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"THE DUPLIN STORY" (Editorial Correspondence)

In News and Observer Saturday, Sept. 9, 1950 In the last few years there have been plenty of pageants, symphonic dramas and community beard-growings in North Carolina

Anybody who wants to go to get instruction in the history of Duplin County or North Carolina can do so. As a matter of fact, "The Duplin Story" is the North Carolina story limited by no county lines.

No gentlemen step out of the daguerreotypes on the Kenansville stage. A gentle comedy even appears in the characters of the honored personages of Duplin history.

It is, however, never a stuffed-shirt romantization. It contains not only Revolutionary and Civil War heroes in real battle accompanied by satisfying explosions on the stage, noble ladies and gentlemen, loyal slaves, but also bombastic Democratic politicians, prissy lady school-teachers, an old-time preacher with a comic mustache, a many drum beater and some of the best Negro singing from spiritual to hi-dee-ho.

Sam Byrd has written himself something which is not a pageant and certainly is not a symphonic drama. In many ways it is a sort of native's extravaganza about a home history which does not intimidate him or turn him to either pomposity or pretension.

Yet recurrently throughout the play there are passages of dialogue full of wit, sentiment and beauty. Byrd's own apostrophe to the American Flag at the end of the play might come perilously close to a flag waving George M. Cohan closing of a musical comedy

Byrd deserves great credit for the whole show. Second only to him among its actors is his adopted English daughter, to whom as chief petty officer he tells the story of Duplin. The basis of the great appeal of the whole show, however, is the good, lively, native joyousness of the people themselves in its playing.

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DUPLIN STORY WELL RECEIVED OPENING NIGHT

Friday, Sept. 8, 1950 (Kinston Free Press) By M. S. VAN HECKE "The Duplin Story," the historic panorama of our neighboring county to the south, opened before a disappointing crowd of about 1,500 at Kenansville Thursday night.

Two relatively modern scenes, graduation exercises at James Sprunt Institute in 1910 and a political rally in 1908, demonstrated a subtle humor that was in many ways remarkable and the battle of Rockfish Creek in 1781 was done in a convincingly realistic manner.

Byrd takes the part of a navy chief in London, lonely and homesick for his home in Duplin, who tells two English children of the life and history of his native home-land. The first Duplin scene shows a tobacco field near Faison.

Edith Hinnant Dickerson, negro soprano, and Corwin Rife, as a drummer who entertained the visiting official at Sarecta, were standouts from the entertainment point of view.

1908 Political Rally The narrative leaps to 1908 with the political rally and graduation exercises, followed by the leaving in 1917 of the Duplin youths going to war.

We are told that a total of 750 Duplinites had a part in the show, and it is easily believable. The Duplin Story took a lot of work and the producers did not stint in the use of players to add realism to the scenes.

The Duplin Story had its faults, but they are overwhelmed by its many good points. It's a show which no North Carolinian, and particularly no Eastern Carolinian, should miss.

1,500 SEE "DUPLIN STORY" AS IT BEGINS NEW SEASON

(Goldsboro News-Argus) Friday, Sept. 9, 1950 Kenansville - Fifteen hundred people saw "The Duplin Story" in Hamp Williams' cornfield on Thursday night.

State leaders joined with native sons in paying tribute to Sam Byrd's musical dramatization of 200 years of Duplin history. "The Duplin Story" will be given nightly on these dates: September 8, 9, 11, and 12.

Governor Scott was present to cheer Dupliners at the reshewing. "What our citizens do today to add to our state, what sacrifices they give for her," he said "determine the progress of the future."

"It is fitting," said Governor Scott, "that we look back at what our forefathers worked for. For self to the audiences. This is their story. They are it. White and colored together, they play their own lively procession from history and into the history before them.

The acres of seats before the stage on the little hill ought to be filled this next week with North Carolinians who like good entertainment and can appreciate it best when it is entertainment out of their own lives.

out of their efforts came what we are today. "The Story" is unchanged from its first showing. Hundreds in the county have labored for many weeks to prepare all details for the second presentation at public demand.

O. P. Johnson, president of the Duplin Historical Association, sponsors of "The Story" thanked all who had helped in any way to assure success of the effort.

Sam Byrd plays the lead in his own production. Portrayed as a homesick U. S. Naval officer talking with English children about his home county, the former New York actor got plenty of applause.

Corwin Rife's lighting effects count much in the production. Most moving is the singing by the Negro choir.

Duplin Story Opens For Second Season

(Wilson Daily Times) Friday, Sept. 8, 1950

Eastern Carolina's own saga drama, "The Duplin Story," opened last night in the amphitheatre, in Kenansville. And it will be given tonight and Saturday.

