

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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10 PAGES THIS WEEK

10¢ PLUS TAX

Emergency School Aid Grants Announced

State School Superintendent Craig Phillips has been notified by the U.S. Office of Education that the Duplin County Schools has received a grant of \$100,000 under the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA). A statewide total of \$8,817,701 has been awarded to thirty-six school systems across the State; a total of \$369,276 has been awarded to eleven non-profit organizations.

According to Dudley Flood, Assistant Superintendent for Human Relations for the State Education Agency, "the Emergency School Aid Act was originally designed to aid schools in overcoming the problems resulting from desegregation. Most of these recent grants to

school systems will be used for remedial reading and math instruction. Grants awarded to non-profit community groups will be used largely for community relations programs dealing with such problems as school dropouts," he added.

Craven County, Pamlico County, and Salisbury City Schools were notified of their grants in February and have already begun implementing their projects. High Point City, Rutherford County, and Wayne County Schools were awarded grants in May. The remaining thirty-school systems and eleven non-profit organizations to receive grants have only recently been notified.

Kenansville Receives Funds To Aid Water Supply System

Over \$11.5 million in State grant funds have been awarded to 72 Local Governments in North Carolina to aid in financing the construction of water supply system projects, according to David T. Fishery, secretary of the Department of Human Resources.

This is the second group of grant awards for water supply systems under the N.C. Clean Water Bond Act of 1971 and brings the total funds awarded for this purpose to nearly \$14 million for fiscal year 1973-74. The State grants are to be used in partial payment of water system construction cost, amounting to approximately \$70 million.

In order to qualify for these funds cities, counties, and sanitary districts had to meet eligibility requirements as provided by the rules and regulations adopted under the Clean Water Bond Act of 1971. The funds were made available as a result of approval of a \$150 million clean water bond re-

ferendum passed by voters in May 1972.

Rules and regulations governing how the money would be awarded were adopted last fall by the Division of Health Services, Board of Water and Air Resources and the Department of Administration and were approved by the Advisory Budget Commission.

Fishery said another group of applications is now being processed by the Division of Health Services and announcement of new grant awards will be in August.

Kenansville received \$3,100. The total estimated project cost is \$30,100 for Kenansville.

Death By Choking

Death by choking claimed the lives of some 3,500 people last year, said Mrs. Carl Barbee, First Aid chairman of the Duplin County Red Cross Chapter, who urged that special precautions be taken to prevent choking accidents.

Particularly vulnerable to this hazard are children under one year, who tend to put anything into their mouths, and older people who wear dentures.

In its first aid courses, Red Cross emphasizes prevention of accidents and emergency aid of victims of such accidents.

Mrs. Barbee suggested precautions to help prevent choking accidents among children.

Children under four years should not be given foods that require grinding action to molars, for example, raw vegetables or nuts. Small objects as well as toys with detachable parts should be kept out of infant's reach.

Never make a child laugh or cry while he is eating. Fatal choking might result.

When choking accidents occur, regardless of the victim's age, seek medical help at once, even if coughing or other symptoms subside. Start artificial respiration by the mouth-to-mouth method if natural breathing stops.

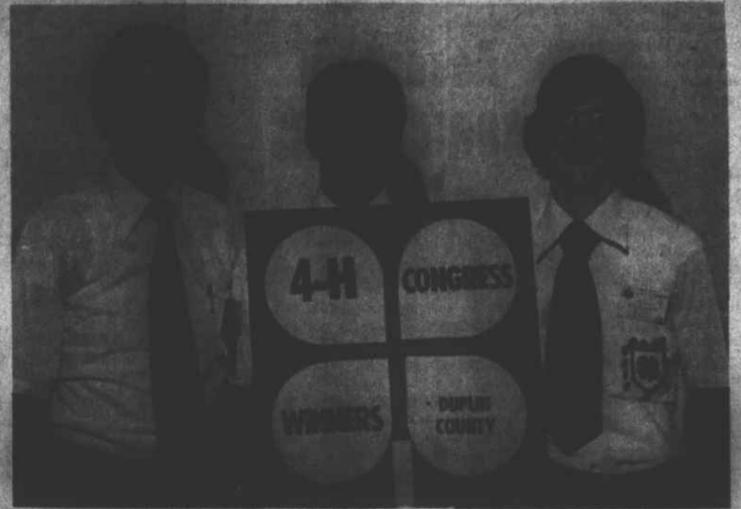
Republican

Meetings Planned

There will be a meeting of the Hallsville Precinct Republican party on Saturday August 18, 1973, at 9:00 a.m. at Mrs. Ruby Furell's Store, Rt. 1, Enslaville, N.C. (regular voting place), to elect Precinct officials and delegates to the county convention.

