

Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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No. 39

KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

History Of Methodist Denomination In Duplin County

KENANSVILLE'S METHODIST CHURCH

Saturday, September 24th Is Farmers Day In Kenansville

An interesting program has been planned for the farm people of Duplin Saturday, September 24, according to L. F. Weeks, County Agent. This program is in connection with the Bi-centennial celebration, commemorating the 200 years of Duplin History.

Starting at 9:15 A.M., there will be a county wide meeting of 4-H club members at which time outstanding members will be recognized for their accomplishments in club work. Jesse James, Assistant 4-H Club Leader will be present and discuss with the club members important phases of their club work. At 10 o'clock, all club members will receive a complimentary ticket to see the outstanding movie "Green Promise." The

story in this picture is based largely on 4-H club work throughout the nation.

Immediately following lunch, beginning at 1 o'clock the Extension Poultry Specialist from State College will be present to assist Mr. V. H. Reynolds, Assistant Agent with a 4-H Club Poultry show and sale. The Sears Roebuck Foundation furnished 100 highly bred New Hampshire pullet chicks to each of these 10 members last spring. Each of these 10 members are returning to this show and sale 12 of their selected pullets which will be sold in groups of 12. The receipts from this sale will be used to purchase chicks for other club members next spring.

At 2:30 P.M., the 5 leading im-



C. B. ("Pap") SITTERSON
Water and Street Superintendent for Kenansville. Helper in "The Duplin Story".

50 Piece Band Here On Opening Day; Exercises On Court House Square

Duplin County will be honored by the presence of a 50 piece Marine Band from Camp LeJeune here Thursday when the formal ceremonies, marking the opening of the Bi-Centennial Celebration. The exercises will be held on the courthouse square beginning at 4 p. m. Gilbert E. Alphin, President of the Duplin Historical Association, will preside and welcome the visitors on behalf of the county and Mayor Amos Brinson of Kenansville on behalf of the host town.

Congressman Graham A. Barden is expected to be present for a short talk. Duplin's man of the hour, Sam Byrd, will be introduced to the crowd. E. C. Thompson of Warsaw, Duplin chairman of US Savings Bonds Division of the National Treasury and representatives of the department from Greensboro will be present. The Marine Band, under the auspices of the Savings Bonds Division of the US Treasury Department, will give a concert.

At 7:15 the Marine Band will

give another 45 minute concert in the amphitheatre and at 8 o'clock sharp the premiere of "The Duplin Story" will begin unfolding on the stage.

All indications point out to a sell-out crowd for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Should attendance prove more than anticipated officials of the pageant are prepared to throw up extra seats to take care of all comers.

Highway patrolmen, assisted by Sheriff R. J. Jones and his deputies and Boy Scouts of Duplin will direct traffic and aid in parking. Folks are urged to come early not wait for the last minute rush. Come early, drive your car and park carefully. Warsaw and Wallace Taxis will be here each day and night to serve the people. If you need a taxi just call 233-1. Paul Stephens Service Station, the PTA of the county have set up three booths on the grounds and will sell drinks, sandwiches, candy, etc. All stores will be adequately prepared to serve food and drinks.

Composers Of "Carolina Jubilee"



MRS. TOMMIE HAAS
of Ft. Worth, Texas—who helped Rommie O'Daniel compose the music to "Carolina Jubilee". Mrs. Haas is a noted musician and organist of Texas. At one time she played on the silent screen in Hollywood. She will be a visitor to Kenansville and "The Duplin Story."



J. R. O'DANIEL
Ft. Worth, Texas Attorney and native son of Duplin. Mr. O'Daniel will attend the Pageant.

Mr. O'Daniel and Mrs. Haas collaborated in composing music to "Carolina Jubilee". Duplin Times Editor J. R. (Bob) Grady wrote the lyrics. "Carolina Jubilee" was dedicated to Duplin's bi-centennial celebration and "The Duplin Story."

plement dealers, each having a large exhibit of machinery on display during the 3-day Bi-centennial celebration, will take their machinery to a field on the Murray farm one half mile west of Kenansville on the Warsaw road and put on a land demonstration. The dealers who will exhibit and demonstrate their equipment are:

Wallace Hardware and Machinery Company, Allis Chalmers Dealers.

