

Duplin Times

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Irish Potatoes Grown In Duplin

Growing potatoes in Duplin County is not unusual for local farmers, unless, of course, it's Irish potatoes and not yams. Laurie and Sherwood Jackson, Beulaville-area farmers, have planted 69 acres of Irish potatoes.

"It takes a lot of guts to try something new, like a crop of Irish potatoes," Lauri

Jackson said. "Until this year, I had never thought about it, but in the past (1950s) there were more Irish potatoes grown in Faison and Mount Olive and with a better yield than any other part of the state." The Jacksons are growing potatoes under contract with a Tennessee produce broker. Most of the potatoes are expected to be sold to chip-

ping companies and the remainder on the fresh market. Lauri Jackson explained the representative from the Tennessee brokerage is a former buyer at the Faison Produce Market.

"We are trying to do a good job this year," Lauri Jackson said. "And, we hope the broker will contract with us again next year. The potatoes are more work than

corn or soybeans, and we hope to be able to double crop the potatoes." The Jacksons raise 11 houses of turkeys and tend 460 acres planted in corn, wheat, soybeans, cucumbers and Irish potatoes.

Duplin Agricultural Extension agent Phil Denlinger says Extension studies estimate a farm profit of about \$150 per acre on an Irish potato crop. Each acre is expected to produce 20,000 pounds of potatoes. The potato disease, Southern blight, and the potato beetle are two of the crop's worst enemies, Denlinger pointed out. Presently, Denlinger said the area does not have a buildup of pests to cause a potato crop much damage.

"I feel like there is a chance to make more money per acre with out potatoes than any other crop we grow," Lauri Jackson said. "But, at the same time, we are taking a chance on losing more money on potatoes than our other crops. And, it all depends on the weather." The Jacksons have about \$15,000 invested in the potato experiment. The investment in labor, fertilizer, seed and chemicals would be in addition to equipment cost, Lauri Jackson said. The Jacksons are under contract for 20,000 bags of Irish potatoes and harvest time is planned for mid-June.

"The usual growing season for potatoes begins February 15 with the crop maturing in 90 to 100 days," Lauri Jackson said. "This year we are a month behind because of the weather. We began planting March 15. It's all new to us — like we found out it takes a week and a half just to cut all the potatoes before we could begin planting." A used potato-cutting machine was purchased by the Jacksons which dices the seed into quarters. Seed for this year's crop was purchased through the broker, Lauri Jackson said.

By Emily Killete



DUPLIN FARMERS GROW IRISH POTATOES - Beulaville area farmers, Lauri and Sherwood Jackson, are growing 69 acres of Irish potatoes. The potatoes are grown under contract with a Tennessee produce broker and will be sold to chipping

companies and on the fresh market. According to Lauri Jackson, pictured right, above, each plant bears 15 to 30 potatoes and an acre produces about 10 tons. Pictured with Lauri Jackson is Shawn Jackson.

Duplin County Agribusiness Fair Livestock Expansion

By Ruth Wells

Plans are underway for livestock to play a greater role in the second annual Duplin County Agribusiness Fair.

Keith Hairr, extension agent for livestock and forage, and Joe L. Williams, president of the Duplin County Livestock Association, are developing plans to progress from livestock exhibits in the first fair to livestock shows and possibly sales for this year.

A 40x80-foot exhibit tent has been rented to house the animals. A wall will be erected to which heifers will be secured. Hogs may be displayed in pens of three, from which one will be shown.

Displaying these animals

will be 4-H-age children, 9 to 19 years old. They may or may not own animals but should be responsible for training and grooming the animal.

Heifers to be shown must be 10-14 months old at the time of the show. There is no weight requirement as such. These animals may be sold but can be returned to the farm.

Hogs to be entered must be top hogs, that is weighing 200-250 pounds. These animals should be slaughtered instead of returned to the farm.

Should participation be great enough, there will be a junior and senior division in both of the above shows.

This is an excellent opportunity for young people to develop showmanship.

Interested persons should contact Hairr at the Extension office as he is planning to conduct workshops to teach grooming as well as showing animals.

