Carolina Historical Review.

Duplin General Hospital Auxiliary

Mrs. Ruby Sauls was guest speaker at the Duplin General Hospital auxiliary meeting on Wednesday morning, Jan. 19. Mrs. Sauls encouraged the group to sign Eye Wills. Even if one's eyes are not good, the eye ball is very vital for study, she said. Mrs. Sauls is an enthusiastic speaker as she has experienced blindness for several years and would be blind today had she not received a retina for an eye transplant.

The group met at 11 a.m. at The General Store with eighteen members present. Mrs. Doris English presided. The Auxiliary voted to buy six scanners which are needed by the operating room nurses. They also agreed to furnish \$50 for repairs to the piano in the mental health ward. This piano is an aid for therapy in that department.

The meeting adjourned and many members had lunch at The Country Store.

United Daughters Hear Of Heroes, Hardships And Humor

The James Kenan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy met on Jan. 12 at The General Store in Kenansville with Mrs. W.M. Ingram, Mrs. Pearl McGowan and Mrs. Louise Wells as co-hostesses. Mrs. Celestial Colwell, president, presided. The pledge to the U.S. flag and salutes to the North Carolina and Confederate flags were led by Mrs. N.B. Boney. The president led the ritual.

Mrs. Ruby Holland patriotic services, reported on the visit to the V.A. Hospital in Fayetteville to take gifts for the veterans at Christmas.

A moment of silence was observed for a deceased member of the organization.

The program, "Heroes, Hardships and Humor" was presented by Mrs. Henry L. Stevens Jr. Mrs. Stevens related historical facts of the chapter named after James Kenan. The chapter was organized Dec. 3, 1901 with Mrs. Hill the first president and she held this office for 25 years.

Mrs. Stevens gave an in-depth account of the hardships and humor of the heroes of the war. Bloody boots were in evidence everywhere, prison life deplorable, lack of food and supplies a constant enemy. In addition to these conditions, disease caused more deaths than all the other causes together. The role of women was a tremendous task as they shouldered the huge responsibilities of the home front. During it all, though, there was a time for a bit of humor as the soldiers engaged in games as snowball fights, story-telling, acts of mimicking animals and the like. Mrs. Stevens climaxed her remarks by relating a humorous episode as recorded in the book, "The South In History and Literature" by Mildred Lewis Rutherford, c 1906. The story concerned a ride in a stage coach from Winchester to Strasburg during the war. It was the 24th of December and the weather was bitter cold. When two women, a

baby, two baskets and several bundles awaited the arrival of the coach, a struggle for a seat on the conveyance became quite a conflict with the passengers already on board. When the coach stopped, those on board shouted, "Go on, driver, there's no room for another." The woman with the baby yelled back to them, "I've gwin to Strasburg to spend Christmas with my relations, and nobody's got a better right to the stage than I has." Despite the determination of the passengers, they boarded the coach amid the shouting and heckling on both sides. Many like incidents occurred during the terrible years of blood and trials.

After the meeting adjourned the members responded to the invitation by Tom Kenan III to tour the Liberty Hall, which was a rare treat for all.

Tarheel Health Watch

Fruit Vs. Sweets

If you prefer munching on a wedge of cantaloupe to scooping up a hot fudge sundae, you may already know the benefits of fruit in the diet.

The N.C. Medical Society says if you eat sweets, do it in moderation. Fruits are better for you because they contain more nutrients per calorie than most desserts. Each time you substitute a bowl of strawberries for a piece of chocolate cake, you are getting more nutrition per calorie and chances are you are also taking in fewer calories.

For example, one medium apple has only 80 calories, while a small slice of apple pie has 255 calories. A half cup of cherries has 41 calories, and a cherry turnover has 342. A quarter cup of raisins has 120 calories, but raisin cookies weighing about a quarter pound have 430 calories.

Fruit is also good for you because it is filled with vitamins and minerals and provides more fiber than found in most desserts.

So try saying no to sweets and start eating more fruit.

Continuing Education At JSTC

Basic Machine Shop Practices

This 78-hour class provides instruction in practical mathematics for machine operators, basic blueprint reading and the care and use of precision instruments commonly used in the machinist trade. There will be an \$8 registration fee and prospective students should preregister before Jan. 21. Class will be held in Room 120 of the Hall Building on the campus beginning Jan. 25. The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday from 7-10 p.m.

Cake Decorating - A 39-hour class in cake decorating will be taught at the Wallace Recreation Department beginning Jan. 27, and will meet each Thursday from 7-10 p.m. The students will be instructed on party recipes and basic recipes for cakes, frostings and icings. Students will learn to utilize a variety of decorating tips to build floral designs, borders, roping, writing, stars, leaves and other decorative objects. Students must furnish a minimum amount of supplies and there will be a \$15 registration fee payable at the first class meeting.

GED: If you are thinking about completing high school this class is the road to take. Through the GED preparatory class, the student may prepare to take the General Development Test. The class meets on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7-10 at the Wallace Recreation Department. There is no registration fee, but students will

need to purchase a textbook. Students should register at the class no later than Jan. 20.

Calligraphy - This class has been designed for the student to learn and practice the art of fine handwriting. Students will be instructed in shaping letters, legibility, form, size, stroke, proportion, rhythm, spacing, character and uniformity. The class meets Wednesday from 6-8:30 in the Herring Building in room 212. There will be a \$15 registration fee and it is not too late to enter.

Speed Reading - A 21-hour course in speed reading will be offered on Thursday nights from 6-9 p.m. beginning Jan. 27. The class will meet in the Hoffer Building in room 109. Students will be trained in new reading techniques to increase visual acuity and enhance comprehension of written materials. Students can easily double their current reading speed and comprehension. There will be an \$8 registration fee at the first class meeting.

For more information, contact the continuing education department at James Sprunt Technical College.



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The Kenansville United Methodist Women will be serving their soup and sandwich luncheon on Thursday, January 27th in the fellowship hall.

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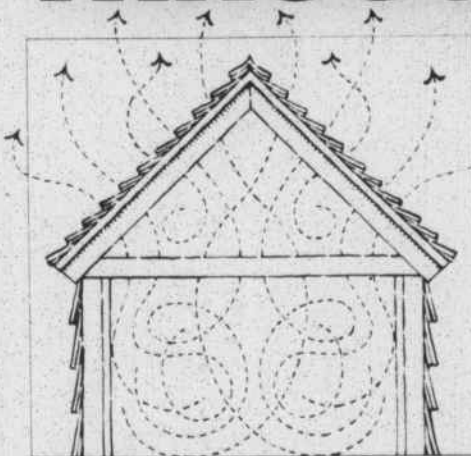
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