

Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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DUPLIN'S HISTORY

Due to pressing official duties and the nearness of the anniversary celebration, A. T. Outlaw, Register of Deeds, now announces the discontinuance of his historical writings.

The final feature, and one of the best, will appear in next week's issue, entitled "The Kenans of Duplin - soldiers, legislators, statesmen, philanthropists" and it is being written in grateful recognition of large contributions by members of this distinguished family toward the construction of Duplin's Kenan Memorial Auditorium.

It will be recalled that Outlaw's historical work has been appearing in State and local newspapers, in weekly installments, during the past six months, or longer. It has served a double purpose. It has made his most valuable material available to all interested persons, and it has been a most valuable stimulus to Duplin's 200th anniversary program.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. W. H. Fussell, chairman of Local Draft Board No. 31, Duplin County, has announced that the local Board will be moved after the close of business, August 23, 1949, to a sub depot in Elizabethtown, N. C.

Mr. Fussell stated that he was advised that the action is part of the reduced program necessitated by the limited appropriation. He explained that the Board would continue the function of classifications and inductions should the latter be resumed. He also pointed out that youths are still required to register when they attain their 18th birthday and that they should register with C. L. Nicholson at the Sheriff's Office, Kenansville. He has been appointed the official registrar for this county.

He stated that registrants of Duplin County should address any communications for the local board to Local Board No. 31, Dowless Building, Elizabethtown, N. C.



TAKING FORM — Production of backdrops to be used in "The Duplin Story" September 22, 23, and 24 here in Kenansville is going forward in the Courthouse, the only place large enough to paint the 30x40 foot scenes. Corwin Rife, decorator of the sets, on the step-ladder, discusses the small painting with Sam Byrd, author and producer of the story, while the interested kids in the left foreground watch the entire proceedings. —Photo by Charles Kraft.



FITTING COSTUMES — Mrs. F. V. McGowan, left of Kenansville, and Sam Byrd, right, who is author and director of "The Duplin Story", historical drama of Duplin's 200-

year-history, are shown as they examine one of the costumes which will be worn during the pageant. Miss Mary Sue Burch is modeling the garment. Schedule calls for three shows, on the nights of September 22, 23, and 24, in a natural amphitheatre in Kenansville. —Photo by Charles Kraft

ROUND THE CLOCK WITH SAM BYRD

By: J. E. GRADY
Wednesday Night — Sam Byrd didn't look so much like a "singing Sam" late tonight when he struggled in from a typical day's work on "The Duplin Story". As the production end moves into high gear and enters the home stretch "hours seem to stretch out," Sam says. He is really beginning to learn what Duplin farmers have known for years that when tobacco housing time comes around the clock never stops. It's a twenty-four hour grind, day in and day out. The tobacco must go into the barn and the fires must be kept burning. Time and tide waits for no one when the eleventh hour approaches.

Just a glimpse of what a writer, an actor, a director, and with it all a politician, all rolled up into one has to go through is revealed in one day's work with Sam Byrd. For instance Tuesday of this week with Sam:

Soon after burst of dawn he rolls over in bed, gives a good stretch and hits the floor. First thing is to pick up his notes and refresh his memory on work done yesterday, hurriedly runs over his schedule for today and quick to the showers to get the blink out of his blinkers. A hot breakfast with plenty of good coffee and he is off to the post office for the morning mail. No time to stop and look over the morning paper.

8:30 he begins rehearsals at the local school. At 10 he is in Rose Hill school rehearsing a scene there and at 11 he is at the Wallace school.

At 1:30 he is back in the Mense in Kenansville holding conferences continuously until 2:45. At 3 o'clock he is in Warsaw meeting with Principal J. P. Harmon and the Warsaw Junior Chamber of Commerce, who will, along with the school, sponsor the Warsaw scene. From 4 to 6 he is in Faison holding a number of conferences. Back to Kenansville, a quick snack of supper and off to Magnolia where from 8 to 10 he is casting the scene of The Duplin Rifles and the Kenan family. This scene will be sponsored jointly by the high school of Magnolia and the Civic Club there.

About 11 o'clock that night he goes into a news conference for a half hour, following which, he relaxes some, falls into an easy chair, glances over the days news, trying to relax his mind for a few minutes. Spontaneously Sam is off on some vital subject about the play and suddenly realizes it is midnight and rushes off to his bedroom office to do a special story for a newspaper and then review his day's work. Somewhere on towards two o'clock he dons his pajamas and hits the hay. Asleep in a jerk, dreaming about "The Duplin Story", keeping one eye half open on the clock to see what time he has to get up - hyphen - another similar routine tomorrow; and oh, for the life of a showman; the show must go on — and ye editor's wife is calling him. It is now 15 minutes of two, and so to bed.

