

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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EDITORIAL

Of The Week
By: A. L. CAVERNAUGH

A trip to the Piedmont and Western part of our state will cast a gloom over the traveler that puts him to thinking when he gets back home. A big question is raised in his mind. Why is it that there are factories, roads, utility services and large cities so much in evidence there when we do not have any appreciable evidences of those things here? There are good and sufficient reasons for that condition, but the masses of us fall in our day dreaming to fully evaluate those reasons.

The State of North Carolina has done a lot in advertising our state and it has been a financial success. One of the reasons for our condition is because we haven't taken advantage of the state's help. We have been like the little boy who was asked if he didn't want some candy. He said, "Yes", in a very interesting tone of voice. He was then told that he would have to bring into the kitchen, two arm fulls of wood for the stove. He immediately forgot the candy.

Our friends in the Piedmont and Western part of our state, instead of carrying in two arm fulls of wood, carried four, six, or ten arm fulls, and they took home the candy while we were consoling ourselves, one with another, by saying that we were being discriminated against and that we didn't want it in the first place and making a dozen other excuses that would help us "save face" with ourselves.

This Piedmont and Western part of our state have advantages that we don't have. We have advantages that they don't have. They should have our whole-hearted congratulations for the great job they have done and are doing. They have taken advantage of their opportunities and because of their efforts, have factories, roads, and utilities, resulting in an economy that gives them a double assurance of incomes if a rainy day comes. We depend wholly on agriculture and mostly on one crop, tobacco. During the past few years, farm prices have been good and we have had money. What would happen if these prices fell? We would not have that extra basket from which to take out some of those proverbial eggs. We would have to take a loss and in some instances that loss

would mean everything. So it behooves us, in order to improve our economy, in order to have a second and third basket for our eggs, that we give this matter intense thought, do some real sober thinking.

This condition cannot change over night. It will take years and years to do the job. A long range program should be adopted by every civic and business organization in this section of the state. The children in the school house should be made conscious of manufacturing, of business and other lines of work. All this tends to make the public conscious of new lines of endeavor, and instead of thinking about farming as the only source of income they find out about other types of businesses and before many months, with this program in the schools, there would be a definite trend toward making and processing things. Our economy would be taking a step forward and our chances of success over the long pull would be greatly increased.

The business men and women of this section have a great part to play in this overall picture too. The banks and public utilities have a great responsibility in the development of this idea. Definite plans must be made by the business men; these plans have to deal with the raw materials that we have here on the ground and they must have all the ear marks of being sound.

The Conservation and Development Department of the State can be relied upon to extend their facilities and help in advising the kind of plant that we would most likely to have success with. They have the inside knowledge on these matters that can be most profitable to us.

So it would be in order to organize into a development and enlist our banks into a program that will develop this section of our state. Now is the opportune time for such an action. Mr. Scott has made definite commitments to the masses of the state. For the next four years, our National Government is in the hands of the same party, and with these two factors to our credit, it is the one time of our lives that we corral all our forces and really make an honest effort to make our dreams come true and make a nicer place for our children to live.

One Wreck In Duplin Last Week

Patrolman L. M. Harton reports that as far as automobile wrecks were concerned Christmas week was almost perfect. There was only one wreck reported by him with no person hurt — though there was some damage done to a mule, Junius Bell, R. 2, Warsaw, ran into a mule belonging to Secton Blackmore on highway 117, just south of Bowden. There was about \$100 damage done to the '39 Chevrolet and the mule was skinned up somewhat. It is reported that the mule had broken out of a pasture and was loose on the highway when the accident occurred.

This accident brings to mind the fact that in North Carolina an owner of live stock running loose on the highways is responsible for any damage they might cause as to traffic hazards or otherwise and that when, if they are struck by an automobile, the driver of the automobile having used reasonable care and prudence, the owner of the live stock is responsible for the damage done the automobile and has no recourse in law to collect damages done to his livestock.

Editorial

There are no practical reasons why the Star route from LaGrange to Seven Springs should not be changed. As long as I can remember mail to Seven Springs, whose routes serve most in Duplin, has emanated from LaGrange. This service over the "Mullet Road" has never been satisfactory.

Goldboro is a natural junction for mail in this section. Trains from North, South, East, and West merge in Goldboro.

If a Star route was set up in Goldboro, to Seven Springs, to Pink Hill, to Sealville, it would be a practical set up. That route would connect with the Star route from Warsaw to Jacksonville, which would give better service to the public in general and would enable the carriers to get the mail out on time.

