

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Board Of Education Meets

Patrons Voice Concern About Assignment Of Students

A group of parents appeared before the Duplin County Board of Education meeting in Kenansville on Thursday to express concern over the tentative plan to bus students in various school districts to schools other than those in their immediate communities under the "graduated plan" for Duplin County school desegregation.

Representatives were present from virtually every school district in the county, with the James Kenan School District probably having the largest number of parents present.

Under the "graduated plan" as is currently being carried out, up to this point, the integration that has come about has been completely within the heretofore all white schools. The next step in the plan for desegregation will necessitate integration within the heretofore all Negro schools because of the large number of students involved.

The plan for 1969-70 school year calls for the total integration of grades 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 to comply with the plan accepted by HEW (Health, Education, and Welfare) for Duplin County in 1967.

Under this plan, grades eight and nine were totally integrated this year (school year 1968-69).

It is pertinent to note here that this plan accepted by HEW has already been contested locally as there is a suit now pending against the Duplin County Board of Education for moving too slowly in the integration program. The members of the Board and their advisors have done everything possible to go about integration gradually in a manner that would be to the best interest of all concerned. The primary purpose of the Board of Education day-long meeting on Thursday was for discussion with attorneys the case that is pending and to take further action in preparation for answering the suit.

The group of parents who appeared before the Board to voice their concern over the tentative plan for bussing students were advised by the Board that "no decision" had been made as yet concerning this step.

It was brought out in discussion that under the graduated plan, "where to house" the increased number of students would be the problem in deciding on the best plan.

In the James Kenan School District, for instance, it is understood that under the tentative plan for complete desegregation of grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 that grades 7, 8, and 9 would be taught only at E. E. Smith School in Kenansville. This would necessitate the bussing of children - white and Negro - from the fringes of the district as far away as Faison, Magnolia and Warsaw. All high school children in the district from grades 10 through 12 would be bussed to James Kenan.

The schools can no accommodate the anticipated number of students next fall under the present plan if carried out.

Consequently, these facts point up the necessity of using all the school facilities in the district - namely what has formerly been all Negro schools.

Confronted with this, which is beyond the control of the Board of Education, the school administration, the faculty, and the parents, it is clearly seen that the heretofore all Negro schools must be utilized for the benefit of the overall Duplin County educational program.

But the parents do not want their young children bussed out

of their immediate communities!

The parents of the James Kenan District were quick to speak out - "We want to preserve pride in our local schools - bussing our children out will take that away" one said.

Another said, "We have helped build these schools - helped raise money for most of the extra's for years and they have become a part of our lives that would be taken away if the schools are moved out of our community".

"We want our younger children nearby and on and on..."

One partitioner suggested renaming of the schools involved and another expressed the feeling of the majority of those present, "If we must integrate, let's do it on a local level".

One parent pointed out the possibility of total integration in the Warsaw community by suggesting a plan which would involve the Warsaw Elementary Schools and Douglas High School becoming the Warsaw Public Schools, with high school students totally integrated at James Kenan or better yet - Warsaw High School!

"This would keep the young-

sters in their home community and keep the age groups separated", he pointed out.

For example, the elementary school children could be separated as follows: first-third grades as Warsaw Primary School; fourth-sixth as Warsaw Grammar School; and seventh-eighth grades as Warsaw Junior High School. The number of students in each age group would dictate which school facility would be used.

The ideas and sentiments expressed by the parents at the meeting with the Board of Education are in line with those of the majority of the parents throughout the county - of both races - who feel that integration is inevitable.

Most agree, "If we must - let it be integration within the home communities without bussing children to distant points to school!"

The Board and Superintendent of Education expressed a sincere appreciation for the interest shown by the parents in taking the time to voice their views.

"More views would help!", they said.

The big challenge is to come up with a more workable plan

that would be acceptable.

The Board requested that committees be formed locally to meet with the Board again to help decide on a plan that would be to the best interest of all concerned.

A meeting of this nature is a healthy sign that concern is growing for quality education of the youth of Duplin County.

Presently a study is being conducted to determine the capacity of each building, health facilities, transportation possibilities, lunchrooms and libraries available and their capacity, and how the schools will measure up if evaluated by the standards of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

The idea expressed by concerned parents at the meeting on Thursday gives the people of the entire county something to think seriously about.

City Tags - A Must

Mayor Earl Hatcher has reminded Kenansville motorists that they are required to purchase and display city tags. Tags are now on sale at the Town Clerks' office.

