

# PROGRESS SENTINEL

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

VOL. XXXIII NO. 25

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 - JUNE 23, 1977

8 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

## Tractor Trailer Breaks In Half

A 1970 Ford tractor trailer broke in half Monday when the driver attempted to cross a bridge already occupied by a farm tractor with oversize farm equipment. The tractor trailer struck the end of the farm equipment, collided with the bridge, then broke in half.

According to the Highway Patrol report, the accident happened Monday around 1 p.m., one mile north of Faison on Highway 117.

Charlie Armwood of Route 2, Faison, was driving a 1975 Massey Ferguson tractor owned by Alex Hood Sutton of Calypso. Armwood was traveling south on Highway 117.

The tractor trailer, owned by Kinston Recycling Company, was driven by Samuel Bryant of Goldsboro, and was traveling north.

Armwood was crossing the bridge with over-sized farm equipment occupying more than one lane when Bryant attempted to cross the bridge. Bryant struck the farm equipment, lost control and collided with the bridge. The tractor trailer broke in half with the front end going over the side of the bridge.

A passenger in the Bryant truck, Leamon Moses of Goldsboro, and Bryant were both injured in the accident and taken to Duplin General Hospital.

Patrolman Mitchell estimated damages to the tractor trailer at \$7,000 and \$200 to the farm equipment.

Bryant was charged with driving under the influence.



**FIRST RUNNER-UP** - Miss Beulaville, Sonja Yvette Miller, was named First Runner-Up in the Miss North Carolina Beauty Pageant last week. Early in the week Yvette won the preliminary talent competition. In case the newly crowned Miss North Carolina, Mary Kathryn Fleming, cannot fulfill the duties as Queen, Yvette will represent the State.

## Sheriff's Report

The Duplin County Sheriff's Department Monday investigated the vandalism of a turkey house on the Johnson farm of Nash Johnson and Sons a mile and one-half northeast of

Turkey. Martin Taylor of Route 1, Kenansville, reported the doors of a turkey house were opened, allowing a turkey breeder flock to scatter in the nearby woods. The vandal also turned on a feed switch, which put over \$1,000 worth of feed on the ground.

Alvin Graham of Wallace reported someone stole two hubcaps from his 1975 Ford, valued at \$100. E. G. Baker investigated.

James A. Herring of Route 1, Teachey, reported someone drove by his residence one mile east of Wallace on Highway 41 and shot at his house with a shotgun. E. G. Baker investigated.

## Jaycee Fish Fry

The Kenansville Youth Center (KYC) Jaycees and the Kenansville Jaycees will co-sponsor a community fish fry starting at noon, Wednesday, June 29th in the parking lot between Quinn's Store and the Kenansville Drug Store in Kenansville.

The proceeds will be used by each respective club for regular programming needs such as the projects taken on each year to help make the community a better place to live.

## GED Test

James Sprunt Institute announces the Test of General Education Development (GED) will be administered on June 29-30 from 5 - 10 p.m. in Room 225 of the Hoffer Building. The GED Testing Program allows an adult who did not complete his high-school program to demonstrate his general education competence and to be awarded a certificate by the State Board of Education and it is accepted as equivalent to a high school diploma. There is no charge to take the tests.

Individuals who feel they need brushing up on their academic skills before taking the GED tests have access to the Learning Lab for assistance at James Sprunt Institute.

