

Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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EDITORIAL

W. E. CURRIE

In the passing of W. E. Currie of Warsaw Monday night of this week the town of Warsaw lost a faithful and hard working citizen. Mr. Currie had been Mayor only one year but his administration had seen many improvements in the town. He was instrumental in opening new streets and paving others. When the fatal attack struck him his first thoughts were for his work, intimates said. He suffered a severe heart attack but it came on him gradually over a period of a few hours. Members of the family report that he complained at the breakfast table and remarked that he had three phone calls that must be made. He went to the office and made the calls. He was complaining in the office. From there he went to the Post Office for his mail and then home. On arriving home he just could make it to bed.

Currie remained conscious almost up to the last minute and told members of the family and friends that the end was here. He held a brave countenance and went away with that cheerful smile that always marked his presence.

Just two days before his death he attended the convention of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and a meeting of the Star Route Carriers. He had a contract for carrying the Star Route from Warsaw, to Kenansville, Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville.

Mr. Currie was faithful to his duties and to his family. He was loved by a host of friends in Eastern Carolina. He was a man among men. He loved people and would lend a helping hand to any man who was too high nor too low for him. He had a zest for living and really enjoyed living. He will be missed.

J. R. GRADY.

W. E. Currie; Warsaw Mayor Dies Suddenly

Funeral services for William Elbridge Currie, 53, Mayor of Warsaw and son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dan Currie of Hoke County were held Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the Methodist church. Interment was in Pinecrest Cemetery. The services were conducted by the Rev. R. L. Crossno, pastor, assisted by the Rev. J. M. Newbold. Graveside services were conducted by the Masonic Order of Warsaw.

Mr. Currie had been a resident of Warsaw for the past 13 years, going there from Roseboro. He operated the Ford Automobile Agency in Warsaw for a number of years. He was a recently-elected director of the N. C. Star Mail Carriers Association. He was a member of the Methodist Church, a Shriner, member of the Lions Club and Justice of the Peace. At the time of his death he was Mayor of Warsaw, having gone into office in June of last year.

He is survived by his widow, Suddie Dall Currie and three children by a former marriage. They are Mrs. Harry Pridden, Warsaw, David E. Currie and Erma Lee Currie, Hollywood, Calif.; Five sisters, Mrs. Kate Owens, Mrs. Ada Poole and Miss Macie Currie of Roseboro; Mrs. Eula Underwood and Mrs. Irene Turlington, Salemburg; Three brothers, Dan Currie, Roseboro; Duncan Currie, Pinehurst, and John Currie, Clinton.



MAYOR W. E. CURRIE

SEND REQUEST

Mrs. Clarence Brown, noted musician and organist in Warsaw, says she will be glad to play special requests on the organ and chimes in the Warsaw Baptist church. All you have to do is write your request on a postal card and drop it in the mail to Mrs. Brown. She plays daily for 15 minutes or more, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Wilmington News Endorses Proposal For 1950 Production "Duplin Story"

Rockfish Spectacular Battle Scene In "The Duplin Story" Drama

By: A. T. OUTLAW

You saw the oncoming might of the British Red Coats over the hill, the flag, the shot and shell, and company after company of the dragoons coming into Duplin on a tour of intimidation and destruction. And you saw Colonel Kenan's patriotic little band bravely trying to defend their own door steps but were powerless to keep out the invaders.

The Battle of Rockfish, a thrilling and spectacular scene in "The Duplin Story" drama of last month, was fought at a time when everything looked very gloomy for the Americans. Already, during that year, Lord Cornwallis had passed through the section on his march from Wilmington to Yorktown. The British forces had moved into this State from South Carolina. Major James H. Craig had taken possession of Wilmington, then a small town of about one thousand people, in the early part of the year. Near the town he set up what was called a "bull pen" for his captives and it is said that some were very harshly treated, including Thomas Burke, the Governor of the State. About the same time he established an outpost at Rutherford's mill in what is now Pender County. He was very active in enlisting the natives, called Tories, and carried on a campaign of cruelty, plunder and destruction. In July he declared that all who failed to enlist under the British banner by the first of August would be destroyed and their property taken. His numbers, supplies, arms and ammunition could not be successfully resisted. The result was general destruction throughout the section.

