

PROGRESS SENTINEL

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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JULY 3, 1969 KENANSVILLE, N.C.

16 Pages This Week

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Watershed Improvement Program Discussed

On Thursday night, June 26, the Duplin County Municipal Association held its quarterly meeting at the Stone Manor Restaurant, in Wallace, at which time the watershed improvement program for Duplin County was discussed by P. B. Ralford, Executive Director of Duplin Development Commission, and Kenneth R. Futreal, District Conservationist with Soil Conservation Service.

Mr. Futreal presented a series of slides showing the flooding, erosion and crop-drowning problems in the county; and then discussed some possible solutions to most of these problems. He also discussed the small watershed planning and its value to both urban and rural communities.

Mr. Ralford went into detail on the needs for an effective watershed improvement program and pointed out the benefits that the county could expect to receive. He particularly stressed the opportunities for recreation and municipal and industrial water, and the protection of our rural economy by minimizing flooding. He also

stated that a strong rural economy is essential for maximum growth in urban areas.

It was further stated by Mr. Ralford that a favorable vote is needed on August 2nd in order for the County Commissioners to be authorized to take advantage of the various flood control and drainage programs now available from the state and federal governments. It was pointed out that a portion of the ABC profits is now earmarked by law for use on watershed projects and is considered adequate to finance many of the proposed smaller projects. He stressed that a tax, if and when levied, could only be used for the purpose of watershed improvement and that following the referendum on August 2nd it would probably be three to five years before planning and engineering could be completed on any projects initiated.

After a general discussion on the different aspects of the referendum, all in attendance received a copy of the brochure which gives some general information about the watershed improvement effort.



Flood water damages roads and cause a great deal of inconvenience.



During a flood, merchants lose as well as farmers.



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Briefs

To Close

The A & P Store in Warsaw will be closed July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

HOLIDAY

All County Offices will be closed Friday July 4th. Also closed for the Independence Day Holiday will be Selective Service, Employment Security Commission, Coastal Production Credit Association, The ASCS Office and THE DUPLIN TIMES.

Announcement

The North Carolina Department of Public Welfare, as result of legislative action, will now be known as the North Carolina Department of Social Services.

The merger of Citizens Savings and Loan Association of Wilmington into Peoples Savings and Loan Association of Wilmington will become effective June 30, according to an announcement by S.D. Blissette, President of P&L.

As a result, Peoples Savings' assets will total 31 million dollars as of June 30, and it will become the 33rd largest of the 183 savings and loan associations in North Carolina. The Citizens' office at 915 Chesnut Street will be closed for business after Friday, June 27, and all Citizens' account holders will be served at Peoples Savings' main office at Fourth and Market Streets after that date.

Vacation Pay

J.P. Stevens and Co., Inc., this week will distribute approximately \$5.5 million in vacation pay to employees in its plants in the South. Most of the plants will be closed during the week June 30-July 6.

More than \$1.8 million of this amount will be distributed to eligible employees at the company's 21 plants in North Carolina, according to Vice President Frank T. Roberts.

Savings Bond Sales Up

Savings Bond and Freedom Share Sales in Duplin County for May were \$18,462. For the year, cumulative sales amounted to \$17,968, which is 62.9 percent of the county's \$147,386 quota for 1969, according to E.C. Brewer, volunteer chairman of the Savings Bonds program in Duplin County.

Bouleville Gas Company Now Open

Watch for the formal grand opening of Beulaville Gas Co., located in Beulaville on Highway 24 in the building formerly occupied as an office for National Spinning Co.

The new business now open in Beulaville is owned by J.P. Smith and A.Q. Smith who are also owners of Smith Bros. Gas Co. of Magnolia.

The new business is managed by Raleigh Lenter. Mrs. James Trent is bookkeeper and Everene Miller is delivery man. Their phone number is 298-1821.

Available at Beulaville Gas Co. in addition to L.P. gas are Atlanta and Peerless heaters, King and Harwick ranges, Gas-tobac tobacco cutters, poultry equipment and supplies.

The owners of this new business have previously served their many customers in the Beulaville area from their Magnolia location. As an added convenience to their customers they have located in Beulaville and will now announce themselves grand opening.

Commission Endorses Watershed Referendum

At the regular meeting on Monday, June 30, the Board of Directors of Duplin County Development Commission endorsed the watershed referendum to be held on Saturday.

August 2nd, and recommends favorable consideration by all the voters in Duplin County. Floods in past years have caused considerable damage to crops and roads in the county. The loss of farm income has resulted in reduced sales by our merchants; and excessive road repairs and maintenance are a cost to all taxpayers. In the discussion by the Board regarding the merits of the watershed program, it was pointed out that it was necessary to provide, by a favorable vote, the Board of County Commissioners with authority to participate with the state and federal governments in water and water-related projects that will enhance the economic growth of the county.

P. B. Ralford, Executive Director of Duplin Development Commission, said that in addition to flood control, plans are in the making to use the impounded water for recreational purposes and for municipal and industrial development. He said the federal government will pay 100% of the cost of the engineering study and the cost for flood control and the state will pay 80% of the non-federal portion of each project and that the cost to Duplin County will be incidental.

