

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Magnolia Still May Lack An Elected Mayor

Magnolia with their 593 population may still be without an elected mayor. Marjorie Pickett, 77, was sworn in last week after refusing to take the oath of office at the first town board meeting following her election in 1979. The legality of the delayed swearing-in was questioned Thursday. Melvin Pope, former mayor, who did not run for re-election to that position, but ran for and won a seat on the town board in the 1979 election, was named mayor pro-tem by the board in December 1979. He has served as acting mayor since.

Last week Mrs. Pickett took the mayor's seat after asking Clerk of Court John Anderson to swear her into office earlier in the day. "If any person dies or for any reason refuses to qualify for the office which he or she is elected, that office should become vacant," said Senior Deputy Assistant Attorney General James F. Bullock. "It appears that whoever has the appointive power (the town board in this instance) would have to appoint someone as mayor after the person elected refused to qualify," Bullock added. "The wise course might be

for the board to appoint her as mayor and have her sworn in again," the official observed. Concerning the board's action after Mrs. Pickett's refusal to take the oath in December 1979, Bullock said that under the state constitution, a person in an elective office holds that office until a successor is qualified. The law also specifies a person cannot hold two elective offices simultaneously, he noted. While Pope would have remained mayor until a new mayor was qualified if he had not been elected to another office, he automatically re-

moved himself from the mayor's post when he was sworn in as a town board commissioner, Bullock said. The board should have declared the mayor's office vacant, he said. Town Attorney E.C. Thompson III, after talking with Bullock Thursday, wrote the board that in his opinion Mrs. Pickett cannot hold the office under these circumstances. To legally occupy the office, she must be appointed by the board and sworn in again, he added. Pope said he had asked Mrs. Pickett not to sign any legal papers as mayor until the situation is cleared up.



HORSEPOWER: AN ELECTRIC FABLE-Tupper Cullum, Dennis Frederick and Christine Murdock are featured in the Road Company's presentation of "Horsepower: An Electric Fable." Their performance is set for Monday,

March 23 at 8 p.m. at East Duplin Fine Arts Building in Beulaville. The event is sponsored by the Duplin County Arts Council. Tickets will be available at the door.

Warsaw Cable TV Franchise Awarded

The Warsaw Town Board awarded Clear-Tel of Hope Mills the franchise for cable television service at their meeting last week. The town will receive five percent of the gross revenue from the service, which Gerald Michaux of Clear-Tel estimated would amount to about \$6,000 a year. Service should be available by Aug. 1, Michaux said. Warsaw has 1,200 houses, and the cable company expects to sign up 55 percent of them. The company plans a \$500,000 investment in Warsaw. It will string 19.75 miles of wires in the city, using

existing utility poles under an agreement now being worked out. The firm will make 18 channels available, four of them pay channels. It will be able to provide 35 channels, including two-way communication possibilities, on some. The basic fee of \$9.50 per month will provide service from 14 channels, Michaux said. Fees on the pay channels will vary, with HBO and Showtime channels costing \$8 each. Fees for the two 24-hour movie channels, Cinemax and The Movie Channel, will be \$10.95 each. The company has also applied for franchises in

Wallace, Rose Hill, Teachey, Magnolia and Faison. It has also applied for a county franchise to serve rural areas near these towns. In other action, the board decided that: — The minimum water rate will be increased from \$5 a month for 4,000 gallons to \$8 per month for 3,000 gallons on July 1. A sewage rate increase is also expected, but the amount has not been determined. At present, the sewer rate is half the water rate. — A public hearing on rezoning a lot on Wards

Bridge Road, known as the Tommy Phillips lot, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 13 at the town hall. The lot is now zoned for restricted business. Some area residents have asked that it be rezoned to residential. The lot had been zoned residential prior to last year. The board recently refused to rezone an adjacent lot from residential to restricted business. — Change orders on five houses, amounting to \$9,000 in the South Pine Street rehabilitation project was discussed at a special meeting of the board this week at the town hall.