World's Largest Poultry Meeting



E. Marvin Johnson

ATLANTA, GA. - E. Marvin Johnson, vice president of Nash Johnson & Sons Farms, Rose Hill, North Carolina has announced plans for the world's largest poultry gathering in Atlanta, Georgia January 27-29. Johnson is secretary-treasurer and a director of Southeastern Poultry and Egg Association which sponsors the annual three day "Southeastern" convention now in its 22nd year. He is a key leader of the association as chairman of the Turkey Committee for a number of years and has served on various other committee assignments.

The big event includes industry educational programs, featuring top authorities with topics for broiler, egg and turkey interests, as well as the world's largest display of equipment, services and ideas by allied-industry exhibitors.

As a director Johnson plays a key role in administrative and committee work for the trade association as it serves the poultry industry in government affairs, industry schools, information, research and other areas. He also is a key planner and official host for the convention.

Johnson announced that last year more than 7-thousand persons were registered for the Southeastern Poultry and Egg Convention and from all advance indications this year's attendance will reach an all time high.

Hearing Continued In Breaking And Entering Charge

A young Raleigh man has been charged with attempted larceny and breaking and entering a rural grocery store on highway 11 between Kenansville and Wallace. Scheduled hearing has been continued because of illness.

Bond was set at \$500, for Charles Nick Hart, 31 of Rt. 7, Raleigh for hearing 10 A. M.

Friday, January 17, before District Court Judge Russell Lanier, after he was discovered early Wednesday morning inside the store operated by Buck Whaley. A plate glass window had been broken out for entry into the building.

Sheriff Elwood Revelle said that Deputies Glenn Jernigan and Jack Albertson went to investigate after a passing motorist observed the man inside the store and notified the owner.

Hart was reportedly in a dazed or stunned condition and appeared unaware of the seriousness of the charge, or even of the presence of the deputies and others at the scene. He was brought to Kenansville and placed in custody where Revelle

said he remained in a coma like condition until about 12:30 when he called the jailer and said "Lets get this straightened out". From then on he was

described as sharp as a tack and most cooperative.

He said he remembered using a glass bottle to break the window but had no idea why he did it, nor did he remember anything that followed until he spoke to the jailer.

Hart was driving a pick-up truck which Deputy E. E. Proctor said gave out of gas a few hundred yards from the break-in scene as Proctor attempted to drive it to Kenansville.

Sheriff Revelle said that he received a telephone call Friday morning from the chief of police of Youngsville advising him that Hart had had another "spell" and had been hospitalized. The spell described by the Youngsville officers was very similar to that observed by the Duplin County officials, Judge Lanier has continued the hearing to January 31.

Officers of Duplin County's newest civic club, Mill Swamp Ruritan Club, Chinquapin, are left to right: Installing officer and Past District Governor Jerry Walton; President

Woodrow Maready; Vice President, Rifton Raynor; Director, George Sholar; Secretary, Billy Elston; Director Hilton Maready; and Treas. William Batts. (Photo A. T. Johnson)

Mill Swamp Ruritan Club Chartered

A rural Duplin County community near Chinquapin has organized the largest Ruritan Club in North Carolina with a membership of sixty seven.

The club also holds the distinction of being the second largest Ruritan Club ever chartered.

The charter meeting was held Monday night at the Back Swamp Community Center in nearby Onslow County. Back Swamp Ruritan's organized the club and presented Charter Number 1587 containing the 67 names.

Officers elected were: Woodrow Maready, president; Rifton Raynor, vice president; Billy Elston, secretary; William Batts, Treasurer; Hilton Maready, three-year director; George Sholar, two year director; and Graham Raynor, one-year director. Installing officer was Jerry Walton, past District Governor of Maple Hill. Lewis McNeill, National Director, of Red Springs, was present and assisted with the meeting.

Others appearing on the program were Wilbur Williams, who gave the welcome; Rev.

M. S. McLain, Invocation; Hosea Horne, past Zone Governor explained "What Ruritan Is"; Fulton Stoker, District Governor, from White Oak was guest speaker; H. M. Chason,

White Oak; A. T. Johnson, Parkton; Freeman Marshburn, Willard; Clyde Motley, Maple Hill; Dick Williams, Zone Governor, was Emcee.

Mill Swamp Ruritan Club is in the Cape Fear District which has more than thirty clubs in Southeastern North Carolina.

Rod Dew left of Beulaville holds the Silver Beaver Award presented to him at the Annual Recognition Banquet, Tuscarora Council held at Southern Wayne High School Wednesday night. Participating in the ceremony

Tuscarora Council Annual Recognition Banquet

Wednesday night, Dick Moffat, past president of the Tuscarora Council gave his farewell address to 234 Scouts and their wives at the Annual Awards night. He placed emphasis on the great character building influence Scouting has had on the lives of our 7000 Scouts during the last three years in the Tuscarora Council's scope. He cited the "Scoutmaster's Manual" as the American Heritage of the Boy Scouts of America. In the "The Nation Under God" theme, he stressed the Scoutmaster's obligation to his Scouts and their parents.

new President of the Tuscarora Council, Moffat commended President Smith and wished him God Speed as he launches the great New Boy Scout 76 program. The program is designed to reach one boy in three in the Council by 1978 or approximately 7700 Scouts on the 25th Anniversary of the Nation.

