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Problems Facing Duplin County

Board Of Education

Most citizens are aware of the problems presently facing the Board of Education due to school reorganization. Other problems exist in areas such as facilities, particularly at the elementary level, and overcrowded high schools. In many cases the elementary school plants are old high schools and are not designed to house small children. The fact that the age of the building will limit renovation is also of importance. If total integration of schools occurs in 1970 or possibly in 1969, it will cause major overcrowding high schools if the projected organization takes place. Wallace-Rose Hill High School will be a major problem area if students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are housed in the existing plant. The building will be approximately 200 students over capacity when this move is made. Similar situations will exist in both the James Kenan and East Duplin Schools. North Duplin will be over capacity to a lesser degree. It would seem practical at this time to start building these facilities to meet the projected needs. If permanent buildings are not constructed, mobile units will be needed. There are 31 mobile classroom units in the county at the present time. Nine more units are needed in order to house all students. The last units purchased in 1968 cost \$6,237.68 each. It is questionable whether or not this cost per unit is still in effect. In order to house students in this way it would cost the county \$56,199.00 based on the 1968 price.

A recent examination of the tax structure in Duplin County, revealed that 37 per cent of the \$1.65 tax levy is budgeted to the public schools for the 1968-69 and 1969-70 fiscal years. This particular characteristic is not true in most of the school units in North Carolina. The Statistics of Taxation, State of North Carolina 1968 list the following contribution to the public school systems served by those counties. It should be noted that a 7% reduction in the Duplin County tax levy has occurred since these figures were compiled.

COUNTY	1967 - 1968				
	PROPERTY VALUATION	SCHOOLS PER CENT	OTHERS PER CENT	PER CENT	
Duplin	\$85,678,331	\$586,900	41.5	\$ 826,302	58.5
Chatham	80,794,109	805,956	63.5	347,414	36.5
Craven	97,994,747	993,827	80	862,484	40
Harnett	128,238,052	833,547	52.3	743,721	47.2
Lenoir	133,564,233	1,362,265	63.7	714,679	36.3
Pender	46,318,574	354,275	58.5	137,127	41.5
Sampson	102,044,188	581,766	42.5	785,100	57.5
Wayne	207,367,783	1,247,747	48	1,455,784	54

Chatham and Craven Counties were selected because the property valuation in these counties is close to that of Duplin County.

If the same financial emphasis had been placed on education in Duplin County as in surrounding counties over the past years, the structure of education would be better. Most counties have eliminated fees for all students attending the public schools. If a high school student desires to take typewriting he simply signs up for the course. A \$15.00 to \$18.00 fee is charged for typewriting in our schools. Basic necessities such as instructional supplies are purchased from fees charged to all students at all levels. The State allocates \$1.75 per pupil for this purpose which is inadequate. Additional teacher personnel to relieve overcrowded classes is an area which needs close examination.

The curriculum in the schools is not designed to include a comprehensive approach to education. In all cases, academic preparation overshadows vocational training. Vocational training must become an integral part of the total educational program if the 68 per cent of our students who do not enter college are reached. Advanced academic courses must be included along with corrective courses for the slow learner. These problems can be corrected only when the proper emphasis is placed on the education process.

More than ever before, if quality education is to continue in the public schools, and if new innovations are to take place, certain actions must be taken.

1. The tax structure must be re-evaluated and emphasis placed on education. The present tax rate of \$1.65 is not distributed with education in mind. If it is necessary to raise the tax rate or utilize other taxes, e.g., sales tax then it must if the problems mentioned above are to be solved.
2. Elementary school buildings must be upgraded.
3. High schools must be enlarged to house students in attendance.
4. A broad comprehensive curriculum must be available to meet the need of the talented child and the needs of the slow learner.
5. More emphasis must be placed on obtaining qualified teacher personnel. It is imperative that new ideas and materials on education be utilized.

The challenge is great for all citizens in Duplin County. The Board of Education will act to maintain a sound educational program for all students. The job will require major support from all people interested in a better education for their children. The problems CAN BE SOLVED.

Woodman Family Outing

Rose Hill Woodmen of the World Ladies Court was held at Moore's Creek Battle Ground with fifty families in the area attending.

