

# Duplin Times

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## Warsaw Board

### Discusses Annexation

By Emily Killeit

Annexation procedures for two housing developments were reactivated by the Warsaw Town Board during their regular monthly meeting, August 11.

Warsaw Attorney Jene Thompson began annexation investigations of both housing areas in 1978. The areas, along with three additional housing developments, were investigated for future annexation and service by the water project, which was in the planning stages two years ago. The areas of Kings Court and the neighboring trailer park and the West Hill Street Extension housing development are under investigation for possible annexation. Both areas are included in the water project distribution system. Work on the water system will begin in the near future; contracts for the project were

let at the June town board meeting.

Each area will need a new investigation, Thompson said, after two years the developments have changed. First, the area must qualify for annexation. To qualify, one-eighth of the area to be annexed must be adjacent to the town limits. And, 60 percent of the tracts must be developed. Also, 60 percent of the residential and undeveloped tracts must be in lots of five acres or less, Thompson said. If the areas qualify, the town board can hold a public hearing on the annexation. After the public hearing, the board votes on the annexation.

The board set a public hearing on the rezoning of the Warsaw Apparel area, two blocks from West Hill Street to Chelly Street. The area is currently zoned restricted business; the public hearing will be to rezone the area to business.

The public hearing will be held immediately before the board meeting September 8th.

Appearing before the board, George Clark, a Warsaw merchant, requested a 110-foot strip of right-of-way behind Matthews Food City. The right-of-way had originally been owned by Clark, but was deeded to the town along with other adjacent area, to be used as an alley. The alley had been created to give Carolina Power and Light a right-of-way. The portion of the area requested would not create a hardship for CP&L, Clark said. And, the area will be used for the construction of a new store. Clark stated he plans to build a larger grocery store at the Matthews site. The building will be positioned on the back of the lot, with front parking. A motion to release the property to Clark was made by Commissioner Walter P. West and seconded by Commissioner Billy Kennedy. The motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Director Neale Turlington reported receiving only three bids for work on the new park. The project was re-advertised and a special board meeting was called for August 18 to open and let contracts.

Four appointments were made by the board. Mrs. Margaret Stevens was appointed to the cemetery commission. Two appointments were made to the recreation commission, Marvin Sutton and Joan Jones. And, Sam Godwin, Jr. was appointed to represent Warsaw on the Duplin Airport Commission.



DR. LARRY BLAKE (foreground, right) chats with Dr. Gene Ballard, dean of instruction, and Travis Register, SGA president. (See story)

## Whitley Announces FmHA Grant And Loan For Magnolia

Congressman Charlie Whitley announced that the Farmers Home Administration has approved a grant of \$338,400 together with a loan of \$47,000 for the town of Magnolia's water and sewer project.

He said the FmHA has designated the funding to cover overruns on bids for the project. Previous FmHA

funding for the Magnolia project includes three loans totaling \$192,000 and three grants totaling \$197,400, all approved in 1978. Loan terms are 40 years at five percent.

The Magnolia water and sewer project is expected to benefit some 145 residential users according to current estimates.

## State Community College President Visits James Sprunt Technical College

Dr. Larry Blake, president of the North Carolina System of Technical and Community Colleges, visited the James Sprunt campus Thursday, August 14. The visit was Blake's first to James Sprunt

and was a part of his tour to all 58 colleges in the system. Originally scheduled to visit in March, his trip was cancelled because of the record snowstorm that paralyzed traffic in the eastern part of the state. As of Thursday and since arriving in North Carolina 14 months ago to assume his duties, he has visited 53 of the system's schools.

Kenansville Rotary Club as a guest of Dr. Carl Price. Blake toured the JSTC campus. He then spoke to the faculty, staff, visitors, Rep. Doug Clark, Nadine Blanton, Judy Malpass, and Trustees Jimmy Strickland, Helen Boyette, Willard Hoffer and Charlie Albertson.

Blake commented that his main purpose for visiting all the campuses and touring the state was to get to know North Carolina and its people and to gather information. He said, "It's easy for a

person to have the right answers to the wrong questions." He assured the audience that he had been most impressed with the variety of the state — the people, customs, land and climate; the pride that each college had in its mission and work; and the forethought and wise planning that had set the foundation of one of the top community college systems in the nation — especially the concept of local control and the decisions made at the local level

about ways and means to serve its public.

Following Blake's address, guests and JSTC personnel reassembled to talk with him and enjoy refreshments served by staff members. Blake left about 4 p.m. to continue his tour with stops planned for other colleges in the southeastern part of the state.

(Submitted by James Sprunt Technical Institute.)

### Speaks to Duplin Audience

Following a speaking engagement with the Warsaw

### Curing Tobacco

## With Wood Heat

By Emily Killeit

L.J. Smith grew up watching his father farm, and learned much of what he knows about curing tobacco during his childhood years. Smith followed much in his father's footsteps, resisting the change from wood-heated tobacco barns.

Smith was born on the farm his father worked as a share-cropper for Faison

Turner near Pink Hill. And, as the elder Smith became too old to farm, his son took over. In the future, Smith fears his two children will not follow in his footsteps, but will leave the farm which has always been home for him. Smith is the father of two daughters.

There are nine barns which Smith operates with wood heat; 20 acres of tobacco are cured in the barns. However, he does tend more

tobacco, which is cured in oil-burning tobacco barns. The wood-heated barns are not much different from the oil-heated barns, Smith said.

"It takes a little longer for the tobacco to come in order in a wood-heated barn," Smith said. "The bricks in the furnace never cool down much between barns."