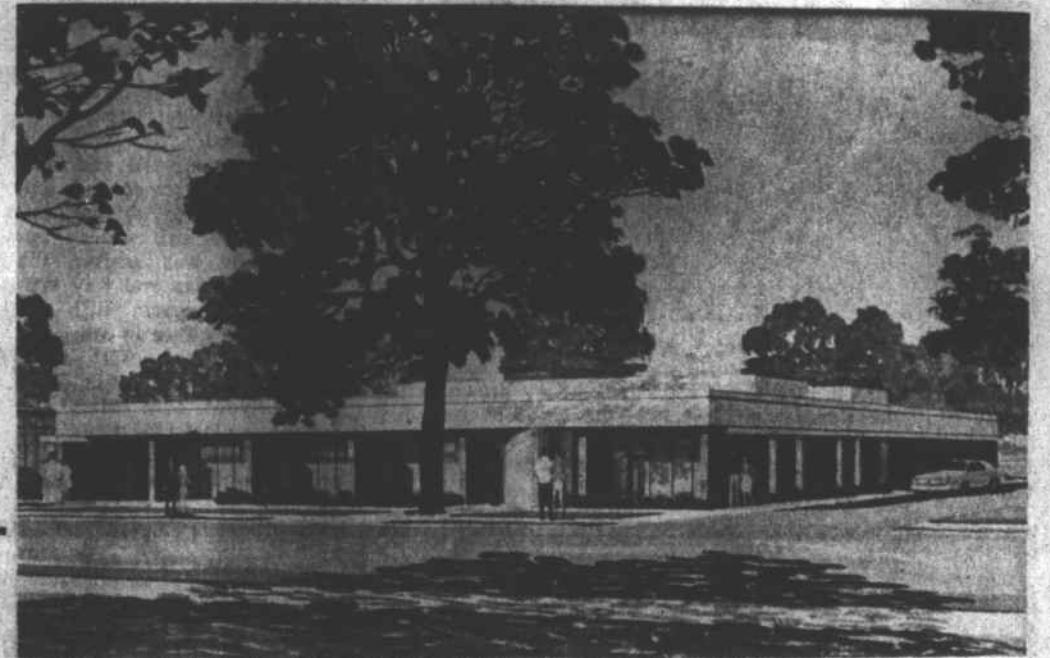
## Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

The final chapter on the jail controversy, if you could call it one, was written Monday at the Commissioners' meeting, with one Commissioner making a stand I would, personally, think was purely political and the Superintendent of Schools sitting on a fence talking in political riddles. This chapter was acted out Monday, but the players had practiced their parts well. . . each knowing what was going to happen and the reason for it. In fact, I think everyone who had anything to do with this jail knew what was going to happen. It got started with Commissioner D. J. Fussell making a motion the county should put \$500,000 Revenue Sharing money in the Kenansville Elementary School building fund. This motion was made with Commissioner Fussell knowing full well it would not pass. . . He even stated he doubted it would get a second, which it did not, and died on the floor. . . At a previous meeting of the Commissioners, a discussion among them gave indications, and in fact a group of Kenansville citizens who appeared before them were so told, that the Commissioners anticipated funds to be available in next year's (78-79) budget to build the school, thus putting it at least a year ahead of the school committee's request date. . . However, for this year they had the State of North Carolina on their backs to build a new jail, and needed what money they would normally put in the budget for the school building program. Following the motion made by Commissioner Fussell, Commissioner Artiss Albertson stated, "Let's get this thing in the proper perspective. We are under a court order to build this jail, and if we build the jail and put \$500,000 in the building fund for Kenansville school, we will have to raise taxes by 20 cents. . . We just

can't do it. . . No one on this Board wants to build this jail at all, much less put it ahead of the school, but we have no choice. . . Later on, Chairman Hoffer and School Superintendent C. H. Yelverton stated that the school board had \$100,000 on hand put in the budget last year by the Commissioners and earmarked for the Kenansville School building program. . . The School Board has options on 20 acres of land on the east side of Kenansville at \$4,000 an acre. . . This money would be used to purchase the land for the school. . . The Commissioners would put \$100,000 in this year's budget for the school project. This money would be used to hire an architect to draw plans for the new school and get things ready so that in July, 1978, bids could be let and the building could begin shortly thereafter with anticipated revenue.

Commissioner Fussell was offered the opportunity to retract his motion, but he decided to let it stand. . . The county had hoped for funds to come from other sources. . . maybe Federal funding to build the jail. . . Some money was available. . . \$344,000. . . It was Federal money, and get this. . . If this Federal money was used, the jail would have to come up to Federal standards rather than State standards. . . And to build this same jail under Federal standards would have cost, according to the architect, \$1,200,000. Under Federal standards, each cell has to be 7x10, have moveable furniture, and only one person to the cell. . . So, if the Commissioners used this money, the new jail would have cost the county \$700,000 instead of \$500,000. . . The Commissioners voted 4 to 1 to advertise for bids on the new jail. . . Fussell of course voted against. . . End of Chapter???