Moses B. Paul, secretary of Woodman Camp 874 planned the event. Area manager James A. Brown and Field Representative Kirk Carawan were also present.

The Willie Hiner family of Rose Hill received a country ham for being the largest all Woodman family present.

Mrs. Barbara Paul reported her husband, Clifford, and daughter, Patricia, were in a "popular" business.



Mrs. Tonia Bryan, left, Director of Volunteer Services at Cherry Hospital was guest speaker at the Duplin County Mental Health Group meeting in the courtroom last week.

With her are Rev. Kenneth Davis, Chairman, and Mrs. Millie Brown, acting Director of Public Welfare. (Photo by Ruth Wells)

Mrs. Bryan Speaker Duplin Mental Health Group

The Duplin County Mental Health Association heard Mrs. Tonia Bryan, director of volunteer services at Cherry Hospital, describe the needs of the hospital and its patients when she spoke at a county-wide meeting Thursday night in the county courtroom.

Chairman Kenneth Davis introduced Mrs. Bryan who made an appeal on behalf of the patients at Cherry from Duplin County.

Mrs. Bryan related that the budget for Cherry Hospital in-

cluded, although inadequately, money for doctors, psychologist, nurses, social workers, and many others who administer to the needs of these people. Money is not available however for the personal things that add so much to the meaning of life such as a window curtain, bedspread, chair, wall decorations of any type, and many, many other items. Many personal items are needed such as soap, shampoo, shower caps, deodorant, cosmetics, and stationery to mention only a few.

Mrs. Bryan cordially invited the group to visit Cherry Hospital and get first hand information on the conditions that exist there. She especially invited groups such as church circles, Lions, Rotary, Jaycees, Literary clubs, or any persons who feel inclined to help a less fortunate fellow man, to visit as a group to see the desperate need. She pointed out that the av-

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Federal Court Plea To Dismiss Suit Denied

Members of the Duplin County Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Board Attorneys, Attorneys for the Plaintiffs, and a Representative from The State Attorney General's Office met in the chambers of Judge Algernon L. Butler in Clinton at 2:30 p.m., June 18, 1969, to hear a request by the Board of dismissal of a suit, "seeking a preliminary and permanent injunction, enjoining defendants from continuing, sanctioning, authorizing and encouraging any policy, practice, custom and usage of discriminating against and denying equal educational opportunities to plaintiffs and other Negro citizens of Duplin County, North Carolina because of race or color and from expending public monies to main-

tain racially separate schools." The request for dismissal was based upon the grounds that the Duplin County Board of Education had heretofore entered into a contract with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, in accordance with the rules regulations and guidelines as provided by The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, The Department of Health, Education and Welfare then being a governmental agency who supposedly had control of the federal funds and over the schools; therefore, the suit should be dismissed.

The court denied this plea and now allows The Duplin Co-

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Privilege License Due July 1

Fred J. Walston, State Revenue Collector, urges all taxpayers to procure State privilege licenses before July 1, 1969.

According to Walston, timely applications for licenses, together with the correct remittance, should be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Revenue, Raleigh, North Carolina or submitted to the local State Revenue Office. He advises that the penalty for failure to comply will be 5% for each delinquent month, or fraction thereof.

Job Corps

Applications to Job Corps, will be accepted again next week. Interviews will be conducted by Mr. Grady Wheeler, Job Corps Counselor, at Community Action Council, Inc. in Rose Hill and at the Welfare Dept. in Kenansville.

Young men between 16 and 22 years old, who have not completed high school and cannot find good jobs are urged to contact either office and make an appointment for interview.

Former Editor Dies

ROSE HILL -- Murphy Lee Carr, 82, died in Sampson Memorial Hospital Monday night.

Mr. Carr was editor of The Progress Sentinel, a Rose Hill newspaper that merged with the Duplin Times. Upon this merger, Mr. Carr became editor of THE DUPLIN TIMES PROGRESS SENTINEL, a post he held until his retirement. He had previously served as postmaster of Rose Hill for twenty two years.

Funeral services were held in Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church Wednesday at 11 a.m. by the Rev. W. Clark Porter. Burial was in Rockfish Cemetery.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Grace H. Carr; two daughters, Mrs. Horace Fussell Jr. of Rose Hill and Miss Candace Carr of the home; one son, Robert Lee Carr of the home; his step-mother, Mrs. Estelle Moore Carr of Rose Hill; one half-sister, Mrs. Stella Island of Cherry Point; one half-brother, Charles C. Carr of Rose Hill; and one grandchild.

