The Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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GRADY-OUTLAW REUNION held at Outlaw's Bridge School house on Saturday, August 27th. This picture shows only part of the group assembled. In spite of the so-called calling off of the reunion, members of the clan in the county went ahead and held the reunion anyway and there was reported a rather large number from a distance attending. —Photo by Kraft.

Duplin Feels Light Force Of Week end Hurricane; High Winds And Rain

Squally rain and strong winds, reported to be the "dying gasps" of a hurricane which caused millions of dollars worth of damage in Florida last week, passed over North Carolina Sunday, causing heavy damage in isolated instances made itself felt in Mt. Olive and vicinity. No serious damage was reported in Duplin. High winds prevailed Sunday afternoon and night with heavy rains in most sections.

In central North Carolina, however, the hurricane proved strong enough to flatten houses, disrupt power and telephone lines, and also tear up trees. At least three persons were injured in Franklin County when the wind collapsed a two-story frame house.

Raleigh reported nearly three inches of rain in only a short while, causing floods and damage to property from water. In addition, several homes in the capital city were damaged in varying degrees from strong winds. Greensboro airport reported gusts up to 56 miles an hour, while other points estimated the wind to reach 60 miles an hour at intervals.

Aunt "Tootie" Comes To Visit

By: J. R. GRADY

"Aunt Tootie" has come for a visit. "Aunt Tootie" is the Godmother of Sam Byrd. Since the death of Sam's mother "Aunt Tootie" has kept the watchful mother's eye over her nephew. She and Sam's mother were sisters. They were daughters of Dunlin's soil. Their parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lambert of Wolfscrape Township. When they grew to young womanhood Mrs. Cherry, nee Miss Amanda Lambert, married the late M. C. S. Cherry of Mt. Olive and Mrs. Byrd, nee Miss Fannie Lambert, married the late Sam Byrd of Mt. Olive. After Mr. Byrd died Mrs. Byrd married again to a Mr. Zachary and moved to Florida. In the early thirties she passed on and Sam has called "Aunt Tootie's" hill home since. Even through young boyhood and into manhood "Aunt Tootie's" was always the place Sam liked to go and sorta adopted her house as his home. There were of course many reasons. Primarily because of "Aunt Tootie's" love, secondily, and believe you me, if you have seen him eat, a close secondary was Mrs. Cherry's cooking. Sam begins to get hungry each week-end now as Sunday approaches and he knows it's only a few minutes to Walter Cherry's in Mt. Olive and "Aunt Tootie's" biscuits and other goodies. Yes she can cook like modern cooks, but when it comes to the old time Southern cooking we all enjoyed so much back home in childhood days, "Aunt Tootie" is a past master and she learned her culinary arts from her mother right here in Duplin. Sam is a dreamer, and aren't we all? Sometimes I can imagine Sam dreaming of a beautiful southern belle like those we read about in story books, probably from right here in Duplin County, becoming Mrs. Sam Byrd and gracefully adorning one end of the dinner table while he presides over the other with a host of friends sitting around enjoying that old fashioned southern fried chicken like "Aunt Tootie" knows how to cook. The delightful dining room could be in a typical anti-bellum mansion right here in Kenansville - or maybe an old French style home. This might could be when Sam makes that million dollars from his next play or book and the right fair dame comes along. Oh, we started out to tell you about "Aunt Tootie" and here we have strayed off into Sam's innermost sanctums.

"Aunt Tootie" arrived in Kenansville Wednesday afternoon to spend a few days around Duplin's old capital. She says she has always had a real fondness for Kenansville. For the next week or ten days she will be hostess at the James Sprunt house while Mr. and Mrs. Corwin Rife are on a brief stay in Charleston, S. C. Mrs. Cherry is a charming old good lookin' lady in a charming old good lookin' way that pretty old women measure up in stride to the young beauties of today. Mrs. Cherry will be at home to any and all most any of the time. She is taking a great interest in what's going on in Kenansville and just couldn't wait to get here to see that Sam keeps himself in the right path and at the same time make him get a little rest occasionally.

Mrs. Cherry we welcome you in our midst.

Suffers Accident

James Williamson, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Flavious Williamson suffered a broken collar bone and left arm when his hand was caught in a washing machine at his father's washerette here a few days ago. The young fellow received treatment at a Kinston hospital and is recuperating at his home.

Sam Byrd Heard In Warsaw

The Colonial Dames of Kenansville led by Mrs. F. W. McGowen displayed a most interesting program Monday night in the High School. Children taking part in the program wore costumes that are to be used in "The Duplin Story". The dances and costumes dated from 1749 to the present day.

