



The Liberty Cart opens its fourth season

Supper in the pines

The James Gang perform

Phenius tells the history

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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## Farmers Protest Prices At Faison Produce Market

Protesters continued to move through the sale line Saturday at the Produce Auction Market in Faison carrying just one symbolic package of peppers or cucumbers on their trucks, according to market observers. They reported that at least sixty such vehicles had passed through the market by 11 a.m. Saturday, with more expected in the afternoon. And all the one-crate farmers interviewed promised to be back on Monday.

"I brought my cukes out here and they brought \$1.50 a bushel," said Edward Shine of Faison. "I went right home and sliced up the whole acre and a half. My brother in New York said cukes were selling for \$18 a bushel. It just ain't fair."

Not all farmers at the market were sympathetic to the protest, though. "This protest, strike, or what-have-you ain't doing no good," said Wayne Phipps of Turkey. "When this produce has to go, it has to go."

One angry farmer, Billy Whitehead said, "The gas price affects us as well as the truckers. We have to buy gas just like the truckers do. While everything, such as gas and labor, is costing us more, produce is bringing us less."

Junior Royal complained of the large difference between the price of produce at the grocery store and the prices being offered at the market. According to Royal, two cucumbers at the grocery store cost \$1, but at the market \$1 will buy almost a whole bushel. Some farmers are also destroying their cucumbers to protest the low prices.

Sampson farmer George Devault said he destroyed \$10,000 worth of cucumbers. "Damned if I can live on one good year out of every six. I have good credit, but I don't know how long that's going

to last. The only day that produce has sold good on this market was the day Governor Hunt came. It paid high prices just to make a good show."

A spokesman for the protesting farmers, Ben Robinson of Rocky Point, said, "We want \$6 for all grades of peppers. Buyers are saying they can't get more than \$6 on the Northern market."

Robinson is a member of Agri-Foods Association, which, he said, represents farmers' interests.

"A bushel of peppers would have brought \$48 at one Rocky Mount grocery," he said. "The store manager told me he only paid \$17 for the bushel that came from a Faison market."

Farmers also complained of persons selling produce "as a sideline." "People who have to make a living can't take these prices and survive," Robinson said.

Buyers, on the other hand, claim they are caught in the middle. One buyer, who wished to remain unidentified, said, "The buyers are stuck in the middle. Our customers (groceries and wholesale produce firms) say the prices are too high, but the farmer says it's too cheap, and the truckers want higher rates."

The buyer added, "I paid \$1.50 to ship a crate, 15 percent seller's fee and 10 percent buyer's fee. If the price is too high, our Northern and Western customers are not going to buy. If something doesn't happen soon, we may as well move out."

The farmers, however, say they will continue to slow down the market until the prices are satisfactory.

Meanwhile, law enforcement officers are heavily patrolling the market to prevent any violence.

Sheriff Elwood Revelle placed six of his 18 deputies at the market Friday. Three

Faison police, three highway patrolmen and two state Department of Crime Control aides also guarded the site. The two aides remained at the market Friday after Secretary of Crime Control Herbert Hyde visited the site in a helicopter.

Meanwhile, prices appeared to have strengthened Saturday. Large peppers ranged from \$5.57 to \$6.60 per bushel in the 11 a.m. market report. Medium large peppers were going for \$5.95 to \$6.50 and medium size peppers, \$5 to \$5.85; while "long green" cucumbers were bringing \$4 to \$4.55.

Volume was reported heavy with peppers the main offering. Market officials could not say whether the

protest had helped bring about the higher prices.

Friday, despite the protest, nearly 90,000 were sold, according to the Federal State Market News Service. Faison is the area's largest sales point.

Movement from the packing sheds is traditionally light on Saturdays, officials noted. Friday, officials reported sufficient trucks to move the produce out of the area, but one broker commented, "That doesn't mean we could always move the stuff where we wanted it to go."

Saturday, officials said it appeared as if there were enough trucks available to move the produce. They also said the market will keep regular hours despite the protest.

## Kenansville Reunion Day Saturday

A reunion of Kenansville Public School students and teachers, described by several residents as a town reunion, will be staged on the school grounds in Kenansville July 7th.

The school building, erected in 1926, will end its days as a school at the end of 1979 when students will be transferred to the new Kenansville Elementary School, now under construction.

Disposition of the old school building has not been decided. During July, the building is being used as quarters for cast members of THE LIBERTY CART.

A former student will review the school's history during an afternoon program. A barbecue will be held about noon.

More than 500 persons have paid for tickets to the

barbecue, officials said. Some have also signed up for a historic Kenansville tour, according to Amos Brinson, one of the originators of the reunion idea.

The school opened in 1926 with 11 teachers and a principal. They taught grades one through 11. During the first week of school, students had to sit on the floor as the furniture had not been delivered.