There will be a meeting of the Warsaw Precinct Republican party on Monday August 20, at 8:00 p.m. at Radio Station WTRQ meeting room, to elect officials and delegates to the county convention.

There will be a meeting of the Magnolia Precinct Republican party on August 29, 1973 at 8:00 p.m. at the Community Building, to elect precinct officials and delegates to the county convention.



4-H WINNERS--Duplin County had two state champions at the recent State 4-H Congress on the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh. Rouse Ivey (center) and Mt. Olive, was winner in the tractor operator program and will participate in the regional contest in Richmond, Va. in September. The Amoco Foundation sponsors the program. Lynn Hall (right)

was landscaping champion and received \$100 toward expenses of attending the National Junior Horticultural Assn. meeting in Oklahoma in November. The award is donated by the N. C. Extension Homemakers Assn. Extension Agent Marion Griffin (left) assisted the two state champions.

Social Security Benefits Paid To Duplin County Residents

Social security benefits were being paid to residents of Duplin County at a rate of \$546, 000 a month at the close of 1972. Samuel A. Gupton, Social Security Assistant Manager in Goldsboro, said today.

Of the social security beneficiaries living in Duplin County, 3065 are retired workers and their dependents. Another 1718 are receiving benefits as the survivors of workers who have died, and 785 are getting

benefits as disabled workers or their dependents.

Although most social security beneficiaries are older people, about one out of every four is under age 60. In Duplin County, 1925 people under age 60 are collecting social security payments each month. Nearly 990 are under age 18, receiving payments because a working father or mother has died or is getting social security disability or

retirement benefits. Most of the 153 beneficiaries in Duplin County between 18 and 22 years of age, are getting student's benefits under a provision in the Social Security Law permitting the continuation of a child's benefits beyond his 18th birthday, and up to age 22, if the child is attending school full-time.

Also in the 18-22 age group, Gupton said, are some other types of beneficiaries, illustrating the broad family protection that the social security program provides workers of all ages. Some are children of retired, disabled or deceased workers who became disabled before they reached 22 and who will probably never be able to work and become self-supporting. The monthly benefits of these young people, severely handicapped by physical or mental disabilities, will continue indefinitely. Benefits are also payable to the mother if the disabled son or daughter is in the mother's care.

Another relatively small but significant group of youthful social security beneficiaries are those who are receiving benefits as disabled workers.

GED Test Offered At JSI

The General Educational Development (GED) Test will be offered at James Sprunt Institute on August 6 and 7, 1973, from 5 to 10 p.m. The test consists of five individual tests on the subjects of English, social studies, natural sciences, literary materials, and mathematics. Part of the test will be given on August 6 and the remaining part on August 7.

Successful completion of the General Educational Development test awards the High School Equivalency Certificate. All persons who are interested in taking the test

may obtain an application from the Registrar's Office at James Sprunt Institute. There is a \$3 fee for taking the test. The Learning Laboratory of James Sprunt Institute is open each week day from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., and all persons interested in receiving their High School Equivalency Certificate are urged to make use of these facilities in preparing themselves for the test.

In addition, the GED test will be given on the following dates during the 1973-74 school year: November 6-7, 1973; February 4-5, 1974; May 6-7, 1974; August 5-6, 1974



L-R: Zennie Quinn, Jaycee President; Hiram Brinson, Jaycee Chairman of Operation Red Ball; Wiley Booth, Ins. sponsor of Operation Red Ball; and Rev. Lauren Sharp, Ken-

ansville Fire Chief are pictured above. Through these men's efforts Operation Red Ball will begin in Kenansville Sunday, August 5.

Operation Red Ball Begins August 5

Operation Red Ball will begin in the Kenansville Fire District Sunday afternoon August 5.

The objective of this program is to place a red, round vinyl disc (Red Ball) in the house window of a child, in-

valid or other persons who would be in need of special assistance in the event of a fire or other emergency. The "Red Balls" provided by Wiley Booth Insurance Agency of Kenansville will be distributed in a house-to-house campaign by members of the Ken-

ansville Jaycees and the Kenansville Fire and Rescue Unit.

Those residences who are not contacted Sunday, should pick up the "Red Balls" at the Civil Defense Office in the Duplin County Courthouse next week.

TAKING IT EASY - Taking it easy and keeping cool is the motto for these youngsters this summer. This group of "wet and wild" kids are pictured above at the Duplin County Club swimming pool.

Pictured at the top of the lifeguard stand are as follows: Kenny Minshew, lifeguard, April Merritt, Michael Quinn, Rebecca Quinn,

Scotty Smith, Norwood West, Tracy Merritt, Mitchell Quinn and Jeff Merritt.

