

# Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

## PROGRESS SENTINEL

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**DUPLIN BOOSTERS** - Shown are the eight Duplin county men as they met in Raleigh with the staff of the Division of Commerce and Industry of the State Department of Conservation and Development to outline for the C & I staffs what their county has to offer industry. Front row left to right: Virland King, vice chairman, Duplin Development Commission; Dixon Hall, president, James Sprunt Institute, Kenansville; Joe Sutton, member Duplin County Board of Commissioners; and P. B. Ralford, director, Duplin Development Commission. Back row, left to right: Vernon H. Reynolds, chairman, Duplin Agricultural Extension Services; Thomas B. Broughton, chief, Industrial and Community Services, Division of Commerce and Industry, who arranged the meeting; Faison W. McGowan, Duplin county accountant; C. W. Surratt, Jr., board member and past chairman of development commission; and Milford Quinn, present chairman of Duplin Development Commission. (Photo by Charles Clark, C & D Dept.)

### "Duplin Story" Told to Staff of C & D's Industry Division

Duplin, already the State's leading agricultural county from the standpoint of farm commodities grown and sold, wants more industry to help bring a better balance of its economy.

This is what Preston B. Ralford of Kenansville, executive director, Duplin Development Commission, and seven other Duplin industrial developers told the staff of the Department of Conservation and Development's Commerce and Industry Division in Raleigh Monday as they outlined what their area has to offer industry.

The meeting, another in the series of inviting local developers to Raleigh to tell the C & I staff what their county has to offer industry, was highlighted by the showing of slides and a commentary on "The Duplin Story" by Dixon Hall, president of the James Sprunt Institute at Kenansville.

Formed in 1749 and one of the

oldest counties in the State, Duplin today has some 50 industries employing more than 2,200 people, Ralford said. New industries such as the National Spinning Company and Reeves Brothers, a textile operation, have served to reduce the labor supply, principally women, but the county can use industries where male employees are needed and preferred, Ralford said. "We still have a labor surplus, but not in women, he explained.

Income from agricultural products in the county last year reached the \$55 million mark with strawberries, tobacco and poultry being the leading commodities, Vernon H. Reynolds, chairman of the Duplin Agricultural Extension Services, noting that the income from the county's agricultural products jumped from \$26 million in 1956 to \$55 million in 1965, predicted cash receipts from the sale of farm commodities will double the 1965 figure in a few years.

In addition to Ralford, Hall and Reynolds, others in the Duplin group were: Joe Sutton, member of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners; Faison W. McGowan, county accountant; Milford Quinn, chairman, Garland King, vice chairman, and C. W. Surratt, Jr., board member and past chairman, of the Duplin Development Commission.

### Wins Eagle Award

Junior Assistant Scoutmaster William S. Butler, Jr., better known as Bill of Troop 45, in an impressive ceremony on Tuesday, May 17, received Scouting's highest honor, The Eagle Scout Award.

A Court of Honor was convened for the purpose of making an Eagle Scout Award, presented by Mr. Robert L. (Bobby) Miller, Duplin District Advance Chairman. The candidate and his parents were escorted to the stage by Eagle escort. Bill rededicated himself to the principals of Scouting by pledging to live by the Scout Law and scout Oath.

The Scoutmaster, Mr. Walter J. Thomas, Jr. noted that the mother of a boy usually works as hard as anyone to complete the work for the rank of Eagle Award and requested that Mrs. Butler pin the Eagle badge upon her son. Bill in turn presented his mother with a silver miniature Eagle suspended on a silver chain, which Bill placed around her neck. Bill also presented his father with a tie bar with miniature eagle.

Rev. Hugh Ross Williams gave the Eagle Charge and Eagle Oath to Bill and pronounced the benediction.

## Liberty Hall Approaching Grandeur..But Tedious Job

By: Ruth P. Grady

Restoring old homes is not all glory as the finished product seems to show. It is full of fascination, challenge, headaches, rewards and at times, just plain heart aches.

But as Bob Herring says, "It is worth every challenge it puts before me." Bob Herring of Rose Hill is contractor for the restoration of Liberty Hall in Kenansville. Liberty Hall is the home of the Kenans and the scene of the wedding of Mary Lilly Kenan and Henry M. Flagler in August of 1901. Liberty Hall is the original home of William Rand Kenan, Jr. and Colonel Owen Kenan. The little town of Kenansville was named for the Kenans.

The Kenan family has given Liberty Hall to the county and has set aside an appropriation to restore the home to all of its original pomp and glory.

But according to Bob Herring there is many a step between the dream and the realization. First to greet the men on the job was a hive of bees which had made their home in one of the corners of the house. The bees sent the men scattering and also sent Herring scattering to find someone to take them away. Thomas Brinson, who lives in the Kenansville area, came and charmed the bees away as well as gathered a tub full of honey. This work which started eight months ago was planned in advance as far as it could be fore-

seen. First was the tedious job of removing, labelling, packaging and sketching of shutters, hardware, woodwork and every detail such as measurements were taken so they could be reproduced or replaced.

Plaster was knocked down in the entire house and hauled out. During the process, extreme caution was taken not to break any window lights. Then all wooden plaster laths were removed - these laths were home-made and "rived out," from heart pine and were in excellent condition as far as preservation is concerned. All nails, which were of wrought iron, were pulled out. The laths will be replaced by metal laths.