Agricultural-Business Leaders Tour Mississippi Delta

The above local people were part of a group of thirty-seven agricultural and business leaders from North Carolina who toured the Mississippi Delta area June 17 to 20. The group represented a broad cross section of North Carolina agricultural interests. They were in search of new ideas which would benefit the state's agricultural economy and broaden our diversification program. The thought behind the tour was to place emphasis on developing increased profits from crops already being grown as well as new ones that might be grown, according to W.T. Hancock, Tour Director and Vice President of Southern National Bank, sponsor of the tour.

The first day's visits included a stop at the Delta Farm in Parken, Arkansas. This farm is comprised of 24,000 acres of newly cleared Delta land devoted almost exclusively to the production of soybeans. Here they saw the advantage of large volume farming which is essential in the production of crops with a low unit profit. It was pointed out that a \$20 per acre profit with a satisfactory margin on a farm of this size. Also, on the first day of the tour a stop was made at Circle M Ranch in Senatobia, Miss., where the group saw the outstanding Polled Hereford Herd belonging to "Hot" Moore, the outstanding Polled Hereford breeder in the United States.

In the same area a feed lot producing in excess of a thousand steers annually was visi-



Touring the Mississippi Delta area were left to right: W.T. Hancock, Felton Rackley, and Dennis Ramsey. Second row, Grover Dobbins, Extension Agent; Nash Johnson, George Spain, N.C. Dept. Agr., and Bryan Smith, N.C. Dept. of Conservation and Development.

ted. The group was impressed by the practical buildings and feeding arrangements developed by the Pond brothers, owners of this farm.

Wednesday the farms visited included the famous Delta and Pineland Co. Farms at Scott, Miss. The entire morning was devoted to touring this 38,000 acre farm which produces more cottonseed than any farm in the world. Also seen here were a variety of agricultural crops including vegetables, rice and a large beef cattle operation with feed lot.

At Stoneville, Miss., the group toured the extensive re-

search farm where more cotton research is being done than anywhere else in the United States. The work at the station is a cooperative effort of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Miss. State Dept. of Agriculture. Also in this general area a visit was made to the Walker Farms Dairy, the Stable Cotton Cooperative at Greenwood, Miss., and a final stop at the Morgan City Fisheries where the group toured a small processing plant and saw the 400 acre catfish growing ponds of this company. The

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Recent rains in Duplin County have completely destroyed many crops and heavily damaged others. The wilted leaves of tobacco are an indication that the plants have drowned. Some plants revive while others as in cases of this kind, will fall to revive

and tobacco poundage produced by the farmer will be sharply curtailed. Many acres of crops in the county have been plowed under. (Photo by Ruth Wells)

Heavy Rains In Duplin Leave Sad Plight

Crops in Duplin County, hit by two separate deluges of water that approached flood proportions, are indeed in a sad plight.

Many parts of the county sustained rainfall in mid May unofficially measured nine inches, and even more in some instances during a three day period.

Crops on light sandy soil were washed out completely and have shown little or no response to any encouragement to grow.

Crops on soils of a nature that could withstand such heavy downpours lost many of their feed roots, turned a sick yellow and managed to survive at all only by a second application of fertilizer and cultivation to help dry out the soil. These crops have shown signs of recovery, at least to some extent and have started growing again.

A second downpour of flood waters hit Duplin last week, again in many instances meas-

uring nine inches. This came in less than a twenty-four hour period and dealt the final blow to many crops.

High water signs were posted on US Highway 117 between Magnolia and Rose Hill and on Rural Paved Road 1003 between Magnolia and Kenansville, warning motorists of the impending danger.

Chicken houses were reportedly flooded and a gas tank underneath the ground at the

home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Drew, Rt. 1, Magnolia floated out of the ground.

Tobacco, long recognized as the Golden Weed has literally become golden, prematurely in the fields and many of the leaves lay limp and wilted down the stalks.

Many acres of truck crops and grain in the county have been plowed under, leaving the bare fields a grim reminder of the damages sustained.