Commissioners Notes

Kenansville -- The Duplin County Board of Commissioners gave approval Monday to the University of Wisconsin to conduct a study of the effects of Negative Income Tax in Duplin County. The experiment would affect some 300 families and continue for a period of three years. Duplin was one of the two counties in the entire United States selected for this experiment.

The Board adopted a budget of \$6,988,840.27 for the year 1969-70.

All county employees with as

Duplin County Red Cross Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Duplin County Chapter of the American National Red Cross was held on Wednesday afternoon, June 25, 1969 at 4 o'clock in the O.P. Johnson Education Building in Kenansville.

In the absence of the chapter chairman who was on tour in California and the vice-chairman who was on a business trip Mrs. N.E. Boney, the Executive Secretary presided and welcomed the 16 present, representing 4 different communities.

The Rev. Clark Porter III

Independence Weekend

Too much independence on the highways over the long Independence Day weekend could bring death to at least 23 persons in more than a thousand traffic accidents on North Carolina's streets and highways cautions the N.C. State Motor Club.

The official count of the holiday highway toll runs from 6 p.m. Thursday, July 3, through midnight Sunday, July 6, a 78 hour period. The July Fourth casualty list for a 102-hour period last year came to 28 killed and 771 injured in 1,472 accidents. Eleven of the deaths were recorded on Thursday the Fourth.

Leading driver violations reported were: speeding, 353; drove left of center, 198; failed to yield right of way, 171; failed to see movement safe, 134; and following too closely, 108.

"Since the Fourth falls on Friday this year to make it an extended weekend, there will be a tremendous upsurge in traffic, especially to and from vacation areas," said Thomas E. Watkins, president of the motor club and the National Automobile Association.

"The State Highway Patrol has done a remarkable job in holding traffic deaths to about eighty less than this time last year. Let's not spoil their good work with an outbreak of careless driving and a rash of highway accidents. Remember, no one can 'take time back after' an accident has occurred."



Newly elected president of the Warsaw Rotary Club, Rufas Freeman, presents past presidents pin to Al Smith. The past presidents pin is presented each year to the out going president

Smith Named Rotarian Of Year

Al Smith receives Rotarian of the Year Award Thursday night when the Warsaw Rotary Club entertained their wives and special guests.

A Spanish theme was the setting for the buffet-dance held at Duplin Country Club.

Al Smith, outgoing president presided. The Home Improvement award was presented to Rotarian and Mrs. E.C. Thompson, II.

Bill Faust and wife, Tina were recognized as special guest and also for the leadership and work that Bill has put forth with the Boy Scouts troop sponsored by the Rotary Club.

Special music by Mrs. Charles Owens and her sister was enjoyed by everyone. They sang songs in Spanish and English.

Also entertainment by Bill Tadlock, magician, and his helpers, Jim Edmondson and Red Boyette was most enjoyable. The buffet was catered by Joe West.

Mother Of News Editor Dies

Mrs. L. F. Byrd, Sr.

Mrs. Mary (Flossie) Beasley Byrd, age 89, of 2522 McNeil Circle, Fayetteville and mother of Mrs. Ruth Wells, news editor of this paper, died Friday night in Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville following a lengthy illness.

She was a native of Duplin County and spent her entire life here until a few years ago. She was the daughter of the late Major Austin and Nancy Catherine Barden Beasley and the widow of the late Louis Frank Byrd, Sr.

She was a member of Oak Plain Presbyterian Church, Rt. 1, Rose Hill where funeral services were held Sunday at 11:00 o'clock a.m. conducted by Rev. L.L. Johnson. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Surviving are: three daughters, Mrs. Dennis Jessup, of Fayetteville, Mrs. H. Grover Finch of Raleigh, and Mrs. J. Wells, Kenansville; two sons, Ben V. Byrd, and David O. Byrd, Sr. both of Rt. 1, Rose Hill; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Active pallbearers were Paul Byrd, David Byrd, Jr., Vernon Culbreth, Walter Sower, Lewis Johnson, and Joe W. Newrick.



Elliott Small, left, vice president of the Comfy Homes Division, Reeves Brothers Manufacturing Co., Inc., Kenansville presents the firm's check in the amount of \$5000 to Charles S. Harrell for the development program of Mount Olive College.

Reeves Gives Check To College

Reeves Brothers Manufacturing Company, through the new manager Elliott Small who is also Vice President of Comfy Division of Reeves has presented Mount Olive College with a check for \$5,000, a gift from a growing textile firm to a growing college.

The firm made a similar contribution last year. Among the many local projects presented by this firm is the Boy Scouts of America, Reeves Brothers is a member of the exclusive Gentry Club in which membership is attained by donation of \$100 or more annually to the scouting program.

Reeves Bros. have completed several expansions in the original facility here and are now in the process of adding office space at the front of the plant which will house the plants Comfy Homes Division main office, formerly located in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Small will be in charge of the Kenansville plant and expects to move his family to this area before school starts in the fall.