

LEGISLATORS' COFFEE HOUR - An appreciation coffee hour for Duplin County's legislators - State Representative Douglas Clark, State Senator Harold Hardison, and Congressman Charles Whitley - was hosted by the Duplin

County Tri-Town Community Development Program on Saturday, January 6, at the Duplin County Agricultural Building in Kenansville. Approximately 35-40 elected officials and citizens from throughout Duplin County were in

attendance. Pictured (L to R) are some who were present: Representative Clark; Graham Phillips, Wallace; Bill Costin, Chairman, County Commissioners; Congressman Whitley; Walter West, Jr., Warsaw; William Fennell, Kenansville

Commissioner; Woody Brinson, Tri-Town Program Director and event chairman; Alex Brown, Mayor of Greenevers; Melvin Pope, Mayor of Magnolia; Senator Hardison; Graham Phillips; and Ruby Ramsey, Mayor of Teachey.

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Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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Competency Test Results For Duplin County School System

On November 1 and 2, 1978, 685 eleventh grade students in the Duplin school system were administered a reading and mathematics test as a part of North Carolina's new Competency Testing Program. Approximately 87 percent, or 593 students, passed the reading tests, and 82 percent, or 556 students, passed the mathematics test. The number and percent of 11th grade students by school who passed the test were as follows: Wallace-Rose Hill (174 students): 155 or 89% Reading, 153 or 88% Math; East Duplin High (209 students): 184 or 88% Reading, 170 or 81% Math; James Kenan High (187 Students): 160 or 86% Reading, 143 or 77% Math; North Duplin High (93 Students): 77 or 83% Reading, 75 or 81% Math; Extended Day School (22 Students): 17 or 77% Reading, 15 or 69% Math.

Superintendent of Schools Charles Yelverton stated, "I hope that this passing will not be taken as an exceptional act." He said "This is only the bare necessity. They still have to pass 18 units, and we hope they can pass the SAT."

The students taking the test this year scored better than this year's seniors who took the test last year. Last year from Wallace-Rose Hill, 12% failed the test; this year only 11%. James Kenan had 21% failure last year and 14% this year. East Duplin had 18% last year and 12% failure; this year. North Duplin's 29% failure last year may be compared with 17% this year.

The scores were mailed to parents last Friday. The Competency Testing Program was legislated in the 1977 General Assembly through House Bill 204. This law provided that, beginning in the fall of 1978, competency tests be administered to all eleventh-grade students in the State as a requirement for graduation.

The N.C. Competency Test is a basic skills test designed to measure minimum competency, not ideal achievement. The specific tests selected for administration are SHARP (Senior High Assessment of Reading Progress) and TOPICS (Test of Proficiency in Computational Skills). Both are published by CTB/McGraw-Hill and each contains 120 items.

The N.C. Competency Testing Program was administered to eleventh-grade

students in the public schools, non-public schools, and Federal schools and special schools on November 1 and 2, 1978, with make-up testing taking place November 7, 8, and 9, 1978. Modifications such as large print, cassette tapes, and braille were provided for students who were officially classified as having special needs.

Personnel in local education agencies (LEAs) attended administrative workshops, developed monitoring plans, and undertook measures to insure the security of the competency tests. These activities were monitored by State Department and local education agency personnel.

In addition to normal local and state graduation requirements, it is necessary for each student to pass both sections of the competency test in order to receive a high school diploma. Those who fail either or both tests will be given additional instruction in learning those skills which they do not possess. On May 1 and 2, 1979 students will have an opportunity to be retested on the sections of the tests which they did not pass in November, 1978.

In preparation for the November, 1978 testing, personnel in the Duplin County school system were involved in: establishing reading and mathematics laboratories at each high school; numerous regional and local workshops were held in both reading and mathematics for teachers and administrative personnel; the review, evaluation, and purchase of materials designed to meet the specific needs of high school students deficient in everyday life skills; identification and placement of high risk failures into programs comparable to their needs (i.e., reading laboratories and consumer math classes); a curriculum guide designed to promote the acquisition of basic skills in mathematics was designed by high school mathematics department heads. This guide can be utilized in conjunction with guides for general and consumer math; developing appropriate strategies to insure the best possible testing setting on November 1 and 2. The remediation plans for those students who failed the tests include small group instruction in reading and mathematics in a laboratory environment.

