

THE DUPLIN STORY
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

superintendent, since 1935, and now president of the Duplin County Historical Association, which sponsors the play, announces the following assignments for schools: B. F. Grady School, Sarecta scene; Wallace School, battle of Rockfish Creek; Magnolia School, Liberty Hall scene; Beulaville School, Beulaville political rally; Kenansville School, James Sprunt Institute graduation exercises; Warsaw School, the Charles Gavin scene during World War I; Rose Hill School, Victory Sunday morning in Duplin County, Aug. 19, 1945; Chinquapin, Faison and Calypso schools will furnish soldiers for several scenes and all Negro schools in the county will be represented in the opening tobacco field scene and singing.

Schools Open. Schools in Duplin County opened August 17 and 24, to permit the pupils to assist in the harvesting and housing of the bumper tobacco crops, and will close earlier than most other North Carolina schools in the spring to permit the children to help with the strawberry crops for which their county is world-famed.

Thus, rehearsals are already well under way in the respective schools, the county-wide production being considered by Superintendent Johnson and the school faculties as a vital educational project of value and interest to the school students.

Individual and club rehearsals started even earlier than the schools beginning August 10, under Byrd's direction. The first joint rehearsal is scheduled for September 1, the second on September 2. Full-scale dress rehearsals will be held September 4, 5, and 6 in the completed amphitheatre.

Governor to Attend. Governor W. Kerr Scott and Mrs. Scott are among the notables who have accepted invitations to be on hand September 7 for the premiere of the second season's run. They will be entertained at dinner in Kenansville prior to the performance, along with a number of other distinguished Tar Heels.

In case of rain for any of the five nights of the show the performance will be repeated on succeeding evenings. However, it is hoped that last year's good luck will continue, under favorable weather conditions.

William Walker, who for two years has been on the Dock Street Theatre staff as well as an actor there in Charleston, is serving as assistant technical director for "The Duplin Story". He will also play the role of Captain James Kenan.

Byrd and Pat Bolam recently spent two weeks in New York, lining up metropolitan equipment, which this time will be even better than before. Lighting effects will be specially good. A Wurlitzer organ and piano are being loaned free by McGrath and Company of Wilmington.

Traffic to Move Easily. State Highway Patrolmen, under the direction of Corporal T. G. Brooks of Wallace, will again direct the traffic at the show grounds, ideally located on the large field owned by H. D. Williams between his home and the Kenansville school. Last year a remarkable safety record was chalked up, not a single fender being scratched, despite the enormous flow of traffic each night of the performance.

Parking space across the highway will provide for several hundred cars, and the patrolmen will help the motorists in and out of the places. This means that little or no time is wasted or lost when all want to leave the site at the end of the show each night.

Seats will be comfortably arranged for about 6,000 spectators, and throngs of persons are expected from near and far. Last year the drama was so successful and so popular that its scheduled run was extended with additional performances the following week.

Capt. William M. Buck, of Co. M, 19th Infantry of Warsaw, will again supervise the battle scenes, which were viewed with tense excitement last year. He and his assistants will also arrange the special battle effects, which made the stage battles so strikingly realistic.

It's Dynamite. Colonel Holland, last year's Master of Properties, will have charge of the dynamite. He is a former naval engineering and construction expert, and had experience as a demolition expert at Guadalcanal during World War II.

Among the 500 actors in the play, Byrd will again be outstanding. Last year he gave up other interests and risked his entire career and reputation on the success of the Duplin pageantry. It was well worth his while, for it was even a greater success than he and J. R. (Bob) Grady, editor of the Duplin Times at Kenansville, who conceived the original idea of the production, had even dreamed in their wildest flights of fancy and enthusiasm.

It was largely due to their spirit of confidence, their pride in their native section and their hard work that made the performance so outstanding, with the full cooperation and splendid interest of practically all the Duplin citizens.

Novel Was First. When at Mount Olive, Byrd took a great interest in the play, and

man theatre stage and took voice under Lucie in New York City. He is the author of two novels: "Small Town South," a Life-in-American Prize book, published in 1942, which deals with life in and around Mount Olive; and "Hurry Home To My Heart," a novel on the Normandy Invasion, published in 1945.

