

# Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

## PROGRESS SENTINEL

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### Kenansville Fire Department Has Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

This month is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Kenansville Volunteer Fire Department.

On the first Monday night in March of the year 1953, the Kenansville Board of Commissioners approved a motion to make plans for the creation of a fire department. Mayor Robert (Bob) Gray appointed Commissioners Ralph L. Brown and Leo Jackson to serve on that committee and contacted Rev. Lauren Sharpe, who had been

raised in the fire service, to ask him to serve with them.

The Kenansville Fire Committee began meeting immediately to plan for a fire department. After many meetings with competent advisors, traveling to look at equipment, and conversations with apparatus manufacturers, the Fire Committee made its report. The report was adopted and the Town Board put the first fire truck in the 1953-54 budget. After receiving bids from

several firms, the truck was purchased from Sheffield Motor Company of Warsaw and built by American-LaFrance Corporation of Elmira, New York. The contract was signed the first Monday in August of 1953.

The Board of Commissioners appointed Rev. Sharpe to the office of Fire Chief and gave him full authority to organize and manage the Kenansville Fire Department. This action occurred in June of 1953. Sharpe appointed the following officers

and men to be the charter members of the volunteer department: Chief Lauren Sharpe; Asst. Chief Ralph T. Brown; Captains Willard Brinson and Harry W. Murphy; Lieutenants Jack Brinson and Donald Murphy; Sec.-Treas. Phil Kretsch; and Firemen Ivey Bowden, Woodrow Brinson, Sammy Daughtry, Charles Guthrie, Charles Nicholson, Timmy Outlaw, Billy Stephens, and Steve Williamson.

No money was, or ever has

been paid to any of these men, nor to those who followed them, for their faithful service to their friends and neighbors. In a very real sense, they have lived by the Golden Rule. Upon their appointment, these firemen undertook an intensive training program prior to the arrival of the fire truck. The truck arrived the 16th of March, 1953, and the citizens of the community began receiving creditable service and an insurance reduction on fire premiums.

In order to improve fire protection for Kenansville, and to be able to participate in the Duplin County Fire Service, a second truck was purchased in August 1961. The county then began financing fire protection for the county by contracting with the departments which met state standards for rural fire districts.

The Town of Kenansville had no fire station. A shelter had been provided by Asst. Chief Ralph Brown from 1954 until

1962. The Fire Department organized as a contracting agency within itself in early 1962 by receiving a state charter as Kenansville Fire Department, Inc. As a chartered group it could contract for indebtedness without an obligation on the part of the Town. The Kenansville Fire Department, Inc. secured a loan from Home Federal Savings and Loan of Kinston to build a fire house. Godwin Contractors of Warsaw was awarded the contract, and the building was constructed. It,

along with an ambulance and a tanker, was dedicated in January of 1963. The indebtedness was retired in 1974 by funds from the county contracts, the town maintenance support and private donations.

In the fall of 1970, the water and sewer program of the Town was well underway. The Town Board was informed that the Town must own a pumper of large capacity to meet the requirements for a Class "B"

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### Secondary Road Priorities Protested

Road priorities, described as unfair and incorrect, were protested by several residents during the Monday meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

The problem of recompense to rescue squads from out of the county and of obtaining recompense for county squads answering out-of-county calls was also discussed. Officials of the Wallace Rescue Squad requested a meeting with Pender County Commissioners next month to try to work out something.

In response to electrical insulation inspector Warren Dale's comment that "of all the jobs I've been to, I've only found two (insulations) that were right," the Board called for a meeting of the county building committee at 7 p.m. March 29 in the Agricultural Building in Kenansville.

The possibility of establishing a full-time building inspector position and requiring building permits will be discussed at that time. The Board also voted to seek a planning grant from the State to help finance such a program if it is adopted.

The Board reconsidered an earlier decision not to hire a recreation director and named Thomas Benton of Warsaw to

the \$11,500-a-year position starting next month.

In response to a request of Richard Harrell, Duplin General Hospital administrator, to increase the size of the Physician Recruitment Committee, the Board appointed Rudolph Becton of Magnolia, Virginia Veach of Warsaw, Helen Murray of Wallace, and George F. Landon of Chinquapin, to the committee.

