

# Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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## Mid-Century Production "The Duplin Story" Next Week

**GERTRUDE CARRAWAY**  
"The Duplin Story", historical drama of Southeastern North Carolina written by Sam Byrd, Broadway star, to be repeated a second year, by popular request, at Kenansville September 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12, is considered far more lively, humorous and entertaining than most historical productions, and it is likely to draw even more spectators than the 20,000 who enjoyed it last September.

A story, or series of stories, a picture, or series of pictures—that is actually the type of drama of which it consists, instead of the customary history, with facts, figures and dates, that is so often presented to the public.

Realistically drawn from true events and happenings and graphically portrayed in large measure through the words of a homesick American sailor in London and see through the eyes of two curious British children, the play is novel in approach, unique in viewpoint and stimulating in reaction.

This year's version will be almost exactly like last year's except there will be briefer speeches in two instances, without losing any of the significance, the beautiful scenery will be repainted; the equipment will be new, and there will be a number of improvements for smoother production.

### Permanent Stage.

The huge outdoor stage has been built on a permanent base of concrete and brick. It measures 65 feet in width, 45 feet in depth. The same fountain, at which the main characters sat last year, will again be used at the side. The choir stalls will be larger and will be boxed in this time, and newer and better lighting effects are being arranged.

Members of the Kenansville Lions Club have again helped build the props. Corwin S. Rife, who since 1945 has been associated with the famous Dock Street Theatre at Charleston, South Carolina, as technical director, will again serve as technical director for "The Duplin Story". Since July 5 he has been at Kenansville, repainting and repainting the eight mammoth and handsome drops for the scenes.

Profits from last year's production went towards the Kenan Memorial Auditorium at Kenansville which is now practically complete except for furnishings, heating equipment and interior accessories. This meant that Rife could use the auditorium to spread out the 20 by 20 drops for much better effects than was possible when he had to paint them last year in the cramped space of the Duplin County Court House. Thus, "The Duplin Story", which assisted materially in the finances for the auditorium, was substantially benefited for its donations through use of the auditorium this summer and fall.

### Ahead of Schedule.

Production is well ahead of last year to the same time. Byrd reports. He has been working since July 1 on polishing the play, lining up the characters, planning the scenes and making the many decisions that inevitably precede any successful stage performance.

Most of the characters will again have the same parts they took so well last season. They will be accordingly more at home in their roles and be even better able to perform than they did last year, even though they won universal acclaim and praise for their superb acting then.

Again Byrd will play the leading role in his own drama, that of the lonesome GI in England. His legal ward, Patricia "Pat" Bolam, an English girl who is a student at Ashley Hall at Charleston, will again take the role of the English girl, who with her younger brother, John, as the fountain to Johnny Lambert (Byrd), as an American chief petty officer of the United States Navy, tell and show them about his native land, "the most wonderful place in the world," and its "Horn of Plenty," Duplin County.

### Same Musicians.

The three chief musicians who participated last year will again have their solo roles. Norma Moxo of Charleston will again sing as will Edith Hinnant Dickerson, Negro woman who made such a hit with her rendition of "Yes Indeed" and other spirituals. Marietta Richards of Cleveland, Ohio, will again serve as organist. The two large choirs, which were heard last year, will again have major parts in the musical production.

All the schools in Duplin County will be asked to contribute to the production.



SAM BYRD, Fayetteville, Actor, Director of "The Duplin Story".



CORWIN RIFE, technical director and scenic designer of "The Duplin Story".



MRS. A. D. WOOD  
Director of the Duplin County Choir.

### METHODIST YOUTH MEET SEPT. 4th

There will be an important meeting of the Clinton Area of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Sept. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Rose Hill Methodist Church. All MYF's in the area are urged to be present for the installation of officers.

The next business meeting of the area will be held at the same time and place.



O. P. JOHNSON, president Duplin County Historical Association, Inc. which presents "The Duplin Story".



MARIETTA RICHARDS, organist and music director for "The Duplin Story".



J. OLIVER STOKES  
Vice-President of The Duplin County Historical Association, Inc.

### CHECK TROUBLE

Bad check for watermelons may lead to prosecution if not made good.

Tim Aikens bought a field of watermelons in Faison Township from Curtis Anderson for \$150.

The transaction was arranged so that the bill was paid in cash. A few days later the watermelons were delivered to the store.



GARLAND P. KING  
Secretary of The Duplin County Historical Association.

moved from the field.