Patrolman Resigns

Patrolman James A. McColman, of Warsaw, has resigned effective December 31. It is understood that Mr. McColman will enter the business of his father-in-law at Johns, near Laurinburg, where he will make his home. His father-in-law, Mr. F. A. Kendall, is a large merchant and operates extensive farm lands in the Johns section.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. McColman in Duplin County all wish them every success in this new undertaking. Since Mr. McColman has been stationed in Duplin he has had the reputation of being a good officer — fair, just and considerate in the performance of his duty. His resignation comes after some eight years of service with the Highway Patrol.

The Times wishes to take this opportunity to express its appreciation of Mr. McColman's services as a patrolman and to wish him success for the future.

Tobacco Meeting

Mr. Roy Bennett, Extension Tobacco Specialist, and others concerned with disease and insect control will be in Duplin County, Wednesday afternoon, January 5, for a meeting with tobacco growers to discuss problems facing them next year. This meeting will be held in the Kenansville High School Auditorium, beginning at 2:00 p. m.

Once each year, Mr. Bennett and his group of co-workers offer to come to the county to discuss these major tobacco problems. It is a wonderful opportunity for tobacco growers to receive information and keep posted on the latest findings, and developments at the Experiment Station.

Will you please spread this information to the people of your community? I hope that you will come and bring a good group with you.

Very truly yours,
L. F. Weeks,
County Agent.



The young blonde above on the right is 18-year-old Juanita Benton, Fender County farm girl, who wants to someday sing in the Metropolitan Opera. She waits on tables at Western Carolina Teachers College where she earned a musical scholarship. When she came home for the holidays she got a job in a Wallace store to earn extra cash to set aside for her musical training. (Photo by Pete Knight).

Wallace Girl Wants To Sing In Metropolitan Opera

By: JOHN SIKES

Wallace, Dec. 25. — Any good reason the Metropolitan Opera wouldn't latch onto a pretty girl singer named Benton?

Oh, I know you're supposed to pronounce your name Lee-lee Pawnh or Golly Coor-chee-ee before they'll let you do anything around the Met but sweep up and subsidize the budget.

Here's a pretty, blonde trick named Juanita Benton. She can sing, natural.

Moreover, she's so illusionlessly devoted to her singing, she's learned in the past couple of months it'll take her years and years of even learning to breathe correctly before she can be a coloratura soprano, which she aims to be some rhapsodic day. (In case you've misplaced your musical dictionary and always meant to look up "coloratura," it denotes those florid ornaments, like runs and trills, in vocal music and a lady singing that way has a high soprano voice of bright spring clearness and sky-wide flexibility.)

Lyric Soprano. Right now, Juanita's a more modest lyric soprano whose voice is more adapted to smooth melodic flow rather than those flute-like tweet-tweet yo-do-leishy doo-dads.

Besides her name being so charmingly folksy you can't imagine it being spelled out in lights on the Met's marquee, Juanita is sort of handicapped, operatically speaking, by not having the foresight, if that's what it takes, to be born amidst glamorous, exotic surroundings. She's a working farmer's daughter. Her dad and mother are Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Benton. Her dad was born in Duplin, near Rose Hill, but he's been overall-farming ... which is to say actually working with his hands ... in Pender, near here, since Juanita was born 19 years ago.

Seems that before you get the call to trill high in the oveltes for the Met you've got to spring from a special soil in France or Italy, like vintage Chianti or Sauterne.

State Vintage. Still, Marian Talley, among the girl singers, made it and she came from Kansas, which there is no place more corn-fed. Our own Norman Cordon mingled freely amongst the plain busses turned more elegant basses in Met lingo and he probably heard his first way-down-low notes from the bullfrogs jug-a-rumming in the low-grounds around the Pamlico.

So why not Juanita? Juanita's voice is so rangily trilly and frilly that when I first heard her sing on a "home talent" program at the Strawberry Jamboree here last spring the assembled folks a-bankering to hear something like "I Found Poor Nellie's Love-Letters in a Rosewood Casket By the Hearth in the Little Cabin Down by the Vah-lee" instead of a difficult aria from Aida they bracked out with a flock of Duplin doo-whackles and Pender phokeys at Juanita's flute notes. They actually booped her.

The judges weren't so prejudiced against what I suppose the folks thought of as high falutin' singing. Anyway, they awarded her a top prize and there were 59-odd contestants.

Prior to that, Juanita's voice—which seems to just get started upward at the point most sopranos break—won her first place in a Pender County-wide singing contest.

On one of the hot days last summer Juanita and I happened to be on the same bus. Instead of the steamy heat, we began talking about the tendency of a general crowd to hoot at the kind of singing a long-haired fellow like Tennessee would call magnificent. The folks seem to think those high-flown trills are uppity and put-on. Juanita was used to such embarrassment. It didn't faze her.

The Met, or its counterpart, was her goal and she had no intentions of settling for a steel gee-ear and a band of boys got out in Lone Prairie costumes and calling themselves "The Sweet-Gum Swampoleers."

