

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Duplin Tax Rate Up Two Cents

The Duplin tax rate increased 2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation when the budget of \$7,727,253 was approved by the board of commissioners Monday.

The proposed budget calls for a tax levy of \$4,093,973 which would require a tax rate of 70 cents per \$100 valuation. One cent of tax brings in \$58,485, Budget Officer and County Manager Ralph Cottle said last Friday.

In 1977, the tax rate was 99 cents per \$100 valuation on an assessed valuation of \$308 million. The octennial revaluation, required by state law, raised the assessed valuation to \$559 million. The county board lowered the tax rate from 99 cents to 72 cents per \$100 valuation in 1978. In 1979, the tax rate was decreased again to 68 cents. The county's valuation was increased to \$586 million in 1979. The county's 1980 valuation has been set at \$615 million.

The tax levy for 1977 was \$3,049,000. For 1978, the year the new valuation went into effect, the levy was \$4,024,000. In 1979, the levy

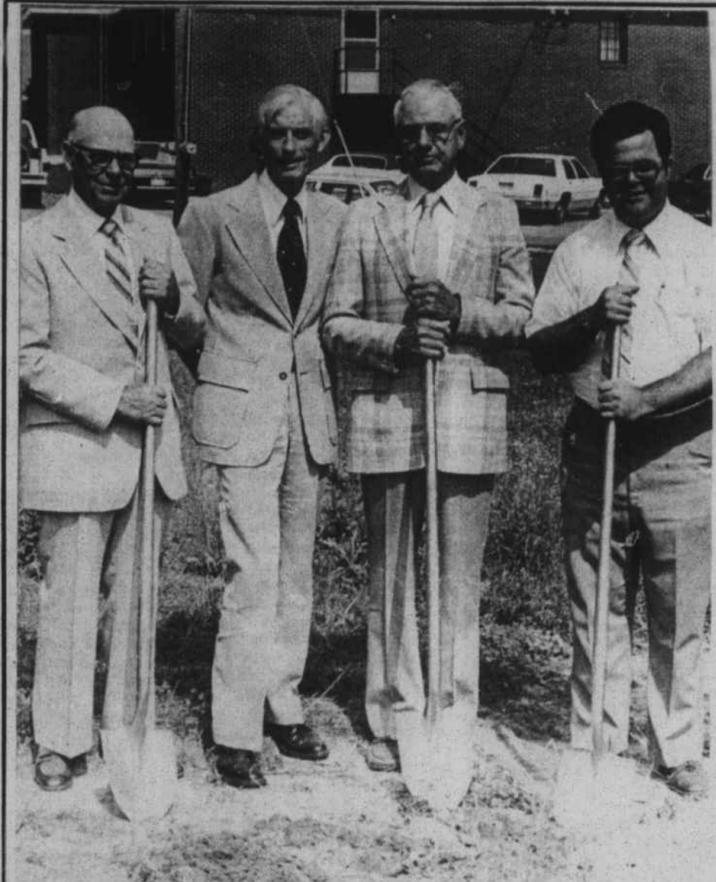
was \$3,643,226.

The overall budget for the 1979-80 fiscal year is \$9,391,211. The figure includes \$800,000 in five special state and federal projects.

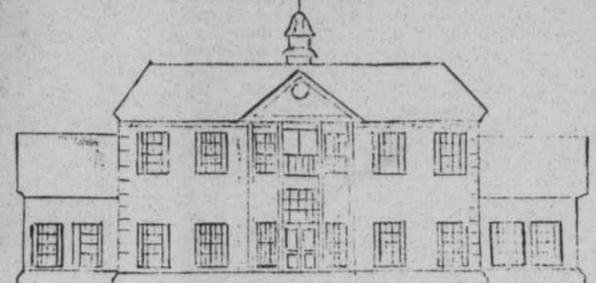
The county expects to receive \$3,633,280 from sources other than the ad valorem tax levy for the 1980-81 fiscal year. Revenue sharing is estimated at \$791,000 for the next fiscal year compared with \$875,000 for the 1979-80 year.

Plans for the revenue sharing fund include \$29,400 for four sheriff's department cars; \$290,600 to balance the general fund; \$75,000 for a garbage truck; \$200,000 capital outlay to the school system; \$71,000 capital outlay to James Sprunt Technical College and \$50,000 to the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed project.

The school system will receive \$145,000 in capital outlay money from the general fund. The school system is allocated \$1,555,000 in current expense in the proposed county budget.



CONGRESSMAN WHITLEY SPEAKS AT GROUND BREAKING - Congressman Charlie Whitley was the guest speaker at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new home of Coastal Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank Association of Clinton. Both Associations will locate in the building which is to be constructed behind the Farm Bureau Building across from Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville. Pictured above, Arthur Kennedy, chairman of Coastal Production Credit Association, Whitley, John T. Peterson, chairman of the Federal Land Bank Association, and Kenansville Mayor Douglas Judge.



