

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Duplin Leads In Agriculture

Duplin County retained its position as North Carolina's leading agricultural county in 1976, although gross agricultural income dropped slightly due to weakened poultry prices. The county, meanwhile, shows promise of increasing its industrial base with two plant expansion announcements expected soon, and at least one new industry expected to settle in Duplin, according to James Rusher, industrial development director.

Extension Chairman, Vernon Reynolds, estimated the county's gross farm income at \$164.5 million, a drop of \$6.5 million from the record 1975 total. The principal decrease came in poultry, where depressed prices dropped the gross to \$75.9 million in 1976 from \$82.4 million in 1975. Duplin is one of the major poultry producing counties in the U.S. and the leading county in North Carolina.

Last year the county's pro-

ducers and program operators marketed 36.7 million broilers weighing an estimated 147 million pounds, and 5.7 million turkeys, weighing 88.9 million pounds. A sharp drop in turkey prices accounted for much of the income decrease with the gross return in 1976 at \$31 million compared with \$39.4 million in 1975.

Tobacco follows poultry in producing gross income at \$29.9 million. Duplin, in the heart of the huge Eastern North Carolina tobacco belt, is the only agricultural county of the area in which tobacco is not "the King" by far.

Gross income from swine approached that of tobacco at \$27 million. Duplin is usually the leading swine producing county of the state as well.

Rusher noted the industrial situation is looking up with three plants locating in the county in the last year, and four prospects now showing some interest in locating here.

"We are very optimistic about one prospect, in particular," he said. "We are hoping we can satisfy its needs and make an announcement shortly. It would mean employment for 130 persons in two locations, and would add about a million dollars to our county's total industrial payroll," he said.

"We have a fair hope that a second firm will locate here, too," he said. "This one would be very diversified, and would probably locate at the airport if it were to decide on a Duplin site."

The two companies expanding their plants will add 150 jobs when they go into operation in the new areas. One of the expansions will add 65,000 square feet of manufacturing area. Its announcement is expected within two weeks, Rusher said.

During 1976, two sewing plants opened in the county, he said. Calypso Casuals, which now employs 68 persons, makes

ladies' slacks and jackets. Whisper Soft Mills at Rose Hill employs about 100 persons to make satin sheets, pillow cases and comforters.

The other 1976 newcomer is Woodcrafts Originals, also in Calypso. It employs 12 persons to make wood containers and decorative and ornamental stands for flowers.

Rusher lists 55 industries in the county, including several large feed mill operations, two poultry processing operations, a plywood operation, a large sawmill, a major pickle packer, several textile operations and numerous sewing operations. The county's largest industrial employer is J. P. Stevens, with two plants in Wallace.

Industrial employment totals about 4,600, Rusher said, out of a total labor force of 17,550. Agricultural employment has dropped to 4,300 from a peak of 3,000 a few years ago. Non-manufacturing employment totaled 3,160 workers; public administration, 1,810; and other occupations, including logging and lumbering, total about 2,000 workers. The average weekly wage is \$125.31.

The unemployment figure stands at about 11 percent or about 2,000 persons.

Retail sales for 1976 are being projected at \$110 million, Rusher said, although the final analysis is incomplete. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976, retail sales amounted to \$99,143,155, according to analysis by the state department of revenue based on sales tax returns.

Two More Arrests Made In Soybean Theft

A truck driver was charged with receiving stolen property. The charge involved 48 bushels of soybeans valued at \$320.84. She was placed in Duplin County jail under \$5,000 bond and released on bail. Glenn Faison was placed under \$2,000 bond.

James Franklin Faison, 52, of Calypso, was arrested and charged on February 9th in the

soybean theft. Best reported someone had stolen his truck filled with 48 bushels of soybeans on February 9th. The truck was parked on a shed on the Earl Davis farm north of Warsaw.

Duplin officers found where some of the beans reportedly stolen had been sold and had payment stopped on uncashed checks.

