



EVERYONE IS A WINNER - The Warsaw Recreation Park hosted the 1983 Special Olympics in which Warsaw Recreation Director Nease Huntington said, everyone was a winner. The Special Olympics had 260 participants from Duplin County schools and the Omega Center in Rose Hill. The annual event is sponsored through a Kennedy Foundation grant and coordinated by the Wallace and Warsaw Recreation Departments. The Olympics included the 50-meter dash, 200-meter run, softball throw and standing long jump. The day began with the participants forming a parade march around the Warsaw recreation softball field and featured a special presentation by part of the James Kenan High School band. Pictured, left, Wanda Carter of the Duplin County Board of Education, dressed as a clown, pins a ribbon on a participant in the 50-meter dash. Carter led the opening ceremony parade. Pictured below, part of the James Kenan High School band plays as the flame-bearers pass by to start the games.



Board Hires Company To Study Hospital

The future of Duplin County's financially troubled hospital will be determined by the county commissioners this summer following a consulting firm's study of the hospital's financial condition. By a 4-1 vote Thursday night, the commissioners hired Price Waterhouse, a Raleigh accounting firm, to make the study at a cost of not more than \$20,000.

Commissioner Allen Nethercutt voted no, continued his opposition to hiring a consultant. Commissioners W.J. Costin, Calvin Turner, Dovey Penney and D.J. Fussell voted for the plan. The hospital board last month asked the county for

\$1 million to upgrade equipment and facilities.

Faced with increasing demands on county tax funds to keep the hospital operating under current conditions, the board appointed a committee to recommend consulting firms. The county owns the hospital, which was built with funds authorized in a 1951 county referendum. It is operated by trustees appointed by the commissioners.

Operating costs have exceeded patient revenue in recent years. Hospital officials have blamed much of the problem on limitations to how much Medicaid and Medicare can pay for medical expenses. They also cite the tendency of Duplin County

patients to use hospitals outside the county.

The accounting firm will begin the study May 1 and expects to complete its work in about six weeks.

The commissioners agreed the study should determine:

- The reason so few Duplin residents use the local hospital when they need treatment.
- The quality of the hospital's staff and equipment.
- The level of medical care that can be financially supported in Duplin County's rural setting.
- The amount of money that must be invested in the hospital immediately and over the next five years, if it remains publicly operated.
- If the county should

Along the Way

By Emily Killeto

Turkey production followed the great investment by many Duplin farmers in the chicken business during the late 50s and early 1960s. But, Duplin had a farmer who saw the potential of turkey production during the early 1900s.

J. Alvas Powell of Warsaw began to raise turkeys on his farm during 1912 and continued to build his flock to produce more than 1,500 birds annually. Powell began with his marriage to Betty Chambers of the Kenansville area. Together the couple had four turkey hens in 1912. According to the October 23, 1941 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES, the Powells increased their flock yearly and by 1931 they grew more than 500 turkeys annually. Along with the turkeys, the Powells farmed corn, tobacco, hogs and chickens. Income from the turkeys equalled their tobacco crop, the Powells estimated.

THANKS

H.D. and I wish to thank all the people who have been so good to us during my illness. For your interest and thoughts, for the good food, for the lovely flowers, for the beautiful cards, and for your visits, we are so thankful and appreciative.

Thelma D. Taylor
Kenansville

The Powells moved into their home (at the time of the 1941 article) during 1937. The farmhouse was modernized with a bathroom and water works conveniences, using funds from their turkey production. The income from their turkey production was also used to pay farm expenses, educate their five children and provide a home for the entire family. The turkey flock had reached more than 1,500 birds in 1941. The birds were marketed by Mr. Powell through wholesale channels to cities and towns in eastern North Carolina. The operation began with the turkeys being sold on the retail market, but retail sales became too time consuming for the Powells.

The responsibility for the hatching of eggs and growing the birds to about seven weeks of age belonged to Mrs. Powell. Each year 75 turkey hens were saved from the flock to lay eggs for the next year's birds. However, the turkeys could not hatch enough eggs to maintain the flock size during the 1940s.

To assist the turkey hens with hatching, Mrs. Powell used an incubator. After hatching, the young turkeys were placed in brooder houses. Each brooder house on the Powell farm held 150 to 250 baby turkeys. The young turkeys remained in the brooder houses six to seven weeks before being released to roam the open range of the Powell farm. Mr. Powell began his responsibility for the turkeys when they left the brooder houses. On the open range the turkeys ate lespedeza, peanuts and chufas as they grew. The birds slept and roamed the open range having only shelters for their roosts. Marketing the birds was done during the late fall and early winter months which included the holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Today, Duplin farmers depend on poultry just as they do their crops from the soil to provide their family with steady income. Poultry was the leading agricultural commodity in Duplin during 1982 with a total county income of \$114,292,396. Turkey production amounted to 9,651,174 birds for a 1982 income of \$62,943,633. And combined turkey hatching eggs and broiler hatching eggs were sold for an income of \$11,477,256.

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To control weeds in tobacco, you have to make two difficult decisions.

- Should I treat for nutsedge?** Nutsedge has been called the world's worst weed with good reason. Spreading by seed and by tuber, above ground and below, nutsedge can reduce tobacco yields, lower crop quality and increase harvesting costs. Even one tuber per square foot can escalate into a major infestation in just 20 weeks. So if you think you'll get nutsedge this year, you should seriously consider applying a preplant herbicide that can control it.
- Should I treat preplant?** If nutsedge might be a problem, the only time to get effective control is preplant. So you can decide to apply your herbicide early. But if you have problem weeds that don't include nutsedge, you could decide to apply your herbicide at layby or transplant instead. Not only will a single application last through the growing season, but you'll run less risk of injuring young plants.

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