

## Vacation And Holiday Pay Set For Faison Town Employees

The Faison Board of Commissioners set a vacation and holiday pay policy for town employees during the regular meeting October 5.

Mayor Francis McColman presented the vacation and holiday pay policy to the board. Vacation time will be based on the days worked in the previous year and employees qualifying for one week will receive one day of vacation for each 52 days of work. Employees qualifying for two weeks will receive one day of vacation for each 26 days of work during the previous year. And, employees will receive paid holidays only if attending work the day prior and the day following the holiday period. The Board unanimously adopted the policy on a motion by Commissioner W.J. Igoe.

Commissioner Igoe reported an estimated cost of \$600 per customer to run water lines beyond the Faison city limits to service a subdivision on Highway 403. Approximately 600 feet of six-inch line would be needed to service the five homes requesting service at the September meeting of

the Faison Commissioners. Igoe added, customers connecting to the line at a later date would be charged approximately \$400. Town Administrator Neil Mallory added additional funds would be needed to hire an engineer to design the plans extending the lines. The project would also have to be submitted to the state Environmental Protection Agency for approval before a permit could be obtained to start the extension of water lines to the area on Highway 403, Mallory said.

The town commissioners authorized Mayor McColman to advise the employees of the public works department of the cost of renting uniforms, and assist in arranging service if the employees wished to use the rental uniforms.

The board unanimously agreed to no longer supply uniforms for the town public works employees effective October 1, during the September meeting of the commissioners. The cost of supplying four employees with uniforms was approximately \$125 a month.



Dr. William Thornton

## Faison Prepares Hero's Welcome For Thornton

Faison residents are planning a hero's welcome Oct. 15 for their native son, the astronaut Dr. William E. Thornton, but the honoree is not so sure he deserves all the glory.

Contacted Friday at NASA headquarters in Houston, Thornton responded to the hero title by saying, "I'm not so sure about that. I'd never make such claims."

But a star Thornton will be when he returns to his hometown for the first time

since his August flight on the space shuttle Challenger.

Gov. Jim Hunt will be on hand, and practically every other politician in the vicinity is invited. The guest list includes U.S. Rep. Charles O. Whitley, state Sen. Harold Hardison and others, not to mention the many candidates who will take advantage of the crown for campaigning.

The celebration will start at 10:30 a.m. with speeches by officials and by Thornton, who admitted he hasn't begun thinking about what he will say. The North Duplin High School Band will entertain, and the Army Band from Fort Bragg is expected to perform.

Instead of a parade, there will be serious eating — barbecued pork and chicken cooked by "the famous Taylor brothers," according to an announcement from the Faison Town Hall.

Thornton said he is looking forward to his first trip to North Carolina in "about a year." He maintains a family home in Faison, although he has lived with his wife and two sons in Friendswood, Texas, outside of Houston, since 1968.

When asked if he still considers Faison home, Thornton said, "Home has become wherever I've been. Nevertheless, it's what you grow up in that means the most." He was born in Faison 54 years ago and lived there until he left to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"It will be a sentimental trip," Thornton said, adding he will bring his wife along. "It's very interesting to go

back 50 years afterwards to the old hometown. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of people I haven't seen for a long time."

Plenty of people are getting geared up to greet Thornton in Faison.

"We're expecting a right good crowd," said Rachel Clifton, one of several organizers for the homecoming. "It'll be a big crowd for our little town of 600 people."

Although he has not been

home regularly for some time, Ms. Clifton said flatly, "We still claim him."

"He still claims us, too," she said. "This is still home to him."

The entire town of Faison has followed Thornton's career, she said, but many people had thought he might have missed his chance for a space flight.

"We never thought he'd get to go up on account of his age," Ms. Clifton said. Thornton was the oldest

astronaut and first North Carolina native to go into space. He was the second physician to fly on a shuttle mission specifically to study space sickness.

On August 30, the day Thornton and his four fellow astronauts guided the shuttle on its eighth mission, Faison residents held a liftoff party.

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## Duplin May Not Purchase Old Building

A difference of \$40,000 between an offer and the asking price may prevent Duplin County from purchasing the Federal Land Bank building on N.C. 24 in Kenansville.

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners indicated last week it wants to offer \$35,000 for the building for the use of the Department of Social Services.

The agency is asking \$75,000.

Social Services Director Millie Brown said she would place 14 workers in the building if the county buys it.

The board also directed Register of Deeds Christine Williams to advertise for bids on a copier for a price up to \$15,000. The machine will pay for itself through fees charged for making copies, she said.

The board also agreed to pay the difference between the state allowance for a computer printer for the register of deeds office and its actual price. The state will provide \$2,436. County Manager Ralph Cottle said the machine will cost \$2,500.

The board also agreed to provide \$1,000 for a "smoke chaser" in the Pink Hill area of eastern Duplin County during fire season. District Forester Laird Davison of Whiteville and county forest ranger Denis Knowles said the state Forest Resources Commission received \$300,000 less than it had expected in federal funds, necessitating closing of the Pink Hill fire tower and the request for the county to pay someone to be a smoke chaser there.

## Along the Way

Emily Killeto

The southern section of Duplin County was settled after the communities of Goshen, Sarecta and Grove were established in north Duplin. Southern Duplin grew along the Rockfish Creek.

