

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Warsaw Mayor Indicted For Fraud

A Dunn nursing home owner and a Warsaw contractor are scheduled to go on trial in Raleigh on Monday, November 5, on six counts of fraud and conspiracy to defraud the Federal government.

The defendants are Gilmer Parrish, one of Dunn's leading business men, a civic, social and religious leader, and Sam E. Godwin, Sr. of Warsaw, a former Dunn building contractor. Godwin is the mayor of Warsaw and ran for the office in November of 1977, in an unopposed election. Godwin's four-year term will end in 1981.

Johnston County Memorial Nursing Center, Inc. at Smithfield and the Charles Parrish Memorial Nursing Center in Dunn are also named in the indictment.

Parrish is president and principal stockholder in both nursing homes and Godwin was the general contractor for both institutions.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Crowley of Raleigh, who is handling investigation of the case, informed Chief U.S. District Judge Franklin Dupree in Federal Court in Raleigh that the government would be ready for the trial of Parrish and Godwin on November 6th.

The case is a complicated and complex one involving hundreds of thousands of dollars and is expected to require a week or longer for trial, possibly several weeks.

Parrish is being defended by former Superior Court Judge William A. Johnson of Lillington, and Godwin is being defended by Rivers Johnson of Warsaw.

Both Godwin and his attorney did not wish to comment. They refused to answer questions concerning the charges and the up-

coming trial, or Godwin's plans for his job as mayor.

Both men are charged with six different counts. If convicted, they could each receive prison terms totaling 30 years and \$60,000 fine or both. Each count carries a penalty of five years imprisonment and/or \$10,000 fine.

Both Parrish and Godwin have already entered pleas of "not guilty" to the charges.

Johnston County Memorial Nursing Center is a 120-bed skilled nursing-care facility located on Berkshire Drive in Smithfield. It opened on December 30,

1974. The indictment charges that "from at least as early as July 10, 1973 until at least December 20, 1978" the defendants "did knowingly and willfully combine, confederate and agree with each other, and with others to defraud the United States and HEW (Department of Health Education and Welfare) and to commit certain offenses against the United States," including falsification of building cost reports submitted to Blue Cross Blue Shield, the agency which distributes federal Medicare and Medicaid payments to

North Carolina's nursing homes.

The defendants are charged with reporting total allowable building costs of \$887,211 for fiscal year 1975, \$889,846 for 1976, and \$887,211 for 1977 "with full knowledge" that the figures were false and that the sums included purchases paid for but not received by Johnston County Memorial Nursing Center, Inc. and also included expenses of the defendants which were not a part of the construction or building costs of Johnston County Memorial Nursing Center, Inc.

Wallace Police To Answer Rose Hill Calls

If you call the Rose Hill Police Department on nights or weekends next month, the Wallace police will answer.

The Wallace town board approved an agreement last week to answer calls and dispatch Rose Hill police cars after Sept. 30.

On that date, the federally-paid salaries of Rose Hill's police dispatchers expire. The dispatchers are now paid under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, but changes in the law after Sept. 30 will make them ineligible for the program.

And Rose Hill officials say they cannot afford to hire all the dispatchers they need with town funds. The Rose Hill dog catcher will serve as a dispatcher during the day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. when Wallace police dispatcher will take over. Wallace will

also answer weekend calls from 5 p.m. Friday until 8 a.m. Monday. The agreement releases Wallace from any liability in connection with the service, which it is providing free of charge. But it also gives Wallace calls first priority. The Wallace town board approved the agreement 4-1 Thursday.

Voting against the plan was Commissioner Harry Carlton. In favor were Willie Biggs, Lloyd Boone, Arnold Duncan and Thomas Townsend.

Also at the Thursday meeting, John R. Zibelin was appointed to the ABC board to replace board chairman Gay Wells, who resigned because of health. Bill Pope was named chairman of the ABC board, to serve until his term expires in two years. Zibelin's term expires next

year.

Filing fees of \$10 for mayor and \$5 for board members were set for town elections. Salaries of town election officials were also set. Election board members will be paid \$20 per meeting. The registrar will be paid \$30 per day. Two judges and one assistant judge will each be paid \$24 per day of duty.

Tom Davidson, public works director, reported that 111 compacted cubic yards of trash were picked up during the clean-up drive. He said that was the equivalent of six full trucks. Davidson said 175 compacted cubic yards of trash were picked up from Saturday through Tuesday morning, with total weight, he said, of 35 tons. Mayor Charles Farrior said, "This was a total community effort and it was successful."

Chief Roscoe Rich reported tires on 17 town vehicles went flat from tacks placed on the streets. A rash of flat tires resulted from tacks being scattered on some streets earlier in the year. The "tacks" involved are roofing tacks used for commercial roofs and for applying tarpaper to tobacco barns. Rich reported the town dog catcher had picked up 59 dogs and seven possums during August, and that nine dogs were reclaimed by owners.

