

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Duplin County Board Of Health Meets

In recent action, the Duplin County board of Health reviewed several important health related services and responded subject to approval of the Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Health adopted new policies, by-laws, and a sliding scale fee for the Home Health Program as recommended by the Home Health Advisory Council. Members of the Advisory Council included: Dr. W. W. Sutton, Chairman, Wallace; Dr. James Fisher, Greenvillers; Mrs. Betsy Lanier, housewife, Beulaville; Norman Sandlin, interested citizen, Beulaville; Judy Wallace, Home Extension Agent; Betty Rose, R.N., Health Department; J.G. Henry, School Principal; Faye Johnson, Department of Social Services; William Richards, Board of Health Member; Richard Harrell, Hospital Administrator; Dr. Corazon Ngo, Physician Member; Nancy Williamson, Speech Therapist; Becky Brown, Accounting Clerk, Health Department; and J.S. Associated, Inc., Physical Therapy.

Recognizing the need for

adequate nutrition, the Board supported the efforts to establish a WIC Program in the Health Department, should the space be made available by the County Commissioners. Other action by the Health Board was to adopt by reference the 1978 Grade A Pasturized Milk Ordinance and Code, requiring sampling of all milk coming into the county.

Other reports presented to the board members included the feasibility of a Rabies Control Ordinance, the immunization compliance

law, a foodhandler's certificate requirement, and local health standards as required in the Health Department according to G.S. 130-9.

Members of the Board of Health are Russell Bostic, Beulaville; Dr. J.M. Kornegay, Warsaw; William Richards, Wallace; Harry Carlton, Wallace; Hubert Bowden, Warsaw; Sue Saunders, Rose Hill; Margarette Kenan, Teachey; Dr. Gary Broadrick, Kenansville; and Allen Nethercutt, Chinquapin.

McGowen Contributes To James Sprunt Foundation

Mrs. Faison W. McGowen has awarded the James Sprunt Foundation \$1,000 to endow the Faison W. McGowen Outstanding Student Award. The award is given annually at James Sprunt commencement to a graduating student, selected by the faculty, who best exemplifies excellence in scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Mrs. McGowen and her husband, the late Faison W. McGowen, were instrumental supporters in seeking the establishment of the college in Duplin County. Mr. McGowen was a Duplin County accountant and a highly honored county and state civic leader. The first permanent building at James Sprunt was dedicated in his honor in 1970.

Happy Holiday



PRESENTS CHECK FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD - Mrs. Faison W. McGowen presents Dr. Price a \$1,000 check to continue as an endowment the Faison W.

McGowen Outstanding Student Award. The award is given annually at the James Sprunt Technical College commencement exercises.



QUINN COMPANY ANNOUNCES EXPANSION - The expansion into supplying produce to its customers was announced last week by the Quinn Company of Warsaw. The addition of the produce line to the wholesale business will make the company a full-service supplier of grocery items, said Milford Quinn, president of the company. According to Quinn, five

cents from each grocery dollar spent in North Carolina is spent on items supplied by the Quinn Company. Pictured above, left to right, Duplin Industrial Development Officer John Gurganus, Gerald Quinn of the Quinn Company, Duplin Development Commission Chairman Wilbur Hussey, Milford Quinn and I.J. Quinn of the Quinn Company.

Joan Of Arc Contracts Asparagus Crops

Contracting cucumber crops with local pickle companies is not a new idea to area farmers, but growing asparagus under contract is something new.

Asparagus is a perennial crop harvested during a 10-12-week period beginning in late March, said Joan of Arc Field Representative Roger Lane. The Joan of Arc produce processing and packing plant in Turkey has begun contracting asparagus crops with local farmers. Presently, Carroll's of Warsaw has 58 acres of asparagus under contract with the Turkey plant. And, Lane added, farmers within a 50-mile radius are the growers Joan of Arc will be recruiting to plant asparagus crops.

A net profit of \$400-\$650 an acre has been estimated for asparagus, Lane said. However, he added, farmers will not receive a return on their investment until three years after planting. Some asparagus can be harvested the second year, but not much for commercial use at Joan of Arc, Lane said. The asparagus plant will continue to produce in the early spring each year for approximately 15 years, with a peak harvest the seventh through tenth years, he said. As the asparagus grows it puts out new sprouts each year making the single crown into a bed of sprouts. A net profit of \$10,123-\$15,037 over the 15 year period has been estimated by North Carolina State University researchers.

Planting an asparagus crop requires an investment of \$560 an acre, Lane said. The major cost involved is the purchasing of asparagus crowns or the transplant, at planting time, he said. Equipment used in transplanting the crowns is furnished by Joan of Arc and an ordinary tractor is used in crop care after planting, Lane said. A pepper or cucumber harvester which is manually operated can be used to gather asparagus spears. In order to maximize profits hand harvesting is required, he said. But, a crop can be mechanically harvested.

Work by NCSU and Joan of Arc has yielded a new process by which growers of asparagus are expected to minimize plant loss, Lane said. Research on the sandy soil in the local counties has led NCSU and Joan of Arc to recommend a no-till method of growing asparagus. Certified crowns are transplanted, the field is cultivated two or three times soon after planting to level the row ridges and a herbicide program follows through the second year, Lane said. After the field is level, no cultivating is done the following

years. "As the asparagus grows and adds sprouts tilling the crop tends to aggravate the plant," Lane said. "And, cutting the spears with scissors below the ground hurts the crown, that is why we recommend hand harvesting."

The company hopes to see as many as 6000 acres of asparagus grown in North Carolina, and acreage contracted with Joan of Arc will be processed in the Turkey plant, Lane added. The Turkey plant was originally located in Sampson County to take advantage of the sweet potato market, he said. But, asparagus is not a new line to the Joan of Arc company based in Illinois. According to Lane the Joan of Arc company contracts asparagus at two Illinois plants.

The addition of asparagus processing will extend plant operations. Sweet potatoes are processed at the plant in the fall of the year and beans during the winter, Lane said. Asparagus would extend the plant's work year until the spring and in the future a green and red pepper canning process is planned for the summer, Lane said.

"We're trying to run the year round by opening up in the spring with asparagus and possibly pepper in the summer," Lane said. "And, our first asparagus will be canned in 1982 from the crop grown on the Carroll's fields."

Contracts to grow asparagus for the packing company are presently being signed and farmers can obtain information at the Joan of Arc plant.

"The biggest problem we are running into," Lane said, "is people who rent their farm land. We cannot commend a farmer plant asparagus on land he does not own and people who do own their land don't want to plant asparagus because they do not know about renting their land in the future."

Lane added, the potential for asparagus in this area can be good because market prices continue to rise year after year. Farmers contracting with Joan of Arc will be paid the average market price at harvest time, he said. The projected growth over a fifteen year period is expected to increase as much as twenty-two cents a pound.

The President's House

*With best wishes
from our family
for a
happy holiday season*

*Jimmy Carter
Rosalynn Carter*



EIGHTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS IN HISTORIC KENANSVILLE - The combined church community youth performed a nativity pageant at the William Rand Kenan Jr. Memorial Amphitheatre. The pageant was directed by Phil Hardy and was a repeat of the performance given in the first annual Twelve Days of Christmas in Historic Kenansville last year.

Pictured above are the shepherds as they are visited by an angel and told of the birth of the Christ Child. Following the evening performance, warm refreshments were served by the Kenansville United Methodist Church. Prior to the nativity pageant, Christmas tree services were held in the local churches.