However, Byrd is better known for his 1,161 consecutive performances on the Broadway stage as Duke Lester in the widely-publicized "Tobacco Road." For this he received the Literary Digest award for the 1933-34 season as the "Best Actor on Broadway."

In 1937-38 he was featured in John Steinbeck's famous play, "Of Mice and Men." Other shows in which he has appeared in New York are "Street Scene," "The Noise and the Duke," "Cafe," "Good Neighbor," "We the People," "Incubator," "The Man Who Reclaimed His Head," and "The Man Who Killed Lincoln."

Broadway theatricals he has produced under his own management include: "White Man" 1936; "Journeyman," by Erskine Caldwell, 1937; "John Henry," by Mark Bradford, 1940; and "Good Neighbor," 1941. Many times he has been featured over National and Columbia Broadcasting Companies.

In January, 1942, he entered the naval service as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. He participated in the invasion of Normandy as a beachmaster of a section of Omaha Beach with the Seventh Beach Battalion from D-Day morning through the assault phase, being awarded the Bronze Star medal and the Army's Distinguished Unit Citation Badge.

From duty aboard the USS Karnes, he took part as a beachmaster in the assault at Okinawa. Then he served in the Philippines and Pacific areas, following which he participated in the occupation of the seaplane base at Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan, in September, 1945, as beachmaster of Naval and Marine Corps units occupying the base. At present he holds a commission as Lieutenant-Commander in the Naval Reserve.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Creative Writing was awarded him for 1946-47, including a five-months study of postwar conditions in England. In 1946 he served as a lecturer for the American Information Embassy in London.

Under a renewal of the Guggenheim Fellowship for 1948-49 he traveled extensively through Southern France, Portugal, Gibraltar, Spain and North Africa. In 1947 and 1948 he was a lecturer in Sociology at the College of Charleston, S. C., and during the past year has taught sociology there.

Characteristically, he is supervising every detail of "The Duplin Story". In working tags he has been daily hard at work, to be sure that the production will be finer and better, if possible, than was last year's magnificent success.

With the able assistance of Rife, he feels confident that the play will run up another perfect run at Kenansville. Rife, who was with the Kanawha Players at Charleston, W. Va., The Kalamazoo Players, the Cain Park Theatre in Cleveland and the Nashville Community Theatre before accepting his present post in Charleston. During the summer of 1948 he was guest director at the Colorado University School of the Theatre at Denver.

Microphones and amplifiers will carry the voices of the actors and accompanying sound effects clearly to the audience, even to those on the back rows of the huge natural amphitheatre. For, the play does not have a narrator, as is so often done in colossal pageants. The characters speak their own lines.

Through excellent lighting arrangements, the nine scenes of the first act and the seven scenes of the second act move rapidly and smoothly, alternating from the GI and British children at the fountain to the various American action described by the naval petty officer.

The opening Tobacco Field scene near Faison is regarded as one of the finest things of the kind ever portrayed in the nation. The unique chant of a tobacco auctioneer will lend realism and interest.

When Tony Carrington, the English boy, asks Johnny Lambert in the park about American Indians, he is shown the river barge landing scene at Sarecta in 1755, with Henry McCulloch, who came up the North East Cape Fear River and was welcomed by costumed townspeople and children with dance and music in his honor.

The Command Post of Colonel James Kenan is pictured at Rockfish Creek in 1781, to give a different type of battle scene for that phase of the Revolutionary War. The Kenan family is described with their large mansion, "Liberty Hall," with its several hundred slaves, fine English furnishings and hospitable motto: "Who enters this open gate never comes too early and never stays too late."

An open field, "Somewhere in Duplin County," in 1863 shows the headquarters of the Duplin Rifles. From the distance on the rolling hillside campfires are lighted, and troops are singing "We're Telling Tonight on the Old Camp Ground." Humor is provided by the elderly slave, Charlie Prince, who admits frankly, "Courage ain't in my line, cozkin's my profession."

When at Mount Olive, Byrd took a great interest in the play, and

Roy Carter Heads County Group
Paul Ingram Kenansville Chairman

On September 1, Tuscarora Council, Boy Scouts of America will start its annual fund raising campaign.