PCA And FLBA To Build Joint Office

A new office building will be erected to house the joint offices of the Coastal Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank Association of Clinton, according to Roy Houston, President of Coastal PCA, and John A. Smith, President of the FLBA of Clinton.

The new 14,200 square foot building on Beasley Street, in Kenansville, will provide expanded services to both Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank Association borrowers. It will also be the new location of the Home Office of the Federal Land Bank Association. "We feel these new facilities will result in better cooperation between

the PCA and FLBA, providing better service for our borrowers", Houston and Smith said.

The Production Credit Association makes short and intermediate term loans of up to seven years for farm and farm family living expenses to member borrowers. The Federal Land Bank Association members, Coastal Production Credit Association serves 1,500 members in Duplin, Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick counties with loans outstanding in the amount of \$50,067,000. In addition to counties served by Coastal PCA, the Federal Land Bank Association of Clinton also

serves Sampson County, with 2,290 loans in these five counties in the amount of \$89,026,700.

The two presidents explained that it was decided to go ahead with the new building in spite of current high interest rates because construction costs are down now and it will result in a saving of stockholders' money. With a local construction firm being the successful bidder on the project, the construction of the new office will result in employment opportunities for local residents.

The new building will replace the present office facilities on Rutledge Road that have been outgrown.

SBA Loans Delayed By Congress

By Emily Killeter

No checks can be issued from the Small Business Administration until Congress extends the disaster funds, and Duplin poultry farmers requesting SBA loans face at least a 30-day delay after Congress extends disaster funds.

When the late winter snow storm dumped up to 18 inches on Duplin County, 138 poultry houses collapsed under the weight of the snow and ice. Trapped in the houses were about a half million broilers and 200,000 turkeys, Duplin Agricultural Extension Service figures indicated. Duplin and the surrounding counties were declared a disaster area, making poultry farmers suffering a loss due to the storm eligible for a low interest loan from the SBA.

Duplin Extension Service estimated the damage of the storm totaled \$10 million. Farmers in Duplin continue to suffer a loss of income from their collapsed houses and Extension Agent Snodie Wilson says production of poultry is down 5-10% in Duplin. Duplin had a poultry income of \$100 million last year, and this year Wilson expects the income to be about the same or less than

in 1979.

The deadline to apply for SBA loans was May 23, and from Duplin County 27 applications were received at the Charlotte SBA office. From the 23 county disaster area, 224 applications were received, including Duplin. To date, 17 applications have been approved within the disaster area with six of the applications from Duplin. According to SBA representative Forest Gunn, no checks can be mailed to the farmers whose loans have been approved until Congress extends SBA disaster funds.

When Congress will act upon extending disaster funds for the SBA is uncertain, said Howard Baker, administrative aide in Congressman Charlie Whitley's office. Baker stated that the bill would probably pass rapidly through the House, but would have to pass the Senate after leaving the House. And, at the present time, the House bill to extend SBA disaster funds has not been scheduled for the floor, he added. However, Baker said, if funds are not available by the end of this fiscal year, approved SBA loans will be filled at the beginning of the next fiscal year, October 1.

Clark To Introduce School Bill

by Emily Killeter

A bill to elect the Duplin County Board of Education members by districts will be introduced in the 1980 session of the state legislature by Representative Doug Clark.

During the first five days of the state legislature in June, local bills which are non-controversial can be introduced and passed. A bill

introduced with the support of both the local representative and senator will have no problem passing through the legislature and becoming law, Rep. Clark said.

The bill Rep. Clark will introduce at the request of the Duplin County Democratic Executive Committee includes the election of board of education members by districts drawn along the lines of county commissioner

districts. The members will be elected to four-year terms and must reside within the district which they represent. And, members of the board of education will be sworn in at the first meeting in December following their November election.

The executive committee sent the proposal to Rep. Clark in January and asked that a draft bill be prepared and returned to the

committee. At the April meeting of the executive committee, the proposed bill for school board districts was reviewed. Reviewing the bill, the committee found that Rep. Clark had added a section to the original school board proposal and required a general election vote before the bill could become law.

A general election vote is not necessary to change the method of electing the board

of education. But, Rep. Clark explained in a newsletter that a vote is necessary when changing the method of electing county commissioners, house representatives, and members of Congress. Rep. Clark stated the work of the board of education is no less important than the jobs of the county commissioners, congressmen, and the general public should have a vote on the election process.

However, the executive committee rejected Rep. Clark's addition to the school board proposal and returned the draft bill asking that the section requiring a general election in November be dropped. And, the committee requested the bill be introduced in the 1980 session of the state legis-

lature, stating to Rep. Clark in a letter, that a general election would be a waste of the taxpayers' money.

