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DEDICATION - The Plainview Medical Center and the Brown Terrace Housing Development in Greenevers were dedicated on Saturday, April 18. Pictured are: Ada Fisher,

former director of the Plainview Medical Center, Alex Brown, mayor of Greenevers, and James T. Johnson, state director of the Farmers Home Administration.



School Chairman Attacks Regulations

Dr. E. L. Boyette ended his one-year term as chairman of the Duplin County Board of Education at last week's meeting with a statement assailing state school regulations for stifling efforts to achieve educational excellence.

"It's immoral to allow the child to leave the first grade without knowing the alphabet, phonics and a good degree of reading ability," he stated. "The 'see-say' method should be see-and-begone. Homework should be part of the educational system."

Boyette's statement questioned the value of the kindergarten and 12th grades, both of which are required by the state.

Boyette also said children should be allowed to advance through the grades as rapidly as possible. "A child's time is a terrible thing to waste," he declared.

The board named Graham Phillips as chairman to succeed Boyette and Patricia Broadrick as vice chairman to succeed Phillips.

Hilbert A. Swinson was sworn into his term on the board by John A. Johnson, clerk of court. Swinson won the seat in May 1980. He was unopposed in the November general election. The former assistant principal of Beula-

ville Elementary School succeeds Fred Rhodes, who he defeated in the May, 1980, election. Future board members will be sworn into office during the first meeting in December following election. Board members now are elected to four-year terms instead of the six-year terms of the past.

The board also adopted the 1981-82 school calendar calling for the first day of school to be August 31, ten days later than in 1981. The last day of school will be June 4, 1982, one day earlier than in 1981.

To achieve the shorter school schedule, one week was removed from the

Christmas vacation period. The next Christmas vacation period will begin Dec. 23. School will resume Jan. 4.

Assistant Superintendent Gary Sanderson reported 30 seniors in the school system still have failed to pass one or more parts of the competency tests. He said they will have one more chance to pass the tests. Successful completion of the tests is required for a high school diploma.

Superintendent C. H. Yelverton reported Neal Carlton, principal of Wallace-Rose Hill High School the last 13 years, will retire at the end of the present school year.

State Official Explains Route Of Interstate 40

Weight of traffic and cost of purchasing buildings were cited as principal reasons for constructing a new highway route rather than following U.S. 421 for the Interstate 40 extension, district highway engineer Ted Funderburk said at a meeting in Wallace Thursday night.

Funderburk was questioned by the Wallace Rotary Club members following his talk on the state highway situation before the club. Funderburk's 3rd highway district includes Duplin, Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

Answering a question of J.D. Teachey about the routing of the new highway, Funderburk said U.S. 117

now carries about three times the traffic of U.S. 421. The proposed I-40 extension will roughly follow the route of U.S. 117 to northern Duplin County where it will turn westward toward Benson.

He said the right of way from Benson to Raleigh has been purchased.

He said most of the right of way has been obtained between Benson and Wilmington and work has begun on portions of this route.

Funderburk also said that extensive building has occurred along the route of U.S. 421, and the purchase of these homes, businesses and outbuildings would be excessively costly.

Teachey also asked about

the destruction of prime farm land involved in the new route. Funderburk said no matter what route is taken for the road, some good farm land will be destroyed as both Duplin and Sampson counties are heavily farmed.

U.S. 421 extends most of the way through length of Sampson County.