A helicopter was called in last week at Goshen Swamp in Smith Township to remove logs from the swamp. Most of the white oak trees that were being cut were four feet across, and had to be cut in half in order to be logged out.

The helicopter used an electric "grabber" to lift the logs. The copter could lift 5,000 pounds at a time, and carried the logs one and one-half miles out of the swamp. With a limitation of 45 minutes fuel time, the helicopter brings its own fuel tank along.

Dill Smith, logger, of R.F.D., Kenansville, had the helicopter carry the logs out of the swamp. Smith said the soft grounds in the roadless swamp prevented trucks from reaching the logging area.

The white oak logs were taken to Kingston by trucks, then to Norfolk, Va., where they were shipped by boat to Germany to be used to manufacture caskets.

Helicopter Logging

Gilbert Johnson is the fifteen year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Page Johnson. His brother, Robert, is an Eagle Scout. Gilbert entered Cub Scouting in 1971 where he earned the Bear rank. He went on to the Arrow of Light in Webelos. He joined Troop 44 on January 18, 1974. He has held the offices of Patrol Leader twice and Senior Patrol Leader twice, and has been a Den Chief for three years. He participated in the Pilgrimage to Halifax, the flag presentation trip to Maryland, and camp activities at Camp Tuscarora two summers. He narrated the Bicentennial skit performed for the Blue and Gold Awards Banquet. He has earned forty merit badges. Gilbert and another Scout worked on their Eagle project together. They repaired and equipped the Troop 44 utility trailer. He is a



EIGHT EAGLE SCOUTS - Troop 44 of Warsaw held an Eagle Scout Ceremony Sunday with eight boys in the troop receiving the Eagle Scout Award. The ceremony was held at the Warsaw Baptist Church. Receiving the awards were front row, left to right, Darret Ezzell, Wiley Killette, Gilbert Johnson. Second row, left to right, Hicks Pigford, Murray Jones, Darron Ezzell. Back row, Scoutmaster Arnold Jones, Jay Quinn, Tyler Jones and Assistant Scoutmaster Darron Ezzell.

Eight Scouts Receive Eagle Award

member of the Warsaw United Methodist Church where he is a member of the Sunday School and serves as Acolyte. He also is working toward his God and Country Award. Gilbert is a ninth grade student at Warsaw Jr. High School where he is Reporter for the Beta Club and Science Club, and Editor of the school annual. He played on the eighth and ninth grade football teams. In addition, Gilbert has won the Social Studies Award and the Career Exploration Award. He performed in the school play, "1776."

Wiley Killette, II
Wiley Killette, II, is the fourteen year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Killette of Warsaw. He is a member of the Turkey Pentecostal Free Will Baptist Church in Turkey, where he is a member of the Youth Choir. He also serves as Vice-President of the Crusaders for Christ Youth Group. Wiley has been in Scouting three years. He joined as a charter member of reactivated Troop 44, and took on several special responsibilities.

He acted in the patriotic skit the troop did for the 1975 Blue and Gold Banquet. He marched to Halifax and went to Maryland as one of the Heritage flag presenters. Wiley attended two Tuscarora camps and was one of the scouts who helped break the state merit badge record. He attended the ceremony when Lt. Gov. James Hunt presented the troop a flag in recognition of that record. Wiley has earned 25 merit badges. For his Eagle service project, Wiley made a water heater and repaired another one. He is a member of the James Kenan District Marching Band. He was stage manager for the Warsaw Jr. High Bicentennial play, and he has many school interests. A B Honor Roll student, he is in the Science Club, on the annual staff, the soccer team and the football team. He played five years of Little League baseball and was an All Star alternate. He also played one year of Midget football, and one year of eighth grade football.

