

Duplin Tax Rate Set At 72 Cents

Son Of A Gun

Duplin County Commissioners began looking into the 1978-79 budget several weeks ago. In the first session on June 4, it appeared that after several rate increases, the tax rate could be set near 60 cents per \$100 valuation. After there was discussion among the Commissioners for they couldn't seem to get it below 62 cents. Tired of figuring, they adjourned, evidently thinking that before the next meeting something would turn up on the tax rate side. It didn't. But things began moving in the wrong direction. The next time they met, it was 64 cents. It went up to 66 cents. . . . Apparently something they all agreed upon. The next time they met, the rate had moved to 68 cents. Finally they were again on Monday, and the rate moved again, this time to 72 cents. . . .

It was a long time ago, but I still remember the day. . . . In that town. . . . Son-of-a-Gun.

A tax rate of 72 cents per \$100 assessed valuation was set Monday by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners. After much discussion and three attempts to vote, the 1978-79 fiscal year tax rate was set with the 72-cent rate, and two commissioners against.

Based on the county's new valuation of \$59,719,745, the new rate should bring in \$1,707,583, allowing 8% school funds, according to Russell Tucker, county accountant.

The former rate of 69 cents per \$100 brought in \$3,123,000. It was based on an assessed valuation of \$342,925,369. The new budget calls for an increase of \$564,219.

A large part of the increase will go to the school system. An

Education Monday forced the three-cent addition, as each cent of tax rate is expected to bring in \$51,000.

A tax rate of 61 cents would have brought in \$20,000 more than the 59-cent rate did under the old county valuation figure, officials said. On the basis of the former valuation, a rate of about \$1.19 would have brought in about the same amount as the 72-cent rate under the new valuation.

Commissioner J.W. Hoffer made the first motion for the 72-cent rate and it died without a second.

Commissioner Emmett Kelly then moved for a 69-cent tax rate, deleting the \$153,000 for the schools. Hoffer seconded this motion. However, Commissioners Arliss Albertson, W.J. Costin and D.J. Fussell voted against it.

Hoffer again made a motion

for a 72-cent rate, which died without a second.

Following more discussion, Hoffer again moved for the 72-cent rate. This time Kelly seconded. Hoffer, Kelly and Albertson voted for the motion for 72 cents with Fussell and Costin against it.

Full-Time Magistrate Service Postponed

Francis W. Turner, Chief Justice, announced on Monday that a full-time magistrate service in Kenansville has been postponed until at least September 1st.

Turner stated, "Due to the resignation of Mr. Melvin G. Corning effective June 30, 1978, we will be short one full-time magistrate and therefore will be unable to begin the arrangement and schedule that was to be effective July 1, 1978 pending the resignation of Mr. Corning."

Also, when a replacement for Mr. Corning is named, it will be necessary for that person to attend two weeks of school at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill. The first week will be July 17 - July 21, 1978, and the second week will be July 31 - August 4, 1978.

Music To Open The Liberty Cart

Brenda James and Soft Leather, a musical group from Beaufort, will provide entertainment for those attending the Special Opening Night at THE LIBERTY CART on July 6 in Kenansville. Activities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with Supper in the Pines, in an area next to the outdoor theatre with music beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the opening performance of Randolph Umberger's THE LIBERTY CART.

Brenda James has appeared professionally at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, on the Louisiana Hayride, and sang with Charlie Albertson's Swingmasters when that group toured Europe and the Caribbean on two different trips. Possessing a beautiful singing voice, Brenda

had the largest tax increase in the County. . . .

On Thursday of next week, July 6th, I hope to attend the biggest pig picking ever held in Duplin County. This affair is to take place on opening night of THE LIBERTY CART. . . . A good old country get-together, with barbecue, music, and the 1978 presentation of THE LIBERTY CART. . . . There are 1,200 tickets available. . . . Hopefully, it will be sold. . . . With 100 of those tickets being sold to Duplin County people, see you there? . . .

If you were wondering if Senator Harold Hardison was a country boy, let me assure you that he is. After listening to a radio station North Carolina station carry about the good life in the South, Senator Hardison said, "Boy man, you know I'll still a pine for the good life in the South. . . . On a warm day. . . . In that town. . . . Son-of-a-Gun."

Animal Diagnostic Lab To Be Built In Rose Hill Area

State and local officials met Wednesday in Rose Hill to select a site for a new animal disease diagnostic laboratory. The \$300,000 building will be constructed in the Rose Hill area.

Senator Harold Hardison, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Duplin Board of Commissioners, Bill Wilder, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, and Dr. T.F. Zweigart, State Veterinarian, met at the Rose Hill Farmstead to discuss the new facility, which will be an extension of the existing Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory. The new lab will be used to diagnose swine and cattle problems, as well as poultry.

