The Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

VOLUME NUMBER SEVENTEEN | KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA | FRIDAY, JULY 15th., 1949 | No. 29

Pictured above are the officers of the Duplin County Historical Association discussing the Pageant plans with Sam Byrd. The picture was taken in the courthouse here last February. Seated you see Sam Byrd and Mrs. J. D. Sandlin, Jr., secretary. Standing are John Sikes, publicity chairman, Gilbert Alphin, president, and M. F. Allen, treasurer.

SAM BYRD ARRIVES

By: J. R. GRADY

MONDAY — Sam Byrd arrived today—Sam Byrd who has written "The Duplin Story", a two and one half hour drama depicting the history of Duplin County for the past two hundred years. The drama will be presented here in September beginning on the 22nd. "The Duplin Story" is the highlight of Duplin's bi-Centennial celebration. Duplin County was born in 1749. —Well, as I started out to say, Sam arrived. [illegible] would arrive on [illegible] with his [illegible] "Pat", but on seeing the house they were to occupy was not just quite ready, as he wished it, he just passed on through and spent the week-end with his cousin Walter Cherry in Mount Olive and enjoyed a real old-fashioned Sunday dinner with his "Aunt Tootie", Mrs. M. C. S. Cherry, also of Mount Olive. Sam told us he would come back Monday.

Sam arrived Monday, not dressed as one would expect to see a Broadway star, producer and playwrite. After having produced and played the star role in "Tobacco Road" on New York's Great White Way for 8 years, his recollections, while relaxing in Mount Olive on Sunday, must have carried him back to the days when he was getting all set for his premier of "Tobacco Road" in the years before the war. Sam came into this small Southern town in shirt sleeves, work pants and wearing working shoes. He sent for a couple of Kenansville's old time colored "Mammies" to clean up the now vacant Presbyterian manse, the ante-bellum home of the late Dr. James M. Sprunt, headquarters for the Duplin pageant and living quarters for Sam, "Pat" and Rife. He rolled up his sleeves, his trouser legs and with "Aunt Emma" directing him, scrubbed the floors, washed windows, washed doors, hauled off trash, connected up an electric stove and a kerosene oil refrigerator. (You know, one of those made for country folk, where you have to make a fire in it to make it freeze and manufacture ice.) He put up beds, swept floors and hung shades. In between he ate pears from the pear trees in the garden. He bought groceries, soap and powders, brooms, dusters and mops. He stocked the kitchen and the pantry shelves with food to last four working people for two months of hard-down, concentrating work of selecting some three hundred actors and actresses, and training them in their parts for "The Duplin Story".

He went over to the site of the 5000 seat amphitheatre that will be going up soon and gave it the [illegible] He inspected the slant [illegible] ground that will form the turf for the more than 50,000 spectators expected here on opening day, September 22nd and days following. He glanced at the number of weeds that will have to be removed and decided that certain fences protecting adjoining corn fields will have to come down.

Sam found time to loiter around the Kenansville court house, drug store, post office and on the sidewalks to make himself known to his new neighbors. No one stared at him. To the simple folk of Kenansville he was just a new neighbor come to town. Someone gave him a quart of kerosene to start the fire-burning refrigerator. Another took him into his home and kitchen, while the wife was ironing, for a slice of cold water melon. The Judge of our county court, Robert West, took him to Jones' Cafe for lunch.

About five o'clock this afternoon I went around to the Sprunt House, situated in an old oak grove on a bluff overlooking Kenansville's ancient landmark, the Spring, and found Sam sitting on the back porch steps enjoying the late afternoon breeze. Although yet some weeks before fall, the atmosphere had a tingle of Indian Summer in it. "Cousin Robert" he said, (no I'm not his cousin, just a favorite expression of his) "I like this place. It's quiet, cool and comfortable here. It makes you want to be lazy and makes you want to work. It reminds me of places I visited

CONTINUED ON BACK

Man Does Not Bite Dog

Man bites dog is news; therefore, when a man runs over an automobile, that should be news, too. And, particularly so when police are trying to find a statute under which they can indict the man.

Jesse Garland Farland, 20-year-old Chinquapin negro, ran smack into the side of a 1949 Plymouth, belonging to and driven by Garland Murphy of Jacksonville, on a street there Tuesday afternoon. Farland escaped with a skinned elbow and a bruised hip.

But the automobile — the front door was knocked in, the glass broken and the rear fender dented. And Murphy suffered a skinned elbow.

To make matters worse, Murphy's insurance on the car was for liability only, and he feels Farland should pay the damages. But police are undecided under which statute they can indict Farland. They have called Recorder's Court Solicitor A. Turner Shaw, but he hasn't ruled as yet.

