

# Duplin Times

## PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXV NO. 43

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

OCTOBER 23, 1980

20 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

## ABC And Town Boards Meet

County and town revenues can be paid within six months, said Chairman of the Kenansville Alcohol and Beverage Control Board John Hall during the board's meeting with town commissioners October 13.

A special meeting of the Kenansville ABC Board and town commissioners was called during the regular town board meeting October 6. Town commissioners called the meeting after local citizens appeared before the board to question the policies of the ABC Store's operation.

During the meeting of both boards, Hall explained efforts of the ABC Board to pay the \$31,000 debt to distillers which the store faced approximately a year ago. Hall, Rich Boyd and Benny Price were appointed to the ABC

Board in September of 1979, replacing Elmore Bell, Phil Kretsch and Harold Jones who resigned.

Among the first actions taken by the new ABC board were to freeze wages and eliminate travel, convention and the annual party expenses. The board also cut store business hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. six days a week, to noon until 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Along with the cut in store hours came an employee cut; the part-time person was no longer needed.

However, Hall explained, the board felt cutting the business hours had hurt the store's sales. The ABC Store hours were expanded by the board to the original business hours, and a part-time

employee was hired. Hall added, the amount of sales during the morning hours justified the store being open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The ABC Store had a balance of \$2,258 in the bank at the end of last month, Hall said. And, the debt to the distillers is \$10,500, he said. According to Hall, the local store receives two beverage deliveries each month, and the \$10,500 debt represents approximately three deliveries. Distillers will not continue to supply an ABC Store after it falls six months behind in payments. Hall explained the \$31,000 debt represented back payments of four to five months.

"If the Store continues to operate as it is, the proceeds of the next two quarters will allow the store to have some working capital," Hall said. "The working capital will

allow the store to operate without borrowing money and then it will be able to pay the town and county."

The town of Kenansville receives 55 percent and the county 45 percent of the net profit from the ABC Store. During the past fiscal year, no income was paid to either the town or county. And both Kenansville and the county have no funds budgeted to be expected from the store during the current fiscal year.

Plans to improve the sales volume at the ABC Store in the future include a private entrance to the store and changing the store into a self-service operation. Hall said the State ABC Board recommended the self-service system, stating the 13 1/2 percent increase in sales would more than pay for the changeover.

Hall had refused to answer questions from the public during the meeting, but concluded by inviting the citizens to attend the ABC Board meeting each first Wednesday night of the month at which time he would address any questions asked him.

Meeting with the Kenansville Commissioners to discuss the expansion of the fire department/town hall building was the fire department board. Lauren Sharpe, spokesman for the board, recommended the plans for the building expansion be dropped. And, he asked the town commissioners to suggest a fair rent for the town hall use of the fire department building. Rent will not be due until the beginning of the next fiscal year, July, 1981.

"The board based its de-

cision to drop the expansion plans on the cost of the construction and the town's financial ability to repay the loan which the fire department would have signed," Sharpe said. "And, the signing of a loan with Farmers' Home Administration for expansion would require the department to use all its equipment as collateral. If we were to need new equipment, there would be nothing left for us to use as collateral in borrowing money."

Plans drawn by Architect Don Yelverton for the expansion of the building and shown to the town commissioners October 6, carried an estimated cost of \$84,000. An estimate of \$30 a square foot would be needed to construct the expansion.

Based on the recommendation by the Kenansville Fire Department Board, Commissioner Earl Hatcher made a motion to drop the plans to expand the building. Commissioner Betty Long seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by the members of the board.

## Magnolia Ok's Sale Of Water Bond Notes

A resolution to sell \$240,000 in bond anticipation notes to finance Magnolia's water and sewer project was approved by the town board of commissioners last week on Tuesday night.

The board plans to sell \$75,000 in notes for the sewer project and \$165,000 for the water project. Voters approved the bond issue last August.

Estimated cost of the entire project is \$1.4 million, with the Environmental Protection Agency, Farmers' Home Administration and

the state clean water bond fund paying for the rest.

Town officials are awaiting notice from the FmHA to proceed.

The town also owes \$31,500 on its present water system. Bonds totaling \$96,000 were issued for it in 1951. With annual town payments of \$3,500 a year, this debt will be paid off in 1989.

Sealed bids on the \$240,000 bond issue for the new project were to be opened at 11 a.m. Oct. 21 at the Local Government Commission office in Raleigh.

