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TRUCKERS PARK - Duplin County truckers parked their tractor-trailers to join the nationwide independent operators strike last week. Elwood Quinn of Beulaville, pictured above, explained many independent truckers will

have to shut down permanently without some form of tax relief. Quinn's trucks haul foodstuffs through the United States.

Local Truckers Join Nationwide Strike

By Emily Killete

Local independent truckers joined the nationwide strike last week and explained state and federal taxes have exceeded owner profits. Without tax relief many truckers say their businesses will fold.

Duplin trucker and businessman Elwood Quinn of Beulaville operates 12 tractor trailers; he employs 23 people. Quinn and other local truckers say they are not striking to repeal the five-cent tax on fuel, but to make the public aware of the burden of taxes placed on the operators. Truckers say the five cents tax is fair but request other revenues for road repair, imposed only on truckers, be shared by all motorists. Laura Quinn, wife and bookkeeper for her husband's trucking company, explained that states have begun to impose road use taxes in addition to truckers' federal highway use taxes. Truckers have been paying federal road use taxes for approximately 20 years. The additional state road use

taxes began in 1980 and have taken the truckers' profit, the bookkeeper said.

"You cannot move through a state without being taxed," Laura Quinn said. "The states are taxing us to death. It costs \$1,100 for taxes on our six trucks traveling in Pennsylvania last year, and North Carolina only charged Pennsylvania trucks \$1." Ervin Quinn's trucking company employs eight people and Laura Quinn explained that 1980 was the last year the business made a profit; in 1982 the company operated in the red.

"The five-cent gas tax was fair because it applies to all motorists," Elwood Quinn said. "Trucks have been paying highway use taxes, and if the rest of the motorists had been financing their fair share, we would have good highways."

Federal highway use taxes are imposed per pound upon fully-loaded tractor-trailers. The average tractor-trailer will pay a highway use tax of about \$210 a year, Elwood Quinn said. Excise taxes on

the sale of a tractor trailer rig have also increased two percent. Truckers buying a new tractor-trailer pays a \$100,000 purchase price and an additional \$12,000 excise tax or sales commission to the federal government, Quinn explained. The 12 percent tax is not imposed on auto sales. Rubber taxes on tractor and trailer tires were also increased, while smaller vehicles were decreased. The trucker's tax expenses will be passed to the consumer.

"Most Senators are putting the bill on the truckers and letting them pass it on to the consumer, and it will eventually work that way with the ones (truckers) that survive," Elwood Quinn said. "But, the bottom line, it will cost Americans more money going through the truckers than through direct taxes as part of the highway use tax, rubber tax or excise tax. Before the new taxes, a trucker-hauled product would cost \$1.26 and afterwards \$1.51."

According to truckers, independent operators are

moving the majority of perishable foods. Elwood Quinn estimates 200-300 independent operators of log trucks, flat-bed haulers and tractor-trailers reside in Duplin County. Many of the truckers haul food stuffs, Quinn says his trucks carry a great amount of frozen foods, seafood and orange juice to areas all over the United States. Independent drivers represent about a fifth of the trucking industry and haul approximately 90 percent of the perishable produce shipments. There are an estimated 100,000 independent truckers in the United States. Quinn explained the truckers hope to call attention to what they term the "unfairness" of highway taxes on only truckers and eventually be able to pay less use fees while other motorists begin to carry their "fair" share of road repair costs.

The Beulaville-based truckers say the strike will continue at least two weeks and result in employment lay-offs all across the nation. While striking, Quinn and other truckers will keep busy making repairs to their rigs.



DUPLIN FARMERS RECEIVE NADA AWARDS - Annual awards were presented at the Neuse Area Development Association in Kinston, Feb. 2. Local farmers received all awards in the heavy turkey hens poultry category. Awards are sponsored by the nine county Agricultural Extension offices and participating area poultry companies. Each winner received a cash prize and trophy. Heavy turkey

hens winners and Carroll's Foods representative are pictured above, left to right, Carrol's service manager, Jerry Rhodes; third place winners, Mr. and Mrs. O.R. Blizzard Jr. of Kenansville; first place, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dail of Kenansville; Carroll's turkey production manager, Joel Coleman; and second place winners, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cooper of Route 2, Mount Olive.