Hicks Pigford, age thirteen, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Pigford. Hicks is a member of Johnson Baptist Church and the Royal Ambassador. He is also a member of the Children of the Confederacy at the Warsaw Jr. High. He is a member of the Science Club, James Kenan District Band, and has been in the Jr. Beta Club two years. He played Little League baseball three years, Midget League football two years, and ninth grade football. He began Scouting as a Cub Scout in Den 3. In 1973 he joined the Webelos under the guidance of Al Smith and became a member of Boy Scout Troop 44 in January, 1974. Hicks has been to Camp Tuscarora two years. He earned the Mile Swim badge both years, and the Blue Canal award in 1975. He received the Halifax Pilgrimage medal for the 100 mile hike, and he participated in the trip to Maryland to present the State Flag to the Governor. He has earned 26 badges.

(Continued to Page 6)

CHINQUAPIN #2 SCHOOL PTO PRESIDENT VADEN SHOLAR presents Principal L. J. Sutton a check for \$1,700. The money was presented to

the school to buy several items that many school funds do not provide enough money for. (see story)

(Photo by Dolan Brown)

PTO Makes Donation

The PTO of Chinquapin #2 School has been very busy this school year in an attempt to better their children's school. A goal was set earlier in the year to do something for the school that would make it a better school for all concerned. That goal can now begin to take shape with a contribution from the 1976-77 Chinquapin #2 PTO. The contribution was a check for \$1,700.

The PTO officers are: President, Vaden Sholar; Vice President, Maudine Sholar; Secretary, Darron Ezzell; Treasurer, Stanley Baker; and Chairman, Darron Ezzell. The PTO sponsored a book sale, and had a book sale to help pay for the money. The money was used to buy several items that many school funds do not provide enough money for. (see story)

Kerry Sholar, winning \$15, and third place was Ann Sloan, winning \$10. Mrs. Chanton's class was the top-selling class, and won an educational field trip. The total proceeds from the supper, was \$2,810, and with membership dues, donations and cake sales, the PTO had a gross income of \$3,190.10. After all expenses, the organization made a bank deposit of \$2,120.26. The members voted to give the school \$1,700 to

provide the school with money to buy things that the county doesn't provide enough money for. It was agreed that the money would be spent on library books, playground equipment, workbooks, and educational fieldtrip for each class, and extra school supplies.

Principal L. J. Sutton accepted the check, and expressed his deep appreciation to the PTO and to everyone concerned for the donations and interest shown in the school.

Forgery Charged

David Monds, 50, and Kathleen Mullis, 18, have been arrested and charged with forgery and uttering in a case that began in early 1975.

The pair was arrested in Stamford, Conn., on December 28, 1976. They refused to sign extradition papers at that time. On February 4, 1977, they agreed to be returned to North Carolina, and Deputy Alfred Basden went to Stamford and made the arrests.

According to officials, Monds and Mullis stole checks from a firm in Fayetteville. They opened an account at Wachovia Bank in Rose Hill under the firm's name and wrote checks to that account in the amount of \$2,500.

Warrants are expected from Sampson County officers, who are believed they allegedly used a similar scheme of forgery.

SSI Officer Ed Hunt and Deputy Basden are the investigating officers.

Monds and Mullis are in Duplin County jail under \$20,000 bonds.

Winners Of 4-H Speaking Contest

Thirty-two 4-H'ers took part in the 4-H Public Speaking Contest held Monday night.

Winners were: Junior Girls - Kim Kelly, Wallace, "Growing Up Mentally and Socially"; Senior Girls - Danetta Moore, Stamford Club; "What 4-H Means To Me"; Junior Boy - Randall Kenan, Chinquapin, "Preparing of Youth Today"; Senior Boy - Steve Moore, Stamford Club, "My Responsibilities to Freedom."

Coastal Production Association gave trophies to the winners.

Danetta Moore and Randall Kenan will go to the District Contest June 26th to compete further.



MAGNOLIA JAYCEE OFFICERS—With assistance from the Mount Olive Jaycees, the town of Magnolia has formed a Jaycees chapter, and the charter meeting held Wednesday night officers for the organization were installed. The officers are, left to right, Stanley Baker, assistant treasurer; Bill Foster, secretary; Freddie Taylor, treasurer; Harry Pope, president; Darron Ezzell, alternate vice-president and Tommy Evans, director.