In the meantime Colonel James Kenan of Duplin, an able and experienced leader in the American cause, gathered all his forces at Rockfish bridge, near the present town of Wallace. There he commenced preparation to prevent, if possible, any further invasion of eastern Carolina. He was joined by Major Griffen with about 150 men who were sent to his aid by order of General Caswell, making a total of about 400 men. Immediately following Major Craig's last day of grace for all men to join the British colors, he set out on a tour of subjugation and destruction, and his plans were very successful. He reached Rockfish bridge on the second day of August, 1781, and promptly opened the artillery on Colonel Kenan's breastworks. At the same time Kenan's men were completely surprised to find themselves attacked in the rear by Captain Gordon, an experienced British Cavalryman, with about 60 fast horse-

men and two companies of artillery. In such a situation Kenan's officers and men acted with becoming bravery but there was no hope for holding back the invaders. Without an immediate escape, certain destruction would have been the result for the American soldiers. Only a small number of them were wounded, captured and made prisoners, and only two or three of the number were killed. Reports vary as to the number. Colonel William Diekman, then Clerk of the County Court, reported that he narrowly escaped being captured. Captain Thomas James received special mention from Colonel Kenan for bravery in action.

Major Craig proceeded on his march and spent several days in Duplin. In the Grove settlement (Kenansville) he selected the home of Colonel Thomas Routledge for his headquarters and during his stay the men were engaged in burning the homes of patriot leaders, destroying crops, stealing livestock and provisions, etc. The homes of Captain Gillespie and Lieutenant Houston were burned, and they even stole the rings from Mrs. William McGowan's fingers and forced her to give information of patriot leaders. Captain Gordon, who led the horsemen at Rockfish, was killed on the march, near New Bern.

Major Craig was considered one of the best of the British officers. Sometime after the war he was honored by his country with an appointment as Governor-General of the British Dominion of Canada.

Colonel Kenan was a very able and conspicuous military leader. Soon after the close of the war he was appointed Brigadier-General for the Wilmington district of the State militia and from that time he is referred to in the public records as General Kenan. He was Sheriff when only 22 years of age, Legislator, member of State Constitutional Conventions, Councillor of State and a trustee of the State University. His tomb is on a plantation near Baltic station and near the Duplin-Sampson county line. After the war, a son of General Kenan married a daughter of Captain James.

At a point where the State Highway crosses the old Wilmington road, a short distance from Rockfish bridge on the Duplin side, stands a State highway-historical marker designating the site of the Battle of Rockfish. It has been there several years.

An application by the local historian for another State highway-historical marker to the memory of General Kenan was recently approved by State authorities and will soon be erected.

Will there be a "Duplin Story" next year? This question is being asked almost as frequently today as it was the day after the last showing. The answer as yet is not known. It will not be known until the public mind in the county makes itself up. We can only pass on reports and suggestions as they come to us.

Before the last showing of the Pageant the Kinston Free Press, editorially, called for a continuation of the Pageant or that it be filmed so that every one who wanted to see it might get an opportunity.

Monday night in the News and Observer office in Raleigh Sam Ragan, State News editor and other members of the N&O Staff expressed hope that it would be given again next year.

A few days ago the following editorial appeared in the Wilmington News, a newspaper in conjunction with the Morning Star with a total circulation in Eastern Carolina of more than 30,000:

"Whenever a festival or pageant has strong purpose for its presentation, is accorded wholeheartedly community support, enjoys capable and enthusiastic leadership and is shared with others beyond its locality, it invariably closes its ledger with a surplus.

"Wilmington's Azalea festival is good illustration of that situation. It has 'finished out of the red' in each of the years it has been held. It has not been a financial threat or burden as some similar projects, missing in the aforementioned qualities, become.

"Now, from Duplin county comes report of another example. The bookkeeping on 'The Duplin Story' is being closed out and the net profit stands at \$9,600. Thus, not only did Sam Byrd's historical production provide considerable enjoyment in recall of the region's eventful 200 years but its revenue will mean much to early completion of the proposed Kenan Memorial Auditorium.

"Equally as important as the pleasure of staging the pageant and counting its revenue is the inner satisfaction to Duplin's citizens which stems from a job exceptionally done.

"Not only was 'The Duplin Story' a cultural contribution to Eastern North Carolina but, if repeated over the years, would become an important addition to the region's other historical attractions. For that reason alone, should its presentation in 1950 be considered, The News would be among the first to voice a hearty endorsement of the proposal."

All indications point towards Sam Byrd being permanently located in Duplin County next year. It appears that events are shaping in favor of another showing of "The Duplin Story" next season.



