

Ramirez Opens Graham House Inn

Guests at the Graham House Inn will be greeted by a new chef, John Ramirez is a delightfully enthusiastic individual with plans to bring the restaurant back to life.

"My family is very excited," Executive Chef Ramirez said. "We have fallen in love with the little town (Kenansville) and we want the natives to be proud of the Graham House Inn. Just looking around the town, we see things which show us that the people try to maintain the history of their town and have a good life today and plan for the future. And, we plan to pitch in and operate the Graham House Inn at the standard in which it was intended to be run from its original opening."

Ramirez, a jolly white-haired chef, comes to Kenansville from Greenville, N.C., where he has worked at the Casa Blanca, Gathering Place, Paisano, Candlewick Manor and King and Queen restaurants. In many of the restaurants Ramirez worked with the members of his family — his wife and four children. While in Greenville, Ramirez shared some of his recipes through a column in "Greenville Times" and many of the same articles will be featured in the Duplin Times.

"Coming to Kenansville drew the most enthusiastic response from my family," Ramirez smiled. "I can't remember the whole family being as enthusiastic since we moved to North Carolina. The Graham House Inn is something like we have always wanted. The restaurant combines local history and food and it gives my family the chance to operate our own business."

Ramirez is a native of California, born in San Francisco. At the University of

Pacific in Stockton, California, Ramirez earned a degree in business administration. After college he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Along with various short courses, Ramirez studies at the Culinary Institute of American in Hyde Park, N.Y. At the Institute, Ramirez completed study in advanced culinary skills, buffet catering, charcuterie, garde manager and pantry as a professional chef.

According to Ramirez, the colonial style and decor of the Graham House Inn will be maintained. And, the menu will include steak, seafood, poultry and game birds served in a gourmet style. In the future, Ramirez plans to add a variety of shops to the upstairs, including a bake shop.

The lawn of the Graham House will be restored and landscaped to include flower gardens and a gazebo will be added. Ramirez hopes to provide the public with an opportunity to use the lawn for parties and weddings in the future. Opening along with the Graham House will be the Duplin Wine Cellars.

"The Rose Hill Winery will be operating the cellar at the Graham House Inn," Ramirez said. "Duplin wines



are good native wines and I feel like they serve a lot of North Carolina tastes. However, we will have liquor-by-the-drink. But, we do not feel the need to maintain a bar or lounge. At the Graham House, liquor-by-the-drink will be for the convenience of

our guests while they dine. The Graham House Inn opens April 14. The restaurant will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. for lunch and 5-10 p.m. for dinner. Sundays a special dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Brigadier General Ingram Transferred

Brigadier General William M. Ingram recently transferred from the N.C. National Guard to the U.S. Army Reserve after almost 31 years of active and reserve component service. Gen. Ingram is the son of Sallie C. Ingram, who resides in Kenansville, and the late William M. Ingram. He was graduated from Kenansville High School in 1947. Upon his transfer, Gen. Ingram was awarded the U.S. of America Legion of Merit and the N.C. National Guard Distinguished Service medal.

Ingram received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, from the ROTC program at N.C. State upon his graduation in civil engineering in June, 1951. He served on active duty with the 1st Infantry Division in Germany from 1951 to 1954.

Upon release from active duty, Gen. Ingram served in various U.S. Army Reserve and N.C. Army National Guard assignments ending as Commander, 30th Infantry Brigade (Mechanized) with headquarters in Clinton. Ingram's military awards include the N.C. National Guard Service Award with 10-year device, the Army Reserve Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Reserve Service Medal with Hour Glass Device, The Army Overseas Service ribbon, the Army Commendation Medal, the U.S. of America Meritorious Service Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal (Germany),



and the National Defense Service Medal.

When released from active duty in 1954, General Ingram returned to N.C. State University and received his MS in civil engineering in 1965. Upon graduation, he worked with a private engineering firm and in 1956 he was employed by the now N.C. Department of Transportation and has completed 25 years of service. He is a registered professional engineer in N.C. and among his professional associations he is a member of the American Society of Civil

Engineers and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

Ingram is married to the former Polly Elizabeth Ong. They have three children, Christopher, Gregory and Jennifer. Christopher will receive his M.D. from the Bowman Grey School of Medicine in May; Gregory, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, is undergoing special forces training in the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg; and Jennifer, a graduate of Salem College, is the assistant manager of a printing firm in Raleigh.