That day on the bus she was on her way, she said, to West Carolina Teachers' College at Cullowhee to audition before the musical faculty. If the faculty liked her singing, she'd get a musical scholarship.

Got Scholarship. The faculty liked. And Juanita began her pilgrimage to the Met last fall via Cullowhee.

Juanita's just home for the holidays. She tells me she's more determined than ever to make the Met.

Just to give you an idea: At Cullowhee Juanita needed something more than the scholarship to give her budgetary balance while she was cultivating her voice. So she got herself a job waiting on tables in the college dining room and she's also assistant to Dr. H. B. Smith, director of the Cullowhee Baptist choir. She helps him with his music inventory and also takes her regular turn in his choir.

Earning Money. When she came home for Christmas a few days ago she found a job clerking in a local store, instead of relaxing from her Cullowhee routine, which, besides voice, includes piano lessons she hadn't the opportunity to take before.

"The clerking money," she says, "will help heaps if I ever get the chance to go to Peabody." "She'll make her own chance," her father told me when I went out to his Pender farm the other side of Watha to chat with the family—there's five girls, one of whom hopes to follow in Juanita's note-tracks, and three boys. Juanita's the oldest and the youngest is three.

Mrs. Benton spoke up with a gently chiding tone, the way a mother modestly goes on about her prided child when friendly strangers are in the settin' room.

"Nothing'll stop her," she said, "That's all she's interested in—that, and running her mouth."

That last remark set the younger girls, who were squirming around in the shadow of Juanita's limelight to giggling. But Mrs. Benton spoke up quickly, sort of defensively.

"But until the poison-ivy got to popping out on her so prettily Juanita was always a good one to help on the farm," she said.

Juanita, along with the rest of the family, helped her Dad pick beans and cotton and sucker tobacco.

She never tried milking cows. That might have hummed her is

when she gave out with her first soprano squeaks on "Jesus Love Me . . .," the first vocalizing Mrs. Benton remembers her trying back when she was maybe three or four. Juanita never thought much about a singing career until she was in Burgaw's Ninth Grade, although Mrs. Benton sensed she had something long before.

"I reckon, though," Mrs. Benton said, "only a mother'd thought she was any good back then."

Juanita's going to sing for me on a regular radio broadcast over WRRZ from here Sunday afternoon. She promised to on condition I'd get Mrs. Clifton Knowles, of Wallace, to accompany her.

"You see, I haven't learned enough about piano yet," Juanita said.

Mrs. Knowles will accompany her — while she's singing "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms," "Love's Old Sweet Song" and "The Lord's Prayer."

But about those boos from the folks—

"Oh, boos just give me a stronger feeling," Juanita said. "I don't mind so much if the folks just don't happen to like my kind of singing. I believe in them having their choice. I have mine."

Even if Juanita gets up there in the ruffled stratum of high "G" — she vocalizes in high "F" now — I'm betting you'll never see her name in lights as "Mrs. Juanita Bentonell."

I'll lay you odds the personable, poised young blonde always will be: Waneeta Benton.

Duplin T.B. Quota Not Yet Reached

The Duplin County Tuberculosis Association reports that receipts from the drive to obtain \$4500 for use in fighting and treating TB patients has not as yet been a success. The report shows that \$1373.13 has actually been turned into the treasury and that there is some \$500 to \$700 more which has been collected but not turned in. This would appear to leave a balance of some \$2500 short of the goal.

Duplin County has always responded to every worthy cause wholeheartedly whenever asked and this is a worthy cause. It is more than that — it is a most urgent necessity. With proper funds to do the work it is believed that in a comparatively short time TB can practically be done away with. Tuberculosis is a communicable disease and the fight against it must be militant and constant. For this fight it takes money. The money is spent not only to help cure those who have tuberculosis but also to safeguard those who do not have it. Money you give now is insurance for you and your family against tuberculosis.

Anyone who has not made a donation to this worthy cause is urged to get their donations in at once.

ATTENTION VETERANS

C. H. Pope, agriculture teacher at Magnolia, announces that he has 7 or 8 vacancies in the Veterans' Farmer Training School. Applications must be filed by Monday night.

Mechanical Inspection Lane Schedule (January February and March)

Patrolman L. M. Harton has called The Times' attention to the fact that semi-annual inspection periods begin for automobiles on January 1st, 1949. Mr. Harton urges all motor vehicle owners to co-operate with the lanes and get their motor vehicles inspected during the periods designated for the several models.

Below is information which you need and which will be helpful to you. Inspection lanes will be set up at only two places in Duplin County — Kenansville and Wallace — for the first quarter of 1949.

(a) All motor vehicles of year model up to and including the year

models 1936 shall be inspected on or before January 31, 1949.

(b) All motor vehicles of the year models 1937 and 1938 shall be inspected on or before February 28, 1949.