Sam Byrd Speaks To Rose Hill Club

Sam Byrd, of "The Duplin Story" fame, was guest speaker at the ladies night meeting of the Rose Hill Civitans club in the community building there Thursday night. About 50 people were present. Mr. Byrd, introduced by editor J. E. Grady, gave a brief resume of what may be expected at the pageant. He discussed with members present and their ladies parts to be played by Rose Hill folks and what will be expected of Rose Hill in sponsoring their scene, which promises to be one of the best in the play. Rose Hillites responded to Mr. Byrd very nicely and promised all-out cooperation.

Nat'l Guardsmen To Eat Chicken

Battery B, 150th AAA Gun Bn. National Guard Unit of Beulaville will stage a chicken supper next Friday night at the Beulaville Armory. All members with their wives or guests are urged to be present. They will "dig in" on the chicken promptly at 8 o'clock they say. Sam Byrd will be a special guest.

Square Dance Pink Hill

There will be a square dance at the Pink Hill high school gymnasium Saturday night. Dance sponsored by the Pink Hill Veterans of Foreign Wars. Everyone is invited. Good Music - Good Fun.

New Office Building Here

Work is moving along on the new office building being constructed in Kenansville by J. O. Stokes. The new, modern brick building is going up next to the local drug store. It will house Mr. Stokes' offices and the office of the M. F. Allen Insurance Agency.

Civil Court Here Next Week

Duplin's court house will revert back to its original purpose Monday morning when "The Duplin Story" artist Corwin Rife moves out and Judge Clawson Williams moves in for a term of civil court.

BLOODSHED BOXSCORE ON N. C. HIGHWAYS

Killed Aug. 20-22	18
Injured Aug. 20-22	178
Killed thru Aug. 22 this year	507
Killed thru Aug. 22, 1948	425
Injured thru Aug. 22 this yr. 5,788	
Injured thru Aug. 22, 1948.	4,815

Local Lions Saw And Hammer

The Kenansville Lions Club met in regular supper session Wednesday night at Jones' Cafe. President Mitchell Allen presided. It was voted to sponsor the local Cub Scout Troop again this year. Lary Weeks is chairman of the committee that will work with the Scouts. Also the club voted to pay \$50 towards cost of decorating Kenansville for the Pageant.

Local Lions have been getting in some good exercise recently. Last week and again Tuesday night of this week the members gathered at the work shop of Lion Colon Holland and worked for a couple of hours on making furniture and props to be used in "The Duplin Story". On Friday night they will have another work spell at the same place to complete the project.

Church Services FOR AUGUST 28th For Pink Hill Field

Services at Harper-Southerland at 11:00 A. M.; at Smiths Church at 7:20 P. M. Sermon Topic:

"Talking Like A Christian". Just A Minute: Being a Christian is not just taking out a little fire insurance on your soul; it is giving your soul to Christ to be made over into His likeness. N. P. Farrior.

Warsaw Rotarians Entertain Farmers

The Warsaw Rotary Club entertained about 175 farmers of the Warsaw trading area at a supper on Thursday night of last week. They were served by young ladies of the town out at the ball park. President J. C. Thompson presided. Dr. Ratchford, professor at State College, spoke briefly on the subject of mechanized farming in this modern age. Sam Byrd was invited to say a few words. Mr. Thompson welcomed the guests and Senator Rivers Johnson responded. Ross Wadkins, agriculture teacher in the Warsaw schools had charge of arrangements. The purpose of the supper was just a general good will gesture to the guests.

Rev. Blackmore To Preach Warsaw Sun.

The pulpit of the Warsaw Baptist Church was ably filled Sunday morning when the congregation had the privilege of hearing the Rev. James H. Blackmore, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Blackmore of Warsaw. The subject of the morning was "Tenants of the Lord" and the Scripture was taken from Matt. 25: 23. We quote "We are all tenants of God because we own nothing; everything is his. All we have is ours only to use for a time as tools for our work in God's world. At the end we must give an account for all that we have used. We will be judged not by the place we have occupied but how well we have done our task. Oh that we could hear him say at the end, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'" On Sunday evening, August 27th the Rev. Blackmore will again conduct the morning worship service in the Baptist Church.

The Rev. and Mrs. Blackmore plan to set sail from New York in September for Edinburgh, Scotland. The Rev. Mr. Blackmore plans to enter the University of Edinburgh to study for his doctorate. He was graduated from Wake Forest College in 1937 and from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N. Y. in 1940. He was granted a one-year scholarship to study abroad after his graduation from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, but was unable to accept on account of the war and could not obtain a passport. He accepted a pastorate at King Baptist Church near Winston-Salem for two years. He entered the U. S. Army as Chaplain in 1943. He accepted the pastorate at the Masonboro Baptist Church near Wilmington in 1947 where he has served for the past two years.