Like northern Duplin, the settlers were quick to establish schools and churches. According to the May 17, 1947 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES, historical references can be found for two schools in southern Duplin. Angel's school house or academy was located on the Rockfish just prior to 1795. And, references have been found to a school across the Rockfish in what is now the Rockfish township during the Revolutionary War years. Public school systems were established about 1840 and many of the citizens of southern Duplin helped to organize the system. Cornelius McMillan was a member of the first area Board of Education. Captain David Sloan served as chairman of the Board and Boney Wells and Wells Boney were among the original school committeemen of the community.

Among the first churches to establish in the community of southern Duplin was the Rockfish Presbyterian Church. The Rockfish Presbyterian Church is said to be the oldest church of any denomination in southern Duplin dating into the 1700s. The Reverend Robert Tate was among the early pastors at Rockfish Presbyterian and he came to Duplin around 1798. As pastor of Rockfish, Tate served more than 30 years. While working as pastor of Rockfish, Tate also served other local churches in the area of Pender. Tate was a native of Orange County and moved with his wife to Willard. While in Duplin, Tate's first wife died and he later married Elizabeth Hunter of the Friendship community.

The Baptists established Island Creek Church about the year 1800. The church was organized by the Reverend Job Thigpen of Muddy Creek and he left Duplin shortly after Island Creek was established. Island Creek Church served as the center of activity for the Baptists in the southern section of Duplin and two of the church's early pastors were county natives the Reverend William Wells and the Reverend Hiram Stallings.

The Eastern Baptist Association met at Island Creek in 1831 and passed a resolution banning the meeting of slaves due to the recent insurrection. The resolution, as quoted in the May 17, 1946 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES, follows: "Colored brethren are not to hold any meetings among themselves for a period of one year."

The Methodists were organizing within southern Duplin during the late 1700s. The Reverend Beverly Allen was the first Methodist minister to arrive in Duplin. Allen is thought to have moved to Duplin just prior to 1800. Methodist churches were established at Island Creek, Maxwell, and possibly Rockfish and led by the Reverend Peter Carlton and other local ministers. Carlton was a native of Duplin.

The first settlers to southern Duplin chose a site near Rockfish Creek to establish their community. The original settlement of the area was located at the old Red House cemetery. The settlement was referred to as Red House or sometimes Rockfish and it dates from the 1740s. The community was started by Swiss and German settlers who originally came to the new world as part of the settlement of New Bern in 1710. Settlers from neighboring counties also came to the Red House community in its early days.

## Warsaw Man Burned In Fire

A Warsaw man received second- and third-degree burns in a fire that destroyed his trailer at the Hines Trailer Court on Pinecrest Drive around 5:40 p.m. Monday.

Rodney Andrews returned to his trailer to find it aflame. He went inside to call the fire department and received burns on the upper half of his

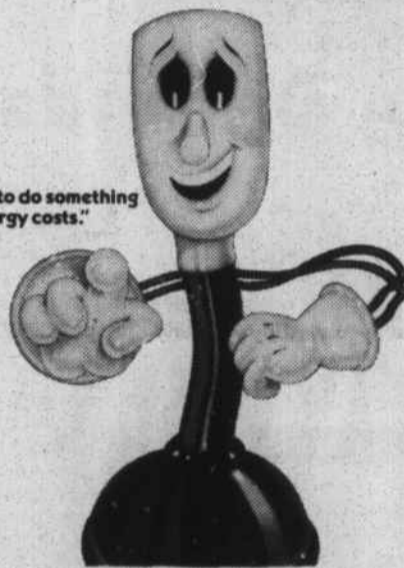
body, said Tommy Coombs, assistant fire chief of the Warsaw Volunteer Fire Department.

Andrews was taken to Duplin General Hospital. A Duplin General Hospital spokeswoman refused to give any information about Andrew's condition.

The trailer was destroyed. Damages were estimated at around \$5,000, said Coombs.

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# Volunteer To Shave.

The switches turn off these appliances during peak demand periods. When the switch turns off your water heater, it will be off for up to four hours. With most heaters, this should result in little or no loss of hot water. On air conditioners, there would be only a slight heat rise in the home because the unit's compressor would be turned off for only up to ten minutes out of every half hour. The fan continues to run to keep the house reasonably cool.

### Shave The Peak With A Load Management Switch.

As a member and owner of Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation, you are being called upon to help in a statewide program to fight the increasing electric rates by shaving peak demands.

The program is called load management, and it's available to those of you with electric water heating and/or central air conditioning.

### What Is The Peak?

The "peak" is the point when you and your neighbors are collectively making the maximum use of electricity for any given period. By lowering this peak, the EMCs can reduce their power costs and help to hold down future rate increases.

We can do this by installing load management switches on electric water heaters and central air conditioners in Tri-County EMC members' homes.

We appeal to you to "Volunteer to Shave" the peak. It costs you nothing to participate. For the switch to be installed on your electric water heater, we allow a \$2.50 per month credit the entire year on your electric bill. For the switch to be installed on your central air conditioner, we allow a \$3.50 per month credit for the four summer months on your electric bill. Now, it saves you \$44.00 per year, and it can save you hundreds of dollars in the future.

If you'd like to volunteer,

just send us this coupon. Or call Tri-County EMC for more information.

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We're All In This Together.

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## Tri County Electric Membership Corporation

P.O. Box 130

Dudley, North Carolina 28333

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