Interest is also growing in some form of horse show or activity for the fair. Hairr would like to hear from horse owners and get their ideas.

Duplin County has outstanding livestock. This fact is very evident from riding the rural roads of the county. Also, according to Gene Carroll, North Carolina State Fair inspector, the first Limousin cow displayed at a fair in North Carolina was shown by Andrew Keathley at our fair last year.

For more information about livestock and the 1983 fair, call Keith Hairr at 296-1996.

Two Wallace Men Die In Accident

Two Wallace men were killed early Sunday morning when a car driven by a young Rose Hill woman missed a curve, crossed a ditch and flipped twice, throwing all three passengers from the car.

Tammy Knowles, 16, of Blanchard Street in Rose Hill, was charged with driving under the influence

and exceeding safe speed, according to Officer Robert Mosback of the Rose Hill Police Department.

Dead at the scene were Randall Ward Lanier, 17, of Murphy Street in Wallace and Robert Kemmerer, 37 of 109 N. Graham St., Wallace, Mosback said.

The accident occurred

about 9 a.m. as the late-model Ford Ms. Knowles was driving entered Rose Hill on Lake Tut Road. Ms. Knowles crawled 150 feet to a telephone booth to call for help, Mosback said.

She was admitted to New Hanover Memorial Hospital for treatment around 10 a.m. She was in stable condition Sunday night.

Duplin High School Graduations

By Emily Killete

The Duplin County public schools have 535 seniors. Graduation services for the four Duplin high schools will be June 3rd.

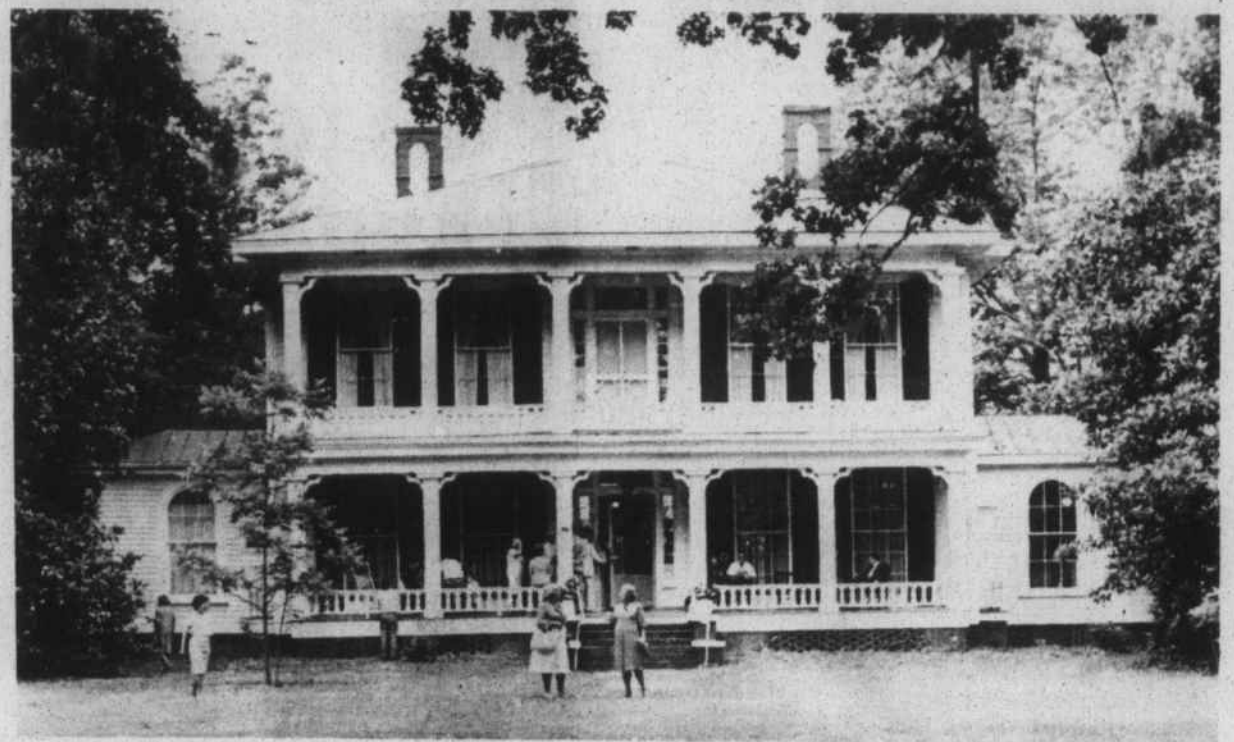
North Duplin will hold their graduation services at 8 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Graduating will be 67 seniors led by Valedictorian Curt Williams and Salutatorian Michelle Garris.