(c) All motor vehicles of the year models 1939 and 1940 shall be inspected on or before March 31, 1949.

The Inspection Lane will be in Kenansville: January 11 to 15; February 8 to 12 and from March 8 to 12.

The Inspection Lane will be in Wallace: January 5 to 8; February 1 to 5, and March 1 to 5.

Kenansville Community Christmas Pageant Held on Courthouse Square

The Churches of Kenansville, the Lions Club and the Woman's Club all joined forces to put on a Christmas Pageant and Christmas tree with Santa Claus and everything on the evening of December 22nd. The Pageant was held on the Courthouse Square about a beautifully lighted Christmas tree under which were presents for the children. It is estimated that some 400 children and grown-ups were present. Rev. J. G. Morrison was chairman and Rev. Lauren Sharpe assisted him and read the scriptural part of the Pageant which depicted "The King in a Manger". The whole program was very impressive and much enjoyed by those present.

The program was held on the east porch and lawn of the courthouse. On the porch was gathered the choirs of the three Kenansville Churches and their rendition of the

Christmas songs was beautifully done.

As the last beautiful notes of "Joy to the World" faded in the evening glow, Santa Claus drove up the street to the tune of "Here Comes Santa Claus". He immediately went to the tree and began giving out the presents. The children's names were called over a loud-speaker and Santa had something appropriate to say to each one as he gave them their present. This Santa Claus knew his business and was a great success with the children and was much appreciated by the grown-ups.

The merchants of Kenansville assisted wholeheartedly in making this Pageant a success. It is hoped by this writer that the Community Christmas Tree and Pageant will be made an annual treat for the children and grown-ups alike.

Kenansville Goes On The Air Over WRRZ Sunday At Four O'Clock. Tune In

Kenansville goes on the air Sunday, Jan. 2. John Sikes of Wallace will be the toastmaster and master of ceremonies. With the exception of John, it will be all local talent. Tune in on your radio at 4 p. m., WRRZ, 880 on your dial. The program will last for a full thirty minutes.

A very interesting program has been arranged. What John will say, no one knows. The rehearsal was held in the studio at Wallace on Thursday night. Ye editor, who is helping sponsor this program, was not present.

As far as we know Joe Quinn will be at the piano. Alice Gaylor will

sing "Carolina Jubilee," which is dedicated to Duplin. Little Saly and Gayle Newton, ages 9 and 12, will play on the piano, and Tyson Bostic will have charge of a string band.

The program is planned for several weeks. The following Sunday it will be a Warsaw talent program, with John in charge. It is hoped that the program will circulate all over the county and local talent can be discovered.

Everyone loves music. It is a universal language.

TUNE IN — send in your comments. J. R. G.

Dear Readers

Won't you please give us a little cooperation? When you move or change your address; when you renew your subscription, by mail or to an authorized agent, please give the date of expiration on your paper or better still, tear off the sticker on your paper and turn it in and also give your old address as well as your new address. For instance: if it's Beulaville, Route No. 2, don't just say Beulaville, say Beulaville Route No. 2!

Just suppose when one correction would come in to you and 2,000 names had to be searched through to find the correct address, how much work you would unnecessarily have to do. If you will tear off the label and send it along with the route number from which you are leaving as well as the post office and route to which you have moved, it will save a great deal of time and help us to serve you much better. It is necessary that we keep the names listed under the route numbers. That saves a great deal of time in each post office.

When we mail The Duplin Times, we expedite them according to the post office and routes in each post office. When the papers arrive in the post office bundled route one, route two, or route three, etc., it saves a great deal of time in the post office as the post master does not have to go through and sort each paper and put it on the carrier's table. He just throws the bundle on the carrier's table and he knows how to handle it.

We don't want to be fussy, but it takes a little system to expedite service and save work on the other fellow and to get you your paper on time.

When you change your address, please do not notify your carrier.

Send your notice directly to the Duplin Times in Kenansville.

County Agent Suggests 1949 Resolutions

"Safety for me and mine in 1949" is a New Year's resolution suggested today by L. F. Weeks, county agent for the State College Extension Service. Such a resolution, he said, is not only thoroughly practical but also of great importance. It can be carried out by the whole family to the benefit of all.

Suggestions:

"We will check the farm and farmstead periodically to locate all hazards and remove them to make safer working conditions;

keep shields in place on power machinery at all times and observe the rules for safe operation;

encourage members of our family and neighbors to work, play, and drive safely;

consider safety features when we plan to build or remodel;

handle poisons and explosive carefully, keeping them well labeled and out of reach of children; keep guns unloaded and out of reach of children;

practice rules of safety 52 weeks a year."

Three rats will eat as much grain as two laying hens.

Christmas cakes, iced cookies, and other goodies are survivals of the old custom of giving con-