

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXIV NO. 34 USPS 162-860 KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 AUGUST 23, 1979 12 PAGES THIS WEEK 10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Driver Charged With DUI Chemical Truck Hits Bridge

By Emily Killete

A tractor truck pulling a containerized trailer overturned eight miles south of Kenansville at the Island Creek Bridge last Tuesday and spilled sodium bichromate dry, an industrial chemical, onto the sides of the road and into the creek.

The accident occurred shortly after 5 p.m. Officer McCorquodale reported that Carlos Manuel Hernandez of Virginia Beach, Va., was driving the 1974 tractor truck north on N.C. 11 at about 55-60 miles an hour when the vehicle malfunctioned

causing the truck to hit the bridge and overturn. Hernandez was not seriously injured. Upon further investigation, Hernandez was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and was taken to the Duplin County Jail and put under a \$200 bond. He was released the next day after relatives paid his bond.

The tractor truck is owned by Thomas Hayter of Virginia Beach and leased through Sea Wheels Truck Rentals.

Hernandez was hauling 90 50-gallon barrels of sodium bichromate dry, which is

used to chrome-plate metal and in industrial dyeing operations. The chemical was being shipped from the Diamond Shamrock Co. of Castle Hayne to Norfolk, Va., where the containerized trailer was to be loaded and shipped to China.

According to Ron West, employee relations director at Diamond Shamrock Co., the chemical was a mild dilution of sodium bichromate and would not harm the fish in Island Creek. However, fire departments from Rose Hill, Greenevers and Wallace worked almost the entire next day adding water

to the creek to further dilute the chemical. The chemical was washed off the road and onto the sides where the dirt containing the chemical was removed and transported to the Diamond Shamrock Co. for treatment. According to West, the dirt will be treated with hydrochloric acid which will neutralize the sodium bichromate.

Hiram Brinson, director of emergency services in Duplin County, said new dirt would be brought in by the state to replace the contaminated soil.

According to Brinson, a team of about 20 men from the Duplin County Emergency Services; Rose Hill, Wallace and Greenevers Fire Departments; Wallace Rescue; and Duplin Civil Preparedness worked all night and into the next day cleaning the site of the accident. Along with the team of 20 Duplin workers were representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Department in Wilmington. Also present were 10 Diamond Shamrock Co. employees.



CHEMICAL SPILL - The Rose Hill Fire Department continues to wash sodium bichromate dry from the Island Creek bridge Wednesday after an accident the night before when a truck overturned and spilled 90 barrels of the chemical. Workers removed the dirt from the roadside which had been contaminated with the chemical and hauled water which they added to Island Creek to dilute the effects of the chemical.

Commissioners Vote To Pay Medicaid Bills

The Board of Commissioners appropriated \$37,124.97 Monday to pay its overdue May and June Medicaid bills.

The bills exceeded the budget for Medicaid because of a change in the state's apportionment of Medicaid between counties and the state.

However, the budget calls for \$167,500 for the current fiscal year, an increase of 10 percent over last year. The state demanded the county appropriate \$261,267 as its share of 1979-80 fiscal year Medicaid costs.

General Hospital Board of Trustees, asked the Board for a piece of property in front of the north wing of the hospital. The property in question measures 100 by 447 feet. It is now part of the Kenansville Elementary School property. The school will be abandoned when the new school, now under construction, opens this winter.

The hospital board members said they hope to put up an office building on the site for physicians' offices. The commissioners voted to turn the property over to the hospital

after the school no longer needs it.

A motion by Franklin Williams to eliminate the present planning board and appoint a new one with two members from each commissioner's district was approved. The present planning board has 15 members, some of whom will be reappointed, according to commission members. The motion also specified the Duplin Development Commission be a part of the planning board.

New Trial Expected For Former Deputy

The trial of George Williams, former deputy sheriff, charged with larceny, was declared a mistrial Friday.

Judge Richard B. Allsbrook threw out the case against Williams, accused of stealing two items from a furniture store, following the dismissal of two jurors.

Allsbrook dismissed one juror for talking with a trial lawyer during a recess in the trial in Superior Court. The judge dismissed another juror Friday for riding to the courthouse with a state witness.

Bruce Robinson, an attorney for Williams, asked for the mistrial. In granting the request, Allsbrook said both the defense and prosecution's cases had been damaged.

District Attorney Dewey Hudson is expected to file a motion to change the location of the new trial. In an earlier trial in District Court, Williams was found guilty of the

two larceny counts. He appealed to Superior Court. He had been charged with taking a radio power booster May 5 and mounting brackets May 9th from Buck Whaley's Store on NC 11 near Wallace.

Williams said he was working undercover to catch a thief and that he took the

items to see if the man would approach him. He later offered to pay for the items, according to District Court records.

Williams had served in the Sheriff's Department 12 years. He was suspended with pay pending trial. Following the conviction, his pay was stopped.

Liberty Cart Attendance Hurt By Gas Crisis

THE LIBERTY CART, Duplin County's outdoor historical drama, closed its fourth season earlier this month with a 20 percent drop in attendance from last year.

Production personnel blamed the decrease on the gas crisis and continuing inclement weather.

They noted, however, that decreases of up to 32-35 percent in attendance were common at many other area tourist attractions.

More than 4,000 persons attended this year's production, which ran from June 29 to August 5 with an average nightly attendance of 189. Although only one performance at the Kenan Amphitheatre was canceled because of rain, organizers said the threat of rain on many nights depressed audience figures.

"We are pleased with the reception and the reviews it received," said Rich Boyd, general manager and director. "Our only complaint was the length, which will be definitely cut for the 1980 season."