A wood-heated tobacco barn has a brick furnace which is built in a semi-circular shape. The furnace protrudes inside, covering half the length and width of the barn. Attached to the furnace are large flues of about a 12-inch diameter; the flue covers the area not taken up by the brick furnace. Each year the furnace is checked and cracks are patched, and the flues are repaired or replaced, Smith said. And, like the wood curing tobacco barn, the furnace flues for the barn are hard to find, and often times must be especially ordered or made, he added.

Wood is placed in the furnace from the outside of the barn. The wood is cut into lengths of four feet, Smith said.

"It takes about a cord and a half per barn," Smith said. "And about 90 cords a summer for the 20 acres."

"My brother LeVonne and I cut all the wood we need for the next year in one month. Other people give us the wood; we just have to cut it from the edges of fields and ditchbanks — places they want cleaned out. We might have to buy some wood, because there isn't much around here (Turner farm) and last year we bought about 30 cords," Smith commented.

Smith's brother helps cure

the tobacco. Both spend many of their summer nights sleeping at the barns. Wood-heated barns must be watched carefully, and the Smith brothers follow the wood-curing tradition of sleeping at their barns.

Despite the hardships of curing tobacco with wood, Smith said he would not give it up.

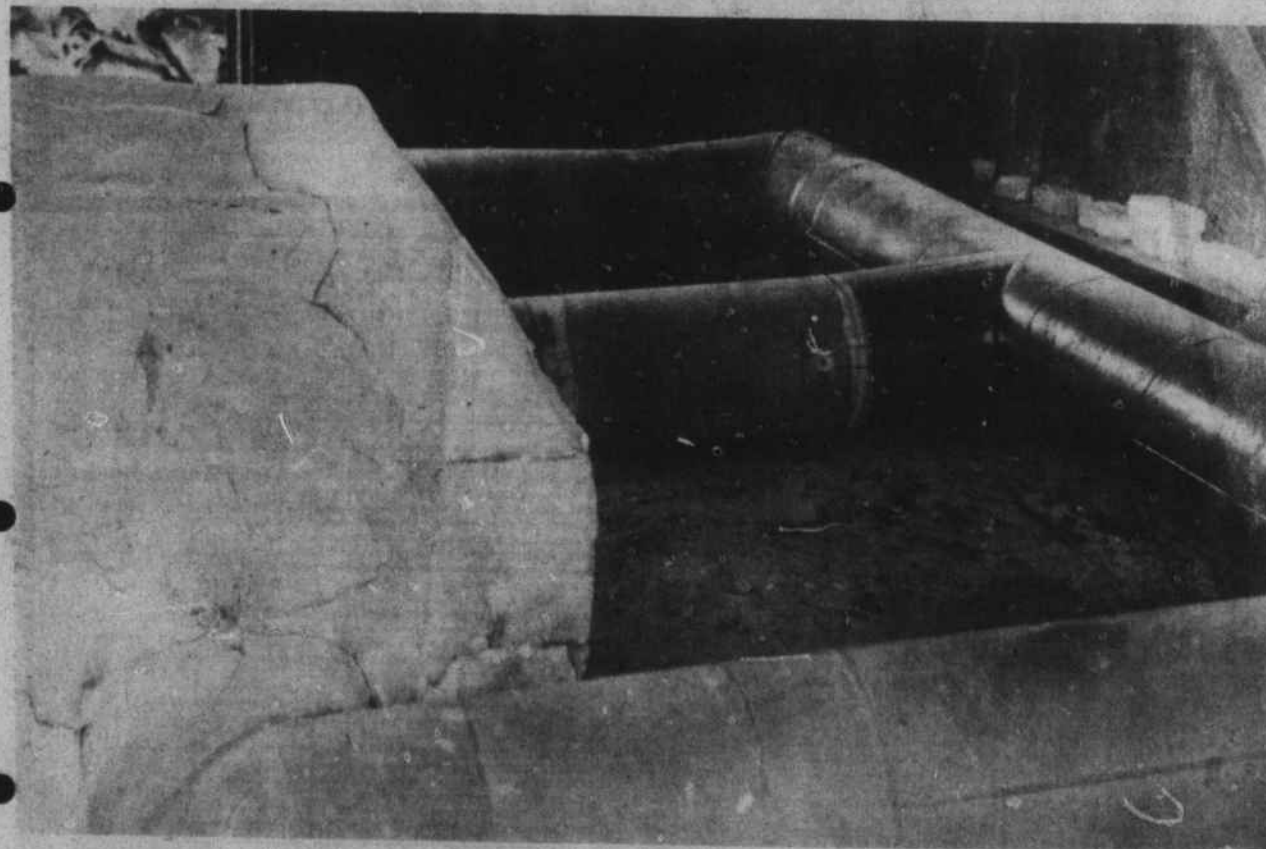
"I considered changing, but with the price of gas and oil being so high, I don't think I'll be changing, and I'm glad I haven't changed," Smith smiled. "And people are giving me the wood, which cuts down my costs. Even if I changed over to oil or gas heat, those barns would still have to be checked at night."

Smith has yielded to some changes. He crops his tobacco with a harvester. The change came 25 years ago when he replaced the mule-drawn tobacco trucks with a two-story self-propelled harvester. But no more changes are planned by Smith. Machine harvested and bulk cured tobacco does not meet Smith's standards of a good crop.

"The machine cropped tobacco just doesn't look to suit me. And I get two or three cents more a pound for my crop. So, I still think I come out ahead," Smith said.

Among the neighboring farmers, Smith considers himself one of the top. He strives to produce good clean tobacco, and people who work for Smith treat the crop with respect.

"I don't like no mess," Smith said. And, he added, a person who mistreats the tobacco usually does not get rehired.



The Furnace And Flues Inside The Barns



L.J. Smith Operates Nine Wood Heated Tobacco Barns



The Furnace Is Filled Outside