The Duplin Story could be developed to mean as much to Eastern Carolina as the Lost Colony has to the coast country and Unto These Hills, to the scenic mountain section.

The production opens with Johnny Lambert (Sam Byrd), a homesick GI in World War II sitting in a park in London telling about his own Duplin County to Jennifer Carrington (Pat Bolam) and Tony Carrington ("Timmy" Outlaw), two English children.

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Letters To The Editor

HOTEL GOLDSBORO Goldsboro, N. C. September 9, 1950

To the Editor: Last Thursday night, I had the pleasure of going to the historical pageant of the Duplin County Historical Association, "The Duplin Story."

It is a wonderful production, considered from every angle, I think it has a little edge on any I have ever seen. It reminds me of the old Hippodrome in New York City years ago. I saw it in 1910. The setting, scenery and costumes were most gorgeous and spectacular.

I want to thank and commend the management for omitting the Sunday performance. Other organizations will do well to follow their noteworthy example.

Sincerely, J. Herman Canady Kinston and Goldsboro

Home For Aged

This is a statement from Miss Macy Cox, of Magnolia, concerning Home for Aged men and women as referred to by Mrs. Grace Vann in the Times recently:

"Many questions are being asked about the Home in which we are deeply interested. We are giving just a partial description of the proposed home, which we hope will create interest and investment. We would prepare for 20 to begin with and enlarge later if necessary, and possible. The building, equipment and management would in every way meet the approval and requirements of the State Board of Public Welfare.

A chapel for worship, prayer meetings, Sunday school and preaching service, piano, radio, and everything be done for the pleasure and comfort of the aged people there to really have a home, and not just a place to stay.

How it is to be built, controlled and supported are questions frequently asked. It will be built with gifts from our Duplin County people and their friends. Anyone who gives \$1,000 will be giving a room and many give it as a memorial to some loved one. If \$100 is given, the giver will have completely fur-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Raleigh, N. C., Sept. 10. - Tony Tolar, the ex-Highway Patrol boss, is reported to be the man who tipped off newsmen about the J. B. Moore case.

Moore as you know, was indicted by a Wake county grand jury last week, along with A. W. Livengood of Winston-Salem, on charges of embezzlement and conspiracy plus misfeasance of office. Moore is charged with using state materials and prison labor, while he was prisons director, to build a garage apartment.

Tolar was seen in deep conference with a newsmen twice on the day the Moore story broke, and on the day the story came to light was seen riding with this same reporter in front of Moore's house.

Two days before the grand jury was scheduled to hear the case, Tolar reportedly visited Moore's house and tried to get the ex-prisons director to involve others in his difficulties and see how much he (Moore) could smear the administration.

One of Moore's lawyers has withdrawn from the case -- which won't come to trial before the October term of court -- because the

nished a room and may give it as a memorial. It will be controlled by a Board of Directors of 25 or more, men and women. How maintained. The men and women receiving old age assistance will pay \$40 into the home and keep \$10 for clothes, drugs and other personal expenses.

Who would object to such a home? Who would not approve such a home in Duplin County? Who could not give \$1.00 to help build it? Who could not give \$10.00 - \$100 - \$1000? There are many ways to help, and "where there is a will there is a way" and we just need a good "shaking up, waking up" interest in our old people, and some wide-awake people in every town and community to help stir up real enthusiasm.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paroles Commissioner T. C. Johnson is getting quite a few requests from prisoners and their families asking that prisoners be paroled so they can join the armed services.

Johnson says this isn't feasible unless draft and service rules change. Col. Tom Upton, State Selective Service chief, says no parolee is eligible to enter the service until he has been out from under supervision for at least six months.

A man convicted of a felony would not be eligible for enlistment, Johnson said, until he had a pardon, restoring his citizenship. During the last war a good many parolees were accepted upon the condition their sentences was commuted and parole waived. Until now, though, the services have not relaxed the six months rule.

M. G. Mann, general manager of the farmers Cooperative Exchange, reported business as better than ever before in FCX history at the cooperative's annual meeting here Tuesday (Sept. 12).

Total FCX business -- wholesale and retail marketing and purchasing -- reached a record \$28,507,439 for the year ending June 30. This was more than a million dollars above the previous high reported last year.

Mann reported there are now 125,000 members of FCX, which started business 16 years ago with \$28,000 in the kitty. During these 16 years, Mann said, total volume of purchase and marketing has reached a neat \$162,088,243.

Net savings for FCX last year reached \$517,742. All but \$16,000 has been returned to FCX patrons and stockholders.

In his report at the annual FCX meeting, Mann charged that critics Continued on Pink Hill Page



"You can't scare me. Besides—all my Tobacco Money is in the Waccamaw Bank where it is safe."

Your Financial Friend

WACCAMAW BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

Kenansville Rose Hill

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION