

Along The Way



By Emily Killete

The county is always glad to welcome a new business or industry. Kenansville welcomed a new saw mill in 1935.

The December 12, 1935 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES records the beginning of a branch saw mill of Commercial Hardwood Company opening in Kenansville. Commercial Hardwood Company was headquartered in New Bern. The business was the second in just a few months time to open in Kenansville. Prior to the location of the saw mill, the DUPLIN TIMES newspaper had moved its operations from Warsaw.

Below is a reprint of the DUPLIN TIMES article about the new saw mill operation.

New Industry Operating In Kenansville

Kenansville was awakened Tuesday morning by the call to work of the new saw mill located just outside the limits of town and operated by the Commercial Hardwood Company whose headquarters are in New Bern. This new mill is the elevated band saw type with a capacity of 20,000 feet of lumber per day. About 30 men are employed, most of whom are local men, which will add much to the general business condition in Kenansville.

The plant is owned by Mr. Clarence Kirven of Newbern, but is now being operated by F.H. Darnell, contractor, who is living with his family near the site of the mill. William Mesic of Newbern is sawyer and Dan McMurtry of Tenn., keeps the saws in good shape. On the yard is T. Smallwood, who says that he looks for "Bigwood." He buys the timber and checks on the measuring. The mill is driven by a 100 horse power boiler.

Logs are being brought to the mill by rail and by truck. Only hardwood is used and this is air dried on the yard and shipped to the furniture factories throughout this and neighboring states. The air-drying process

Academic Scholarships Awarded At JSTC

Thirteen students have been awarded academic scholarships to James Sprunt Technical College through endowment funds established by individuals or groups in support of the college or the James Sprunt Foundation.

Students apply for scholarships each spring and recipients are selected by the scholarship committee on a competitive basis. Scholarships range from \$180 to \$300 per academic year and are used to help defray the costs of tuition, books and other educational expenses.

Selected as 1985-86 academic scholarship winners are: Tonda Stepp, C.H. Yelverton Scholarship; Regina Thomas, Duplin County Retired School Personnel Scholarship; Doris Jones, C.H. Yelverton Scholarship (2nd year); Patsy Taylor, T.R. Quinn Scholarship; DeAnna Hudson, Dixon S. Hall Scholarship (2nd year); Pamela House, Addis P. Cates Scholarship and Salutatorian Honors Scholarship; Paula Cavanaugh, Education Office Personnel Scholarship; Marian LaCoe, George F. Landen Scholarship; Joanna Hanchey, Margaret Marshall Holland and Student Newspaper Editor Scholarship; Doris Young, J. Willard Hoffer Scholarship; Emily Blanchard Wilson, James E. and Mary Z. Bryan Memorial Scholarship; Anthony Stanley, Elizabeth G. Fussell Scholarship; Rhonda K. Lewis, B. Hartford and Ora Herring Wiggs Scholarship.

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Water for the boiler is furnished from two wells, from which the water is drawn into an auxiliary tank by steam.

Logs are unloaded from the cars by a derrick which stands 36 feet in the air with 50 ft. braces and a 60 ft. arm. The wooden beams which are 40 and 60 ft. in length are made from virgin long leaf unbled pine. This derrick is the principal task in placing the logs from the ground, where they are unloaded from trucks and cars, to the deck of the second story of the mill from which they are rolled to the saw. This derrick is

operated and controled by steam.

Fuel for the boiler is furnished by the waste from the saw which is carried by elevator shaft to the fire box, and by slabs and board waste which are placed in the fire box by hand. Visitors are allowed to climb the stairs on the east side of the mill and stand on the platform at the head of the stairs from which they can see the mill in operation.

Just a short distance west of the new mill, E.R. Penney's softwood and stave mill is located. He has recently installed steam boiler and engine and is employing a goodly

number of men. These two industries are doing much to reverse the unemployment situation in Kenansville.

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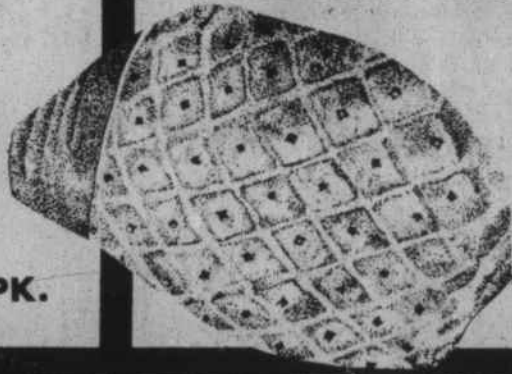
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