Sam Byrd, the principal speaker was introduced by Judge Robert L. West, also Gilbert Alphin, president of the Duplin County Historical Association.

Mr. Byrd stated he was pleased with the progress being made and that he was especially delighted with the cooperation being shown throughout the county.

Warsaw's scene, "a most touching scene", says Mr. Byrd, is laid against the background of the local railroad station on an evening in May, 1917. Draft recruits of World War I are about to board the shoefly which will take them to camp. Such songs at "There's a Long Long Trail A-winding", "Tipperary" and "Keep The Home Fires Burning" will be used in this scene. Mr. Byrd says all the music is beautiful. Local residents are now being cast and production is well underway.

J. P. Harmon and the Junior Chamber of Commerce are meeting with Mr. Byrd to aid in the casting.

SOFT BALL TOURNEY

There will be a softball tourney held Sept. 6, 7, 8th, sponsored by the Rotary Club, Warsaw National Guard, Jaycees, and the Business and Professional Woman's Club. Proceeds will go toward the benefit of the Warsaw High School Athletic Program.

Good entertainment and fun is expected so come out and back up

Grady-Outlaw Reunion Held Outlaw's Bridge School

The Annual Grady-Outlaw Reunion was held at Outlaw's Bridge School in Albertson Townshop, this county, on Saturday August 27, 1949.

Malcolm L. Grady directed the program in the morning, in the school auditorium. Members of the two families were there from the following places: Greensboro, Durham, Goldsboro, Kinston, Araphoe, Pink Hill, Wilmington, Fayetteville, Kenansville, Seven Springs, Alexandria, Va. and many other places.

The following is part of the program:

Song - America, by the assembled crowd.

Prayer - by Rev. L. C. Prater, pastor of the local church.

Reading of list of names of people of the two families who had died since last reunion.

Introduction of members of the two families who were present from a distance.

Short talks by the following:

Malcolm L. Grady, Mortimer Maxwell, David Grady, Joe L. Outlaw, Roy Ford, Lewis Outlaw, and Mrs. Annie M. Outlaw.

Song - Blest Be The Tie That Binds, followed by prayer.

The crowd gathered about a table in the shade of nice oaks on the church ground. The table was well laden with a bountiful picnic dinner such as the Gradys and Outlaws can prepare. After thanks were given, all enjoyed a "fill up" of good wholesome food.

Mr. Kraft of Kraft's Studio in Mt. Olive, was present and took a picture of table and crowd just before eating began, then later in the afternoon he took another picture of the crowd assembled in front of the school building. Copies of these pictures can be had by calling at his Studio or mailing two dollars.

There was an estimated crowd of from three to five hundred people present for this reunion. The first of these reunions was held at the B. F. Grady High School in August 1930 and one has been held each year since, except one during World War II and last year on account of the polio epidemic.

Plans are being made for a bigger and better Reunion for next year, which is supposed to be at B. F. Grady High School the last Saturday in August.

These two families have been in Albertson Township since John and Mary Whitfield Grady settled here in 1739 and Edward and Patience Whitfield Outlaw settled here about the same time. These two families have intermarried and scattered until there are few, if any, states in the U. S. A., in which some of them do not live.

Script For Last Scene In Pageant Is Completed

Monday Night — It's Pageant time, it's homecoming time, it's the Carolina Jubilee time down in Duplin County where the tempo of everyone is stepping up and ears are perked and eyes are peering sharp to see what's going to happen next — and plenty there is, a happening in preparation for "The Duplin Story" to be staged September 22, 23, 24.

Last week author, director and actor Sam Byrd completed the script of the play, and suddenly he decided to add a scene familiar to everyone in these parts particularly at this time of year. It's the tobacco curing scene at a tobacco barn in Duplin. The cast will be all Negroes not white people with blacked up faces. Mr. Byrd, with the help of Duplin Negro school teachers, has selected a strong cast to play the scene, included will be a 65 voice Negro choir. This is in addition to two other choirs to be heard in "The Duplin Story". Already the director has selected two 100 voice choirs, one composed of white people and one composed of colored people.

Tonight about 30 or 40 people from many sections of Duplin gathered in the community building in Rose Hill where for two hours they rehearsed the square dance as was danced in Duplin in 1908. You will see several interesting sets in one scene of "The Duplin Story."

Also tonight the Colonial Dames of Kenansville gave a performance before the people in Warsaw at the high school building. There program went over well and resulted in many tickets being sold to the pageant.

Tonight down Beulaville way the group for the scene depicting a political barbecue and rally in 1908 during the Taft-Bryan campaign went into action rehearsing their part. They rehearse in the Beulaville high school auditorium.