Round Three Of Square Dance Comes Up Here September Third

Kenansville's second street dance of the year went off fine last Saturday night in spite of the inclement weather, thanks to "Les" Williams. The musicians showed up and a hand full of people. The rain let up but it was decided to not have the dance. "Les" Williams just couldn't be outdone. He appealed to the musicians, the Kenansville Kuts-Ups, to hook up their electrical, stringed instruments and play a few pieces anyway. And, just as "Les" figured, as the music started a few stray couples took to the street in front of the drug store. Before any one hardly realized it cars began driving up. Phone calls from Warsaw came in to inquire if the dance was going to be staged. Amos Brinson told them yes, saying "come on over" and before a set could be completed more than a thousand people had strung out over the street. The dance continued until midnight and it was so well enjoyed that it was decided right

there and then to have another one two weeks from that night. A collection was taken up to pay the musicians and they said they would be on the job Saturday night, Sept. 3rd when weather permitting, another nearly 3,000 crowd like the first one here is expected to assemble. You will see Colonial Dames floating around with tickets for the Pageant for sale. And again you may see Sam Byrd and his daughter Pat swinging with their partners. You Square dancers who are going to dance in the Pageant better be here for some good practice. The show will start at eight o'clock sharp, weather permitting.

Little Party Broken Up

Duplin officers broke up a little party one day last week when they interrupted a tobacco barn drinking party in the county. Deputies Perry Smith, Houston, and Charlie Wagstaff arrested five negroes for possession of non-tax paid whiskey and public drunkenness. Riley Williamson, Thomas Farrior, W. J. Player, Charlie Williams and Rock Graham were given a hearing before Magistrate C. B. Sitterson. They were assessed costs. Phylander Williams, who was caught with a pint of whiskey on his truck, was arrested along with the other for possession of whiskey for purpose of sale.

TOBACCO

Tobacco sales got underway on Friday, August 19, at Eastern North Carolina markets. The Federal-State Market News Service reported that leaf grades were off from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per hundred when compared with 1948's opening day. Cutters and fine to choice lugs were mostly steady, while low to good lugs, primings, and non-descript grades were stronger with the gains ranging mostly from \$2.00 for poorest nondescript up to \$5.00 for top cutters and choice lugs. The bulk of the tobacco sold from 30.00 to 60.00 per hundred with leaf at mostly 40.00 to 58.00; lugs, at mostly 48.00 to 64.00; primings, at mostly 31.00 to 49.00; and the best thin nondescript at 13.25.

The Border Markets reported average daily prices of 48.35 to 56.21 during the third week of sales and closed with most of the leaf grades ranging from 26.00 to 62.00, smoking leaf, from 53.00 to 60.00; cutters, from 62.00 to 64.00; lugs, from 35.00 to 61.00; and the best thin nondescript, at 11.00 per hundred. Gross sales for the season on the Border Belt markets approached the 135 million pound mark at an average of approximately 50.00 per hundred.

Rife Completing Stage Drops This Week

Corwin Rife, scenic designer and technical director of "The Duplin Story" will complete his courthouse work this week in time for Superior court to convene here Monday morning. Rife will conclude painting the huge 20 x 30 feet backdrops Saturday when he rolls up the scene for the tobacco barn act. Rife has done eight magnificent scenes and says he is ready to get his feet back on the ground.

He will leave over the week end for several days stay in Charleston, S. C., where he must law the ground work for fall plays there in Dock Street Theatre. As soon as that is over he will be back here on the job in "The Duplin Story."

Come, Cut, & Cap

There will be a big round and square dance at the Legion Hut near Maxwell's Mill, sponsored by the American Legion Post No. 379 Friday night, Sept. 2. Music by Bob Garris and his Swing Billies. The public is invited to come, cut and caper.

Rev. C. D. Barclift To Hold Revival Services Here In Kenansville

The Revival Services of the Kenansville Methodist Church will be held by the Rev. C. D. Barclift of Wilmington from August 28 to September 2. Mr. Barclift is Superintendent of the Wilmington District (which includes Kenansville) of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church. This is perhaps the first time, or at least the first time in a long while, that a minister in the capacity of District Superintendent has held a Revival meeting here. A cordial welcome is extended to all people of the community, but we especially urge all of our members to attend. Let us all be there and join the active list of members. The "inactive" should be changed to the "active" list and our District Superintendent shown that we mean business in the Kenansville Church and mean to have real progress. Mr. Barclift is not only an efficient Superintendent, but a well known and capable preacher. We look forward to having him here next week. His first service will be next Sunday, August 28, at 8 p.m. Rev. M. K. Glover, Pastor.

Grady-Outlaw Reunion Called Off In Deference To County Pageant

Judge Henry A. Grady of New Bern, president of the Grady-Outlaw Literary and Historical Association, this week announced that the annual reunion scheduled to be held Saturday of this week at Outlaw Middle School has been called off. This makes the second time the annual reunion has been called off. Last year it was called off due to the Polio epidemic.