This year the Council is seeking \$21,827.35 from the four counties of Duplin, Sampson, Johnston, and Wayne. The budget for 1951 has been carefully worked out and the total is what is required for Tuscarora Council to carry on and develop its scouting program.

Anyone who has had contact with scouting realizes that there is more to the Boy Scout movement than a local troop headed by an unpaid scoutmaster. The organization is world-wide and operates with paid executives just like any other organization. There are summer camps to maintain, paid staffs to direct these camps, office equipment and supplies, field expenses of the executives, badges and awards, leadership training and many other expenses. These items make a considerable bill; parents of scouts and other interested people have met this bill in the past; they will do so in the future.

It is hardly necessary to sell anyone on Scouting. Its outdoor activities, its practical lesson of life saving, its high standards of Christian living, its extensive training program, all focus at one spot -- scouting teaches a boy to be a leader, and more important, it teaches him how to get along with other people. No organization can boast of a greater accomplishment or ideal than this. In all fields of life there are few great leaders who did not at one time belong to the Boy Scouts.

An incident which happened to a Warsaw scout several years ago illustrates the practical training a scout receives. Joseph West of Troop 20 was near a tobacco barn one day during a thunder storm when a woman was struck by lightning. Joseph applied artificial respiration and saved the woman's life. In this instance, a delay of a few minutes would have meant the difference of whether the woman lived or died. It was also important that the rescuer knew how to apply artificial respiration. The training which young West received in Scouting was responsible for this.

There are eleven troops in Duplin County with 280 scouts and scouters, plus two cub packs, one in Wallace, the other in Kenansville. Actual cost of maintaining a scout for one year amounts to \$19.20. On top of this are the council expenses. Altogether, they add up to more than \$21,000 for the year.

Most of the individual expenses for 1950 will be repeated for 1951 with only minor changes. Nearly half the total amount will pay the act in June, 1865, at Liberty Hall, starts with the Negro chorus chants from the direction of a terrifying explosion. The musicians file in pilgrimage fashion to watch a procession of tattered and torn Duplin Confederates returning home from the war. Col. Tom Kenan tells his father, Maj. Owen Kenan: "The war has ended... Our duty is peace. We have come home to rebuild, to cultivate, to revive our industries, to raise patriots and Christians to take the places of those who are gone... We are a united country now."

Act two starts with a lighter trend, a political barbecue in 1908 during the heated Taft-Bryan campaign, with a brass band, square dance and political speeches.

Commencement at the James Sprunt Institute are depicted for May 10, 1910, with the graduation address and some of the descendants taking the roles of the seniors.

A new locomotive of the period has been obtained for the colorful scene outside the Warsaw railroad station in 1917. Soldiers are shown leaving for World War I duty "To make the world safe for Democracy." One of the characters is Charles R. Gavin, who was killed overseas Nov. 10, 1918. The American Legion Post at Warsaw is named for him.

Inspirational Finale.

An inspirational touch ends the performance. Victory Sunday in Duplin County in 1945 is enacted before a beautiful backdrop portraying a stained glass window in a church, representing Christ on a rainbow, as designed by Stephen Bridges, noted for his stained glass designs used extensively throughout the country. Bridges is associated with the Rambusch Studios in New York and is editor of the Stained Glass Quarterly, published by the Stained Glass Association of America.

The minister preaches in the mood of "His poignant hour," and the choir sings "Ave Maria." Johnny Lambert closes the production with a tribute to the American flag, ending,

"My stars and my stripes are your dreams and your labors. They are bright with cheer, firm with faith, because you have made them; but out of your hearts. For you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that

salaries of the Scout Executive, Bruce Boyers, and his two field executives. Requested for this item is \$10,500. To pay a full time secretary and part-time assistant for office work, \$2,400 is needed. Office supplies require \$360. For traveling expenses of the executives, \$2,772 is needed. (The executives furnish their own cars.) Badges and awards cost \$500. To maintain Camp Tuscarora for 1951 it will cost \$900, \$100 less than in 1950. Expenses at Camp Carver will amount to \$400, also \$100 less than this past summer. This is not a complete list, but from it can be seen that scouting costs money.