Wallace Motor and Implement Company, International Dealers.

Johnson Cotton Company, John Deere Dealers.

Warsaw F. C. X., Cooperative Tractor and Implement Dealer.

Archie Lanier, Beulaville, Leader Dealer.

Jessup Motor Company, Leader Dealer.

Mr. Howard Ellis, Extension Agricultural Engineer and other State College Specialists will be present and assist with the field demonstration. The public is cordially invited to attend these programs.

Kindness in ourselves is the honey that blunts the sting of unkindness in another.

A word of kindness is seldom spoken in vain, while witty sayings are as easily lost as pearls from a broken string.

Amphitheatre Seating Capacity Has Been Increased To 7,000; Tickets Will Be On Sale At Gates

Mr. G. E. Alphin, Jr., President of the Duplin County Historical Association has announced that the seating capacity of the amphitheatre here for the showing of "The Duplin Story", on the nights of September 22nd, 23rd and 24th has been increased to 7,000 and that tickets will be on sale at the gates of the amphitheatre. This assures those who have not bought advance tickets an opportunity to buy their tickets at the gates for the play.

The amphitheatre is located just east of the Kenansville High School building in a natural bowl. More than one hundred men have been busy on its construction since Monday and it is expected to be complete by Saturday when dress rehearsals will begin. Tuesday night the National Guard Units from Warsaw, Wallace and Beulaville rehearsed the Battle of Rockfish Creek on the hill to the left of the stage and the rifle and cannon fire added realism to the scene.

Sam Byrd, author, director, producer and actor, says that his cast is now complete and that about one thousand people will take part in the play. He says that he is entirely satisfied with the progress made and that everything is right on schedule. The show will open promptly at 8:00 o'clock on Thursday night, September 22nd and will continue through the 24th.



LT. MCGILVERY BUCK, of Warsaw, who has very generously given of his time and efforts to aid director Sam Byrd in securing actors, guns, ammunition, etc., for the scene of the Battle of Rockfish. Lt. Buck is always on hand when needed for the public welfare of Duplin County. At present he is County Sanitary Inspector.

Seating Capacity Enlarged To Care For Large Crowd

Sam Byrd's "The Duplin Story", a two act play with music will open in the Kenansville amphitheatre here Thursday night Sept. 22, and will continue through Saturday night Sept. 24th. The play will be the highlights of Duplin County's 200th anniversary celebration making its establishment as a county in 1749 when it was carved from New Hanover County.

The play, described as a fiction history drama, is based on historical data. More than 800 people will make up the cast of actors and singers. Sam Byrd, a native son of Mt. Olive, N. C., has distinguished himself in the theatrical world. He played the role of Duke Lester in "Tobacco Road" on Broadway for three years. He also is a noted writer having published a number of books, among them "Small Town South", a story of Southern life as found in Eastern North Carolina. Mr. Byrd at present is a professor at the College of Charleston, S. C. He is doing another book under the sponsorship of the Guggenheim foundation.

"The Duplin Story" has been described by some authorities who are familiar with it as a story and a play that will at least parallel "The Lost Colony" and "Comon Glory". It is entirely different in its presentation as the actors will speak the history from the stage instead of it being given from the sidelines by a narrator.

