



**PHILLIPS VISIT DUPLIN SCHOOLS** - Craig Phillips, superintendent of North Carolina public schools, visited Duplin last week. Pictured above, students from Kenansville Elementary School welcome Phillips to their

school for lunch. Phillips was presented a welcome name tag by elementary student Elizabeth Rouse. Kenansville Elementary was one of many schools Phillips visited as he toured Duplin March 16.

## Christine Williams Immortalized In N.C. Collection At UNC-CH

A recent letter from H.J. Jones, curator for the N.C. Collection of the UNC library at Chapel Hill, notified Mrs. Christine Williams, Duplin register of deeds, that he had clipped the Personality in the News article which appeared in the Goldsboro News Argus on Jan. 2 and placed it in the N.C. Carolina collection, thus immortalizing her in this collection.

Jones, former manager of the local record section of the N.C. State Department of Archives and History, wrote in his letter: "Of course, to those of us who have worked with the county officials, you have always been 'im-

mortal,' and I was pleased to see your service recognized in the paper."

Jones' letter also stated: "I am glad to know that you are still enjoying your work and still setting the pace for other registers, and I remember with appreciation the fine support that you and Representative Hugh Johnson gave us in the Department of Archives and History 20 years ago."

Former Duplin Representative Hugh Johnson was the Legislative leader in getting the state law enacted to provide for the state archives to prepare and store microfilm of county records. At that time, Mrs. Williams was serving on the state advisory committee for local records and worked tirelessly for the passage of this legislation. Before that time, there was no microfilm of any county records in the state and more than one-third of the court-houses had suffered fires which destroyed non-replaceable permanent records.



**Christine W. Williams**

Since that time, the Duplin registry, with the aid of CETA workers, has prepared computerized 16 mm microfilm of all Duplin registry records back to 1739 and the microfilming program is kept current. This computerized

microfilm is available to the public for use in the registry, a copy is stored in the county library, and the original copy is stored in an underground vault in Pennsylvania, thus providing perfect security for the permanent records of Duplin County.

## Warsaw Native Retires

Elma D. Purnell retired from Woodbury, N.J. school system as of January 21, 1983, after serving 34 years.

A native of Warsaw, Mrs. Purnell received her education from Frederick Elementary School, Magnolia Township, Douglass High School Warsaw, being an outstand-

ing basketball player. Then she continued at A&T State University, Greensboro and furthered her studies at Temple University, Philadelphia; Glassboro State College in New Jersey, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.; and Montclair College, Montclair, N.J. and numerous other workshops.

The retiree, born Jan. 24, 1921, the youngest child of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver S. Carlton, started her career as a farmer with her parents. After receiving her B.S. degree in home economics, she

taught for one year at Onslow High School in Jacksonville. She decided teaching was not challenging enough, so she vacationed in Philadelphia during the summer of 1943 and was still there after 41 years.

During those years she worked with the government, in private industry, and 34 years in public schools of Woodbury, N.J., as a home economist. She was in the elementary department 1949-55, and came home on maternity leave for one year. Upon returning, she assigned to the Senior High School for 12 years as the first and only Afro-American to teach in the high school and to retire.

Mrs. Purnell is a member of the New Jersey Education Association, National Education Association, Woodbury Education Association, Gloucester County Teachers Association, Dewey Street Club, Market Street West Planners, Phila., Pa., Town Watch, worthy matron, Eastern Star Nora Taylor 57, Sunday School teacher, St. Matthews A.M.E. Church, Iota Phi Lambda sorority, A&T University Alumni, Hospital Auxiliary in Bridge-

ton, N.J.

She was honored Dec. 15, 1982 by the Retired Teachers Association and Jan. 13, 1983 by the faculty and administrators board members of Woodbury High School at Homestead restaurant in New Jersey.

Happy retirement remarks were given by her first superintendent, Dr. Warren McCain; present superintendent Dr. Claudio E. Arrington; assistant superintendent, Dr. R. Craig Barry; Dr. L. Stephen Russman, curriculum coordinator; Dr. Robert Schettler, head of the Latin department; Dr. Richard Caton, former teacher at the high school and presently superintendent of schools, Maple Shade, N.J.; principals: John Gamble, Calvin Ferguson, and Geraldine Talbert, retired teacher from Woodbury Public School, now teaching in Friends School, Mullica Hill, N.J., and many friends.

In a decorative setting, a menu of french fried mushrooms, hot dog pieces with tomatoe sauce, crackers, cheese, potato chips with dip, coffee and cocktails were served.