LOCAL POULTRY FARMERS WIN AWARDS - The Neuse Area Development Association, a nine-county organization, held their annual awards dinner Feb. 2 in Kinston. Area farmers received all awards in the roaster-fryer turkeys and heavy turkey hens categories. Roaster-fryer winners pictured above, with Carroll's Foods company

representatives, are, left to right, Jerry Rhodes, Carroll's service manager; second place winners, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Houston of Kenansville; first place, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Summerlin of Kenansville; and third place, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Carter of Beulaville. Each winner was presented a cash award and trophy.

Library Quiz Bowl

Duplin County - Dorothy Wightman Library has scheduled the local 1983 Quiz Bowl for Thursday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at James Sprunt Technical College in Kenansville. Participating are East Duplin, James Kenan, North Duplin and Wallace-Rose Hill high schools. The team members, alternates and sponsors of each are:

East Duplin: Brian Smith, Camille Grady, Laura Hunter and Elizabeth Frazzelle; alternates Rhonda Creech and Brenda Judge; and sponsor, Edna P. Grady.

James Kenan: Steve Quinn, Andy Futral, Karen Wallace and Wesley Casteen; alternates, Carlton Smith, Valerie Williams; and Shirli Gaskins, sponsor.

North Duplin: Pat Simpson, Mike Lindsay, Tim Dazey, Curt Williams; alternates, Jewel Swinson and Melanie Parker; Barbara Guy, sponsor.

Wallace-Rose Hill: Dean Butts, Marion Eddy, Robert Evans, Douglas Rogers; alternate, Alex Powells; Valerie Merritt, sponsor.

The teams will be quizzed on information obtained from Encyclopedia Americana, World Almanac or Information Please Almanac, Newsweek and Time magazines.

This is the fifth annual countywide Quiz Bowl to be held in Duplin County. The competition was started and sponsored by public libraries in an effort to recognize and encourage the academically-oriented students.

The teams have been preparing for months, so you are invited to come on out on Feb. 10 for a look at the competition. The winners will go to Wilmington on March 5 for the regional 1983 Quiz Bowl.



POULTRY AWARD WINNERS - Duplin farmer John Jarman won second place in the Neuse Area Development Association breeder hens category and Tom Wallace placed first in the broiler awards. The awards were trophies and a cash prize presented during the annual NADA banquet Feb. 2 in Kinston. Awards are furnished by

the nine-county NADA Agricultural Extension offices and poultry companies. Pictured above, left to right, AES agent Snodie Wilson presents son, Avery Jarman and Ms. John Jarman, second place breeder hens award. Jarman grows poultry with Country Pride and Tom Wallace, New Hope Feeds.

Duplin Improves Physical Education

Gillespie Named Charity Principal

Willie Gillespie, assistant principal of Warsaw Junior High School, was named principal of Charity Middle School east of Rose Hill this past week by the Duplin County Board of Education.

Gillespie assumed the position Monday. He succeeds W.J. Powers, who died on Christmas Day.

Superintendent L.S. Guy said Gillespie had been in the Duplin school system for 12 years. He lives in Kenansville.

Charles Blanchard filled the position temporarily. He will return to his position as assistant principal of the school.

The comparative performance of Duplin County students in physical education classes has improved in the last three years, according to Mary Wellons, coordinator of physical education for the school system.

She said the performance has improved despite the low priority the system gives physical education.

The need for physical education classes in the schools is increasing, she emphasized. "It seems like the

further we get into the computer age, the more the youngsters are sitting in front of computers, pushing buttons and pulling levers," she said. "They're getting less exercise than ever."