Silver Beaver Awards were presented to three men, including Lew Fetschman, District Chairman of Chinquapin; Rod Dew, Scoutmaster from Beulaville and Art Arthur Chason, Cubmaster, Goldsboro.

The Silver Beaver is the highest award that can be presented a Scoutmaster on a Council level.

observed a man being electrocuted as he attempted to hold the power line above the house; Smith immediately climbed up on the house and brought the man back to life with artificial respiration. The "medal of merit" is given by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, for heroic deeds. Eugene Price, Editor of the Goldsboro News Argus made the presentation.

Col. Bill Bonden, Camping and Activities Chairman, presented two distinguished service plaques to Bill Kemp, Jr., of his leadership in taking 27 Eagle Scouts on a Good Will Tour of Europe in which he covered 19 countries over a three month period.

Editor of the News Argus, received the award for meritorious service to the leaders of the Boy Scouts of America's Pilgrimage

Commissioners Approve Sales Tax Hike

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting Tuesday at which time Joe Sutton of the first commissioner district was administered the oath of office to succeed himself. Mr. R. V. Wells, Clerk of the Court administered the oath.

In further business of the regular third Monday meeting, the board adopted a resolution

Pink Hill Gets Minister

The Rev. Charles R. Moore was installed as pastor of the Pink Hill Presbyterian Church and as stated supply for the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church at Albertson, N. C. in special services Sunday, January 19, 1969 at 7:30 P. M. at the Pink Hill Presbyterian Church. Conducting the services were the Rev. William E. Link of Clarkton, the Rev. Jesse M. Parks of Mount Olive and the Rev. G. Frank Sawyer of Beulaville. The public was invited.

Immediately following the services, a reception was held in the fellowship hall hosted by the Women of the Church, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Moore and daughter, Kathy.

endorsing a 1 percent sales tax increase as "Ad Valorem taxes are as high as people can now pay". A copy of this resolution was mailed to Representative Hugh Johnson and Senator Stewart Warren.

M. G. Cording Director of The Community Action Council in Rose Hill reported a budget of \$743,000 for the three county district in this fiscal year.

Shoe Store Opens

The Walker Shoe Store in Mount Olive opened Friday, January 17, at 124 North Center Street in the location formerly occupied by Stanley Shoe Company.

The new self-service store is a direct factory outlet and will carry a complete line of ladies, men and children's shoes, both work and dress, and in medium price ranges.

The store will be managed by Mrs. Audrey Wells, and is an affiliate of the B. B. Walker Shoe Company of Asheboro. Detailed information may be found in an advertisement elsewhere in this paper.

Hot Water Heaters Stolen

Off-premises beer license were issued to Thomas H. Hodges of Warsaw.

Highway officials King and Robinson discussed road situations in the county.

Shannon D. Brown was sworn in as a Constable of Kenansville Township.

SHOT GUN BLAST

A cat may have nine lives but Deputy Glenn Jernigan investigated a shooting recently where all nine lives were snuffed out by a shot gun blast, probably not intended for the cat.

Joe David Wallace was at the trailer home of his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Miller in Kenansville, on Highway 24, west. The Millers were away from home.

Wallace said a car stopped in the road outside the trailer and someone called to him. He went to the door and just barely "cracked it open" when a shot gun blast ripped through the side and door of the trailer, killing the cat on the door steps.

Wallace contacted his uncle who in turn called the sheriff's department. Deputy Jernigan is conducting an investigation.

Hot Water Heaters Stolen

Lewis Brewer, co-owner of the Lord Duplin Apartments in Warsaw reported to the local sheriff's department that 4 hot water heaters have been stolen from the new unit of Lord Duplin Apartments now under construction.

A second unit of eight apartments is in the final stages of completion. Six crated Ambassador hot water heaters, 40-gallons capacity each, had been placed inside the structure ready for installation. Apparently all six of the heaters were removed to the outside of the building where they were uncrated, and four were reported missing Monday morning.

Deputy Glenn Jernigan is investigating the theft of the four heaters, value of which was set at \$400.

Dean's List

BOONE, N. C. - A total of 776 Appalachian State University students earned academic honors by gaining places on the Dean's List for the Fall Quarter at Appalachian State University according to Dr. Kenneth Webb, Dean of Students. Duplin County was represented on the list by Rose Marie Sumner of Wallace.