

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Boards Can't Agree Who Owns School

The rift between the Duplin County Commissioners and the Board of Education over control of the old Kenansville Elementary School remains unresolved, despite a dinner meeting on the question between members of the two boards last week in Rose Hill.

The building has been the focus of dispute since September, when classes were moved to the new school east of town.

Discussion between the two groups was frequently acrimonious.

"How do you discuss something when everybody's already made a decision about it?" asked Board chairman Allen Nethercutt.

"I bet people wish we could get as excited over quality education as we are over this property," commented school board member Graham Phillips.

When the commissioners provided funds for the new building, the school board signed an agreement to turn the old property over to the county once the school system no longer needed it. No date, however, was specified for the transfer.

The commissioners interpreted the wording to mean they would receive the building as soon as the new school opened, but the school board maintained it needs the structure because three school offices are still in it.

On July 18 a school board committee suggested 24

The old school site, located not far from the courthouse, near the school administrative center, Duplin General Hospital, Kenan Memorial Auditorium and the William R. Kenan Memorial Amphitheatre, is considered prime real estate.

"We had some plans for it and need the property for future expansion," said Commissioner D.J. Fussell. "It is the only publicly-owned property in Kenansville available for building."

Fussell, who did not attend the dinner meeting, said he believes the school board should give up the building, especially as it has been condemned by the state. At present, neither the school or county budget provides any money for renovating or adapting the building for any use.

After the meeting, two commissioners — Nethercutt and Calvin Turner — also agreed the county government needs the property.

"I have no feelings on it," commented Commissioner Franklin Williams.

"I've given up on it," added Commissioner Bill Costin. "I don't care one way or the other." Yet Costin also said the county needs the property for future growth.

"The commissioners took a big nasty swipe at education before this all came up," commented school board member Fred Rhodes, defending the schools' position.

"You (the commissioners) demanded the county superintendent's salary supplement be cut (in the budget for the current fiscal year). It would have been the same thing as firing him. I haven't decided on the matter."

Phillips said he might vote to give the property to the commissioners if they could come up with a use for it.

School board member Patricia Broadrick said she believes the property should go to the county. Until basic feelings are cleared up, problems will exist between the two boards and no solution will be reached, she added.

School board member Dr. E.L. Boyette said he believes the building should be used

for a high school for gifted students and for cultural arts programs. He said he believes the county's needs could be better served at E.E. Smith School in Kenansville which now houses the seventh, eighth and ninth grades.

Currently the school system is planning to add seventh and eighth grade classrooms to the new Kenansville Elementary School and ninth grade classes to James Kenan High School. These moves would leave E.E. Smith vacant.

Boyette called these moves the school system's top priority, although the school board has not voted on it. possible uses for the building, including a cultural arts center.

Forum On Vocational Education

Duplin County public schools and James Sprunt Technical College will host a forum on vocational education on Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Duplin County Board of Education. An invitation is extended to the public to attend.

The forum will be a UNC television broadcast on "The Skill-Builders." This is a historical documentary which traces the development of vocational/technical educa-

tion in North Carolina. It includes interviews with North Carolinians who have shaped this development with executives of industries served by vocational/technical education programs and concludes with an address by Gov. Hunt.

This year's program should be of special interest to educators, parents and students, and those in business and industry.



THE 1981 JAMES SPRUNT TECHNICAL COLLEGE HOMECOMING COURT - Faye Kelly of Glisson township was crowned the 1981 JSTC Queen, Jan. 21 during half-time activities of the homecoming game with

Wilmington's Cape Fear Technical Institute. Pictured, left to right, Perry Sharp, first runner-up Sonja Bennerman, Todd Grady, Queen Faye Kelly, William Jackson and second runner-up Veronica Wiggins.

JSTC Homecoming

The Spartans of James Sprunt Technical College crowned Faye Kelly of Glisson township their 1981 Queen during the half-time activities of the annual homecoming basketball game at Kenan Memorial Auditorium Jan. 21.

Named to the queen's

court were Sonja Bennerman, first runner-up and Veronica Wiggins, second runner-up. James Sprunt counselor Sue Clark acted as mistress of ceremonies introducing the 18 homecoming contestants and their escorts. The contestants were chosen to represent the

different curriculums offered at JSTC. The queen and her court were selected by a student vote. Queen Faye Kelly represents the medical office assistant program, runner-up Sonja Bennerman, the electrical installation and maintenance program, and second runner-up Veronica

Wiggins, the JSTC nursing program.

The homecoming activities were under the direction of Nina Cavenaugh, the JSTC cheerleading advisor and instructor. JSTC Dean of Student Affairs Alfred Wells opened the half-time activities with a welcome. The Spartan basketball team ended the activities with a victory over Wilmington's Cape Fear Technical Institute in the homecoming basketball game.