Duplin County has gone all out for its celebration and no stone

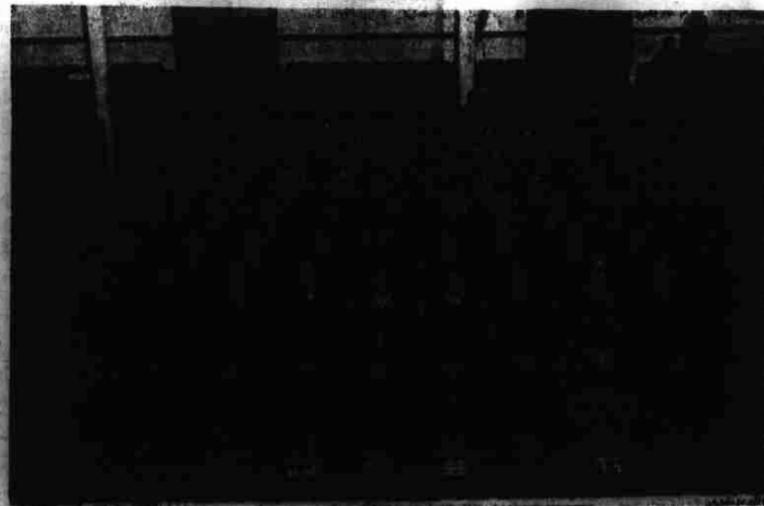


MRS. J. R. STEWART of Newton, Texas, who is visiting friends in Kenansville. She drove up for the Pageant.

are being left unturned for the entertainment of its guests. Even though Kenansville is small in size ample parking facilities have been provided, free of charge, under the direction of the State Highway Patrol. Traffic promises to be orderly and every convenience is provided. Homes throughout the county will be open to those coming from a distance and hotels in nearby towns are prepared to take care of the overflow crowd. The amphitheatre will provide more than 5000 seats opening night and will be enlarged for Friday and Saturday, if necessary. An adequate sound system is being installed so that one seat is just as desirable as another. The seats will be spread out in fan-like fashion so that no seat will be too far away from the stage.

Tickets will be on sale at the booths at night and in stores in Kenansville throughout the day. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for children (see 1

"THE DUPLIN STORY" CHOIR



Goldie Alderman
Lucille Bowden
Amos Q. Brinson
Edna E. Brinson
Quinnie Brinson
Glenn Brown
Janice Brown
Helen Brown
Raymond Brown
Joyce Burton
J. M. Currie
Thelma Dilday
Dora Betty Dixon
Eugene L. Ezum
Anita Fussell
Kate Futrell
Mary Futrell
Sallie Futrell
B. W. Grady
J. E. Grady
Elva Gresham
Dee Gresham
Helen Gresham
Mary Anna Grady
Annie Hall
Annie Thelma Harmon
Harold Harrin
Bob Harrin
Clara Hobbs
Virginia B. Holland
Johnnie Hunter
Nellie Jones

Mollie James
Johnnie A. Johnson
Frank Johnston
Simon Jones
Wilbert A. Jones
John G. Kennedy
Hazel Ruth Kornegay
William Earl Lanier
Lila K. Lanier
Alice Lewis
Alice Moore
Jessie Frank Murphy
Helen Newbold
Ruby G. Newton
Frank Outlaw
Elizabeth Patterson
Sanford Packard
E. B. Peterson
Betty Pickett
Estelle Peirce
Martha Potter
L. E. Prater
Myrtle K. Quinn
Martha M. Rackley
Odell Raynor
Rifton Raynor
Wilma Grey Rivenbark
Leatrice Rivenbark
Carolyn Robinson
Nellie Sanderson
John Shaver
Ella Shaver
Ella Shaver

J. F. Sheffield
Florence Sheffield
Shelby Sheffield
Emory Sadler
Maud Smith
Virginia A. Smith
Ann Stout
Mildred Stevens
Thelma Stroud
Q. J. Sutton, Sr.
Ida Mae Sutton
Audrey Farrior Teachey
Bobbie Teachey
Faye Teachey
Lovie Ruth Teachey
Nellie Graham Teachey
O. A. Teachey
Barbara Tucker
E. V. Vestal
Ross Wadkins
Winifred T. Wells
Betty West
Barbara Wilson
Shirley Wilson
R. V. Wells
Henry M. West, Jr.
Eugenia Quinn
Morris King
Paul King
Dorcas Noville
Reilyn Ground
Elly J. Smith

Methodists. Robert Williams, who was one of Wesley's lay-preachers, called at Jarratt's house. Williams assured Jarratt that the Methodists were "true members of the Church of England," that "their design was to build up and not divide the Church," that "the preachers did not assume the office of priest," and that they were dependent on the Parish Clergy for their Sacraments. (The Anglican Church has seven Sacraments.) He said that their object was to call sinners to repentance and to form societies in which vital religion might be cultivated.