Early Sunday morning Curtis Anderson was aroused by the cussing of Tim Aikens who was intoxicated and accompanied by an unidentified friend. Aikens had come to get the bad check he had given Anderson in payment for the watermelons which was now the personal property of Anderson. The pair of intruders left when Anderson got his gun.

Curtis Anderson will not prosecute if the check is paid by the store.

## LOCAL EDUCATOR HEADS 1950 EDITION "THE DUPLIN STORY"

**By Gertrude Carraway**  
Owen Pearlie Johnson, County Superintendent of Duplin County Schools, is now president of the Duplin County Historical Association, which sponsors the production of "The Duplin Story".

Since 1935 Mr. Johnson has been in charge of the school service in this county, and he has made a notable record. Arriving for his work at the end of the depression, he has built up all the schools, consolidating two or three teacher Negro schools and one white school and seeing total pupil enrollment grow from 9,000 to 10,500.

Two months ago his department moved to the old Joan A. Gavin home across from the Court House, thus having much more adequate quarters than previously available in the Court House. The ten rooms have been repainted, to form an attractive as well as convenient place for educational activities. The exterior of the large building will be repainted in the fall.

A native of nearby Burgaw, Mr. Johnson is a graduate of Duke University and took post-graduate work at North Carolina State College. His parents were both natives of Duplin County, and all his experience has been in Duplin, Pender and Onslow Counties.

For two years prior to coming to Duplin County, Mr. Johnson was principal of the Richlands school. The year preceding that experience he was principal at Atkinson. The two years before he had been teacher and athletic coach at Burgaw, following similar posts at Richlands. He coached football, baseball and basketball.

Supt. Johnson is a Mason. He is a member of the North Carolina Education Association and has served as President of the South Eastern District of this organization. He is also a member of the National Education Association and the National Association of School Administrators. At present he is on the Policy Committee of the State Organization of School Superintendents.

Since 1935 he has been a member of the Masonic Lodge at Kenansville. He is a member of the Methodist Church. Related to numerous Duplin residents and intensely interested in the past and present of this county, he is making a splendid president of the Duplin County Historical Association.

Under his encouragement all the schools of the county are cooperating splendidly with "The Duplin Story". Their work along the line and participation in the drama are viewed by him and the faculty members as an educational project, of vast importance to Duplin schools and to their students, for, like other outstanding educators, he believes that the more one knows of the past the more interested he or she will be in the present and the future.



**MRS. WM. R. TEACHEY**  
of Rose Hill, supervisor of the Duplin County Schools, who has supervised to a large degree this issue of The Duplin Times. Mrs. Teachey has been responsible for all stories and pictures pertaining to Duplin County Schools, currently. She has made many of the photographs, written several of the stories and supervised and edited the balance of the stories.

Mrs. Teachey is in her 18th year in public school work. She is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; N. C. E. A.; N. E. A.; International American Childhood Association and has accepted a bid to the Wayne County chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. She is a graduate of East Carolina Teachers College.

### MISS BURKE WITH TIMES

Miss Jacqueline Burke of Pink Hill this week joined the Times staff as reporter, feature writer and reporter, feature writer and advertising solicitor. Miss Burke North Carolina in June, majoring in radio. She did some work in the department of journalism.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Burke, at present of Pink Hill. Her mother is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Maxwell of Pink Hill.



### H. ROY CATES DIES IN FAISON

H. Roy Cates, 62, president of the Charles F. Cates and Sons Lumber Company in Faison died at his home Saturday at 11 p.m. after a heart attack. He had been in declining health for several years.

A native of Alamance County, Mr. Cates had been active in civic affairs locally, in the county and in the State.

He had served as director of the North Carolina Railroad Commission. He was a member of the Lions Club, of which he was a past president. He also was an executive of the Tuscarora Council of Boy Scouts of America, a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner, and a member of the Faison Episcopal Church.

Funeral services were conducted from the home at 11 a.m. Tuesday by Rector Hosea of Clinton and concluded at the graveside at the Phillips Chapel Methodist Church, five miles east of Graham at 4 p.m.

Pallbearers were Aubrey Cavanaugh of Warsaw, L. D. Grooms, James H. C. Hill and Wilbert Clifton, all of Faison, H. C. Hall of Lynchburg, Va., and A. Wilbur Clark of Fayetteville.

Surviving are three nephews, A. T. and George Cates of Faison, Howard Cates of Albemarle, and one, Elizabeth Cates, daughter.