Corwin S. Rife, Technical Director Of "The Duplin Story" Arrives; Begins Work

CORWIN RIFE

By: EMORY SADLER

The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Corwin S. Rife here last Tuesday threw the machinery for staging "The Duplin Story" into high gear, Mr. Rife, Technical Director, of the Dock Street Theatre, Charleston, S. C., is on leave of absence from that theatre so that he may act as Technical Director for "The Duplin Story", a pageant to be presented here on September 22nd, 23rd and 24th. "The Duplin Story" will depict the history of Duplin County since its founding in 1749. Sam Byrd, author and producer of "The Duplin Story", has been here since last Saturday. The Rifes and Mr. Byrd are making their headquarters in the Presbyterian manse, a colonial colonial home located in the central section far back from the street.

Mr. Rife has been Technical Director at the Dock Street Theatre since 1936. He was formerly associated with the Kanawha Players in Charleston, W. Va., the Kalamazoo Playhouse, [illegible] Park Theatre in Cleveland, [illegible] and the Nashville Dramatic Art Theatre. Last summer he was guest director at the Denver, Colorado University School of the Theatre. The Duplin County Historical Association and the people of Duplin are very fortunate in obtaining the services of one so eminently qualified by ability and experience to handle the technical problems incident to the staging of "The Duplin Story". Mr. Rife is now preparing to begin work on the eight scenes to be used in the two-act, eight scene drama. While still in Charleston Mr. Rife designed and drew the plans for the amphitheatre to be built here and will direct its construction. The amphitheatre is designed to seat more than five thousand people.

Mrs. Rife, who has appeared in musical comedies at the Cain Park Theatre, Cleveland, and received theatrical training at the Cleveland Playhouse, will lend a helping hand to both Mr. Rife and Mr. Byrd. Mrs. Rife also studied under Lila Robeson of the Metropolitan Opera. Mrs. Rife says that at the moment she is very busy being a good housewife. However, come re-hearsal time, her talent and experience will be much in demand.

WALTER C. FISHER

of Queenston, Ontario, Canada, is the new president of The International Association of Lions Clubs, (Lions International). He was elected by unanimous vote at the 32nd annual convention of the Association which closed at Madison Square garden, New York on July 21. Fisher succeeds Dr. Eugene S. Briggs of Enid, Okla.

Warsaw Firms Help Furnish Manse

The Duplin Times wishes to express its appreciation to two firms in Warsaw and one in Kenansville for so generously lending furniture and appliances to be used in furnishing the Presbyterian Manse in Kenansville. The manse has been rented by the Duplin Historical Association as headquarters for the Pageant, "The Duplin Story". Sam Byrd and daughter "Pat", Mr. and Mrs. Corwin Rife will make their home in the building for the duration of the celebration.

The building was not furnished and through the efforts of Bob Grady, Leslie Brown, of the Warsaw Furniture Co., loaned mattresses and springs for beds loaned by G. S. Best and the Quinn-McGowen Furniture Company. Quinn-McGowen also loaned chairs and tables.

Paul Ingram of the Duplin Mercantile Company in Kenansville loaned an electric cook stove and a kerosene burning refrigerator.

GETS TICKET NUMBER ONE

Ticket No. 1 on the "The Duplin Story" has been purchased by O. P. Johnson and sent to Wm. Rand Kenan of New York, a ten thousand dollar donor to the Kenan Memorial Auditorium.

Voting Places For The Tobacco Marketing Quota Referendum Saturday

TIME: 7:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M.

FRONT [illegible] y
ALBERTSON - Holt's Store
CYPRESS CREEK - Lanier's School
CHINQUAPIN - Quinn's Store
FAISON - Faison Town Hall
CALYPSO - H. B. Kornegay's Store
GLISSON - Scott's Store
LOCKLIN - Hanchey's Store
CHARITY - D. B. Teachey's Store
WALLACE - Wallace Town Hall
KENANSVILLE - Agricultural Building
MAGNOLIA - L. M. Sanderson's Store
HALLSVILLE - At Hallsville
BEULAVILLE - Mrs. Lula Quinn Parker's Store
CEDAR FORK - At Cedar Fork
ROCKFISH - Rockfish Community Building
ROSEHILL - Rosehill Town Hall
SMITH - Freely Smith Store
CABIN - Roy Kennedy's Store
WARSAW - Warsaw Town Hall
WOLFSCRAPE - Gilbert Alphin's Store.

Hog Growers Ass'n Formed

Duplin county farmers have organized the Duplin County Pure Bred Hog Growers Association The new association scheduled a sale and set the dates as September 15 or 22.