James Kenan High School will hold graduation services for 158 seniors in the Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville at 8 p.m. The 1983 class valedictorian is Andy Futreal and the salutatorian is Marcia Boone.

Graduation services for the 129 seniors at Wallace-Rose Hill will be held at Legion Stadium in Wallace at 7 p.m. In case of rain, the services will be held at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Douglas Blanton is the senior class valedictorian and Lisa Mills is the salutatorian.

East Duplin will hold commencement exercises in the Fine Arts Building at the high school at 8 p.m. The 181 graduating seniors are led by Valedictorian Laura Brooks Hunter and Salutatorian Brian J. Smith.

According to guidance counselors at James Kenan, North Duplin and Wallace-Rose Hill high schools, 118 seniors plan to attend four-year colleges or universities, 89 will enter community or technical colleges, while 46 have enlisted with the armed services, and 100 are joining the work force. Figures from East Duplin High School seniors were not available at presstime.



FAISON WILLIAMS HOME REFURBISHED - The 1853 Faison Williams Home was open May 29 to the public after

undergoing a restoration due to severe fire damage in 1981. The home is located on Highway 50 in Faison and

Faison Williams Home Restored In Faison

The Faison Williams home in Faison had its grand opening Sunday afternoon, May 29, from 3-5 p.m. following a restoration period that began two years ago. On March 15, 1981, the home was severely damaged by fire.

The Faison Volunteer Fire Department and their helpers from Calypso and Mount Olive, were honored for the miraculous job they did in saving the home, as were the people who have participated in the restoration.

Honored were Richard H Bennett, Seibels, Bruce & Co. of Goldsboro; J.E. Sinclair Co., contractors, Clinton; Jesse Lee, Clinton Furniture Refinishing,

Clinton; Zeno Spence, artist, Goldsboro; Mrs. Nan Fesperman, Nan's Interiors, Faison; Charles Russell, Upholster, Clinton; Southern Furniture and Interiors, Mount Olive; Joe West, Kenansville; Harold Precythe, Faison; Mr. and Mrs. William Driver, Faison.

The home was built in 1853 by the Honorable Isham Faison, who told his great-grand nephew, V.F. Williams upon inquiring about the home with its long halls, imposing galleries and pleasant wing, that the total labor cost was \$1,000, that the two-story house was erected by a contractor using five carpenters and that the building period went over into the second year because

the logs had to be hand-hewn and put together with pegs.