Donkey Ball Game

The Warsaw Lion's Club will sponsor a Donkey Baseball game at the Warsaw high school athletic park Monday night, October 31st. If you can't ride come and get a good laugh from those who think they can ride. Remember how Walker Stevens and the donkey had it out a year or so ago? Can't you see Graham Phillips, Forrest Martin and G. S. Best astride the donkey? Maybe Bobby Ingram, Kenansville's growing baseball pitcher would like to pitch. Warsaw Lions say they are anxious to have Gilbert Alphin of Kenansville do the Charleston on the donkey. And Early Sanderson, Wallace's matter of fact Lion can give a good account of himself we bet.

Louis Outlaw, Duplin's representative in the State Senate has had many years experience in working with donkeys. Do you think you can hit a ball astride a donkey, Lewis? Come on fellows, from all sections of the county, let's go to Warsaw Monday night and have plenty of fun and at the same time help the Warsaw Lions raise money to aid the blind and handicapped in Duplin.

Train-Car Wreck Sends Two To Hospital

By: VIRGINIA PHILLIPS

Mrs. Carl Davis of Mt. Olive is in the Henderson-Crumpler Clinic suffering a broken collar bone and head injuries, and her daughter Dorothy, is in Wayne Memorial Hospital with a possible brain concussion, bruises and lacerations as a result of an auto-train collision between Calypso and Mt. Olive on Tuesday morning. Mrs. Davis, driver of the car, had with her her twin daughters Catherine and Dorothy, also her sister Mrs. C. T. Linton and her son. All are Mt. Olive residents.

The automobile stalled on the tracks, the wheels catching on the rails, prohibiting the car from rolling back into the clear. The women saw the Deisel locomotive approaching; they got out of the car and got the children out except one, who was the least injured of all. When the car was struck by the engine it was overturned falling on Mrs. Davis and her daughter Dorothy. It brushed Mrs. Sutton and the others. All suffered bruises, cuts and lacerations.

Duplin Seniors To Be Guests At Camp Lejeune For One Day Seminar

On November 8th all seniors in Duplin County Schools will be the guests of Major General Franklin A. Hart, U. S. Marine Corps Commander of Camp Lejeune, at Lejeune for a one day seminar. General Hart wrote the following letter to the Times this week, which explains the day:

25 October 1949

My Dear Mr. Grady: On November 8th, 1949, the Marines of Camp Lejeune will be hosts to over 2000 High Seniors from 45 schools in Southeastern North Carolina. Many noted educators from North Carolina will also be our guests. The Honorable H. P. Taylor, Chairman of the State Board of Education, and the Honorable Graham A. Barden, Member of Congress, will be present for the occasion.

We have endeavored to plan a very interesting program for our guests, starting with a Division Parade and Review at 11:00 a.m., and a display of Marine Combat equipment on the parade ground. Dinner will be served at 12:00 p.m. guests will assemble in the Camp Theatre to hear addresses by the Honorable H. P. Taylor, and the Honorable Graham A. Barden, who will be the guest speaker.

At 2:00 p.m. a guided tour of points of interest in the Hadnot Point Area will be conducted with a stop at the Protestant Chapel to view the beautiful stained-glass memorial windows. At 3:00 p.m. out guests will witness a surprise demonstration to be staged by the 6th Marines (Reinforced). Artillery, tanks, flame throwers, etc., will assault fortified positions for 45 minutes. A team of jet planes will also put on an air show.

Following the demonstration a visit to the Camp Lejeune High School with a tour of the class rooms will end the day's activities. The purpose of this seminar is to give the seniors firsthand knowledge of the missions and functions of the Marine Corps as well as a

and the part it plays in the economic life of Southeastern North Carolina. We of Camp Lejeune are also vitally interested in a broad educational program to train our Marines. We maintain four service schools with 20 courses on an all-year-round basis, with Marines attending from the entire Marine Corps.

With all good wishes, I am Sincerely yours, F. A. Hart, Maj.-Gen., U. S. Marine Corps, Commanding.

BLOODSHED BOXSCORE

ON N. C. HIGHWAYS

Killed thru Oct. 18-21	8
Injured same dates	52
Killed thru Oct. 21, 1949	847
Killed thru Oct. 21, 1948	553
Injured thru Oct. 21, 1949	7,152
Injured thru Oct. 21, 1948	5,811
Killed Oct. 22-24	12
Injured same dates	80
Killed thru Oct. 24, 1949	659
Killed thru Oct. 24, 1948	564
Injured thru Oct. 24, 1949	7,242
Injured thru Oct. 24, 1948	5,904

Rotarians Hear Number Talks

The Warsaw Rotary Club at their weekly luncheon last week had a number of guests. President E. C. Thompson presided. Highlighting the meeting was a talk on Scouting by Lee Brown, Warsaw Scout Master.

