

Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

I thought this son of a gun had had it Tuesday of last week. . . I was moving some lumber, and it was about one hundred degrees in the shade and I was in the open sun. I believe an egg would have fried on my head. . . As I reached for this four by four that was propped up beside the building, suddenly a pain was in my thumb, in the matter of half a second or less, I thought I had struck a nail in my thumb. . . No I must have cut it on a piece of tin. The pain is getting worse as I jerked my hand back and waved it in the air vigorously. Still I hadn't seen my hand, for I was stumbling over the other four by fours trying to get away from whatever it was I had gotten into. Frantically waving my hand the pain grew worse. I struck the side of my leg with my thumb, hoping to ease the knife sharp pain. It was then I noticed a Yellow Jacket fly off. . . by now I had gotten to my feet and looked at my thumb. It was red, . . . but not cut as I had expected. I looked back where I had had my hand and there was a nest of yellow jackets. Son of a gun, I had put my hand in a yellow jacket. The reason the pain kept getting worse was the fact that a yellow jacket does not let go when he stings you, he hangs on until he has sucked out the mess and didn't see him. . . I made some dumb remark like, "Oh well, I can't really blame them, they were trying to protect their home. I would have done the same thing." I stuck my thumb in my mouth and began sucking on it trying to act manly and not show my hurt when I began to feel a little weary. . . So I went inside and turned on the air conditioner, sat down and more and more I began to feel uncomfortable. My breathing was becoming difficult, my vision was beginning to get hazy and along about here I remembered reading in the newspaper or hearing on the radio or TV about people dying from wasp stings. Oh Boy! Lets not think about it I thought. I began feeling very weak, my breathing was getting more difficult and everything was just a blur. Son of a gun, I thought, I had been stung a hundred times and never felt like this. To be sure I am not going to die. There are a lot of things I haven't done yet. . . The sweat was pouring off me like I was a rain cloud. Then darn cigarettes—that is why I can't breath right. "Donna, I don't feel so good." I called. I must have looked a mess, for it frightened Donna just about as much as I was. I believe I'd better go to the doctor. "What's the matter?" Donna ask. "Don't stand there asking questions, lets go." "O I replied abruptly and sharply.

Two cars and a truck in the yard and no one can find any keys. Finally the keys are found. The car is started, the air conditioner is turned on. I am thinking. . . Those stories about people dying. . . Said it happened a short time afterwards. . . ain't nobody in a hurry but me? Suddenly I felt like regurgitating when I let it go. . . My breathing became a little better, my vision was clearing up a bit by now, half the neighborhood was over trying to rush me. I was feeling better and decided not to go. I think what must have happened was that I was already too hot and the yellow jacket sting shocked by body, causing the discomfort and the newspaper accounts shocked my brain, leaving me in a mess. It surely is good to still be here. It was the first time I had ever thought I may not. . . Not a pleasant thought.

Still alive and kicking means I have to earn a living, so Saturday morning I went to finish Quian's Variety Store sign. A couple of things happened. I was painting and thinking it would be nice if I could go to the beach fishing. The thought kept popping in my mind. Donna was helping me with the layout. I said, "Donna, I just keep thinking about going fishing at the beach, I even bought a small fish tank." "That is a dead end," she said. I kept painting, but every once in a while a breeze would blow and I would smell something fishy. Darn, I thought, maybe my subconscious is wanting to go fishing too. Donna says "something stinks." I guess my deodorant isn't working. About this time, Mr. Quinn begins piling up boxes and other trash near the front of his building. He comes back and looks at what we are doing and said, "I guess I will have to pile my trash up in front of the building to make the trash collectors notice my trash drum in front of the building. Someone put some shrimp in it three days ago and they are stinking up the place."

Later in the day Donna went inside to get us a cold drink and comes back with her jaw popped out. . . one never knows what Donna is going to do next. There she stood smiling with her jaw popped out. . . "What have you got in your mouth?" I ask. Tobacco. . . Mr. Quinn was filling his mouth with tobacco. He said it was good and offered me some. . . So I took it! "Donna, . . . That is all I could think of to say. . . Donna." She laughed. It was only a piece of candy. But with Donna, one never knows. A few weeks back, she was trying to help a couple of doves build a bird nest. You know doves are sorry nest builders. It fell from the tree anyway though, but she tried to help. . . Son-of-a-Gun.

Husband Charged With Wife's Murder

The Duplin County Sheriff's Department charged Freeman Sealey Sunday with the murder of his wife, Ernestine Whitley Sealey.

Chinquapin ambulance about 8:30-9:00 Sunday morning for a parked car on the side of N.C. 41 near Chinquapin.

Alfred Basden. She had been stabbed to death, police said.

Mr. Sealey was admitted to Duplin General Hospital with several lacerations to the chest.

Sealey and his wife were visiting in the area. They were living in New York. Mrs. Sealey was a teacher at Beulaville Elementary School last year.