J. W. Smith of Beulaville was elected president. Other officers are J. M. Holland, Mt. Olive, vice-president; and Ralph Barwick of Magnolia, secretary.

Lacy Weeks, Duplin County Agent, who presided over the meeting which began in his office, stated that between 15 and 20 hogs were consigned to the sale which will probably be held in Wallace.

Variety of breeders included in the new organization embraces Duroc Jerseys, Poland China, Spotted Peland China and New Hompshire.

School Opening Dates Set For August 18 Or 25

The County Board of Education has decided to permit each District Committee to select one of the following opening and closing dates for the year 1949-1950:

Open August 18; Close May 10
Open August 25; Close May 17.

Schools will close two days for Thanksgiving, seven school days for Christmas and one school day for Easter.

Warsaw Post To Help Vets

The American Legion Post will assist all Duplin veterans in applying for their National Service Life insurance dividends.

Rhones Chapel Church Will Hold First Home Coming Sunday

By: PAUL BARWICK, JR.

The first Home Coming Day in the history of Rhones Chapel Methodist Circuit Church, located about three miles east of Mt. Olive, will be held at the church on Sunday, July 24. The pastor, Rev. W. E. Wilson, said that the church was especially inviding all former members and friends of the church to attend the Home Coming. A special program will be prepared for the day starting at 10 o'clock and continuing until dinner. Dinner will be served on the grounds at 1 o'clock.

Committees which have been appointed in preparation for the Home Coming are: program, Miss Belle Grady; invitation, Mrs. S. D. Hudson; publicity, Aldine Whitfield; church preparation, Mrs. Harvey Carter, Mrs. Leon Whitfield; registration, Mrs. Russell Whitfield; decoration, Mrs. Preston Wells, Mrs. Jarvis Carter; ushers, Preston Wells, Jr., H. C. Lewis, Cleborne Stevens; ground and table, Billy Farmer, Elwood Underhill, Emmett Kornegay; parking, Clyde Stevens, Woodard Davis; dinner, Woman's Society of Christian Service; and special equipment, Preston Wells, Sr.

Tobacco Price Support Set At 42.5; 1.4 Less Than Last Year

Grower prices of the 1949-crop flue-cured tobacco will be supported by the government at an average of 42.5 cents a pound. The Department of Agriculture announced the figure Friday.

Last year's crop was supported at an average of 43.9 cents.

The support rates this year range from nine cents for nondescript grades to 70 for top grades.

Untied tobacco will be eligible for support prices at four cents a pound below that for corresponding rates of tied tobacco.

The government has supported tobacco prices every year since 1936.

To Washington

The following left Kenansville yesterday for Washington City where they have an appointment at the White House with President Truman Friday afternoon: Gilbert Alphin, M. F. Allen, O. P. Johnson, Mrs. J. D. Sandlin, Jr., A. C. Hall, and Sam Byrd. In Washington they will be joined by Dr. and Mrs. John D. Robinson and Judge and Mrs. Henry L. Stevens. Senators Clyde Hoey and Frank Graham and Congressman Graham A. Barden. They will extend an invitation to President Truman to attend the Duplin Bi-centennial celebration in September.

Governor Scott, Senator Frank Graham, and Dr. J. H. Hilton, dean of agriculture at State College, are among speakers slated to address boys and girls during State 4-H Club Week, August 1-5.