She said studies show students learn more, their motor skills improve and they become more alert as their physical abilities improve.

In 1979 she said 4,772 Duplin students were given

physical tests and 75 percent met county objectives, with 40 percent of them earning awards of excellence. Third-grade students had the best performance; the weakest were the fourth and ninth. Girls outperformed boys in Grades 5, 6, 10 and 12 and tied the boys in Grade 7. Kenansville Elementary School students showed the best performance record in 1979.

Last year the system

tested 4,728 students and 78 percent met the county objectives with 51 percent earning excellent awards. Outstanding grades were the third, eighth, 10th and 12th. Weakest grades were fourth and ninth.

Charity Junior High School east of Rose Hill had the best performance record. Boys outperformed girls in Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 12 and tied in Grades 8 and 9.

Rose Hill 18 Year Old Is Charged In Murder

Ronald Spearman, 18, of Rose Hill, was charged early Sunday morning with the first-degree murder of a 19-year-old acquaintance, Sanford Lane Lee, also of Rose Hill.

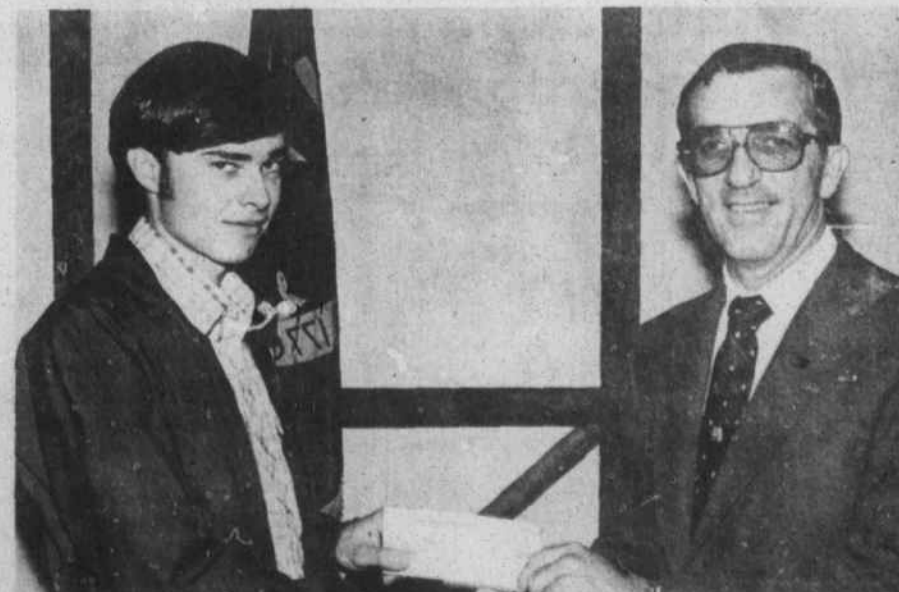
Spearman surrendered at the Rose Hill Police Department at 12:30 a.m. He is being held without bond pending a district criminal

court hearing in either Sampson or Onslow County.

Spearman allegedly stabbed Lee in the upper right part of the chest with a butcher knife about 11 inches long, according to Rose Hill Police Chief Bobby Maready. He said the men were acquainted and were arguing over some minor disagreements they have had in the

past. Lee was unarmed, the chief said.

After the stabbing on Circle Drive, a residential area on the west side of Rose Hill, Lee walked about 100 yards to a friend's home to get aid. The friends called police and rescue workers, but Lee was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Steve Griffith, Duplin County medical examiner.



SOYBEAN AWARD - Kelvin Kornegay of Route 2, Mount Olive, is pictured, left, above receiving the third place award in soybean production from Duplin Agricultural Extension agent, Snodie Wilson. The award was presented during the Neuse Area

Development Association annual dinner Feb. 2. Kornegay placed third in a nine-county soybean production contest; he won with 58.77 bushels per acre. The award was a cash prize.