Due to weather conditions, work was then transferred to the outside. Men with wall scrapers and wire brushes actually manually scraped and brushed every square inch of the exterior of the walls. All nails had to be set in the weather boarding in the exterior trim so they can be caulked and sealed when the painting is done.

A move back to the inside of the house called for the scraping of paint and sanding of all interior trim such as doors, windows, mantels, base boards, casings, mouldings and ceilings of pantry and summer dining rooms. All doors and wood work is of heart pine except the banister rail which is of solid walnut.

Due to a leak in the chimney in the parlor which made the chimney unsafe, the mantel had to be dismantled and the chimney removed brick by brick in order to be able to

reuse the usable brick.

The floors will be cleaned and hand sanded to preserve their original irregularities. Of much interest is the fact that the flooring was originally hand dressed. The boards vary from four to eight inches wide. The top of the floors were finished and the bottom unfinished, and all floors are in good condition. The base boards in each room were carefully fitted to the floor and must be replaced in exactly the location which they originally fitted.

Many interesting facts were pointed out in the house. Studs were mortised into the beams. Storage spaces were recessed into the masonry work of each of the chimneys. Long timbers 4 x 10's go all the way through the house approximately 46 feet long. All studs in the wall are mortised into these timbers and they are mounted some 25 feet above the ground. Each room has corner braces. Corner posts in the house are approximately twenty-two feet long and supports are mortised in on each floor.

Extra supports have been placed above the ceiling in the second story of the house to provide support for the heavy roof which is to be put on. The specific shingle has not been selected but it is understood that the roof will be a glazed ceramic reproduction of wooden shingles which will be quite heavy.

All fire places are to be reworked with cast iron dampers so that the fireplaces may be used or closed as desired. The original brick will be used in all exposed areas. Fasc-

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## Warsaw Manager Named For Local Bank Branch

The Bank of Mount Olive has received approval from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to establish a full powered branch in the town of Warsaw.

In making the announcement, President E. C. Casey, of the Mount Olive based institution stated, "We are indeed pleased to receive approval for a Warsaw Branch. We shall begin immediately taking the necessary steps to open this branch as soon as possible. We are grateful to the many people in the area who have been instrumental in helping us establish this branch."

"We pledge to them and all residents of the Warsaw Community the full cooperation of our officers and staff in bringing to Warsaw a banking facility dedicated to service and with a sincere desire to become a part of this rapidly growing community," President Casey continued.

The Warsaw branch will be managed by T. Carroll Hobbs, 33, who has had more than six years banking experience. He is going through an orientation program at the bank's main office at the present time.

The son of Mr. M. L. and Mrs. Nettie B. Hobbs of Route 2, Faison, he is married to the former Harriette Thornton and the father of one child, T. Carroll Hobbs, Jr. Hobbs attended Hall's High School and graduated from Atlantic Christian College with a B. S. degree in Business Administration. He is a veteran of the Korean War.

The new Warsaw branch manager is a member of Grove Park Baptist church where he serves on the board of deacons and is the financial secretary. Hobbs is also a member of the Clinton Kiwanis club. He plans to move to Warsaw in the very near future.



### TO BE IN KENANSVILLE

On the 26th of May, which is Thursday, the first meeting of the architects, contractor and interior consultant of Liberty Hall will meet in Kenansville with Mr. Tom Kenan of Durham. The consultant is Mr. John E. Winters of New York City.

Mr. Winters was consultant in the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Art at Old Salem. Next fall he will be a frequent visitor to Kenansville as he will begin the work of re-finishing the interior of Liberty Hall.

Mr. Tom Kenan stated over the telephone on Tuesday that the Kenan family felt that they were most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Winters



Work in the basement at Liberty Hall moves slowly. The top picture shows the opening into the basement which caved in when the water level was found to be only five or six feet below the ground surface. In the middle picture, the bulldozer is shown moving away the muck and mire from underneath the house. In the bottom picture, one can see the walls of the basement rising, and beside the wall is the gravel and tiling which will drain all water off and keep the basement dry for a home for the heating and air-conditioning system of the house.



The Penney's, George and Virginia, open the gifts presented them by the hosts at the testimonial dinner given in their honor Friday night at the Oak Ridge Community Building (Photo by Ruth Wells)

## Testimonial Dinner For Penney

The Oak Ridge Community Building was the setting for a testimonial dinner Friday night honoring Mr. George V. Penney, retiring Soil Conservationist.

Hosts for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Mercer, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. N. P. Blanchard, and Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Vestal.

After the invocation by Rev. Lauren Sharpe, Mr. Calvin Mercer welcomed the guests. Response was by former County Extension Agent L. F. Wells,

now director of Field Service for Tobacco Associates, Mr. Penn Moore, Area conservationist gave a brief biography of the honored guest, Mr. Ellis Vestal introduced the following from the state office: Messrs. J. P. Kuykendal, H. A. Smith and J. A. Glazener, other officials recognized were Mr. L. W. Oulaw, former supervisor, Mr. Kenneth Grady, county commissioner, Mr. V. H. Reynolds, Extension Chairman, Mr. O. L. Holland, Duplin A.S.C.S., Mr. William Spitzer and Mr. Wilbert Jones S.

C.S. Technicians. Mr. Penney thanked the group for their courtesy to him and for the cooperation he had enjoyed during his twenty one years as soil conservationist and pointed out that more progress had been made in those twenty one years than in 2100 years prior, and that the soil is our most precious possession, only after our children. The Penney's children, Lura Anne Penney and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Penney were present for the occasion along with about 150 friends.