Disaster Funds Available

Duplin County farmers who suffered losses due to the recent drought may be eligible for loans at 3 percent interest for FHA for the amount of their losses. J.M. Mills, Jr., County Supervisor, announced today.

The amount of the loss suffered must be as much as 20 percent in a major enterprise. The loans may be repaid over a period up to seven years, Mills stated.

In addition to the loss loans, funds are also available at 8 percent interest for periods up to seven years to purchase equipment and for up to forty years to buy or improve farms, construct buildings, and advance other agricultural enterprises.

Drought disaster loans may be made to individual farmers, partnerships, or corporation. Additional information may be obtained from the Duplin County Farmers Home Administration office located in the Agricultural Building in Kenansville.

Duplin Road Funds Announced

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) officials have announced that \$1,146,041 supplemental county allocation approved by the Board of Transportation at its last meeting. These funds are in addition to the \$25.8 million statewide allocation for secondary road construction announced last month.

Duplin County's share of the \$25.8 million allocation released in July was \$324,501. The supplemental allocation brings the county's share of secondary road construction funds for this fiscal year to \$338,904.

Board of Transportation member Garland B. Garrett, Jr. of Wilmington, who represents NCDOT's Highway Division 3, including Duplin County, explained that the distribution of these funds to the various counties across the State was based on an impartial formula prescribed by the State legislature. The formula considers the

number of unpaved miles of secondary roads in any given county and the relationship of this mileage to the total mileage of State maintained unpaved secondary roads in North Carolina.

There are 258 miles of unpaved secondary roads in Duplin County, while the total number of unpaved State maintained secondary roads in North Carolina is 20,476.

The Board of Transportation will continue to work very closely with local and county officials in determining the best use for these funds and in selection of local highway projects to be funded.

GED PREP CLASS OFFERED

Registration for 'GED Prep' will be held Tuesday, August 23, 1977 in room 218 of the Hoffer Building located on the main campus of James Sprunt Institute.



B.F. GRADY GETS NEW PRINCIPAL - Cecil Beaman was introduced as the new B.F. Grady principal for the 1977-78 school year during the board meeting held last Tuesday night. Pictured (L to R) Beaman, Duplin County Board of Education Chairman, Russell Brock and retiring principal Wilbur Williams.

Williams Retires From B.F. Grady Beaman Named Principal

The Duplin County Board of Education approved and presented a Resolution of Appreciation to retiring B.F. Grady Principal Wilbur Williams while naming Cecil W. Beaman as his successor during a regular scheduled meeting last Tuesday night.

Williams was principal of B.F. Grady School for several years and had a total of 30 years experience in the public schools. The following Resolution was read by the Board Chairman Russell Brock.

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilbur Williams has worked as a teacher and principal in the Duplin County Schools for 30 years, and WHEREAS, his service has resulted in sound educational practices and dedicated service, and

WHEREAS, his loyalty and love for children will continue to be realized for many years throughout Duplin County and his teaching notes, theories, and his influence by the Duplin

County Board of Education that Mr. Wilbur Williams' outstanding service be acknowledged; and, further

Be It Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this Board, and that a copy be sent to Mr. Williams as a testimonial of our sincere appreciation of his services.

Signed by Duplin County Board of Education members: Russell Brock, Chairman; James F. Strickland, Vice-Chairman; Edward L. Boyette, Member; G. Frederick Rhodes, Member; Graham A. Phillips, Jr., Member.

Also present for the meeting were Mr. & Mrs. Cecil W. Beaman. Beaman was introduced to the Board as new principal of the B.F. Grady School to replace Williams. He comes to Duplin County from Beaufort, North Carolina and has many years of experience having taught fifth grade, served as assistant principal,

and most recently as an elementary supervisor. Beaman is married and has two children - son, age 5 and a daughter, age 6 months. Superintendent, C.H. Yelverton said, "Duplin County and the B.F. Grady Community is most fortunate to have Beaman."

Fire Damages Home

Fire early Monday seriously damaged the Jerry Hooks residence five miles south of Kenansville near Dobson's Chapel.

Damage was estimated at \$5,000 to the house and \$2,000 to its contents.

The fire was believed to have started from the kitchen stove or from an electrical malfunction in an appliance in the kitchen.



AIRBORNE The driver of this truck found himself airborne Saturday night when he ran off the roadway, skidded sideways and struck a tree broadside while airborne. The truck driven by James Hampton Quinn, 18, of Route 1, Magnolia was traveling west on Highway 1114 at the time of the accident. The driver was charged with exceeding a safe speed. The truck was a total loss. PHOTO BY JOE LANIER

Duplin Board Discusses Four-Lane Highway

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners discussed the possibility of getting Highway 23 four-laned through Duplin County at their regular meeting Monday. Commissioners Arliss Albertson with clerical assistance from Russell Tucker's office are working on the project.