## Warsaw Board Turns Down Grant

Warsaw commissioners turned down a matching grant for placing flashing lights at the downtown railroad crossing on Plank Street during the meeting October 13.

The Department of Transportation advised the town of federal funds to pay 90 percent of the railroad lighting if the town matched the grant to complete the cost. The cost stated by DOT was \$55,000, with the town maintaining the system after its installation. The cost to the town of Warsaw is \$5,500, and if the board did not approve the lights at the railroad crossing, DOT recommended the intersection be closed. Both recommendations from DOT for the railroad crossing at Plank Street were not approved by the Warsaw commissioners.

Town Engineer Tyndall Lewis explained administration procedures for a Housing and Urban Development grant awarded Warsaw. The \$415,000 grant is for the rehabilitation of housing and drainage within the town.

According to Tyndall, approximately 34 homes will use grant funds for rehabilitation, 13 houses will be demolished, and seven houses will be vacated using HUD money.

Commissioners agreed to send detailed HUD project plans to area firms for estimates on the complete job. And, a decision on a contractor for the HUD grant will be based on the estimates turned in to the commissioners.

The gas-saving device XPCL presented by Donnie Ezzell to the town board during the September meeting was brought back to the commissioners' attention.

The commissioners advised Town Clerk Alfred Herring to check with persons using Ezzell's XPCL and report to the board on its efficiency. And, a decision on installing the device in town vehicles would be made after the board reviews the clerk's report.

Herring advised the commissioners of the reply from Carolina Telephone and Telegraph after the board requested the amount of the rate increase for county-wide toll-free dialing. The idea of toll-free dialing was presented to the Warsaw Commissioners during their September by Ruby Allsbrook, a CT&T employee. The board had refused to approve the idea without knowing the rate increase for each customer. The reply from CT&T stated a flat rate increase had been established for county-wide toll-free dialing; however, that rate would not be distributed until after the Utilities Commission acted upon the present rate increase requested by CT&T.

James Casteen, a West Hill Street resident, appeared before the board requesting the repair of his driveway. Casteen requested the driveway be fixed exactly like it had been prior to the town contractor digging the drive up for the laying of waterlines. Town Engineer Tyndall and Charles Joyner assured Casteen of their willingness to replace the part of the cement drive which had been cut. Casteen was reminded that the part of his drive which had been removed to install the waterline was on state property.

The board unanimously appointed Helen Benton as tax-lister for the town of Warsaw for the 1981 year.

## Federal Tax Checks Waiting To Be Claimed

Undelivered Federal tax refund checks for 1980 and prior years are waiting to be claimed by 1,101 North Carolina individuals, the Internal Revenue Service says. Most of these checks remain undeliverable because taxpayers moved and left no forwarding address with the Postal Service, the IRS says.

Undelivered refund checks can be reclaimed by filing Form 3911 with the Internal Revenue Service, 3131 Democrat Road, Memphis, TN 37501. IRS officials say that a refund check can be reissued to the new address within four to six weeks.

When filing the form, the taxpayer should provide the name and address as it appears on the return, any changes to the name and address since filing the return, the social security

number, the type of return filed, and the amount of refund claimed.

The IRS also has a list of 127 businesses who have undelivered tax refunds. The process for claiming business refund checks is the same as for individuals.

Taxpayers who know that they have a refund check due are encouraged to call the IRS toll-free number 800-822-8800. Occasionally this number is monitored to ensure courteous and accurate response.

The individuals and/or businesses from this area who have undelivered refund checks are: Gary Lynn Sandlin of Kenansville; Hiram (Deed.) and Mary Brinson of Magnolia; Joey C. & Debbie L. King of Pink Hill; and John & Virginia S. Miller of Pink Hill.

## Graham House Inn Opening

The one-time family home, boarding house and eating establishment of Miss Mary Cooper has led the way; now the Graham House will open November in Kenansville as a restaurant and winery.

The Graham House Inn, located on Cooper and Main Streets in Kenansville, will hold open house November 9 and begin serving food November 15, said President of the Graham House Inn Corporation, Rich Boyd. The Inn will operate Monday through Fridays, serving lunch from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and Sunday noon until 2 p.m. Dinner will be served Thursday through Saturday from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. Private parties are welcomed at the Inn nightly.

Three dining rooms will be opened in the downstairs, the Brass, Pewter and Copper rooms. The Copper room, Boyd said, will be the dining area for private parties. Meals in each room will be served on pewter dishes in a colonial Williamsburg atmosphere.