Rotarian Earl Wall who recently returned from a tour of Europe, spoke on Rotary International and its activities.

THIS COULD HAVE BEEN YOU



Here is what careless driving does for you. Fortunately no one was killed in this wreck. The car, driven by Gurney Miller, colored, of Kenansville, crashed into the tree in Warsaw after having knocked down a telephone pole. No doubt, the car was not creeping. After the impact with the pole it kept traveling for 90 feet before the tree stopped it. The wreck occurred October 14th.

B. & P. M. Club Sponsor Xmas Lights; Purebred Pig Chain; Appropriate \$150

By: IKE STROUD

The Pink Hill Business and Professional Men's Club held its October meeting at the VFW Hut. The members were treated to a delicious chicken stew supper, served by President J. A. Worley and Mrs. Worley.

After dinner the President called the meeting to order and several important matters were discussed. The merchants voted in favor of having a community Christmas tree and street decorations with lights for the Christmas holidays.

Tom Davis made an interesting report on the progress of road construction in this part of the county. He also urged that everyone check on any children not attending school and report it to the principal.

The agricultural teacher, John Johnson asked the club to go on record as sponsoring a purebred pig chain for the Pink Hill Vocational Agriculture Department. The members donated approximately \$150 for the purchase of five purebred pigs. A committee was appointed to supervise the selecting, purchasing, and placing of these pigs. The committee will set up the rules governing the operation of this project. They will also select from the 40 boys taking Vocational Agriculture training the five boys who meet the qualifications and these boys will return pigs to the chain from the first litter and they will be distributed to other qualified agriculture students.

The boys will be encouraged to follow the most up-to-date methods of swine production, which include housing, feeding, breeding, sanitation, and management.

program will be keeping of breeding records, weight gains, and learning the value of feeding a well balanced ration, which necessarily includes good pasture. They will also learn how to select, fit, and show these animals.

The president recommended that the club hold Ladies' Night every three months. No definite action was taken on this but I am looking forward to having the ladies with us often.

Plans are already under way for a good meeting in November.

Milton Miller In Operation "MiKi"

Pvt. Milton S. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller of Beula-ville is now taking part in Operation "MiKi."

Operation "MiKi" is designed as a training maneuver for the troops of the Second Division, N. S. Army. It consists of the assimilated retaking of the island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. Oahu has supposedly been taken and held by the troops of a mythical foreign nation.

Joe Wallace Named Foxhunters Board

Joe Wallace of Kenansville and H. E. Kennedy of Wallace have been named members of the Foxhunters Association. They were named at a last year annual meeting.

Congressman Barden Will Deliver Annual Armistice Day Address Nov. 11

Congressman Graham A. Barden this week accepted an invitation to deliver the annual Armistice Day speech in Warsaw November 11th. Congressman Barden is a veteran of World War I and was serving in Congress during World War II. Duplinites will look forward to hearing him on Armistice Day.

Plans are shaping up nicely for the celebration. A mammoth parade is being planned including many attractive floats. Miss Evelyn Davis of Warsaw, Queen of the 1948 Armistice celebration will help lead the parade and will crown the 1949 queen at 8:30 that night at the annual Armistice Dance. All schools in the county are selecting local queens to participate in the program and from them will be chosen the Armistice Queen and Miss Duplin for 1949.

Road Paved

Paving is about completed on the stretch of road from the Outlaw's Bridge church across North East at Outlaw's Bridge to the Fred Outlaw place. Shoulder work is to be completed.

Duplin Take Honors At State Fair

The Duplin Square Dancers, composed of dancers from Albertson, Limestone, Rockfish and Rose Hill, 16 couples in all, took second place in the state-wide contest among square dancers at the State Fair last week. The Duplin Dancers appeared in Raleigh on Thursday. They were so good they were called back a number of times. It was the same group who danced in The Duplin Story. Music was furnished by the same musicians who hale from over Rose Hill way.

Also taking second place in the state-wide contest at the fair were the Duplin Highland Fling Dancers from B. F. Grady and Faison Smith in the clog dancing contest. The Highland Fling Dancers were under the direction of Mrs. Audrey Alphin Butler who organized and coached them in the Colonial Dames program.

The N. C. Agriculture Experiment Station announces publication of an 8-page circular which tells the story of the new Atlas wheats -- how they were developed and what they will do in resisting disease and high yields.