The Duplin Story is just what the name implies. It is not just a Kenansville play it is a county-wide pageant being staged by all the people in Duplin County. Instead of assembling in Kenansville to practice, rehearsals are taking place all over the county and at such a rapid pace that the near 600 actors and singers will be well versed in their respective parts. It is sorta like a jig saw puzzle being made up of sections and then the final assembly will take place in the county seat.

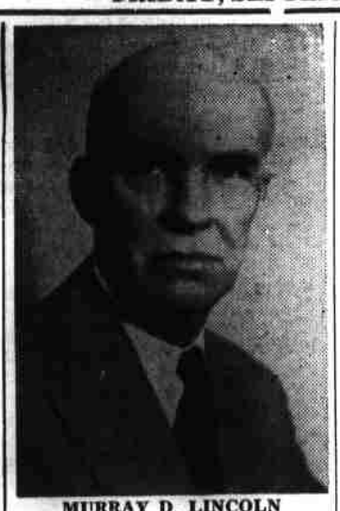
Baptists Will Break Ground For New Dobson Chapel Church Sept. 10

The Dobson's Chapel Church has planned to have a ground-breaking service on September 10 at 10:30 A. M., beginning a new building to replace the church which was destroyed by fire on the night of April 19, 1949, with the principal speaker being Rev. T. F. Rich, of Ingold, N. C., Moderator of the Eastern Baptist Association. Other prominent people including Dr. M. A. Huggins, Secretary of the Baptist State Convention, Raleigh, N. C., Editor J. R. Grady of the Duplin Times, Kenansville, N. C., Rev. C H Trueblood, Associational Missionary, of Warsaw, N. C. and others.

It is planned to replace the building with a modern brick church, and considerable interest is being manifested in this undertaking by the members of the church and the entire community. The public is cordially invited to attend.

MASONS TO MEET

All Master Masons are requested to meet at the Lodge hall in Warsaw Sunday morning Sept 4 at 10:45 A. M. At this time they will proceed in a body to the church for



MURRAY D. LINCOLN

Murray D. Lincoln of Columbus, Ohio, president of CARE and the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, will be the principal speaker at the annual state Farmers Cooperative Exchange-N. C. Cotton Growers Cooperative Association meeting in Raleigh on Tuesday, September 13.

Since its founding, CARE has distributed more than 7,500,000 food and clothing packages to 21 war-ravaged countries.

7 COME 11 Shoot'em Fast Boys, But Beware

Roll them bones boys, shoot 'em fast, 7 come 11, but you better beware of the loaded dice carried by Mayor W. E. Currie and his city policemen and Sheriff Ralph Jones and his deputies, to wit:

Last Saturday night Warsaw officers, Chief Coombs and Policeman James Pope, assisted by Sheriff Ralph Jones and deputies Perry Smith and C. L. Nicholson, paid a visit to the home of James Mathews in the southern end of Warsaw. They found, gathered around a two by eight table, the following sportsmen engaged in the old Southern past time of 7-up: James Mathews, Cricket Armstrong, Ernest Armstrong, Laymon Mathews and Furnnie Simmons. Earl Kennedy was was late for the party but was later apprehended and brought into the round-up.

Monday the above sportsmen were given a hearing before Mayor W. E. Currie and his loaded dice paid off substantially. They plead guilty to gambling and were fined $10 and costs each, except James Matthews, giving him extra consideration because of the fact that he was playing host, Mayor Currie fined him $15 and costs. The boys all took it good naturedly and generously donated towards the cause of a greater and better Warsaw. They promised to refrain from such entertainments in the future, and probably under their breath added, with emphasis, that they would be more careful in selecting their place for fun so as not to put the officers to any added work in their usual routine of duties.

Deputy Sheriff Wagstaff Resigns

Deputy Sheriff Charlie Wagstaff who lived in the County Jail and served as jailer resigned effective September 1st according to Sheriff Ralph Jones.

Oliver Horne, popular Constable of Beulaville, has been named to succeed Wagstaff. Horne has already resumed his duties and is moving into the County Jail.

Wagstaff plans to go into business at Bowden.

BLOODSHED BOXSCORE ON N. C. HIGHWAYS

Killed Aug. 27 thru Aug. 29	5
Injured Aug. 27 thru Aug. 29	38
Killed thru Aug. 29 this yr.	518
Killed thru Aug. 29, 1948	434
Injured thru Aug. 29 this yr.	5,947

EDITORIAL

YES, IT'S WARSAW

By: J. R. GRADY

The spirit of the pageant has permeated Warsaw. As the embryo of "The Duplin Story" first began to take shape it was thought possibly it might be staged in Warsaw due to the fact they had a large base ball diamond with seats and lights, that as thought at the time, might be large enough to take care of the project. As it began to grow and take shape it became inevitable that Kenansville was the logical place for such a program and that an amphitheatre would have to be constructed to take care of it.