It was opened as a kind of consolidated school, made possible by the advent of school buses in the county three years before. Prior to that time, one- and two-room schools scattered across the county provided education usually to the seventh grade.

From 1923 until 1926, school was held in the old James Sprunt College building, which had not been used for its original purpose for several years. In 1926, the seventh- and eighth-graders were 8 to 19 years old.

Brinson recalled that students played basketball on a dirt court outside in all weather. He remembers going to Chinquapin to play a game in the snow. Chinquapin won 8 to 6, he said.

A gymnasium was built some time after the school was opened, but it burned in the mid 1930's. Kenan Memorial Auditorium was built after World War II and completely remodeled in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

In 1957, the high school and grades seven and eight were moved to the then new James Kenan High School on N.C. 24 between Kenansville and Warsaw. The Magnolia, Warsaw and Kenansville high schools were consolidated into the new school.

About 10 years ago, a junior high was formed in the E.E. Smith School in Kenansville, and the former lower-grade students of the Smith school were transferred to the Kenansville Elementary School. The new school building is scheduled for completion in December.



**LIBERTY RUN WINNERS** - (L to R) Steve Thomas, 2nd Overall Winner; Ramone Stroud, 2nd A-Male Winner; Loren Jones, 1st D-Female Winner; Phyllis Barwick, 3rd C-Women Winner; Jeffrey Howard, 1st A Male Winner; Melba Vinson, 1st C-Female Winner; Roland Cavenaugh, 1st B-Male Winner; Kenneth Reinhardt, 3rd C-Male Winner; Ann Sumner, 2nd C-Female Winner; Laverne Cunningham, 1st D-Female Winner; and McRae Sharpe, 1st C-Male Winner.

## Native Son Wins Kenansville's First Liberty Run Sunday

McRae Sharpe, son of Rev. and Mrs. Lauren Sharpe of Kenansville, won the 1st Liberty Run with a time of 35 minutes, fifty seconds over the 6.2 mile course on Sunday.

McRae came all the way from Knoxville, Tennessee, to participate in the Kenansville Jaycees-sponsored 1st

Liberty Run. All proceeds will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The race started at 5 p.m. with seventy-two participants, with the last one finishing at 6:10 p.m.

The winners and times of the four groups (A-12 and under; B-13 to 18; C- 19 to 34; D- 35 and over) were as follows: A -

Jeffrey Howard, (49:53); 2nd Place Ramone Stroud (59:00); A - Female 1st Place, Jenny Parker (69:04); B - Male 1st Place, Roland Cavenaugh (38:21); 2nd Place, Thomas Kelleher (39:06); C - Male 1st Place, McRae Sharpe (35:50); 2nd Place, Steve Thomas (37:22); C - Female

1st Place - Melba Vinson (49:22); 2nd Place - Ann Sumner (50:24); D - Male 1st Place - Loren Jones (42:03); 2nd Place John Hort (42:48); D - Female 1st Place Laverne Cunningham (60:06). Jaycee Mark Vinson, chairman of the Run, said that a total of 89 persons entered with 72 running and sixty-seven finishing.

## Duplin Property Valuation For 1979 Totals \$590,452,899

Duplin County's assessed valuation for property tax purposes for 1979 totals \$590,452,899 according to Tax Supervisor Frank Moore at the Board of Commissioners meeting Monday.

He said the total includes \$3.5 million from previously unlisted automobiles and other vehicles. The state sends counties a list of registered vehicles each year. From this list, county tax officials determine the number and value of vehicles whose owners failed to list them in their regular property tax returns.

The total also includes \$30,440,527 for public service property.

The Board, in determining its budget and property tax levy for the next year, used an estimated valuation of \$563 million. The tax rate is 68 cents per \$100 valuation, a drop of 4 cents from last year.

The largest increase in value came in Island Creek Township, which includes the town of Wallace. Its assessed valuation rose from \$113,362,389 in 1978 to \$119,262,285 1979.

The greatest rate of in-

crease was 8.69 percent for Rose Hill Township. The township's valuation increased from \$28,940,941 in 1978 to \$31,459,385 in 1979.

Valuation of other townships with 1978 figures listed first and 1979 figures second follows:

Warsaw: \$62,933,731 to \$66,464,758.  
Faison: \$50,626,445 to \$51,611,702.  
Wolfsrape: \$25,436,833 to \$26,078,019.  
Glisson: \$14,433,070 to \$15,377,510.  
Albertson: \$17,876,570 to \$18,606,495.  
Smith: \$21,817,225 to \$22,535,129.  
Limestone: \$57,746,378 to \$62,091,690.  
Cypress Creek: from \$27,575,938 to \$28,914,397.  
Rockfish: \$19,659,022 to \$19,924,229.  
Magnolia: from \$25,599,497 to \$25,960,377.  
Kenansville: from \$65,287,354 to \$68,359,443.