Statewide results and demographic information was released in a special telecast by Governor James B. Hunt Tuesday. More than 84,000 eleventh grade students in both public and non-public high schools took one or both parts of the test in November.



Duplin Jail And Courthouse Nearing Completion

Swain Wins Summer Scholarship To Camp



Greg Swain

Greg Swain, Route 2, Warsaw, has been selected to receive a scholarship to Danforth Camp in Michigan this summer.

Swain, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swain, receives one of two Danforth Camp Scholarships available to the local 4-H members. The other winner is Debbie Lynne Jordan of Route 2, Edenton.

The Danforth Camp will be held at Camp Minnawaca in Western Michigan in the heart of the fruit belt and sand-dune country. Swain was chosen January 2nd in a day-long series of interviews at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Student Of The Month

Bennie Roberts, a senior at James Kenan High School, has been named Rotary Student of the Month by the Kenansville-Warsaw Rotary Club.

Bennie is ranked third in his class of 174 students. His extracurricular activities at JK include: National Honor Society, Marshal, Monogram Club, Chess Club, Science Club, National Honor Society Representative, Presidential Classroom, Band, and Tennis.

Bennie has won 7 State chess tournaments, and is the second-ranked high school chess player in North Carolina. He has won the Biology, Geometry, Chemistry, French I, and NEDT Achievement awards at JK. He was a Pogue Scholarship Nominee, and also a Morehead Scholarship Nominee.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Roberts, Sr. of Warsaw, and plans to attend N.S.U. or U.N.C. at Chapel Hill.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORKSHOP FOR PESTICIDE USE

On Tuesday, January 16, at 7 p.m. in the Agricultural Building in Kenansville, a workshop will be held for certification in restricted pesticide use, according to Snodie B. Wilson,

Agricultural Extension Agent. Bring your Social Security Number and a pencil or pen. This is a must.

Federal law requires that all persons who use restricted pesticides must be certified. In order to be certified, you must attend four hours of classes. You do not have to pass a test in order to be certified.

ADVISERS NAMED

The Board of Commissioners made several appointments to two boards last week.

On the Planning Board, Rashie Lanier of Route 1, Chinquapin, was appointed

to replace Milton R. Hunter; Decatur Blanchard of Wallace replaces William Rand; Kermit Williams of Sarecta will replace Frederick Rhodes; and Frederick Albertson of Route 2, Beaulville will replace Bobby Miller.

Juanita Boney of Magnolia, and Julius C. Thompson of Wallace were named to the Region P Council of Governments Aged Advisory Board.

BLUEBERRY OPEN HOUSE

The 12th Annual Blueberry Open House will be held January 18th at the Rose Hill Restaurant in Rose Hill.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m.

MISS DUPLIN PAGEANT

The Miss Duplin County Pageant will be held Saturday night, January 20th, at Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville.

The Warsaw and Calypso Jaycees are sponsoring the pageant.

Sam Garner of Wilmington is the director. Judges will be Richard Reynolds, Janet Hogan, Ed Wallace, Donald A. Gilliam, and Florence Ranson.

MAN DIES IN HOUSE FIRE

Linwood "Shorty" Under-

wood of Clinton was killed when fire gutted a frame house on Rural Road #1327 near Faison Wednesday night.

The six-room house, two miles west of Faison, was the residence of Willie Hobbs.

TWO INJURED WHEN SCHOOL BUS SLIDES INTO DITCH

Two Wallace students were injured when the school bus in which they were riding slid into a ditch as it moved to the side of the road to allow an ambulance to pass.

Kimberly Giddens, 13, suffered a fractured shoulder and Donna Williams suffered a leg injury.