The cellar is a winery; visitors to the Inn will be able to taste wines made by the Duplin Winery from Rose Hill. However, the wine served at the Graham House Inn will have been made at the Inn.

"We have recreated the wine cellar as it had been originally built in the house," Boyd said, pointing out the structure of the house cellar and motioning toward a wine rack which will be filled with bottles of Duplin Wine. "The wine we serve will be made especially for the Graham House Inn by the Duplin Winery. And, the cellar will be used as any wine cellar, for aging wine."

According to Boyd, visitors to the Graham House Inn will begin their meal in the cellar where a variety of wines made for the Inn can be tasted. Persons wishing to have wine with their meal will purchase their choice from the cellars before being seated in the dining area.

"There are ten working

fireplaces in the house," Boyd said. "And, we plan to have them all in use on opening day." Boyd pointed out the structure of the original house has not been altered; even fireplaces in the kitchen area have been worked around when installing cooking equipment.

"The house has blended itself very well to our work," Boyd explained. "It is almost as if they (builder) knew what we were going to do."

The only alteration, Boyd said, has been the addition of a room for dry storage on the back of the house. In constructing the room, builders worked around the house, tearing off none of the original trim or siding.

"If this restaurant stops operation, then all this addition can be removed without damaging the original structure of the house," Boyd said. "It is a very solidly constructed house; none of the foundation is nailed — it is pegged together."

Peggs in the foundation can be seen from the wine cellar, along with other painstaking construction features, Boyd pointed out. The Graham House was originally built as a family home and later used by Miss Mary Cooper as a boarding house and eating establishment in the 1920-30's, and then once again used as a family home.

"Our first meal for the public will be served on November 15 and all of our energies are directed toward that date," Boyd said. "And, we are already taking reservations for opening night."

Prices for lunch at the salad and soup bar will range around \$2; from the lunch menu, \$2.50 to \$4, Boyd said. Dinner will carry a price range from \$5 to \$14.

"We are delighted with the progress of the project to

date, and we are most appreciative of the enthusiasm the Inn has generated," Boyd said. "It is a beautiful old home, and we are eager to let everyone enjoy its beauty and good food."

## Bridge To Be Repaired

The Division of Highways of the N.C. Department of Transportation has closed Nine Mile Creek bridge on Maple Hill Road (Secondary Road 1828 in Duplin County for approximately two months, according to Division Engineer Ted Funder-

burk. The bridge is located just north of Cypress Creek and is scheduled to reopen in December. The closing will allow maintenance crews to replace the bridge floor, beams and railings. Traffic will be detoured over local roads.

Don't Forget The Time Changes Sunday.

## Man Convicted Of Assault

Johnny Lee Dunn, alias Clifford Rotenberry, 21, was sentenced to 30 years in prison in Superior Court Friday in Kenansville after being found guilty of five counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of assault with a deadly weapon and inflicting serious injury and one of discharging firearms in an occupied

building. The charges stemmed from a shooting incident in Wallace in early August.

Dunn was working with a carnival in Wallace at the time. Testimony revealed that following an argument the defendant shot the windshield out of a car and shot through the plate glass window of Dot's Grill and hit six

persons with shotgun pellets. Officers were called to the scene and he fled. He was discovered hiding under a carnival ride and taken to the county jail in Kenansville.

Testifying that they had been injured in the shooting incident were William E. Rivenbark, who said he had 42 pellets lodged in his body,

Boyce Ken Whaley, Vernon Mitchell Whitley, Prentice Colon Driggers, Steve Ira Norman and Henrietta Blizard, all of Wallace. Also testifying that she had been injured by a blow in the face from the stock of the shotgun was Eureka McMahan.

Dunn was sentenced by Judge Arthur Lee Lane of Fayetteville.

## Students Celebrate National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day at E.E. Smith Jr. High was sponsored by the school's honor English class students. The class, under the instruction of Mrs. Z. Williams, held a quiz program involving the entire school. Students participating in the quiz program were asked questions about poets and their works. The purpose of the celebration was to pay tribute to poets for their works and to remind students and parents of the importance of poetry. Pictured in the right photo are the students who won the poetry quiz. Left to right are pictured Arthur Hall, eighth grade; Joseph Brown, seventh grade; Mildred Miller, ninth grade; David Price, seventh grade; and Tim Potter, eighth grade. Pictured below is the honor English class, left to right, Jeanine Cavenaugh, Amanda Rich, Bobby Benson, Emily Farris, Cynthia Moore, Justina Collins, Janet Brock and Cynthia Middleton.