Arts Council Sponsors "Horsepower"

An exciting young theater company from the hills of East Tennessee, praised for their original plays from Cape Cod to Chicago, is being brought to the East Duplin Fine Arts Building in Beulaville by the Duplin County Arts Council on Monday, March 23 at 8 p.m. The Road Company, a seven-member touring ensemble from Johnson City, Tennessee will perform their tenth original production

"Horsepower: An Electric Fable," a lively, humorous look at the present day global energy dilemma. Produced in 1979 and performed throughout the Eastern United States in five tours since its creation, "Horsepower" is based upon a modern interpretation of classical Greek Mythology written by native Tennesseean Jo Carson. Directed by company founder Bob Leonard, the script was developed jointly by Ms. Carson and The Road Company acting ensemble. Since 1974, the troupe has developed a total of 11 original productions spring-

ing from the heritage of their home community by combining elements of improvisational acting, extensive researching and traditional playwrighting. The plot emphasizes the multi-level concerns of our present energy situation. Harold and Betty Everybody, modern Everyman and Everywoman characters played by Tupper Cullum and Christine Murdock, slowly convert their self-sufficient farming life to one which relies more and more upon energy consuming conveniences. The initial joys of their new lifestyle disappear as the demand and cost for

energy rises and the Everybodies are compelled to forsake the farm for outside jobs in order to keep their heads above water. Tickets for the March 23 performance will be available at the door. The Road Company will also present "Flying Lemon Circus" to the students of Beulaville Elementary School Tuesday, March 24 at 10 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. "The Road Company directs its plays to rural audiences," says DACAC Executive Director Mary Gardner. "and I think the entire family will enjoy their performance in Beulaville."

Wallace To Seek Advice For Cable TV

With three organizations offering Wallace cable television service, the town board directed the town attorney to obtain a consultant to guide it in awarding a franchise. When asked to give his opinion on the three, Town Attorney Richard Burrows said he would contact the League of Municipalities for guidance.

The firms offering to serve the city are Clear-Tel of Hope Mills, Satellite Entertainment of Rose Hill and Components Cable TV of Erie, Pa. "If all the knowledge about cable television was water in a quart jar, my knowledge of the subject would just be one drop," Burrows told the board in advising it to secure outside help on the questions.

The board also directed Burrows to start legal action against B.C. Norris Jr. of Wallace to clear tree tops on the flight path of Henderson Field, the Wallace airport. The town has an easement in the area involved to permit it to trim the tree tops. Norris contends that because the easement was signed by the previous property owner, it does not affect him.

The board had to reject all bids for painting the million-gallon water reservoir because one of the three bids received was improperly made out, lacking a bid bond. State law requires a minimum of three bids on a project before a contract can be awarded in a first round of bidding. The board will advertise for bidders again. On a second round a contract can be let even if only one bid is

received. The board budgeted \$13,500 for the project. The well site committee recommended the city purchase a site in the Plantation Acres subdivision near the new Wallace Elementary School for a new well. Burrows was instructed to investigate the legality of establishing a well in the subdivision and report at the board's April meeting.

Local School Budget For 81-82 Up By 23%

The Duplin County Board of Education got its first reported look at the 1981-82 school budget request last week in a special meeting. The administration presented the \$2,338,522 proposal Tuesday afternoon to board members Dr. E. L. Boyette, Pat Broadrick, Jimmy Strickland and Joe Swinson. The proposal shows a \$638,522 increase over the 1980-81 budget, according to the school administration figures.

Some of the major increases this year include a 5% salary increase, adding the salaries of six full-time aides. These aides have been previously paid by CETA and are in the system to meet minimum standards of the

Southern Association accreditation; provide additional instruction supplies (this figure in 1980 was \$24,000 and the request in 1981 is \$52,070, with this only part of the supplies); band director salaries are increased by \$600 to compensate for work done after school hours; add one guidance counselor with salary and fringes \$19,433; also funds for work after school for all counselors, \$4,578 (this is a 28% match with the state); additional vocational supplies budget in 1980, \$14,241 and the request for 1981-2, \$27,558; add a new telephone system in the school administration building and one additional worker in the maintenance department.

The 1981-82 request for, according to figures presented by the administration, current expenses amounts to \$2,072,761. The capital outlay is \$265,761, making a total of \$2,338,522. The school budget for 1980-81, according to the administration figures, was \$1,700,000. The major items in the capital outlay proposal are two new trucks, two new tractors, a special education bus with a lift, a computer, ceiling repair, and new equipment and furniture. Although the administration stated there are no frills in their proposal, the board of education and the county commissioners usually cut the figures to what they consider more reasonable or affordable.

Firefighters Injured In Faison Mansion Blaze

From the News & Observer Several firefighters were injured Sunday battling a blaze that gutted an antebellum mansion. Hampton Hobbs of the

Faison Fire Department was admitted to the intensive care unit at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville after being overcome by smoke and was reported in stable condition Sunday night.

