

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Governor Hunt Visits Faison Produce Market

Gov. Jim Hunt and Agriculture Commissioner Jim Faison visited the Faison produce market Monday and told buyers and sellers that they are doing all they can to help the critical situation caused by the strike of independent truckers.

Farmers stand to lose millions of dollars if the independent truckers' strike is not settled soon.

Visiting the market on one of the hardest hit areas, Hunt said he is working with governors of other states in an effort to get truck weight limits raised and get assurance of fuel. He said he would call out the State Highway Patrol and the National Guard if necessary.

Market officials report volume is heavy and prices were good on Monday, with peppers bringing \$8.9 per crate, cucumbers bringing \$6.7, and squash bringing \$4.5. However, there was no assurance that these prices would hold because there remains doubt when and if there will be trucks to ship the produce.

Although some produce was shipped during the weekend, the market was closed for the first time in over 30 years. One market official said there seems to be some easing of the truck shortage Monday.

Growers were asked last week to leave their peppers in the field as long as possible, but they are now reaching the point that they must be sold or lost.

The Highway Patrol reported no violence in the state Sunday, and state officials said they had received commitments from truckers to haul more cucumbers and peppers.

Some farmers already have lost up to 25 percent of their cucumber crop.

County Manager Contacts Whitley In Farmers' Plight

By Helen Cottle, Duplin County Manager

Members of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners as well as Town mayors have expressed concern over the difficult plight many produce farmers are having in getting their products to market. This has resulted from the recent truckers' strike.

As a result, I telephoned Congressman Whitley's office and spoke with his assistant, Mr. Louis Wrenn. He assured me that their office is doing all they can to encourage resolution of issues and pointed out that independent truckers are not federally regulated.

President Carter has requested the FBI and the Governor to provide protection to truckers who are transporting produce. Unfortunately, the sufficient fuel to be allocated for the truckers. Various states which have maximum weight limits less than the 80,000 pound maximum permitted by the Federal Government have been asked to temporarily increase their maximum to the federal level.

While all issues are not resolved, those steps do exist to help the truckers. It is hoped that the truckers will soon be on the road.



ROTARY OFFICERS NAMED - The Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary Club held their annual installation of officers and ladies night Thursday night at The Country Squire. New officers for 1979-80 are, front row, left to right, John A. Whisman, secretary; John Weatherly, president; Bob Brumleve, vice president. Back row, left to right, Kermit Anderson, director club services; Al Beard, treasurer; Charles Taylor, program chairman; Lee Brown, chairman Rotary information; and Arthur Benton, director international services.



THE JAMES GANG TO OPEN THE LIBERTY CART - Audiences at the 1979 production of THE LIBERTY CART will be treated to a special pre-show performance by the popular musical group, The James Gang, when they appear at the Kenansville Amphitheatre, June 27th to 29th. The group will perform as part of special events scheduled for the opening of the colorful drama. Another of the special opening night events will be a Supper in the Pines, beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by music from The James Gang, and the opening performance of Randolph Umberger's THE LIBERTY CART. The James Gang has performed with such artists as Bonnie McDowell, Danny Davis and the Nashville Brass, and the popular group, The Oak Ridge Boys. The group has appeared in clubs and concerts throughout Eastern North Carolina. The James Gang offers audiences a variety of musical entertainment including country, easy listening, pop, rock, and bluegrass.

Three Principals Named By Duplin School Board

Appointment of three elementary school principals was ratified by the Board of Education last week.

The new principals are: Wilbur E. Carr, Jr., 34, for Kenansville, who will replace Z. W. Frazelle, who retired; Gerald David Yaunt, 36, for Warsaw, who will replace Ray Roberts who retired in February due to poor health; and Douglas Brooks Hunter, 42, for Beulaville, to succeed William Thigpen, who retired after 32 years service.

Carr, formerly of Wilmington, graduated from New Hanover County High School and University of North Carolina at Wilmington. He obtained his masters from Appalachian State and his principal's certificate from East Carolina University. He has been teaching at Davidson Community College.

Frazelle had served the Kenansville school for 32 years.

When the new Kenansville school goes into service in December, it will have ungraded, open classrooms from kindergarten through 6th grade.

Yaunt is coming to Duplin from Newton-Conover School at Newton. He is a native of Cherryville. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees and principal's certificate from Appalachian State.

Hunter, a native of Turkey, obtained his bachelor's degree from Atlantic Christian College and his Master's from Winona State in Minnesota. He was superintendent of schools at Neekoosa, Wis., prior to taking the Duplin post. He took a year's leave from the Wisconsin post to seek a position in North Carolina. The Beulaville school has grades kindergarten through eight.

The Board of Education promoted Allen Wood from mechanic to supervisor of school bus transportation to succeed Willard Brinson, who retired.

A.C. Rivenbark of Wallace was named to the Charity School advisory committee.

Sanitation Fee Rate Set At Kenansville Meeting

The sanitation fee rate of \$3.00 per month for residential and \$6.00 per month for businesses was set by the Kenansville Town Board during a special meeting held Wednesday, June 13th.

Town Administrator W. W. Brinson, Jr. reported the current price on gasoline had been received from Jesse W. Brown. A motion carried to award gasoline bid to Jesse W. Brown at 3.95 cents above cost for fiscal year 1979-80.

The price quoted to install OSHA required rail at the sewer plant from Consolidated Construction of \$18,300 was reviewed by the board. They agreed to reject the bid and have the public works department install a less expensive type barrier.

Mayor Judge reported that the water heater at the residence of James King on Stroud Street had burned when the water was set recently. The board agreed that if it was not the owner's responsibility to replace the water heater.

New training session for CETA employees was discussed by Brinson. Three employees will be attending 12 hours of class from July 2 to September 10.

Brinson reported an offer of HUD Elderly/Handicapped Housing for Duplin County. The board decided not to apply for any units due to not knowing of available land.

Motions carried during the budget work session were as follows:

For police vehicles to stay within the town limits while on regular patrol, second police vehicle to be parked at Duplin County Sheriff's Department when not in use, and to pay officers who live out-of-town mileage when called in on emergencies.

To set new water and sewer connection rates at \$225 for 1/2 inch meter, and \$450 for 2 inch meter for water, and \$300 for sewer effective July 1.

To give 6% raises to all employees effective July 1, 1979.

To set 1979 tax rate at 44 cents per \$100 valuation.

Annual Red Cross Meeting

The annual meeting of the Duplin County Chapter of the American Red Cross will be held on Wednesday afternoon, June 27 at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church in Kenansville. A representative from the Carolina Division office in Charlotte will be the guest speaker.

SERVICE TO SELF

MEMBERSHIP OF THE YEAR - A.L. Allen, Jr. was presented by the Town Board by Al Beard, chairman.

By his fellow Rotarians for his outstanding service to the Rotary Club and what it stands for Allen is the past president of the local club.

Faison Budget Adopted

The Faison Commissioners met last Tuesday and approved a \$352,967 budget for 1979-80 and a tax rate of 57 cents per \$100 valuation. The tax rate is the same as it was last year.

Expenditures for the 1979-80 fiscal year, with last year's figures in parenthesis, are as follows: General Fund, which includes administration and law enforcement, \$181,203 (\$183,653); water-sewer, \$125,744 (\$139,174); Powell Hall, \$12,000 (\$23,499); Revenue Sharing, \$10,520 (\$19,436); and Capital Reserve Fund, \$17,500 (0).

Kenansville Remains Firm