This will be the only center of

its kind in Eastern North Carolina. There are three more centers, one in Raleigh, another in Stanley County near Monroe, and the third near North Wilkesboro. The Rose Hill disease diagnostic laboratory will serve all Eastern North Carolina and will be staffed by research veterinarians. The job will, hopefully, be a drawing card for vets in private practice.

The center can only diagnose, however, not treat disease.

In the mini-session just completed in Raleigh, funding for this project was approved, with \$300,000 for construction, \$78,010 for five new positions, and operating expenses for 1978-79. Duplin County is to furnish a site to be built outside the city limits.



Wood Elected

Warren Child of Police R.F. Wood, Jr. was elected President of the Eastern North Carolina Firemen's Association at a meeting last Thursday night at King's Restaurant in Kenansville.

Also elected to office at this meeting was Chief Larrye Shoop of Kenansville as Chairman, and Chief Glenn Jernigan of Faison as the Board of Directors.

Wood also serves at this time as President of the Duplin County Firemen's Association.

4-H Campers Win Awards

Eighty-five 4-H'ers attended Michael 4-H Camp June 5-10. Many of the campers returned home with awards.

Beginner swimming awards were given to Raybela James of Wallace, Wendell Wallace of Rose Hill and Missy Clark and Elizabeth Frazzelle of Beaufort. Wendell Wallace was recognized as the Most Determined Swimmer, Missy Clark as the Most Improved, and Rusty Cowan of Beaufort as Swimming Instructor Assistant.

Endless awards were presented to Lita Fussell of Kenansville, Wendell Wallace of Rose Hill and Craig Smith of Magnolia.

Lloyd Hall of Warsaw, Leah Utter of Rose Hill, and Ralph Brax and Dave Underhill of Mount Olive received Selling Awards. Underhill was recognized as the person who tried the hardest.

Swimming awards for handicapped were Lita Fussell and Becca Smith of Kenansville, Wendell Wallace, Leah Utter, Paul Brax and Carol Brax of Rose Hill, and . . .

Evans, Angela Pickett and Lana Maresdy of Beaufort, Joel Deuning and Charles Denning of Faison, James Pickett and Jackie Hatcher of Chinquapin, Kate Coleman, Rose Starnes, Laurie Swain, and Amy West of Warsaw, Tommy Tadlock of Mount Olive, Cassandra Raynor and Laura McMullan of Wallace, and Rita Roberts of Bowdens.

WOLFPACK BASKETBALL PLAYERS VISIT MURPHY FARMS - Several members of the N.C. State basketball team enjoyed a good Duplin County pig-picking at the home of Wendell Murphy near Rose Hill recently. Bill Saunders, Murphy Farms Grain Merchandising Director, is pictured with, left to right, Clyde Austin, Glenn Sudhop, Chuck Nevitt, Craig Watts and Craig Davis. Also pictured is Wendy Murphy. (Photo by Joe Lanier)

Whitley Announces Grant

Congressman Charlie Whitley announced a grant of \$50,472 to the Duplin County Home Health Agency by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The grant, according to Whitley, will enable the Public Health Department to provide skilled nurse services, home aid services and additional physical therapy.

Whitley stated that the federal grant should be supplemented with state and local funds.

Dr. Gooding Dies Sunday

Dr. Guy Vernon Gooding, 76, died Sunday. Graveside services were held Tuesday at Golden Grove Cemetery in Kenansville.

Dr. Gooding grew up on a farm in Lenoir County and graduated from Kinston High School. He received his A.B. degree from the University of North Carolina and also had two years in his Medical College. He received his M.D. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans and interned at the U.S. Marine Hospital there.

Dr. Gooding came to Kenansville in 1929 and entered private practice as a physician. Through his efforts and coordination, a clinic was set up in Kenansville for removing tonsils during the depression years. He kept account of the babies that he delivered until the number reached 5,000.

Dr. Gooding served several years as Health Officer, first in Duplin County and later in the Armed Forces. His tour of duty included the Far East, Okinawa, France and Italy. He served as Health Officer in Sylvia. He was a member of the Staff of Duplin General Hospital and served as Chief of Staff.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and held several offices in the Church. He was a past Master of St. John's Lodge No. 13, A.F. & A.M. and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a Past Patron of Kenansville Chapter No. 215, O.E.S. He served as District Deputy Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of O.E.S. of North Carolina.

Surviving widow, Mrs. Ella Long Gooding; daughters, Mrs. Charles Banks McNair, III, of Goldsboro, Mrs. Robert E. Bay of Fayetteville; son, Guy V., Jr., of Raleigh; Dr. Stephen G. Gooding of Grou, S.C.; 15 grandchildren; a great-grandchild.