From then on, Jarratt worked heartily with the Methodists. However, he later felt that he had been deceived when the Methodist Church was formed after the American Revolution. And this came about in the following manner:

Let us take note that before the Revolution there was no Methodist Church. What we often think of as Methodism at that time was Societies within the Anglican Church. The Methodist Church was formed about the same time that the Anglican Church in America was becoming the Protestant Episcopal Church. After America was no longer attached to the mother country, the Church here was no longer attached to the mother church. It could no longer be called the Church of England. Later on we see the effects of another war on Methodism. The Methodist Church split into two groups about the time of the Civil War. You see how Church history and political history so often run parallel? If we should study further, we could also notice how economic history has affected church history.

So the Methodist Church was organized after the Revolutionary War, and Jarratt had to recognize Methodism as no longer a movement within the Church of England. But going back to Jarratt's first contacts with Methodism about 1773: A revival in progress in his Parish about this time was merged with that of the Methodist and soon spread across the Virginia boundary into North Carolina. Here we notice Methodism in North Carolina for the first time, but only as a Society within the Anglican Church.

In this revival movement we have other notables, such as Francis Asbury, Thomas Rankin, and George Shadford.

In 1775, Thomas Rankin visited Virginia. He made a tour with Jarratt of the southern parts of Virginia and came into North Carolina.

Notice the growth of Methodism in this Virginia-North Carolina area. In 1774, there were two Methodist Circuits in Virginia, Norfolk and Brunswick, with 291 members. In 1775, there were three circuits with 935 members. In 1776, there were five circuits in Virginia and the adjoining counties of North Carolina with a total of 4,379 members. What a big jump in membership in one year! The total membership of all Methodist circuits in America was 9,968. This means that 2-3 of the American Methodists were in Virginia and North Carolina. Here was the cradle of American Methodism!

Here are a couple of important facts in this connection taken from Grissom's History of North Carolina:

"A gentleman living in Duplin County in 1810 gave the following interesting account of the origin and growth of Methodism in this county: 'The first Methodist preacher who visited this county was the Rev. John Allen, who came here in 1788.'



REV. MURRELL K. GLOVER
Methodist Minister

Rev. Murrell Glover, pastor of the Kenansville Methodist Church, delivered a very interesting and informative sermon in the church here Sunday, Sept. 11th. Mr. Glover delivered an address on the history of Methodism in Duplin County. His talk represented many hours of study and research work. The following is a summary of the address:

This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the formation of Duplin County. In line with our thoughts about our county's history today, September 11, 1949, we are going to review the history of our church beginning with a glimpse at Methodism in early America, in North Carolina, and in Duplin County, and coming on down to our own church here on the hill. Then we will try to project our thought into the future, inquiring whether this history of the past may have any meaning for us in the days ahead.

I cannot call reviewing history a sermon, but it is to take the place of our sermon today. It is often difficult to make history interesting. However, in this connection it may be well to remember that these days we are studying all history in an effort to interpret the facts. We have been hearing much recently about a philosophy of history. Therefore, as we review our present history of Methodism this morning, let us try for an interpretation of its message.

Early American Beginnings
The first person in American Methodism was Barbara Heck in New York about the year 1776. However, since women were not very influential in the church in those days, her efforts soon proved futile.

In 1766, Philip Embury began to hold meetings in his house in New York and soon afterwards formed a Methodist Society.

About 1768 Robert Strawbridge, an immigrant lay-preacher, began to preach in Frederick County, Md., and formed a Society near Sam's Creek.

About 1769, Mr. Wesley sent two lay preachers, Joseph Pilmore and Richard Boardman, from England to Virginia.

A little later Robert Williams arrived. He came of his own accord, though Wesley gave him a permit to work under his missionaries.

An Anglican who became closely connected with early Methodists was Ebenezer Jarratt, the Rector of the Parish, Va. In 1743, he obtained the parish in Dinwiddie County, Va. After having gone back to England he returned to the United States