Protesting road priorities were Floyd Kennedy, Lester Houston and Kim Hatcher, who live on State Road 1719 between Beulaville and Chinquapin. They want their dirt road paved and said its priority rating had dropped from 20 to 33 due to a bad traffic count. They said a recount brought the traffic count up to 250 a day from the 80 per day in an earlier count, which was taken during bad weather when the road was nearly impassable.

They pointed out that a nearby road, SR 1723, was moved up to 10th priority this year from 51st last year. They said their road of 2.3 miles has 17 homes, while the 1.9-mile SR 1723 has only seven homes on it. "The system's not working right," Kennedy said. They pointed out SR 1723 only has a

traffic count of 161 vehicles compared with the 250 on their road.

Speaking to T.W. Funderburk, DOT district highway engineer, Kennedy said, "We have been mistreated, and I'm going to meetings to try to get our road on the right priority. Do you blame me?"

Funderburk said he could not make any priority changes, that such changes would have to come from the Board of Transportation, and the District Highway Commissioner, who is a member of the overall board.

Kennedy asked the Board of Commissioners what it could do about getting the road priority changed. Commissioner D.J. Fussell answered, "We don't have one damn thing to do with it." Commissioner J.W. Hoffer commented, "All we can do is beg."

Joe Johnson of Warsaw also protested a lowered priority on his road, claiming a nearby road with fewer houses and less traffic was scheduled for paving.

Funderburk said priorities would be reviewed next year.

Hiram Brinson, Emergency Services Coordinator, and J.C. Bryant, captain of the Wallace Rescue Squad, discussed multi-

county complications and were instructed to ask the Pender County Board at Burgaw for financial help for the Wallace Squad. Wallace is located just north of the Duplin-Pender County line and answers many calls in Pender County — about 12-15% of the total calls. Bryant said the Squad answered 87

calls in Pender last year.

Duplin has made arrangements with the Pink Hill, Mount Olive and Harrells Rescue Squads, all of which serve border areas of Duplin, to pay them stated amounts each year for carrying Duplin residents to hospitals. However, Pender has no such arrangement with the

Wallace Squad.

Frank Moore, appearing as County Veterans' Service Officer, reported \$2,758,925 was paid Duplin County veterans in pensions, compensation, readjustment and vocational rehabilitation and insurance and indemnities last year by the federal government.

### Ford To Play In Kenansville Friday UNC Vs Kenansville Jaycees

The seniors from this year's regular season champions, the UNC Tarheels, will play an exhibition game in Kenansville Friday night at 7 p.m. Their opponents will be the Kenansville Jaycees, who are sponsoring this event for the fourth year.

Leading the Carolina team will be All American guard Phil Ford. The 6'2" guard from Rocky Mount is UNC's career leader in scoring and assists. He was picked ACC Player of the Year, National Player of the Year by THE SPORTING NEWS and the National Association of Basketball Writers, and has made every first team All-American. Ford averaged almost 20 points per game for four years, and played in four NCAA tournaments. He is truly one of the most exciting players in college basketball history and has a fine future in pro basketball.

Tom Zaliagiris will also play for the 'Heels. "Zal", as he is known by players and fans, was a starter at guard for this year's team. The 6'5" Lavonia, Michigan, star is a gutsy player whose outside shooting helped defeat Purdue in the 1976 Eastern Regionals en route to a 2nd place NCAA finish.

The final senior to appear will be Geoff Crompton, a key reserve on this year's team. Crompton is a 6'11" 290 lb. native of Burlington. He battled a weight problem and worked his way onto the team this year. Geoff was a back-up center and made



Phil Ford

Bank of North Carolina, and Dean's Barber Shop. You can also buy tickets at the door.

You are asked to come out and support the Jaycees while watching some tremendous basketball talent. All proceeds will be used in community service projects by the Kenansville Jaycees.

Tickets will be 53 per person and are available in advance from Kenansville Drug Store, Quinn's Variety, Taste Freez,

Bank of North Carolina, and Dean's Barber Shop. You can also buy tickets at the door.

You are asked to come out and support the Jaycees while watching some tremendous basketball talent. All proceeds will be used in community service projects by the Kenansville Jaycees.