BLOODSHED BOXSCORE ON N. C. HIGHWAYS

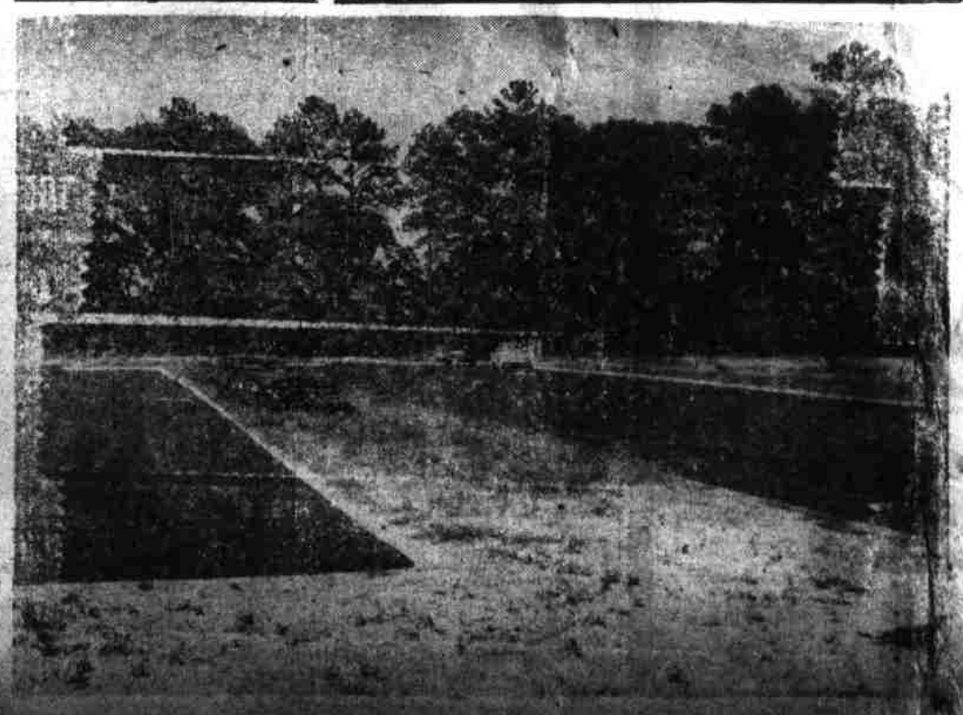
BOX SCORE

Killed July 12 thru 15	9
Injured July 12 thru 15	94
Killed to date	491
Killed to date in 1948	341
Injured to date	4,564
Injured to date 1948	3,687
Killed July 16 thru July 18	8
Injured July 16-18	96
Killed to date	409
Killed to date in 1949	353
Injured to date	4,660
Injured to date 1949	3,774

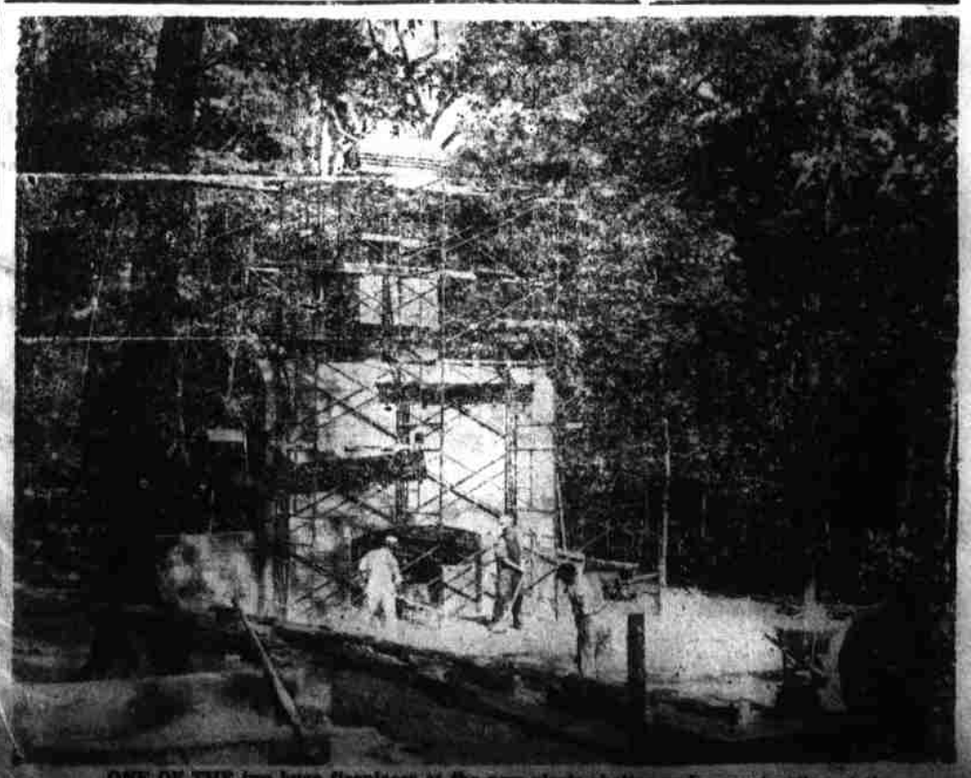
The Debunker

BY JOHN HARVEY FURBAY PH.D

Among the substitutes now being used for ice in ice-skating rinks the most common is ordinary photographer's hypo. This chemical is spread out on the ground or floor and is smoothed out with a hot iron. When it cools, it makes a dry glossy surface for skating and does not melt at ordinary temperatures. It is softer than real ice, but of much the same general texture and appearance [illegible]



A VIEW of part of the large parking lot at the Cliffs of the Neuse. Another parking area is located at the park. Paved roads lead to both parking areas.



ONE OF THE two huge fireplaces at the new picnic shelter under construction at the Cliffs of the Neuse State Park.