PAUL INGRAM
Chairman of Kenansville
Finance Drive

From Mothers To Teachers

If you can keep your head when forty children
With forty different problems challenge you;
If you can still their clamor, soothe their spirits
And in each mind implant a purpose true;
If you can prove to each of forty mothers
That hers is, of them all, your favorite child;
If you can keep all happy and contented,
Though one would often drive his parents wild;
If you can find it in your heart to love them,
Attractive or unkept as they may be;
If you can see not what is on the surface,
But in each child a possibility,
If you can wake in each a thirst for knowledge,
Then satisfy that thirst from day to day,
If you can stir within each heart an interest,
So that his lessons seem not work but play;
If you can meet these never ending problems
As well we know you have done o'er and o'er;
Then you have won our gratitude undying,
Our staunch support is yours forever more.
—Eve M. Barless
(This poem turned-in by Mrs. Wm. B. Teachey)

**County Gets
New Roads**

Approximately 85 miles of paving has been let in Duplin County to the Ziegler-Cline Construction Company of Fayetteville. Mr. H. G. Keigler and Mr. F. D. Cline head the company.

The most important contracts in the county are the grading and widening of highway 24 from the intersection of 258 in Onslow County to Kenansville; the re-routing of highway 117 through Warsaw which is completed; the Pink Hill-Beulaville road which is completed; and the putting in of curbs and gutters in Kenansville sometime this year.

County roads under contract for paving are: Kenansville to Chinquapin; Sarecta by Cabin to connect with highway 41; Potters Hill to the Jones County line, east from Potters Hill to NC 24; Hallsville west to NC 24; point on NC 24 north to Sloan; point on NC 24 to Charity; and Warsaw east 4 miles on NC 24.

Work began the first of July E. W. Stewart of the Kenansville Field Office stated that they expected to be here for some time. With the company here are F. D. Cline, Jr., supt.; A. J. Shackelford, grade foreman; N. W. Newton, plant foreman; J. K. Dean, road foreman; T. O. Little, pipe foreman; and B. M. Royster, concrete foreman.

**Disturbing The
Peace Of Duplin**

The month of August gave Justice of the Peace, C. B. Sitterton, little peace. One case will be bound over to the Superior Court and another to the County Court in addition to the minor cases decided by Mr. Sitterton.

Hattie Junior Mercer (colored) was given a hearing August 23rd on a charge of forging a check payable to Lewis Bryant in the name of I. J. Bostic on the Waccamaw Bank of Kenansville. The case goes to the Superior Court under bond of \$500.

The case of Edmund Wadell, charged with trespassing, armed with deadly weapon, was turned over to the County Court.

Charged with possession of non-tax paid liquor were: Mrs. William Henry Carr, John Robert Wells, Herietta Moore, O. Q. Lanier, and Lear and Jeannette James with intent to sell. Jeannette James was also charged with resisting an officer.

Elbert Thomas Cottle, charged by highway patrolman of being intoxicated while operating auto; John Robert Lamb, publicly drunk and resisting officer; William David Boney, drunk; and Willie Merritt, driving drunk and disorderly conduct, were others cases heard before Mr. Sitterton.

Traffic offenses involved Amos Peterson for careless and reckless driving, Stanley Garfield Batts for speeding, and Benny Miller Sandlin, charged by Patrolman E. L. Cook for speeding.

was located last week when police officers investigated.

The prisoner had escaped from the Halifax County Prison in June when he had been sentenced for twenty years. He had been harbored and concealed by Pat Y...



Susan Goes To School

She's gone to school, my Susan,
So tiny, just turned six,
And, oh, the house is empty,
The clock, how loud it ticks,
No laughing in the garden,
No swinging on the gate,
Just quietness and order,
And a fire upon the grate.

She's gone to school, my Susan,
In brand new pinafore,
To learn the art of letters,
And dip in ancient lore;
She's eager for the future,
And sturdy for her size;
But, oh, the heart is weary
Before the head is wise!

She's gone to school, my Susan,
So sweet and unafraid,
Her toes in shiny slippers,
Her brown hair in a braid;
And here where she's been happy
A little prayer I pray:
"God bless the host of Susans
Agone to school today."
—Vivian Y. Laramore.