Faison firefighter Velburn Brewer was treated at the hospital for injuries suffered when he fell from a ladder, and Jimmy Wolfe of the Calypso Fire Department was treated at a clinic after

being overcome by smoke. The 167-year-old frame house known as the Virginus Faison Williams homeplace is owned by a Florida resident and was unoccupied. Authorities said many antiques and works of art were destroyed. Clement Shine, assistant

chief of the Faison Fire Department, said the fire started about 3:30 p.m. and was burning primarily underneath the house and on one side when firefighters arrived. The Mount Olive Fire Department also responded to the call.

Rose Hill Board Hears Complaints

Rosewood Street residents complaining about a drainage problem were directed to work out arrangements to end the trouble with Rose Hill Maintenance Supervisor Eugene Fussell by Mayor Ben Harrell during the town board meeting last week. Appearing before the board were Donald Buckner, Dewitt Miller, Donald Baker and J.C. Johnson. Johnson, acting as spokesman, said the catch basins on the north side of town and west of U.S. 117 were higher than the surrounding area and water could not get into them. He said a large canal extends through the area, and drains should be extended into it from the street area. The canal needs cleaning, Johnson said. Harrell said he is attempting to get the towns engineering firm, Wooten & Co. of Raleigh, to exercise its option to purchase 15 acres of land near the city for a sewage treatment plant. The

town must obtain leases to run lines from the city to the proposed plant, and the side must be secured before leasing can begin. Woody Brinson of McDavid Associates, the engineering firm, presented Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines for a \$275,000 housing project. Brinson said the project includes repairs to 37

houses, removal of seven dilapidated houses, and repair of 14 mobile homes. Guidelines limit the cost of repairs to the houses at \$10,000 each and to mobile homes, \$1,500. The project in the Yellow Cut section of town is scheduled to begin May 1. The project will also include installation of indoor plumbing in several houses.

There will be a salad bar and fashion show for the American Cancer Society on April 1st from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Duplin Country Club, with entertainment by "The Sounds of Music." Tickets are available at the Kenansville Drug Store, Emma's of Wallace, Theresa's of Beulaville and Kenansville, Roseay of Beulaville, Wilson's Clothiers of Clinton, The Village Shop of Beulaville, and at Phelps's Ford of Warsaw.

Area Briefs

SALAD BAR AND FASHION SHOW

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CLUSTER MEETINGS

The United Methodist Women of the Goldsboro District are holding cluster group meetings which are learning experiences for the local units. All ladies are urged to attend at least one of the meetings. If you have not attended to date, the following is a list of churches and dates of upcoming

Magnolia Municipal Auditorium Dedicated

The Magnolia Municipal auditorium with a seating capacity of 500 people was dedicated last week with State Senator Harold Hardison as principal speaker. The building is the former Magnolia school auditorium which was donated to the city by the Duplin County Board of Education after being abandoned as a school. The remainder of the school

building was demolished. "I don't believe you even imagine the potential you have in this auditorium, and the athletic field you have built on the grounds. It will benefit all the people of Duplin County, not just Magnolia," Hardison said. The building was renovated with Comprehensive Employment and Training Act funds and workers

ALBERTSON SOFTBALL

The Albertson Recreation Center is beginning the spring softball leagues for women and men. If interested, call Tom Turner at 568-3982 or 568-7787 (daytime) before April 25th.

Superintendent Guest Speaker At Woodland Revival

Woodland United Methodist Church of Albertson will hold its annual revival beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22 through Wednesday, March 25. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Ernest R. Porter, superintendent of the Goldsboro District of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Porter is a native of Mississippi, a graduate of Millsaps College of Jackson, Miss and of the Divinity School of Duke University. He is married to Sara Ann Jones of Florence, S.C. and they have two sons, Wesley, 21, and Joel, 17. Before coming to Goldsboro in 1980, Rev. Porter

served seven years as pastor of Centenary United Methodist Church of New Bern, two years as associate director of the N.C. Conference program council of the United Methodist Church, three years as pastor of Westminster United Methodist Church of Kinston, and four years as pastor of Edgerton Memorial United Methodist Church of Selma. He has been a member of numerous boards and committees of his denomination including: the Board of Evangelism; Board of Missions; Board of Trustees of Methodist Home for Children, Wesleyan College, and the Methodist Retirement

Homes, Inc. with the N.C. United Methodist Conference. Among numerous civic and community activities, he has served as president of both the Johnston and Craven County mental health associations, and as a member of the executive committee of the Tuscarora Council for the Boy Scouts of America. As a mason, 32nd Degree, Scottish Rite, he served as Assistant Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 1977. The public is cordially invited to attend each service. H. Worth Pearce is the minister of the Kenansville United Methodist Parish.