### Kenansville Receives Grant

Congressman Charlie Whitley's office was notified Tuesday by the Farm and Home Administration of the approval of a grant of \$14,500 for the Town of Kenansville.

A spokesman for Whitley's office said the grant, coupled with \$17,900 contributed by the town, will be used to construct four additional sludge drying beds at the existing municipal

waste-water treatment facility.

The information received by Whitley's office said that the added drying beds would serve 295 residential users.

### Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

The Duplin County Board of Education met last week. The Administrative office, under the guiding hands, I assume, of Superintendent Charles Yelverton, prepared a preliminary budget booklet. The booklet appeared to have some 70 to 100 pages. . . The office had gone to the expense and trouble to make several copies, which were handed out to the Board members. . . According to Yelverton, "It's hot off the press. The ink is not even dry."

A little over two hours was spent by Yelverton and his Assistant Superintendents advising the Board of the contents of this budget booklet. It was asked that comments from the Board members on the budget be presented at a later date, March 28, to save time. . . So the time spent was just presenting the figures and some explanations on some figures. . .

Following the meeting, I asked for a copy of the budget booklet, but was told the figures were "uninhibited" and no where near correct, and my request for a copy was refused by Superintendent Yelverton. . . But, he said when he got the budget right, he would give me a copy. . . However, a copy of the final budget request will now show me where his priorities lie. . . or the School Board's. The first rough draft of a budget is supposed to show all requests from all schools, all departments, and so on. . . The final budget is to show only those things deemed essential or desired by the Administration Office and School Board. . . So what has been left out or added to from the first to the last budget is now known excepting to the Board and Administrative Office. . . I won't know, for example, . . . is something requested for a school unit left out in favor of something wanted at the Administration offices. . . or a salary request for janitors left out and administration salary increases kept in. . . or if a request for school building repair is taken out and a tennis court left in. . . To me this is very important and should be made public. . .

Had this first rough draft had so little significance, why was over two hours spent explaining it. . . Why were several copies made for the School Board members. . . In fact, why was it presented at all. . . My biggest question, or perhaps I should say the thing that confuses me the most is, what is so darn secretive about the Duplin County School System? . . . And why is it so? . . .

I did not make notes on the budget for I expected to get a copy. I did make notes from a work sheet used to explain a part of the budget. . . However, I did not understand all the figures. . . A couple of things that did stick in my mind was that the rough draft budget was around four million dollars with an increase from Duplin tax revenues of over \$600,000. . . Let me remind you again, these are rough figures. . . What the need or where the need. I have no idea. . . Another item I remembered. . . The assistant superintendents make from five times to six times the average Duplin County income, and about four times the amount made by the school janitors. . . This stuck out in my mind because I can see what the janitors do, but can not always see what the assistant superintendents do. . . Don't misunderstand me. . . Here I do not blame them, nor do I expect the assistant superintendents to ask for a salary decrease. . . They would be foolish not to take every dime the Board will pay them. . .

Did you ever see an ice plant? . . . Think about it. . . The other day, a mom out for a ride with her children, saw a sign indicating the directions to an ice plant, and she made the remark, "I didn't know there was an ice plant over there." One of her kids immediately looked in the direction Mom was looking and said, "Let's stop and buy one for Grandma to go with the rest of her plants. . ."

Thinking of green or flowering plants, the five-year-old continued, "I wonder what keeps it from melting. . ."

I was talking with Elwood Revelle and Doug Clark in front of the Courthouse this week, when a fellow came up. . . Doug stuck out his hand and said, "My name is Doug Clark, and I am running for the State House of Representatives, and would like for you to vote for me. . ."

The fellow said, "My name is Guy Hinson, I run a fish market and I would like for you to buy some fish. . ."

Son-of-a-gun.

LETTERS FROM READERS: Tara Kennedy, center, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donny Kennedy of Warsaw, was named first runner-up in the annual Pender County beauty pageant. (Photo courtesy of the Pender County Board of Commissioners.)

left, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Gladys of Faison, was named first runner-up, and Nikki Jerome Jernigan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lealie Jernigan of Warsaw, was second runner-up. (Photo courtesy of the Pender County Board of Commissioners.)