As "The Duplin Story" began to take on a visible form Warsaw and other communities in the county began to show an interest. That interest has grown until the spirit of the celebration has become county-wide and Warsaw especially has rallied to its support in a big way. People there are buying tickets right along, merchants are coming through with advertising to make possible a souvenir booklet of the county for the pageant; the National Guard has rolled up its sleeves and is giving all out aid. Merchants there furnished the Manse in Kenansville where Sam Byrd and Corwin Rife are making their temporary home; the schools are aiding in every way possible to furnish talent, conduct rehearsals and singers of the town are very prominent in the 100-voice choir. Among the Colored who are taking part in one entire colored scene the Warsaw colored folks stand out. The city officials there, headed by Mayor W. E. Currie, the Rotary Club, the Lions Club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and various ladies organizations are giving their time and efforts when called on.

Sanford Packer, popular grocer, voluntarily took upon himself the job of securing certain things that will be needed in one scene and is assuming full responsibility for them until they are needed. This, in addition to joining the choir, was done unbeknowingly to the officials of the Pageant. Sanford is not alone in such fine doings as this, he is cited as an example of the fine cooperative spirit found in Warsaw today. Finn Lee, at his own suggestion, has had a film advertising "The Duplin Story" made, at his own expense, and will show it free of charge in his Duplin Theatre., and so on, ad finitum.

Yes, Warsaw, I can say it -- and tell the truth, too. J.R.G.

A Double-Header Square Dance Planned For Kenansville Saturday Night

It's a square dance, old and young, that will be seen in Kenansville Saturday night. A little different from those put on here before this summer the one Saturday night will take the form of a fun and frolic dance and at the same time a work-out dance for the pageant. Two sections of the street will be roped off for the dancers. Nearer the courthouse will be the group who will dance in The Duplin Story while at the other end of the street will be the group just dancing for fun. The Kenansville Kut-Ups will make music for the general dance while the boys from Rose Hill will play for the Pageant dance They will dance as it was done in 1908 while the others will dance as it is done today. So come on out folks, take your choice and swing your partner. Saturday night promises to be as large a turn-out if not larger than the one a few weeks ago when an estimated 3000 people came out for fun and frolic. It's getting to be a habit in Duplin these days to come to Kenansville for something besides the court room. Your county-seat town is beginning to come into its own. The people are finding out that Kenansville belongs to the whole county.

The dance is scheduled to get underway about eight o'clock and as usual jovial "Les" Williams will be at the head of it with John Ivey Smith helping to call figures. Joining Faison and his wife Susie Smith of Albertson in the old fashioned dance will be Horace Ward and brother James Ward of Rose Hill along with many others from Rose Hill who will make their debuts on the streets of Kenansville in the square dance. Oh yes, Les Williams said to tell you that Miss Lima Potter and Clifton Knowles of Wallace are expected here. They say that Miss Lima is a real dancer of the old school and it has been suggested that Mrs. "Bet" Ward of Wallace load up her car with some of those who really know the old time swing and come on out and dance or tell the younger ones how it used to be done. How about it "Miss Bet"? We are all anxious to see the older generation come out and watch us and then show us how it was done when "Ma" was a girl. Come on out folks and let's have a gay good time.

Whiskey Burning In Warsaw

A cleverly laid plan by town and county officials resulted in the capture of 9 half gallons of non-tax paid whiskey and 7 pints of tax paid whiskey also an open three-quart boiler of iced whiskey (punch bowl style) in the home of Harry and Minnie Smith in Warsaw this past Wednesday.

An anonymous man, playing the role of a farmer wishing to buy a drink was means by which the officers were able to make their raid and arrests. Drinks were being served from the boiler containing the iced whiskey. The non-tax paid loot and the other 7 pints were found in the house.

The whiskey was carried to the town hall and poured into the street after which a lighted match was thrown. A low blue flame burned for some time, causing quite a scene to passersby.

Officers participating in the arrests were Sheriff Ralph Jones, Deputies Perry Smith, Charlie Wagstaff and Sam Davis.

WILL DISCONTINUE TWO BUSSES

Paul Stephens, local Bus Station Operator, announced the discontinuence of two Greyhound Busses, effective September 12th. North bound bus, leaving Kenansville at 9:00 A. M. and South bound bus leaving Kenansville at 8:13 P. M. will be discontinued.