Rep. Clark announced that he would introduce the school board districting bill in the June session of the state legislature. He added, the bill will not include the section requiring a general election vote before the bill could become law. Rep. Clark said he based the decision not to include the general election vote on the lack of public interest in the issue. Clark has not been contacted by any of the county citizens requesting a copy of the bill. However, Clark added that if a controversy arose within the citizens of Duplin concerning the school board bill, he would not introduce it in the 1980 legislature.



PHILLIPS BECOMES EAGLE SCOUT - John Thomas Phillips, Jr., of Warsaw, was awarded the Eagle Scout award last Sunday at Johnson Baptist Church. Pictured above are: Carlton Rice, Croatan District Executive Director, Mrs. Tommie Phillips, John Thomas, and Tommie Phillips, Sr. See story on Page 2.

Williams Elected President

The Tar Heel Fine Arts Society has elected Melvin G. Williams of Route 2, Pink Hill as its new president. Williams succeeds Mrs. Barbara Guy of Faison who served as president of the 2,000-member organization for the past year.

Also elected were: vice

president, Mrs. Cleo Hobbs of Warsaw; secretary, Mrs. Willard Fussell of Teachey; treasurer, Mrs. Violet Phillips of Kenansville; membership chairmen, Mrs. Helen Boyette of Chinquapin and Mrs. Jean Sanderson of Beulaville.

Faison Budget Proposed, No Tax Increase

Budget officer, Commissioner William Igoe presented the Faison town board with the 1980-81 budget, balanced at \$317,878.

During the special meeting to review the proposed budget last week, Igoe informed the Board that a 7 percent salary increase had been worked into the proposed budget. The budget included a \$181,378 general fund. The tax rate in Faison will not be raised, according to the

proposed budget, the rate will remain at 57 cents per \$100 of property. A total of \$70,800 in current taxes, past taxes, and tax penalties will compose 39 percent of the general funds for the 1980-81 budget.

Water and sewer revenues along with other town departments meet the expenditures of the department, Igoe said. A total of \$91,125 was allocated to water and sewer bills. Expenditures for

the water department in the proposed budget amount to \$44,325, the sewer, \$46,800, and total \$91,125.

Igoe informed the Board that \$10,000 had to be trimmed from the capitol reserve fund. The Board had requested \$27,500 be put into the capitol reserve fund for the future purchase of a fire truck and other vehicle replacement. Igoe explained, during the budget presentation that \$17,500 was al-

located to the capitol reserve fund, \$10,000 for the purchase of a fire truck and \$7,500 for vehicle replacement.

Revenue sharing monies totaled \$9,325 and the proposed budget calls for the funds to be spent on sidewalks, recreation, and the fire department. A total of \$18,500 allocated in the power bill will be used for maintenance, improvements, and new construction.

"We have been conservative in our revenue estimating and the revenue might be a little higher," Igoe said. "And we've been hard nosed on the expenditures in order to make cuts and balance the budget."

According to town administrator, Neil Mallory, the proposed budget needs to be adopted by July 1 when Faison begins its 1980-81 fiscal year. However, before the budget can be adopted

the Board will need to hold a public hearing on the budget. Mallory said, a copy of the proposed budget should also be available to the public at the town hall.

A public hearing will be held on the proposed budget June 11 at the town hall beginning at 7 p.m. Further discussion of the budget by the Board was scheduled for the regular meeting of the town commissioners, June 4th.

Sign-Up Limited On HUD Water System

The water system between Kenansville and Greenevers will be in use by mid-July, said Duplin water systems coordinator Alfred Dixon.

Construction of the distribution system for the water project, which is being funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has been completed. Dixon said contractors would begin the process of connecting homes to the system this week. According to Dixon 51 percent of the 177 potential users have signed up for connection to the system. The remaining 87 users will have the option to sign-up for service but will have to come to the finance office in the Duplin Courthouse, Dixon said.

All potential customers had been contacted at their homes and connection to the HUD water project was explained during that meeting, Dixon said. Any user who signs up before the contractor passes their home during the stage of connecting

homes to the distribution system will pay only a \$10 connection fee. Persons wishing to connect after the contractor passes the residence will be charged a \$255 tap-in fee, Dixon said. He added, contractors will be connecting homes for the next three to four weeks, after which the water will be turned on the 18 mile system.

Water rates will be \$7.50 for a minimum of 2,000 gallons, and the average bill will be approximately \$9-\$10. Water for the system will be purchased from the Greenevers and Kenansville systems. The county will purchase water from Greenevers at a minimum price of \$25 a month. The minimum will include provision for up to 20,000 gallons each month and addition water each month will be purchased at 55 cents per 1,000 gallons. The town of Kenansville signed a water supply agreement under similar terms as the Greenevers contract.