TRI-COUNTY DIRECTOR HONORED - Leslie J. Bell of Route 2, Mount Olive, president of the board of Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation, Dudley, right, accepts a plaque honoring him from Bob McDuffie, manager of Randolph EMC of Asheboro, and president of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives. The meritorious service award cited Bell for his 20 years of service to the rural electric program.

Faison Board Hears Water Proposal

Chairman of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners William Costin and Woody Brinson of McDavid and Associates met with the Faison Town Board April 6 to discuss a proposed community development project to supply water in the Burning Bush area west of the town.

According to Brinson, Duplin has made application for a \$750,000 Housing and Urban Development community development grant. Funding from the grant is proposed to install 2.4 miles of water line serving approximately 50 dwellings in the Burning Bush section. The remaining 90 dwellings are to be serviced with water in a later community development grant. Brinson said. The installation of water lines in the Burning Bush section is estimated to cost \$600,000. The remaining \$150,000 from the HUD grant will be used in the Rockfish area of the county, Brinson said.

Commissioner Costin pointed out the community development project depended on the sale of water from the Faison system to the county. Lines installed from the town system would have a master meter to record the number of gallons going into the county lines and Faison would bill Duplin for the water. A daily usage of 6-8,000 gallons of water is estimated for the proposed phase of the project and up to 18,000 gallons per day at the end of the second phase. Maintenance of the line beyond the master meter would be done by the county. Water lines up to the master meter would be installed through the community development grant and then deeded to the town of Faison, Brinson explained. Duplin presently purchases water from the towns of Greenevers and Kenansville to service county residents between the towns, and the Faison agreement would be similar, Costin added.

Faison Commissioner Bill Igoe made a motion to support the community development project upon agreement of town engineers, Boney and Associates, that the town system would supply the added demand for water. The board unanimously approved the motion and agreed to discuss the price rate for water supplied to the county at a later date.

Commissioners Helen Britt and Rachel Clifton submitted a proposed policy for extending water lines outside town limits and fees for installation of water service. The board approved the policy requiring parties outside city limits to install lines recommended by town engineers at the user's expense. Extended lines are to be deeded to the town after the completion of the installation. The policy called for water rates of out-of-town customers to be double the cost paid by city customers, and the tap-on fees exceed the city rate by 50 percent. And, the cash deposit and service fee for out-of-town customers is to be the same as city residents. The policy was applicable to residents and businesses, and excluded governmental agencies.

The sale of the old Faison police car was approved by the town board.

The proposed tax shelter program for town employees' retirement funds was not approved by the Faison town board. The proposed tax shelter would relieve town employees of paying tax on their contribution to the retirement fund. Instead, taxes would be paid at the time the money is taken from the retirement account.

Faison town administrator Neil Mallory pointed out there is only a \$3 to \$5 savings per week for employees under the proposed tax shelter program.

Representatives from Union Cable TV met with the board requesting a 90-day extension of their contract.

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Sarecta United

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Women Meet

Fifteen members of the Sarecta United Methodist Women met Tuesday night at the church fellowship hall with Martha Swann presiding. The program was given by Leona Jones. After roll call, Rhonda Lanier read the minutes and Dallace Grady gave the treasurer's report and a barbecue supper statement of profit.

Hispanic Ministry kits were turned in with the time for contributions extended until April 24. The members agreed to finish paying for the new piano. The group was reminded of the Spiritual Day Apart at Princeton April 28 and the Personhood Retreat at Louisburg College May 20-21. Plans are being made for a product party. The meeting closed with prayer.

Opening Thursday, April 14th

The Graham House Inn

now open under new management

Chef John Ramirez and family

Open Daily Tuesday - Saturday Lunch 10:30 A.M. - 3 P.M. Dinner 5:30 - 10:30 P.M.

Special Dinners All Day Sunday 10:30 A.M. - 9 P.M. Closed Monday

The Graham House Inn

Corner of Main and Cooper Streets
Kenansville, North Carolina 28349
919-296-1122

