

Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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County Employees Urged To Improve Public Image

Duplin County department heads and employees were told Monday to improve their image with county residents.

The department heads were called to the meeting by Chairman William J. Costin.

Costin reminded department heads at the Board of Commissioners meeting that California voters had rebelled against high taxes by approving Proposition 13 which limited property taxes.

"The tax burden has shifted

in Duplin due to revaluation," he said. "You, the department heads, county employees, and Board of Commissioners have a poor image in the county, and we want to change that."

He said Board members had heard of rudeness to residents on the part of some employees, and that residents' complaints had been ignored.

"You must realize these people are taxpayers and pay all our bills. If you are paid for 40 hours of work, we want 40 hours

of work — no more, and no less," he said.

Costin said it has been reported that some employees have been seen in supermarkets, barber shops, and other places during working hours. "The public questions this, and rightly so," he said.

Costin said the key to improved public relations is improved attitude toward people. If an employee persists in exhibiting a bad attitude, the employment should be terminated, he said.

"If there is job over-lapping, it should be eliminated," he insisted.

Costin urged department heads to speak before civic groups to discuss their departments and jobs. He also urged them to explain their work in newspaper articles.

In other matters, the Board, by a split vote, approved the request of Duplin Development Commission Chairman Harry Oswald of Wallace and members, C. W. Surratt of Rose Hill and Amos Brinson of Kenansville, for permission to advertise for a new director to succeed James Risher, who has resigned.

Opposing was Commissioner Franklin Williams, who said he thought the Board should wait until a decision can be made on

whether to hire a county manager. Williams said he thinks the two positions could be combined. Commissioners D.J. Fussell, Calvin Turner, and Allen Nethercutt approved the advertisement request.

The Board received the resignation of Windsor Johnson as head of the Program for the Elderly because of his age. He agreed to stay on temporarily, however.

Russell Tucker, County Accountant, advised the Board that Wilbur Jackson, a retired Federal Aviation Administration employee, will arrive January 15 as operator of the P.B. Raiford airport.

The Board appointed Clifton Smith of Warsaw, Mike Pister of Teachey, Lois B. Williams of Rose Hill, O.J. Simpson of Beulaville, Haden Pickett of Wallace, Abbie Smith of Magnolia, Annie Catherine Bland of Rose Hill, Margaret O. Sutton of Mount Olive, and Cornelia Britt of Albemarle to the Citizens Advisory Council on Community Development Grants.

Mary Stevens of Kenansville was named to the Manpower Board of the Neuse River Council of Government to replace Risher.

Dr. Gary Headrick of Warsaw was named to the Health Department Board.

Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

Duplin County schools received accreditation this past week by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools — an accomplishment that apparently means a great deal to many of Duplin's educators — at least those I have talked with. Therefore, let's congratulate the teachers, principals, the administration, the school board and everyone else involved in this prestigious accomplishment. I do, however, question the trip to Atlanta to accept the award. A news article located elsewhere in this paper lists 23 people as being in Atlanta Sunday through Wednesday. I have been told that only 21 of them were at the expense of the school board, and they were the educators and administration only. The chartered airplane flight to and from and the motel accommodations were listed at \$181 per person, state allocated meals \$49, and registration \$10, for a total of just over \$5,000 plus the three days' wages. The argument I have received in favor of the trip was that the schools have worked for three years to receive this and the principal should accept the award. When I asked if one person could have accepted for all the schools, the answer was that the principals worked hard and it just would not have been right not let them accept the award, get their picture taken, and all. My reply? On that basis, what about the teachers? Didn't they work on this as well? The answer? "Well, you have to stop somewhere." And I agree. That somewhere should have been with only one person. If even one. After all, a 15 cent stamp would have accomplished the same

thing... with less fanfare, of course. The money for this trip had to be budgeted someplace, but at budget time last year, when the tax rate was so highly set, it was not brought out.

Kenansville at night is nothing short of spectacularly beautiful. Simply so. The one white candle in each window theme has been adopted overwhelmingly by the community. In every neighborhood, regardless of race or income, the theme is predominant... and predominantly beautiful. I find it difficult to decide which is more beautiful... the sights or the unity.