The little lady in the picture is Harriet Sue Johnston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Johnston, of Wallace, N. C. She is in Mrs. Louise Ward's first grade class in the Wallace School. Sue is one of the 1200 first grade pupils to enter the schools of Duplin County this year.

**"The Duplin Story"
Family Reunions**

J. C. MACMILLAN FAMILY
All the children of the late J. C. Macmillan, Jr. of Teachey are planning a family get together on September 9th and 10th and plan to attend "The Duplin Story" on the night of the 9th. Members of the family will be here from New York, Greensboro, Thomasville, Fayetteville, Teachey and High Point. A picnic dinner will be served on Sunday.

PEARLIE JOHNSON CHILDREN
The late Pearlle Johnson family will have a family get together at Kenansville on Saturday night, September 9th, at the home of O. P. Johnson. All of the brothers and sisters will attend "The Duplin Story" that night.

**CONVICT
FOUND**

An escaped Halifax prisoner was



ELEANOR GAY HERRING - runner-up for "Miss Convention City" at the national encampment of Veterans of Foreign Wars this week in Chicago. Miss Herring, beauty queen of the Pink Hill Veterans of Foreign Wars was originally entered in the Pink Hill contest by Flavius Williamson of Pink Hill. After taking honors in Pink Hill she was sponsored by the Pink Hill post in the state-wide beauty contest held in Hendersonville this past June. She came away from there with all honors and was sponsored by the North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars to compete for national honors in Chicago.

Miss Herring is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Herring of Albertson. She attended B. F. Grady school and will enter Peace Junior College in Raleigh next week. For her debut in Chicago she was coached by Mrs. Hannah Block of Wilmington.

Eleanor Gay plays the role of Miss Berringer, a school teacher, in the Sarecta scene in "The Duplin Story."

The top winner in Chicago was Miss Gryane Shelor of Sumpter, S. C. Miss Shirley Stopler of Chicago placed third.

EDITORIAL

Your special edition of The Times this week portrays in words and pictures Duplin County's education in history. Albert T. Outlaw, Register of Deeds and historian, has written all stories dealing with history of schools, churches, historical markers and county history in general. Last year Mr. Outlaw contributed generously of his historical work to our special edition, but this year his works cover a wider range of subjects. His reputation is that he is correct in what he writes.

Mrs. Wm. Teachey of Rose Hill, supervisor of Duplin County schools has edited, written and supervised the stories and pictures of Duplin County schools today. All historical marker pictures were photographed by Vaden Brock of Mt. Olive.

We hope you enjoy this issue of The Times. Several hundred copies have been printed but if they go out like last year they will be gone in a few days.

This issue represents many hours of work on the part of Mr. Outlaw, Mrs. Teachey, your editor and the mechanical staff of the Times. If you enjoy it somewhat, we feel that our labors have not been in vain.

Next week's Times will carry general stories and pictures intended for this week but crowded out.

J. R. Grady.

**County Court
Convictions**

The County Court of Duplin had a busy session Monday, August 21 with the majority of the cases involving traffic law violations.

The largest number of violators were those with no drivers license. Pleading guilty to the charges were: Robert Merritt, sentenced to a 90 day jail term and work on the roads; Freeman Miller, Leonard Outlaw, and Marshall Lee Johnson, suspended on payment of \$25 and costs; Elwood Potter, judgment suspended for 12 months on good behavior and payment of cost; Benny Campbell, 12 months sentence suspended on payment of \$25 and cost by Aug. 26th.

Clyde Foss, Jr., pleaded guilty twice to the charge of operating an auto after license had been revoked. For the first offense he was confined to jail for 90 days and work on the roads. The second offense netted him another 90 days and work on the roads following the expiration of the first sentence.

**BLOODSHED BOYS SCORE
On N. C. Highways**

Killed Aug. 25 - 28 14
Injured same dates 177
Killed thru Aug. 23, 1950 594
Killed thru Aug. 23, 1949 837
Injured thru Aug. 23, 1950 7,739
Injured thru Aug. 23, 1949 10,000