The board approved a franchise ordinance for 60 years with Carolina Power & Light Co. Biggs, local manager of CP&L, told the board the town gets about \$74,000 a year in franchise tax from the power company. The town pays about \$125,000 per year for electricity.

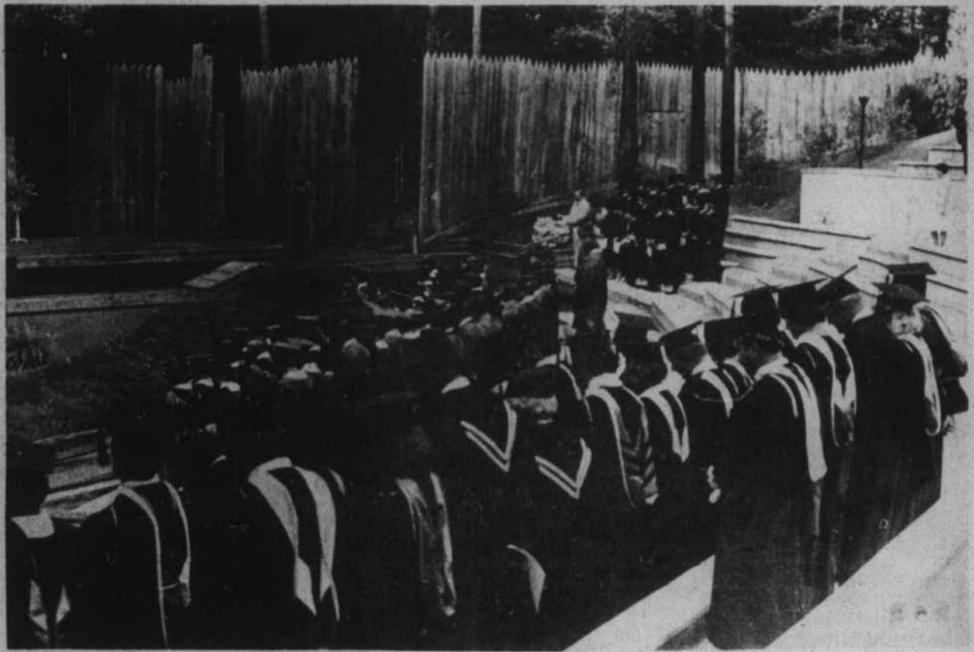
Duplin Kindergarten Students Tested This Week

All 611 Duplin County kindergarten students will be tested for learning capabilities in an assessment program established for the first time by the county school system.

The program began Sept. 17 and will continue through Sept. 25. Kindergarten students from one school will be tested each day, except the final day.

Testing will be done in Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville by Dr. Arthur Chesson, a pediatrician-consultant at the Development Evaluation Clinic in Wilmington.

The purpose is to determine if the children are



COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES for James Sprunt Institute were held at the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Amphitheatre in Kenansville Sunday. There were 206

graduates receiving associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

Photo by Emily Killeto

Sen. Harold Hardison Denies ABC Legislation

Duplin Financial Troubles Not Unique

By Emily Killeto

During a meeting of the Faison commissioners two weeks ago, Mayor Bill Carter said Senator Harold Hardison would introduce legislation to reduce ABC revenues received by Duplin County.

However, Senator Hardison said he had talked briefly with Carter and only promised to meet with the Duplin mayors and listen to their problems.

Carter began seeking the senator's help after the Faison town commissioners raised the rent on the town ABC store, which is located in the Annex to the Town Hall. By raising the rent, the profits of the county were cut, and the State ABC Board ordered the rent to be lowered so it would be in line with rent charged other private businesses in Faison. Funds which Faison hoped to receive from the increase were allocated for the town recreation program and the hiring of a recreation director.

Duplin County receives 45% of the total profit made by ABC stores, while the town receives the remaining 55% from which all operating costs are taken. In most cases, the ABC building is owned by the State ABC Board, but stores which rent a building pay the rent

before the profit is divided between the county and town.

According to Hardison, Duplin County towns are not the only towns with financial problems; towns in all the counties in the state need more money.

"The problem is not unique to Duplin. Towns are providing more and more services which require more money, and mayors are requesting more of the ABC revenue," Hardison said.

Hardison added that he would never introduce local legislation without the approval of the town board of commissioners or a resolution from the county commissioners. And in this case,

Hardison said, the Duplin County commissioners had not favored a reduction in county profit from ABC revenues.

At a meeting of Warsaw town commissioners last week, Mayor Godwin said that Faison Mayor Carter had informed him that a meeting of Duplin town mayors, county commissioners and Senator Hardison would take place in October. Senator Hardison said he did not know anything about the meeting, but would be glad to attend and try to find some way to help the towns solve their problems.

"I never said I would introduce legislation, and I

would not expect the county commissioners, but I did say I would be glad to meet with the mayors to try to help them solve their problems," Hardison said.