Commissioner William Costin reported on his meeting with the Towns regarding the hiring of a Grants Writer and a Secretary with CETA funds and funds received from each town based on population, with the county contributing 50 percent and the towns contributing 50 percent. Costin told the Board it was the desire of the Town not to participate since Neuse River Council of Governments can and will provide the necessary assistance in applying for federal grants.

Lewis Wrenn, Administrative

Garland To Speak At Charter Night

Ed Garland, President of the North Carolina Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, will be the main speaker at the Charter Night of the new Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce to be held on August 26.

Mr. Garland is presently the Executive Director of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held for eight years. Prior to going to Raleigh, he was Executive Director of the Portsmouth, Virginia Chamber of Commerce for ten years and of the Chattanooga, Johnson City, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce for seven years. While serving in Chattanooga-Johnson City, Garland was also elected to serve a term as President of the Tennessee Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

Garland is however not a stranger to rural life. Prior to starting a career in Chamber work, he was a County Agricultural Extension Agent in Tennessee following his graduation from the University of Tennessee's School of Agriculture.

The Charter Night program will begin at 7:00 p.m. beside the pond at James Sprunt Institute with a pig pickin' for all members and special guests. Following the meal, a program will be held in the auditorium of the Hoffer Building which will feature Garland's speech, the official presentation of the charter and presentation of membership certificates.

Assistant to Congressman Charles Whitley, met with the Commissioners to discuss issues of interest to the county. Costin asked Wrenn why Duplin County was not designated to receive feed grain due to the drought. Wrenn said counties are designated by the Governor, upon recommendation from a local committee working in conjunction with the Agriculture Extension Service. He told the Commissioners he will follow up on the issue.

Debra Joneck was hired by the Board as Horticulture Agent, effective September 1, 1977. She is a graduate of N.C. State University in Horticulture.

V.H. Reynolds presented the Board a copy of the "Recent Population Trends in North Carolina" which credits Duplin County with a population of 40,400 for the year 1975.

Hiram Brinson, Director of Emergency Services, met with the Board and gave his report on ambulance trips for the fiscal year 1976-77. Brinson expressed a need for a new ambulance to replace the 1972 Cadillac.

Brinson also reported on fire calls throughout the county for the past fiscal year. There was a total of 377 fire calls.

Richard Woodcock, County Planner, appeared before the Board to report he would be leaving Duplin County effective August 15th. Woodcock was commended for the fine work he has done during his stay in the county.

Woodcock informed the Commissioners that Mr. Bizzell Johnson, Rose Hill, submitted his resignation from the Planning Board. No replacement was named.

J.C. Nethercutt and Frank Logan, State Highway Commission, met with the Board to discuss county roads. Ed Carter, citizen, also appeared to request stabilization on the horseshoe curve on SR 1509. Nethercutt and Logan agreed to meet with Carter to see what action can be taken.

Leslie Boney and Charles Boney, Architect for the Duplin County Court House, met with the Board and presented the bids. Tabulations for bids opened on August 2, 1977 on the renovations and additions to Duplin County Court House. Low bidders were: General Contract, Eastern Construction, Greenville, N.C. \$382,645; Plumbing Contract, Kipeco Piping, Inc., Kinston, N.C. \$13,398; Heating and Air Conditioning Contract, Electric Co., Inc., Kinston, N.C. \$163,200; Electric Co., Contract, D & B Electric Co., Fayetteville, N.C. \$64,500.

Jim Rusher, Industrial Developer, met with the Board to report on the progress of the

establishment of an Industrial Bonds Authority for Duplin County. The Committee members met with the Board of Commissioners on August 22nd to be sworn in.

Gene Ballard met with the Board to discuss the activities of the Interagency Advisory Board, composed of fifteen members representing service agencies within the county. Ballard told the Commissioners the Advisory Board would like to have around 2,000 brochures printed which explains the function of the Board and the services offered to the public. The board appropriated \$100.00 to the Interagency Advisory Board.

Frank Herring, International Systems, Inc., Atlanta, Ga. met with the Board to report on the county's application for LPW grant funds to build an addition to the Court House. He stated the application has cleared except for the Environmental review and some information should be forthcoming within three to four weeks. Herring reminded the Board that the county's contract with his agency expired July 8, 1977 and would like to have the county renew the contract with International Systems, Inc.

A letter was read from Richard Harrell, Administrator of Duplin General Hospital, expressing appreciation for the allocation of \$150,000 from the Hospital Reserve Fund and submitted request for \$473,000, balance of funds needed to complete the project of constructing the new Intensive Care Coronary Care Unit. No action was taken.

The Board of Commissioners was advised of a 24 percent increase in Blue Cross-Blue Shield Hospital Insurance premiums that will be effective October 10, 1977. The reason stated for the increase is due to amount of insurance paid out by Blue Cross-Blue Shield for medical care of county employees.

Notice was received by the Board that applications under the public Works Employment Act of 1977 for grant funds to construct addition to the County Health Center and to construct a hospital addition were both denied.



Next Week!