During Monday's meeting, the Board re-appointed Moore as tax supervisor and Leland Grady as tax collector. The supervisor's term is two years and the collector's term runs one

year.

Moore also reported that veterans of the county received \$2,770,499 in compensation for disability, vocational rehabilitation and insurance during the past year.

County Finance Officer Russell Tucker reported the county owes the state \$37,125 for two months of Medicaid payments.

He also reported the county has \$88,000 remaining in its public assistance fund from the Social Services Department budget for fiscal 1978-79. He said with unused money on hand in this fund, the county will be unable to borrow money from the state to meet the Medicaid payments.

Board Chairman W. F. Costin said, "When we were sworn in as county commissioners, we took an oath to carry out what is mandated by the state. This means we are going to have to pay this thing, and I believe if we are going to get any relief, we'll get it at the mini-session (of the General Assembly next spring)."

The Board has been protesting the sharp increase in

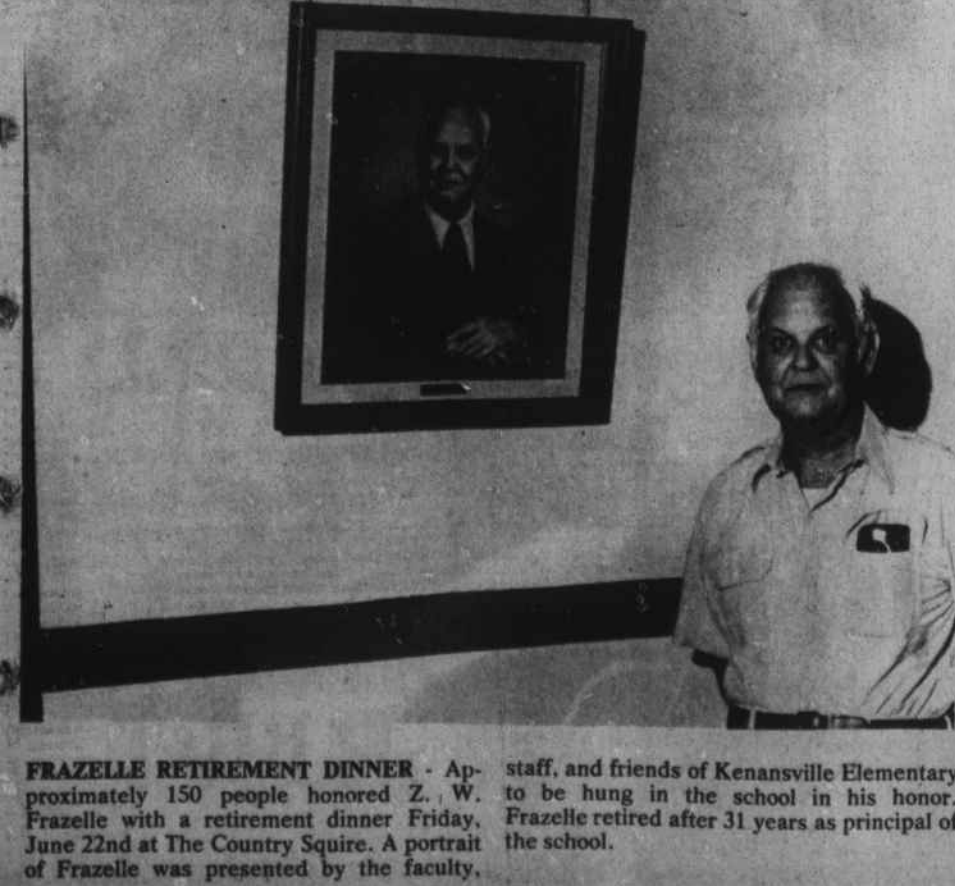
the county's proportion of Medicaid payments. Duplin has so far refused to pay the high amount and completed its 1979-80 budget with provision for \$100,000 less than the state directed it to provide for Medicaid during the next year.

H.L. Oswald, chairman of the Duplin Development Commission, recommended John H. Gurganus, Jr. for the vacant post of Development Director effective July 9.

The Board hired Gurganus at a salary of \$20,000 per year. Gurganus is industrial development director of Northhampton County. He is from Williamston and received his bachelor's degree from East Carolina University.

**KENANSVILLE REUNION Saturday Schedule**

10 a.m. - Registration  
12 noon - Luncheon  
2 p.m. - Program  
Invocation - Lauren Sharpe  
Welcome - Mayor Douglas  
Judge and Z.W. Frazelle  
Speaker - Rev. Lauren Sharpe  
Presentation of Awards & Gifts  
Benediction - Troy Mullis



**FRAZELLE RETIREMENT DINNER** - Approximately 150 people honored Z. W. Frazelle with a retirement dinner Friday, June 22nd at The Country Squire. A portrait of Frazelle was presented by the faculty, staff, and friends of Kenansville Elementary to be hung in the school in his honor. Frazelle retired after 31 years as principal of the school.