The retiree was presented a silver tray engraved Woodbury High School 1949-1983, two silver champagne glasses, a bottle of champagne, \$100 from Woodbury Education Association, a beautiful live flower from her sisters, Lillie Highsmith and Allie Newkirk. A niece, Loretta Carlton, also gave an engraved scrap book from Warsaw, with many cards, and a white orchid from her son who resides in Houston, Texas. H. Boyer Purnell II, who studied at Friends School, Virginia State College, Petersburg, Ba.;

M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass. St. Joseph College, Philadelphia, Pa.; Rice University and University of Houston in Texas. He is presently pursuing a master's degree in physics. He has been working for Arco as a geologist. His goal is to get his doctorate in physics.

On Friday, Jan. 21, 1983, her last day at school, all of Mrs. Purnell's classes gave her a party with lovely gifts, including first class period-siler goblet engraved "With Love, All of Your Children," a dozen silk roses and babies'-breath; second period class: a gold key ring; Third, a gold locket; fourth, a lovely necklace and many cards with money.

Her husband, who attended A&T, is a retiree from the U.S. Postal Service in Philadelphia.

## Phillips Tours Duplin Schools

A Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public instruction, toured Duplin County schools this past week.

During a reception at Wallace-Rose Hill High School in Teachey, Phillips said he saw 3,500 students and 300 faculty and staff members of the county system.

Phillips said the state school budget of \$1.5 billion provides \$1,328 per student per year. That amounts to \$7.25 per student per school day, he said.

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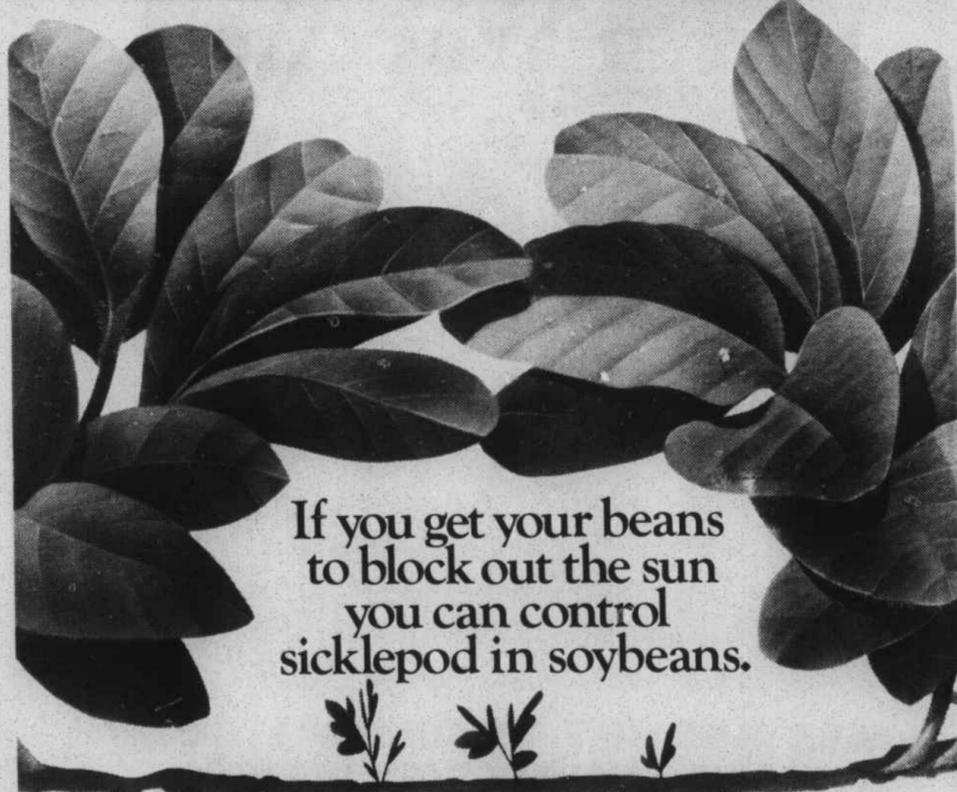
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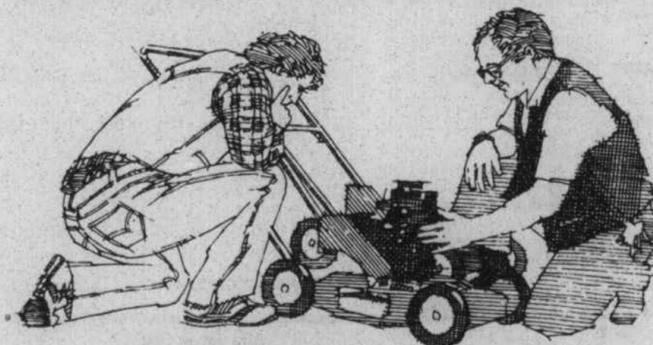


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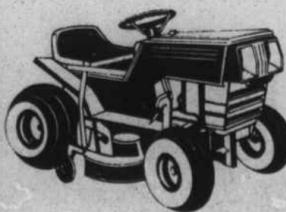
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