I have been lettering a sign on a building behind Joe Quinn's variety store in Kenansville as the weather permits. Last week I was filling in with black paint a portion of the sign that stated "Authorized Briggs & Stratton Service Center". While I was doing this, numerous people came by and talked. I looked... and remarked about the sign. When I had finished, I backed off to take a look, and it just didn't look right. I blinked my eyes and looked again. There was the problem. Authorized was spelled wrong. On the wall was A U T H O R I Z E D. Too many U's and not enough O's. There had been at least 10 people by, and not the first one told me about the misspelling.

On Christmas may your special Santa reconfirm that very special gift of love. 'Til next year... Son-of-a-Gun...

Rotary Student Of The Month

Karen's activities at James Kenan include National Honor Society, Monogram Club, Editor of the 1979 yearbook, and Majorette.

She served as a Marshal her junior year, and as Girls' State Representative, and National Honor Society Representative.

Karen recently attended the National 4-H Congress in Chicago. She is the designer of the official Duplin County Flag, and is active in the Warsaw Baptist Church, 4-H work, and is a volunteer worker in the community.

She was a Morehead Scholarship county nominee, and has two school awards on a local, state, and national level.

She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Kornegay, and plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and major in Journalism. She would like to be a foreign correspondent.

Karen Cooper Kornegay of Warsaw has been selected as the Rotary Student of the Month for the Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary Club. Karen, a senior at James Kenan High School, is the first girl to be selected for the honor.

All Duplin County Schools Awarded Accreditation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, through its Commission on Elementary Schools, has awarded accreditation to all Duplin County Schools. The announcement was made and certificates were presented by Dr. Madeline Tripp for the Elementary Schools during the Association's 83rd Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, December 10-13.

The following individuals accepted for their respective schools: Cecil Blue, principal, B.F. Grady; W.D. Thigpen, Principal, Beulaville; W.C. Blue, Principal, Chinquapin I; L.J. Sutton, Principal, Chinquapin II; Mrs. Melba Bowles, Director of Instruction, Warsaw; Z. W. Frazelle, Principal, Kenansville; Luby H. Byrd, Principal, North Duplin; Dr. C.J. Stiemenda, Principal, Rose Hill; Magnolia; and Mrs. Jo Ann Rivenbark, Coordinating Teacher, Wallace.

The announcement was made

and the certificates were presented by Dr. Joe Johnson for the high schools during the same meeting. The following individuals accepted for their respective schools: W.J. Powers, Principal, Charity; J.G. Henry, Principal, E.E. Smith; C.R. Powers, Principal, East Duplin; W.J. Taylor, Principal, James Kenan; J.H. Williams, Principal, North Duplin Junior High; Neal M. Carlton, Principal, Wallace-Rose Hill; Hubert E. Bowden, Principal, Warsaw Junior High; (North Duplin High School was accredited by the Association in 1976).

The following were present to accept the Unit-wide Certificate for Duplin County: C.H. Yelverton, Superintendent; Mrs. Magdalene Stancil and Miss Annie Mae Kenion, General Supervisors; and J.F. Strickland, Vice Chairman of the Duplin County Board of Edu-

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Two Injured In Accident

Two Duplin County men were taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington following an accident between their car and a tractor-trailer rig Friday night.

Ronnie Williams of Beulaville and Luther Gore were seriously injured when the car Williams was driving hit the truck broadside and went entirely under it.

According to Harrell Hall of the Wallace Rescue Squad, the accident occurred around 7:30 p.m. on N.C. 11, 4 1/2 miles north of Tin City.

Hall said the truck was in the process of backing off the highway when Williams' car hit it. According to Hall, witnesses said the car was speeding and "all over the road" as it rounded a curve about 1/4 mile

from the truck. The driver applied his brakes only 89 feet from the truck, which was properly lit, Hall said. "It went under the truck and out the other side," Hall said of Williams' car.

Hall said both victims were transported to Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville and then transferred to Wilmington. The truck driver, who was not identified, was not injured, according to Hall.

OPEN HOUSE

Bank of North Carolina at Kenansville will have Open House on Friday, December 22 between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. The general public is cordially invited.

Christmas Greetings From Our First Families

Sent to a Duplin County Family



With best wishes from our family for a happy holiday season

Jimmy Carter Rosalynn Carter



Christmas, 1978

From all the Hunt family, we send you our warmest best wishes for a happy holiday.

We appreciate your friendship and hope that the coming year is a happy one for you and yours.

Jim and Carolyn Hunt