"I don't want summer to end," were the comments of these happy swimmers. August 20th is just too soon for school to start and end this paradise of leisure living.

PHOTO BY JO CAROL JONES

Open Letter From Board Of Education Member

As the school children are enjoying the summer months and with principals and school administrative personnel quickly working getting organized for the beginning of another school year, I take this opportunity to make a few personal remarks pertaining to the public schools of Duplin County.

I have been privileged now to have served on the county board of education for over three years, and my elected term will continue for another three years. I have made and I shall continue to make, a reasonable effort to familiarize myself with our system.

I will have to say at the outset that Duplin is not a rich county tax-wise nor do our people at large, as I observe the situation, have a burning desire to raise our educational standards to be competitive with other regions of our state and nation. Therefore, it is my belief that we must make an extra effort to continue to emphasize the need for a greater portion of our present tax dollar to be utilized for local education, fully realizing all the while our financial limitations, and come forth with some strong leadership from our school board, superintendent's office and our principals.

I have enjoyed my association with other members of Duplin's board and it is believed that my fellow members are all concerned with our educational needs. Nevertheless, I feel compelled to divide the activities of the school board into two categories: First, we spend a great deal of our time dealing with what I call "brick and mortar" matters, such as budgets, personnel, buses, lunch rooms, buildings and grounds, but to name a few. I would estimate that about thirty-five to thirty percent of our time is devoted to such areas. Secondly, the

subject of curriculum and what is actually being taught and what might be the end product of our graduating seniors, in my opinion, gets a limited amount of our attention. It was my belief and desire upon being elected to this public office that my primary responsibility and the thrust of my energy was to be used to become acquainted with the needs of our schools and zero in primarily on the learning process of our children.

As I have attended various meetings, talked with parents, visited the elementary schools and attended more than forty different classes in session in our junior and senior high schools, it is apparent to me that the weakest link in the whole school system of Duplin County is our high schools.

The following are some policies I believe necessary for a functional high school system:

A. We need a full time high school assistant superintendent, supervisor, or coordinator, responsible directly to the superintendent in charge of developing and coordinating uniform and basic curriculum for our four high schools. We presently believe such is necessary at the elementary level since we now have two full time supervisors in such areas, but we have failed to fill this need in the high school system. This person's time doesn't need to be diverted away from this important position into areas of lesser importance. I have already seen several golden opportunities to fund this position, but a majority of the school board doesn't share my belief.

B. Until we come to grips with the general lack of discipline, a great deal of unnecessary noise in the halls and class rooms during class, and what sometimes appears to be a general breakdown of respect

for our school personnel, and until these distractions are brought under some control with some strong leadership, I don't see how we can expect anymore than the level of education we are now getting. These responsibilities must start with the county board of education itself and primarily involve the superintendents and principals. It is my further belief that the parents are not being involved sufficiently at the high school level and we can't do this job without their help and assistance.

C. I believe that exams for seniors should be reinstated county-wide without any exceptions.

D. I am appalled at the level of drug use by our high schools. Something has got to be done, and I don't mean just drug education. Our school way in my judgment to deal with this problem is with a firm hand, such as reporting every suspected use or distribution among any students, systematically searching the school lockers, and possibly for the appropriate municipalities or law enforcement units in the various high school districts to appoint strong minded adult citizens to serve on a small drug committee to work solely with the school, parents and law enforcement to curb this onslaught that is striking at the very heart of our culture. My observation is that our law enforcement people dealing with drugs must feel terribly neglected by the failure of the public to give them its absolute support.

E. Our high school principals have got to realize the importance of devoting more of their time in the class rooms, and to the need of better coordination with their respective teachers about the ever-changing course of study and their

development.

Three of our four high schools in this county now have full time assistant principals, possibly for the first time in our county's history, and the problems of buses, lunch rooms and discipline, with a few exceptions, must be delegated to these new assistants.

F. Last, but not least, we are spending more money than anyone can imagine on Duplin County education which is derived from our local, state and Federal budgets; and our high schools in particular, in my opinion, are without any meaningful yardsticks or testing system to measure what is being accomplished before graduation.

Last year was the first time of my knowledge of a limited amount of testing, and it is my firm belief that the school board should be constantly reviewing educational trends of our students that can only come from some practical measuring device which we, as a school board, have not been requiring. The running of the schools of this county is one of our largest businesses, but how can we know that we are operating successfully throughout the course of the school year without some type of periodic testing of the individual pupil.

Perhaps these remarks will upset some of our educators, fall on deaf ears in other areas, and in some instances be met with approval. Nevertheless, these ideas are some of what I believe to be some needs of public high school education of Duplin County. And, further, that some of the "passing of the buck" has got to stop with myself and the other members of the educational team elected to provide the best learning pro-

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