"I am disappointed that more people did not enjoy the show. We have something to be proud of and to show the rest of the area.

Ed Dunn of Davidson & Jones, Inc. of Raleigh; and Julian Ford of Carolina Power & Light Co. made the presentation.

The 40,000 sq. ft. building south of Wallace was constructed by David & Jones with support from the Industrial Corporation of Wallace, State Department of Commerce and Coastal Plains Regional Commission.

"We consider the facility in Wallace the premier site in the basic building program across the state," said Jack Stewart of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The building is on a 13-acre site served by water and sewer.

Law Requires Educable Mentally Retarded To Pass Competency Test

As alternatives. An EMR student could enter these programs and receive a certificate of a vocational skill. The present educational system scores students in their report cards on vocational courses, which enables them to go to a technical institute and begin training in the vocational skill at the level completed in high school.

Last year, about 94% of the students in the state who took the competency test passed. Of the students who failed one or both parts of the tests, almost half were exceptional children. Over 3,000 exceptional children took the test. Of the exceptional students taking the

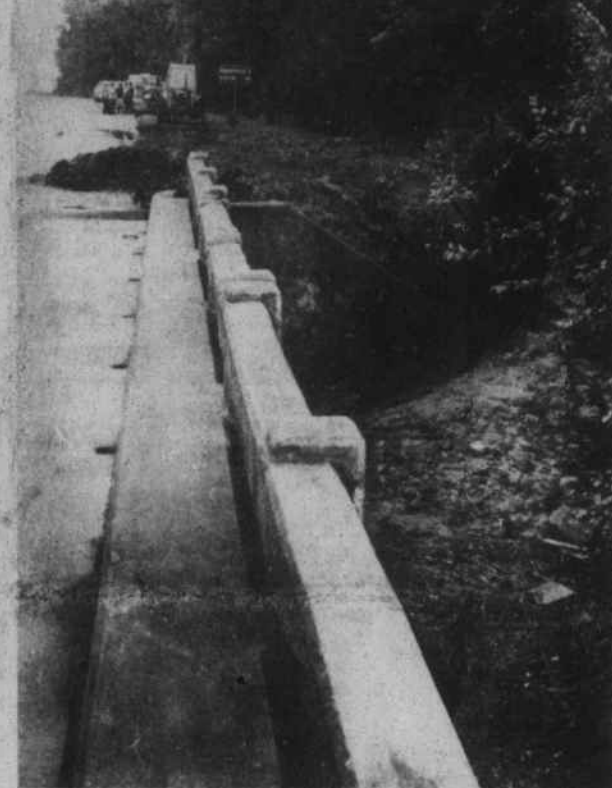
test, 1,400 passed, or about 46%. However, the EMR students had the most trouble, and only 506 of the 1,900 passed, or about 17%.

According to the 1977 law, no provisions were made to exempt children with limited learning abilities from the competency test, and the child still receive a diploma. A public hearing will be held August 25th in Asheville to receive input from concerned citizens about EMR students and the competency test. Dr. James Gallagher, chairman of the competency testing, said in a recent news release.

Both Mrs. Day and Sanderson expressed hope that similar meetings would spread throughout the state.

ward emotional concern than the EMR students," Sanderson continued. "I don't know what June will bring when it becomes mandatory to pass the competency test in order to receive a diploma, so the trauma will probably hit this spring. We have some EMR students who passed this year. I mean, just because a student is EMR doesn't mean he can't pass the test. But the real question is, what doors will be closed to the students with only the certificate of attendance?" Sanderson said.

Alternatives to the certificates of attendance were discussed by the officials. Vocational programs such as brick-laying, auto mechanics or carpentry were mentioned



Public Invited To Hospital Dedication

The public is invited to attend the dedication of the new Intensive/Coronary Care Building at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville on Sunday, August 26 at 8 p.m.

Immediately upon conclusion of the program, tours of the unit will be conducted until 5 p.m.

The new addition provides 9 intensive/coronary care single patient rooms, related support facilities. The new unit is designed, equipped and staffed to care for critically ill cardiac patients with monitoring equipment located at the bedside and at the central nursing station. Visual access will be continuous from any point in the nurses' station. Medical direction for the unit is provided by Dr. Edward Lee Boyette, who also serves as Chief of the Medical Staff.

Duplin General Hospital had its beginning November 6, 1951 when the citizens voted in a special election to authorize the issuance of county hospital bonds for funds to erect and equip a 50-bed hospital. In 1955, the state granted a charter to 17 citizens to incorporate Duplin General Hospital. The formal dedication was held February 27, 1955, and on March 4, the same year, the hospital admitted its first patient.

In 1971 a major expansion project was completed which provided additional beds and services bringing it to its present operating complement of 92 beds with space to accommodate an additional 15 beds for the future.

The hospital is owned by the County. It is a non-profit

Road Closed

The Division of Highways of the N.C. Department of Transportation has closed SR 1501 to through traffic for approximately 2 weeks, according to Division Engineer Ted Funderburk.

The road, located south of the Cape Fear River, has been closed since August 14 and the closing is expected to last through Tuesday, August 28.

Maintenance crews are replacing the pipeline 1.3 miles north on SR 1519. Traffic is being detoured over local roads.

W.C. Casteen, bridge supervisor, said that every effort is being made to complete the project as soon as possible to minimize any inconvenience to the public.

**DUPLIN TIMES/
DUPLIN TODAY
—DEADLINES—
NEWS - MONDAY
12 O'CLOCK NOON
ADVERTISING
MONDAY - 3 O'CLOCK**