Hunt Unsure How I-40 Link Will Be Financed

Governor Jim Hunt admitted Friday he doesn't know where money will be found to complete the extension of Interstate 40 to Wilmington.

Hunt answered questions from area officials at a reception following dedication of the Imperial Spinning Mills plant south of Wallace Friday morning.

"I just don't know where the money is coming from right now," the governor said, answering a question of County Commissioner W.J. Costin about the planned four-lane highway connection between I-40 near Benson and Wilmington.

"If we don't find the

money somewhere, it just won't be built," he said. "I have gotten the federal government to put up 90 percent of the money, and if the state can't come up with 10 percent it will be a shame," Hunt added.

State Department of Transportation officials have said there is no set state-federal funding ratio. Those officials and U.S. Rep. Charles G. Rose III have said they would be happy if the highway were funded with 75 percent federal money and 25 percent in state funds.

Total cost of the projected highway is about \$280 million, of which about \$70 million has been committed.

Right-of-way clearing and preparation work has begun on portions of the planned road in Pender County.

Hunt emphasized contracts that have been let or are immediately planned will be finished.

State Commerce Secretary D.M. "Lauch" Faircloth declared, "We will get the money from somewhere. We always have in the past."

In fact, the governor is finding it increasingly difficult to fulfill promises made in Southeastern North Carolina. He had said the I-40 connector was the only major highway that would be finished in North Carolina — whether or not a proposed

gasoline tax is passed.

Also, the governor promised in 1980 to find money for the state's \$3.5 million share of an \$11 million erosion control project at Carolina Beach. That money never fully appeared, and the project will die if the state's remaining share of \$2.5 million isn't in sight by April. Gary Pearce, Hunt's press secretary, said earlier this week that Hunt is still fully committed to the Carolina Beach project, but he said finding the money "is a separate question."

Hunt said he would be sympathetic to increasing the tax on alcoholic beverages, although he hadn't really studied it.

Hunt Dedicates Imperial Spinning Company Plant

North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt dedicated the Imperial Spinning Co. plant in Wallace Friday saying the plant is a good example of mutual cooperation.

He said the basic industrial building, which was one of the principal attractions for the industry, was erected through a partnership.

The Wallace Industrial Commission put up \$50,000 for the land; the town and the county put up \$20,000 each for the utilities to the site from Wallace; and the state helped finance the building.

George Parker of Sanford, Imperial Spinning's vice

president for sales, praised the quality of the workers in the Wallace area.

He said the firm plans to employ 125 people within its first year of operation and hopes to expand its operation by the end of the year. He indicated the currently projected payroll will be about \$1.5 million a year.

It will manufacture acrylic, for which Parker said demand is great, and will concentrate on material for men's hosiery and sweat shirts. Its product competes with both the J.P. Stevens Co. in Wallace and National Spinning Co. plants in Duplin County.

Jerry Hamm of Wallace, vice president of operations, said an unusual work schedule has been arranged. The plant will operate around the clock seven days a week. Workers will put in 12-hour shifts three days one week and take four days off, then work four days the next. They will work every other Sunday.

Total investment of the company is estimated at \$4 million. After it purchased the 40,000-square-foot basic industrial building, it added 10,000 square feet. It has room for expansion at the site.

PINK HILL TOWN STICKERS

The deadline for purchasing town stickers is Feb. 15. All stickers, which are \$2 each, must be bought and displayed by midnight, Feb. 15. All Pink Hill residents are required to comply with this ordinance.

KENANSVILLE TOWN TAGS

As a reminder to residents of Kenansville, your 1981 Town Tags should be purchased and displayed on your vehicles by Feb. 15. The tags are \$1 again this year, and may be purchased at the clerk's office in the town hall.



Familiar Scene Of Old.....Hand Pump

Wallace Man Killed In Car Wreck

A Wallace resident was killed Friday night when he was thrown from his automobile after it ran off the road and into a ditch near Holly Ridge.

The victim was identified as Donald Arthur Sholar, 35, of Route 2, Wallace.

The accident occurred about 8:30 p.m. on N.C. 50 approximately 1.4 miles west of Holly Ridge, investigating Highway Patrol Trooper T. W. Caulder said. Caulder said Sholar's car was traveling east at a high rate of speed when it apparently hit a patch of ice and ran off the road.

Because it was hidden by trees, Caulder said, the accident was not discovered until about 3 a.m. Saturday when a passenger in the car, identified as Vernon Dail, 51, of Route 2, Wallace, managed to crawl to the highway and flag down a passing motorist. Dail was not seriously injured, but sustained some frostbite from the cold night.



IMPERIAL SPINNING COMPANY PLANT DEDICATED - Governor Jim Hunt, right, dedicates the Imperial Spinning Company plant in Wallace. Graham Phillips, left,

introduced Hunt to the crowd attending the ceremonies Friday. The plant will manufacture acrylics.