**NEW JAIL** - Tom Pegrum, Architect, presented a drawing of the proposed new County Jail to be built in Kenansville, at the Duplin County Board of Commissioners' meeting Monday. The Board

voted to sign an agreement with the Department of Human Resources regarding the construction of the jail, and to advertise for bids. (Photo by Joe Lanier)

# Commissioners Vote To Advertise Jail Bids

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to advertise for bids on the proposed new jail to be built in Kenansville.

Commissioner Artiss Albertson made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Emmett Kelly, to authorize Tom Pegrum, Architect, to advertise for bids with the bids to be opened July 25. Two other Commissioners, William Costin and Chairman J. W. Hoffer, voted for the motion, with D. J. Fussell opposing.

The Commissioners voted to authorize Hoffer to sign an agreement between the Department of Human Resources and Duplin County regarding the construction of a new jail. Four voted for, and one against (Fussell).

The county is under a court order to start proceedings for a new jail by June 30 or face the closing of the present jail.

Albertson commented, "We need to get this thing in perspective. We're under a court order to build a new jail and

unless we carry it through we'll have to raise taxes by 20 cents (per \$100 valuation)."

A motion by Fussell to apply \$500,000 revenue sharing money to build the planned elementary school at Kenansville died for lack of a second. However, the Board let it be known its intent is to start construction of the school late next year, although it cannot obligate itself at present.

The Board of Education has an option on 20 acres of land on the east side of Kenansville

which will cost about \$80,000. It plans to use money on hand to make the purchase and to use an expected \$100,000 allowed for building in the new budget to prepare plans and other necessary preliminaries for the proposed school.

C. H. Yelverton, county superintendent, presented a reworked Board of Education budget totaling \$1,300,000 from county funds. This was \$200,000 under the Board's original budget proposal, the amount cut being the amount the County

Commissioners had asked. The estimated cost of the proposed Kenansville school is \$1.5 million. The estimated cost of the jail is \$500,000.

The Board also voted to go ahead with a plan proposed by a computer study committee to computerize county business and payroll records in three years. The county will hire a data processor and a key punch operator as soon as plans can be put together. The vote was four to one with Fussell opposing.

A county cash report was

presented by Russell Tucker that showed Duplin now has \$1,356,218 on hand, less \$300,000 estimated expenses for June. Out of this must come \$417,117 to balance the current budget. With other items deducted, the balance remaining is \$269,596.

The county also has \$1,275,000 available for construction, according to Tucker's report. Of this, \$500,000 comes from revenue sharing, \$344,000 from federal public works grants, \$131,404 from court-

facilities funds, \$30,000 from estimated 1977-78 court collections, and \$269,596 the expected balance June 30.

Projects to be funded immediately include the jail at an estimated \$500,000, the annex to the courthouse and courthouse renovation, \$600,000, and the computer project \$75,000.

Messrs. Ralph Bradshaw, Ira Robinson, Frank Logan, J. C. Nethercutt and Bud Stirling, State Highway Commission, were present for the public hearing on the Duplin County

proposed secondary road program for 1977-78. Bradshaw stated Duplin County will receive \$350,000 for this coming fiscal year. Priorities covering this amount were presented to the people in attendance.

Approximate cost for each township included: Kenansville Township, \$24,000; Smith Township, \$59,000; Albertson Township, \$24,000; Limestone Township, \$55,000; Kenansville Township, \$32,000; Island Creek Township, \$18,000; Rose (Continued on Page 4)

**BREAKS IN HALF** - A tractor-trailer driven by a Goldsboro man, Samuel Bryant, broke in half Monday afternoon when it collided with a tractor with over-sized farm equipment, driven by Charlie Armwood, on a bridge one mile north of Faison Monday afternoon. The front of the rig went over the side of the bridge

while the back end remained on the bridge. Traffic was held up for six hours while the wreckage was being removed. The cab of the truck also caught on fire. Bryant and a passenger were injured in the accident and taken to Duplin General Hospital. Bryant was charged with DUI. (Photos by Joe Lanier)