

Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Southern Association Committee Visits James Kenan High School

The committee for accreditation by the Southern Association visited James Kenan High School last Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Tuesday, April 4th, the visiting committee met at the Duplin County Board of Education where they were greeted by Charles Yelverton, Superintendent of Duplin County Schools. That evening the committee went to James Kenan High School for a banquet. The banquet was a joint affair for JK and Warsaw Junior High School.

On Wednesday, April 5, the committee returned to James Kenan at 8 a.m. and visited until 5 p.m. During the school day, the committee members observed the faculty and met with students.

The committee met with Principal Bill Taylor and the faculty at 3:15 p.m. to give the results of their findings. James Kenan received a fine report that complimented students, faculty and administration. The academic program was highly rated, and Taylor was praised for the fine school he has.

The committee did recommend that James Kenan needs additional mobile classrooms. This recommendation can only be accomplished through a building program that would include expansion of the library and addition of new classrooms.

The committee recommended that a student government be formed at JK, and Principal Taylor stated that such an organization would be established for the 1978-79 school year.

Mrs. Mary Dixon Brown served as chairperson of the self-study for James Kenan High School. A year-long in depth study that included many

meetings with the faculty and administrators, culminated with a fine report from the visiting committee.

The self-study of James Kenan High School did yield

positive results. "The faculty, staff, students, administrators and all other involved persons in this worthwhile project are to be commended for their hard work and efforts," said Taylor.

Whitley Announces Grant For James Sprunt

Congressman Charlie Whitley announced that the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant of up to \$49,331 to James Sprunt Institute in Kenansville for a pilot interdisciplinary humanities course. A two-year year technical institute, James Sprunt at present offers no courses in its occupational curriculum which can really be considered in the humanities.

Whitley said that this course

will be team-taught and guest lecturers will also be used. This grant will cover course development, implementation and evaluation, and is one of 29 pilot

grants recently awarded by the Humanities Endowment in a continuing program of support to institutions of higher education.

Baseball Tryouts

Tryouts for the Kenansville Dixie Youth Baseball Program, ages 8-12, will be held this Saturday, April 15, at 10 a.m. at the Kenansville Municipal Park. Players must be 8 years old before August 1, and not 13 before August 1. Boys who played last year do not need to try out since they will already be assigned to their last year's team.

TO APPEAR IN KENANSVILLE - The National Opera Company, founded in 1948 by A.J. Fletcher, a Raleigh attorney and businessman, will appear in Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville on Tuesday, April 18th at 8 p.m. in a performance of "The Barber of Seville" under the sponsorship of the Tar Heel Fine Arts Society and James Sprunt Institute. These engaging and enthusiastic young performers, chosen from nationwide auditions, make new and devoted friends for the cause of "Opera in English." They are both entertaining and fun, as witnessed by the spontaneous laughter and applause, ingredients too often missing when an English-speaking audience attends a conventional performance of opera sung in a foreign tongue. The talented troupe, accompanied by piano, possesses a complete wardrobe of costumes and a necessary minimum of properties, and has elicited enthusiastic approval from all directions. The aspirations of the founder were simple: to introduce opera to North Carolina school students; to create audiences by presenting opera in the language of the audience; and to give experience and employment to young singing artists. The results have been outstanding. In annual tours covering most of the United States, these professional troupes have performed nearly 2,000 times, bringing opera to smaller towns and communities that have never before witnessed live operatic performances. This production is offered free of charge to the public, compliments of the Tar Heel Fine Arts Society and James Sprunt Institute.

MEMBERS OF VISITATION COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS - (L to R) Hubert Bowden, Principal Warsaw Jr. High; William Costin, Duplin County Commissioner; Mary Dixon Brown, Chairperson James Kenan High; Charles Yelverton, Superintendent Duplin County Schools; Buck Knotts,

Assistant Superintendent Scotland County Schools; Elridge Thigpen, Principal Greene Central High School; Bill Taylor, Principal James Kenan High; Rock Sanders, State Department of Public Instruction; and Tommy Benson, Chairperson, Warsaw Jr. High.

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JAWS ARRIVE—The Duplin County Association of Rescue Squads received its Jaws of Life power rescue tool Sunday. Shown at a meeting at a Kenansville restaurant are l-r: Margaret Bodzinski, vice president of the association and captain of the Chinquapin squad; Hiram Brinson, director of Emergency Services for the county; Clarence Evans, chief, Magnolia Fire Department; Herb Walls, a representative of the power tool company receiving the check for \$5,616; Glenn Jernigan,

chief of the Faison Rescue Service; Anthony Williams, assistant chief of the Beulaville Fire and Rescue Department; James Simmons, lieutenant of the Rose Hill Fire Department; Larry Benson, captain of the Warsaw Rescue Service; and county commissioner Arliss Albertson. The Jaws will be kept in Kenansville and will be available to all rescue squads in the county. The money was raised through donations from individuals, businesses, industries and the Duplin Board of Commissioners.

Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

I met a most unusual man a while back. He is Johnny H. Williams, Sr. He was named Duplin County's Oldest Employed Worker. In fact, this is where I met him — when he was awarded the honor.

He is 85 years old and is employed at J.P. Stevens' guest house. He also farms. Last week I went out to talk with Mr. Williams and found him and a couple of ladies in the strawberry patch chopping weeds.

He said he had been raising strawberries, or messing around there since he was a youngster of about 12. That, my friends, was back about 1905. I talked with Mr. Williams for several hours. Or rather, I listened. He is a very interesting storyteller, and I do like tales of yesterday. Especially amusing ones.

He said he worked in the log woods and pulled a crosscut saw. "Short fellows don't make good sawing partners. I liked a long, tall fellow with long arms so we could make that saw sing as it went through the log. A short-armed fellow would work you to death with them little short strokes." He was paid 3 cents a log. Worked before that as a water boy for 25 cents a day. "I never have been one to lay back and dread a job. I just went ahead and done it. The harder it was, the harder I hit it," says Williams. And he apparently did it well. He and his wife had nine children and sent all but one through college.

Recalling his younger days, Williams said, "When I was about 15 or so, I had a little ox named Cannonball (after the train). Well, Cannonball was poking along, like oxen do, pulling a hand-hewed cart. And I got me this green cuckleburr and put under his tail. To make him trot. I thought I could take it out from under his tail anytime I wanted to, but that little ox clamped his tail down on that cuckleburr and took off running. The harder I pulled up on his tail, the harder he clamped down on that burr. He run that cart into some bushes and turned it over. God, was I ever glad when that burr fell out. And you know when an old ox gets hot, he will just go right on into the water. You can see him or pull that lead line all you want and he will go right on in the creek up to his belly. Them old oxen were pulling things, too. When the load got hard to pull, they would keep shoving on their noses. I guess they were praying to the Lord. But one thing for sure, something had to go."

Williams says he likes all kinds of hunting. "But not fishing. No sir, not me sit down on no riverbank with a hook in the water. They might not be a fish for a hundred miles. Hunting. If there is nothing there, you can see that fact and go elsewhere."

There is a great deal more about Johnny H. Williams, Sr. that is interesting and will show up from time to time in Son-of-a-Gun. Johnny H. Williams, Sr. is not 85 years "young". Personally, I do not like that phrase. He is 85 years old. He is like an antique. His value has increased with the years. Like that of many others.

Grandmas, Grandpas, Moms and Dads are walking history books of yesterday. They were a part of it. They lived it. And from them you can get a wondrous amount of information. Information about what it was like right here. Two miles down the road. Or across the county. This type of information is not in the history books and, sadly, will not always be here. Not only will you help yourself discover things of yesterday, but you will also help someone older by simply by listening. And maybe passing it on. The older generation is a treasure. Don't be robbed by not asking someone to share it. Most of the things in Son-of-a-Gun referring to yesterday come from this older generation. And by the way, I am always looking for new sources. Any suggestions?

If you watch western movies, I am sure you have heard the phrases used by the Indians. "White eyes." Speak with forked tongue. It is surprising these Indians knew of such things as... the government and electric companies saying conserve electricity, and in the same instance giving those who use the most electricity a cheaper rate per kilowatt.

Someone this week was telling me about a fellow going to the creek to get a pail of water. As he dipped his bucket into the water, he saw an alligator. Frightened, he ran back to the house and told his mother, who said "You scared that alligator as much as he scared you. Go on back and get that water." "Mom," said the lad, "If I scared that alligator as much as he scared me, that water is not fit to use." Son-Of-A-Gun



USING THE JAWS OF LIFE - Duplin County rescuemen got their first chance to use a Jaws of Life power rescue tool Sunday. Glenn Jernigan, center, of the Faison squad, and another unidentified rescueman pop off a car door as Herb Walls, a power tool company representative, gives instructions. The Jaws was paid for Sunday with over \$5,000 raised by rescue personnel in the county. It will be available for use by all eight Duplin County squads. (From Mount Olive Tribune)

Kenny Houston Rotary Student Of The Month

outstanding football player at JK. He was named to the All-Conference team and won Honorable Mention honors on the All-East Team. He has also lettered in basketball and track.

Kenny has been a home room representative three years and is a member of the Monogram Club. He plans to attend Elon College in Greensboro.

ON THE BEAM BARGAINS

CRAZY DAYS 2 DAYS ONLY! Friday & Saturday, April 14 & 15. Sponsored by Mount Olive Tribune Association.

Kenneth Edward Houston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leadell Houston of Warsaw, has been selected as the Rotary Student of the Month by the Kenansville-Warsaw Rotary Club. Kenny, a senior at James Kenan High School, has been an