Representative Doug Clark of Kenansville has stated he would oppose any bill introduced to cut county profits from ABC funds.

"If it is not good enough for the commissioners, it is not good enough for me," Clark said, as he talked about bringing a resolution before the House in order to reduce county profits from ABC revenue.

However, Clark said he has not been contacted by Faison Mayor Carter concerning ABC funds.

State Delays Action On Limestone-Muddy Creek Project

The state Environmental Management Commission has delayed preliminary action on the proposed \$4.3 million stream channelization project in Duplin County.

The project, the first of its kind in recent years, was delayed until the EMC can get more photographs of the

streams, details of economic benefits and other technical information. The commission must approve any such project.

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service has proposed channelizing 51.2 miles of Limestone and Muddy creeks and snagging and clearing another 45.4 miles. The project also would include recreational improvements such as fishing access.

Channelization, which reduces the chances of flooding, is a process where waterways are straightened and obstacles, such as rocks and trees, are removed from the stream bed.

Environmentalists have opposed similar projects in the past, saying rapid runoff increases flooding downstream and removal of natural obstacles harms wildlife.

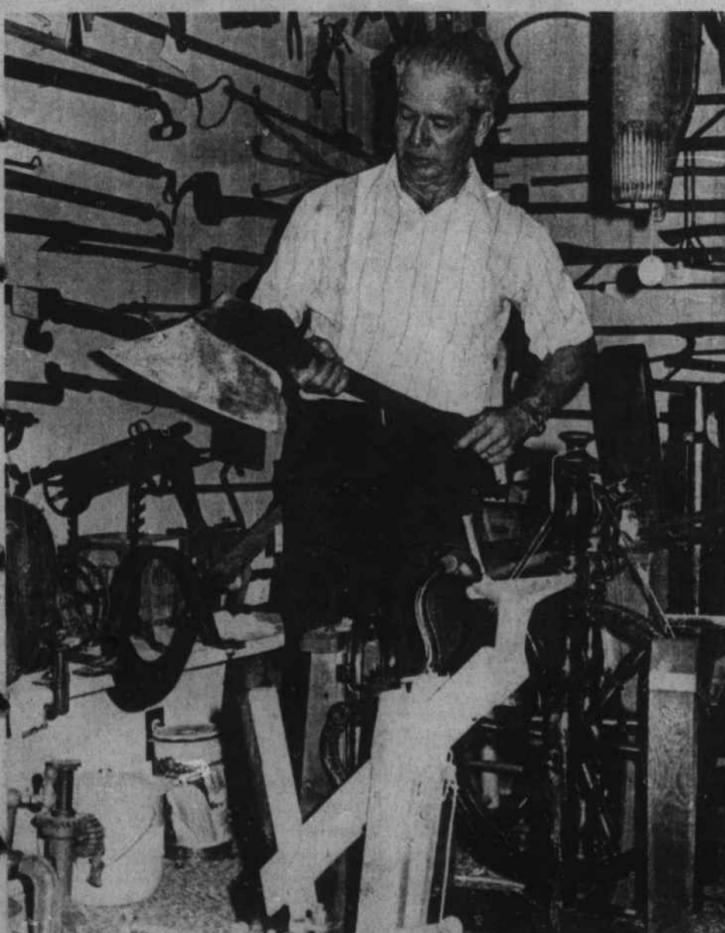
Filing Period Began Friday Sept. 14

The filing period for Mayors and Board Members began Friday at 12 noon. The final date to file for office is October 5, 1979 at 12 noon, according to Calude L. Hepler, chairman of the Duplin County Board of Elections.

Persons desiring to run and are otherwise qualified may file at the county Elections Office in Kenansville. Wallace and Warsaw may file at their respective board of elections office or in Kenansville.

The following offices are subject to election: BEULAVILLE: 3 board members - 4-year term; CALYPSO: Mayor & 5 board members -

2-year term; FAISON: Mayor - 2-year term and 2 board members - 4-year term; GREENEVERS: Mayor - 2-year term & 2 board members - 4-year term; KENANSVILLE: 3 board members - 4-year term; MAGNOLIA: Mayor - 4-year term & 2 board members - 4-year term; ROSE HILL: 3 board members - 4-year term; TEACHEY: Mayor - 4-year term & 3 board members - (highest number of votes - 4-year term); WALLACE: Mayor - 2-year term & 3 board members - 4-year term; WARSAW: 3 board members - 4-year term.



A GOOSE BLADE AX - George Cowan holds the newest addition to his museum as he stands among other antiques, some of which he will be displaying at the Cedar Forks Arts and Craft Show. The show will be October 21, Sunday, from 2-5 p.m. at the Cedar Fork Community and the public is invited to

attend. There will be no admission charge. Other features will be ceramics, oil and water painting, crocheting, dried flowers, sewing, photography, and cake decorating. The event is sponsored by the Ruritan and the Homemakers Clubs.

Photo by Emily Killeto

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