



RECEIVE AWARDS FOR SERVICE

The 28th annual Warsaw Jaycee Distinguished Service Awards banquet was held Feb. 23 at the Duplin Country Club. Thomas Faison, the son of Mark Faison, and Carla Quinn, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Quinn, both of Warsaw, were named Outstanding

Teenagers by the Jaycees. Outstanding Young Educator was awarded to Josef Ann Smith Wells, a science teacher at Warsaw Douglas Jr. High. Pictured, left to right, above, Thomas Faison, Carla Quinn and Josef Ann Wells.

Screening For Craft Expo '84

The Neuse Area Development Association and the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service will once again sponsor Expo '84, a crafts fair to be held in Morehead City on July 7 and 8.

The screening date for craft items for this exhibition is March 7 and will be held at the AES office in Kinston. Craftpersons from Carteret, Craven, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico and Wayne counties are

urged to have their items screened so they may participate in Expo '84.

Some crafts that have been demonstrated and sold at previous fairs are leathercraft, woodworking, weaving, pine needle crafts, embroidery, baskets, handmade musical instruments, broom making and stuffed dolls.

Application blanks are now available in the Lenoir home economics agent's office and should be prepared in triplicate for each craft

submitted, according to Melissa B. Smith, associate Lenoir home economics extension agent. Three examples of each craft are required for this screening. Lenoir County craftpersons may bring their items to the Lenoir County AES office on Pink Hill Highway, Kinston, by March 6.

Craftpersons in the nine-county Neuse Area Development region are urged to be screened for participation in Expo '84.

Tree Day In Duplin March 3

All citizens who have ordered trees should pick them up on Saturday, March 3, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Agricultural Extension office.

"Duplin County will be even more beautiful with an additional 5,000 dogwood trees and 1,600 watermelon

red crepe myrtles," said Mrs. Adelaide Rice, chairman of the Volunteer Beautification Committee.

Phil Denlinger, assistant agricultural extension agent, asks everyone to bring plastic bags or newspaper to wrap plants in. "It is very important to keep the bare-rooted seedlings

moist," says Phil. "Livability will not be good if the roots are allowed to dry out."

The committee is pleased with the response and nurseries have promised a complete order of all trees.

All trees not picked up by 3 p.m. will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tree Day is sponsored by the Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service and the Volunteer Beautification Committee.

LEADERSHIP CLINIC OFFERED

Do you have leadership responsibilities? Would you like to become a more effective leader? If so, the Agricultural Extension Service may have the answer for you.

"A leadership clinic will be held during the month of March," stated Judy H. Wallace, home economics extension agent.

The clinic is divided into three two-hour sessions and will begin on March 5 and continue on March 12 and 19. Each session will begin at 7 p.m. Topics to be covered are: Understanding Leadership and Leadership Styles, Shared Leadership — How to Achieve

Creativity and Cooperation, Planning and Conducting Meetings, and Parliamentary Procedure. A certificate will be given to those who complete the clinic.

Dr. Maurice E. Voland, specialist in charge of the sociology and anthropology department at N.C. State University, will be assisting the local staff in conducting the clinic.

There is limited space in this clinic. Registration is required prior to March 1. A fee of \$5 to cover the cost of materials is payable upon registration. For more information, contact the Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service at 296-1996.

Foundation To Hold Annual Dinner/Dance

Saturday, March 3rd, the James Sprunt Foundation will host its annual spring dinner-dance in the Jester's Court of the Country Squire near Kenansville. Proceeds from the fund-raising event go to the foundation to support the education activities of James Sprunt Technical College.

The activities will begin at 7 p.m. with wine, cheese and light hors d'oeuvres followed by a steak dinner at 7:30. Musical entertainment for the dinner hour will be provided by John Goodnow, visiting artist at JSTC. At 9 p.m. the Charlie Albertson Band will provide music for dancing until 1 a.m.

The dinner-dance officially closes the foundation's second annual fund drive. This year's drive has a goal of

Hit And Run

A hit and run accident occurred at 12:50 p.m. Monday, four miles north of Beulaville on N.C. 111.

An 18-year-old Mexican youth was killed instantly.

The vehicle involved was a '78-'80 Chevrolet or GMC van, olive drab color, was last seen heading north on Hwy. 111.

Anyone with information is asked to call the local law enforcement in your area.

Fairbanks, Alaska, is the closest city in North America to the Arctic Circle.

AGRICULTURE CENTER SEES SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT

Unemployment remained over 10 percent, but signs of economic improvement appeared in Duplin County in 1983 and are continuing now.

Duplin is sometimes described as an agricultural empire because it houses a huge poultry industry that grosses more than \$125 million annually, plus hog and tobacco production, all of which places it among the top 100 agricultural counties of the nation in gross farm income. Its 1982 gross income, estimated at about \$230 million, was not a record.

Agriculture is the county's major industry, employment source and income producer. Businesses include feed mills, poultry and swine program operations, individual swine operations, tobacco, corn, soybean and fresh vegetable production, and poultry processing. Agricultural service and supply firms are big business in the county.

Duplin is described as the leading all-around poultry-producing county in the United States. Outside of agriculture, its major industrial base is textile plants, several of which have retrooled or are retrooling to change their product lines. Competition from overseas and changes in consumer preferences brought about these changes.

Textile employment, which declined for several years, stabilized last year and is increasing.

The agricultural depression hit the county's farm economy, particularly in 1982 when farm product prices hit the skids. The poultry and swine industries were troubled and reduced production, which reduced farm incomes. The long period of agricultural depression led to failure of the Watson Seafood & Poultry Co. in Rose Hill.

However, other poultry and swine farms are expanding production.

Farm product prices increased in the past year, encouraging producers and offering the promise of improved conditions.

Swift & Co. is increasing capacity of its turkey processing plant at Wallace. In nearby Sampson County, Lundy Packing Co., a major pork packer, is doubling its capacity.

Several towns of the county began or are about to begin long-planned upgrading of public utilities. These towns will be in position to bid for new industries or industrial expansion as a result.

Warsaw opened its new \$2 million

sewage treatment plant. It annexed the National Spinning Co. plant site in order to apply for and receive an Urban Development Action Grant of \$1,040,000 for the company to retool to produce new product lines.

Quinn Wholesale Co. of Warsaw enclosed more railroad siding space and increased its cold storage capacity. The company serves independent supermarkets over a wide area of eastern North Carolina as well as some in South Carolina and Virginia.

J.P. Stevens Co.'s retooling of its Wallace plants is nearing completion. The work has been in progress for more than a year. The company was rehiring and retraining workers late last year.

Work is expected to begin in the spring on increasing capacity of the Wallace sewage treatment plant at a cost of more than \$1 million.

Rose Hill is planning to begin work on a new sewage treatment plant and on improving its water system this spring. The project has been in the planning stage for nearly a decade. Cost of both projects is estimated at \$2 million.

A bond proposal to finance a rural water system in the Albertson area of northeastern Duplin County was approved early this year.

Beulaville received an Urban Development Action Grant of about \$355,000 to finance an expansion program of the N.C. Hydraulics Co.

plant and for street improvements. The plant expansion received \$283,225.

The historic Kelly-Farrior house, which was donated to the county, was moved last year to a site beside Liberty Hall, the ancestral Kenah family home. It will house the Cowan Museum and the Duplin County Arts Council when renovations are completed.

A long controversy between Duplin County and its school system over disposition of an abandoned school in Kenansville was ended when the school board gave the building and its grounds to the county government. The second annual Duplin County Agribusiness Fair held on the school grounds and in Kenan Memorial Auditorium attracted 15,000 people.

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