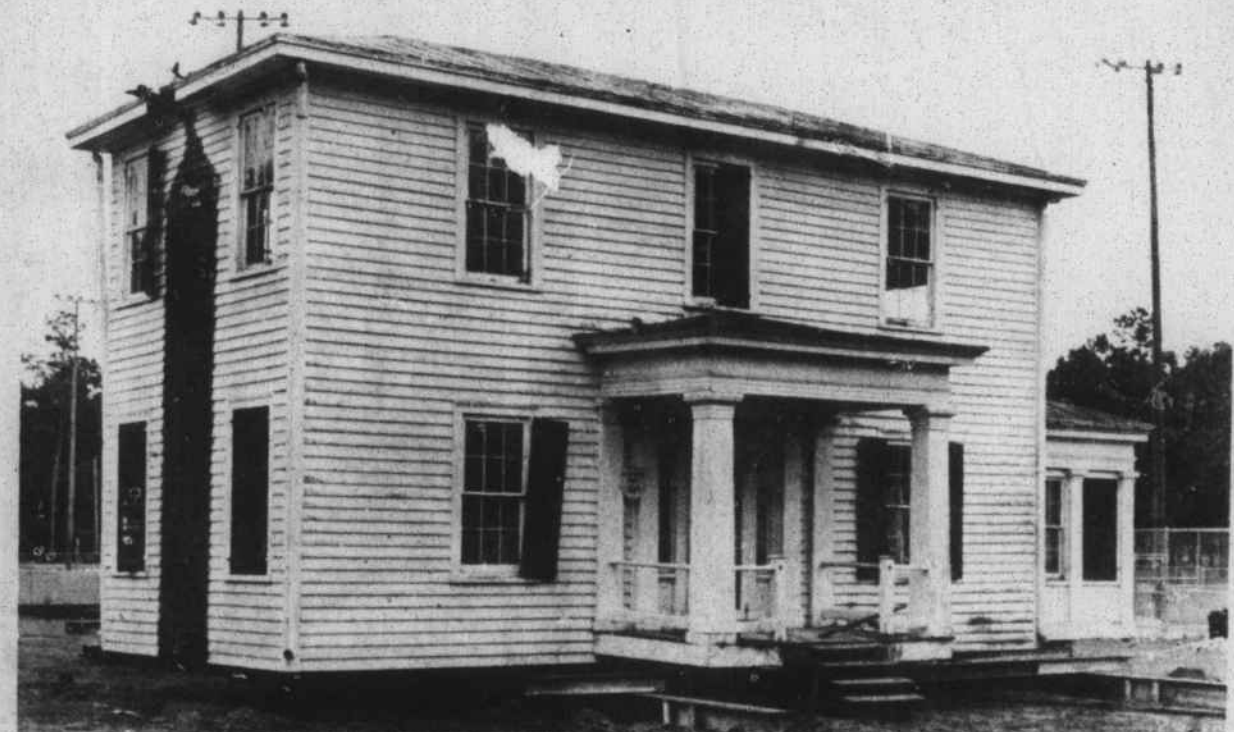
During the Civil War, General Terry's staff of the Union Army made this home their headquarters and Mrs. Isham Faison was confined to the southeast corner of the home.

Isham Faison left the home to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Williams, who reared four sons, Dr. Louis Hicks Williams, I.R. Williams, Marshall Williams Jr. and Virginius F. Williams, all of whom went to the first World War and whose heirs are now the owners. They include Dr. and Mrs. James Hicks Williams of Los Alton, California; General and Mrs. Frank Clay of McLean, Va;

Mr. and Mrs. Bayard Keliani of Pittsburg, Pa.; Rev. and Mrs. Leslie Tucker of Belmont; Mr. and Mrs. I.R. Williams, Jr. of Richmond, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Williams of Houston, Texas; and Dr. and Mrs. Donald Miller of West Palm Beach, Florida.

Mary Lyde Hicks Williams was a well-known artist and her collection of plantation scenes all connected with the home where they were painted, are at the Museum of History in Raleigh. There are 27 paintings in this collection.

Those interested in seeing this restored historical landmark were invited to attend the grand opening.



COWAN MUSEUM ACCEPTS DEED TO NEW HOME - The 135-year-old Kelly-Farrior Home was presented to Duplin County by United Carolina Bank to be restored and house the Cowan Museum. The presentation was made May 24 on the lawn of the original location of the Kelly-Farrior House with Mr. and Mrs. George Cowan, proprietors of the Museum accepting the deed from United Carolina Bank Senior Vice-president Robert Howard.

Pictured above, left to right, Howard presents Mr. and Mrs. Cowan the deed of the Kelly-Farrior home, and Kenansville UCB executive Carey Wrenn looks on. The house was donated by UCB under conditions the home be moved. Today the Kelly-Farrior house stands in the Kenansville Municipal Park between Liberty Hall and the tennis courts. The Kelly-Farrior House is pictured above on its new lot at the Kenansville Municipal Park.