Funderburk also stated

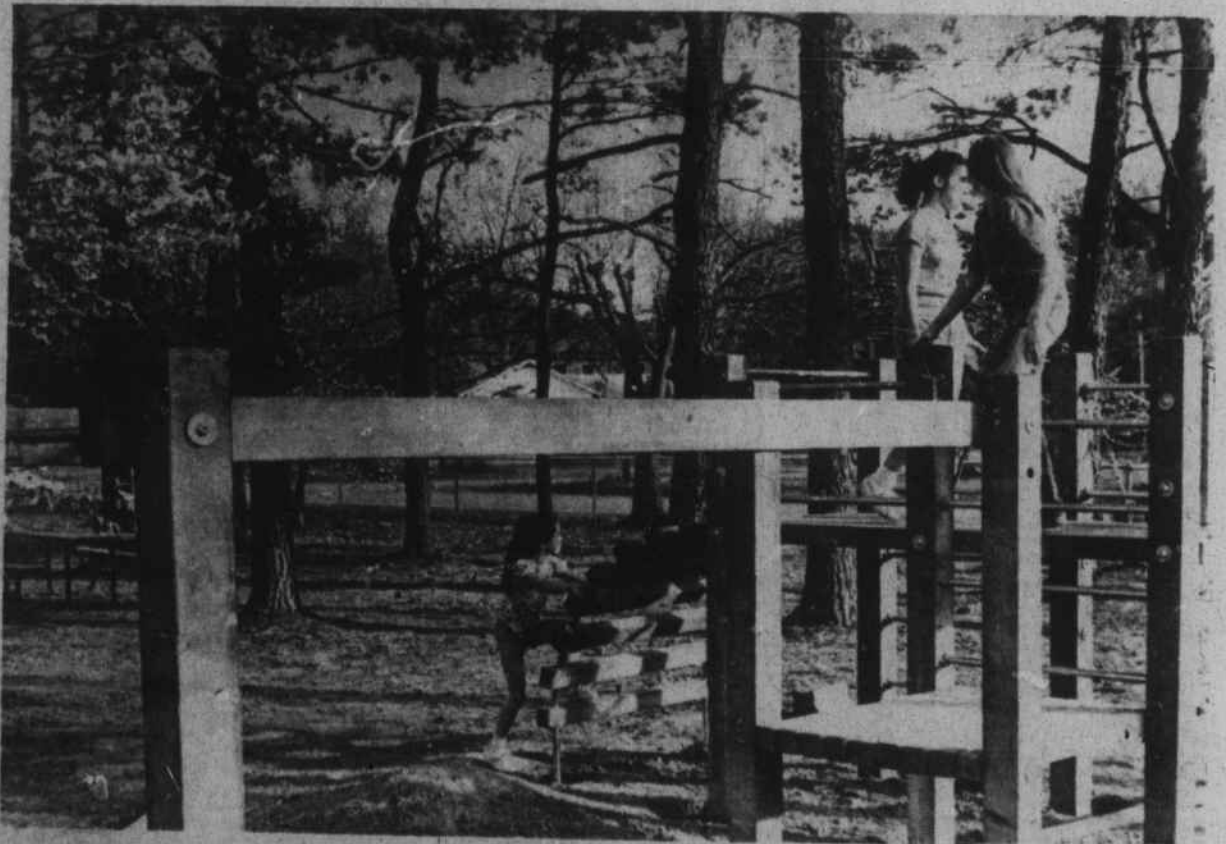
Wilmington and Morehead City are the only eastern seaboard ports of any size that do not have interstate highway connections.

Concerning highway maintenance and repair, he said the commission headed by former Gov. Dan K. Moore determined \$250 million a year is needed just for this work.

Jerry Powell commented the automobile sales tax is unfair as the amount of tax on a low-priced car, a high-priced car or a \$40,000 tractor is the same at \$125. Funderburk said some changes in the automotive sales tax are under consideration.

Funderburk said 26 miles of the I-40 extension are being prepared for paving in Pender County. However, no paving contracts have been let, he added.

He also told the group a concrete bridge will be built to replace the burned-out bridge over a creek between Wallace and the Wallace airport as soon as the contractual procedure can be completed.



WARSAW PARK NEARS COMPLETION - The kiddie park area, shown above with its timber exerciser, the lighted ballfields, two tennis courts, concession stand and

parking area for the Warsaw Recreation Park are expected to be completed this week.

Warsaw Board Ponders Rezoning Petition

After hearing arguments from several residents last week, the Warsaw town board took under advisement a petition to rezone a lot from restricted business classification back to residential.

Sixteen town residents attended the meeting, the largest attendance since the recreation park discussion last October.

Tommy Phillips owns the property. He argued the property should be left in the restricted business classification.

It was rezoned to this classification about a year ago. At the time it was rezoned, no one appeared to protest the step.

Property across the street, Wards Bridge Road, is zoned restricted business.

Rick Summerlin's petition to have an adjacent lot rezoned from residential to restricted business classification was rejected by the board in January, following a show of opposition from town residents.

Joe Costin, who wants the

Phillips lot rezoned to residential, said nearby residents do not know what kind of business might build on the property and fear some businesses could lower their property values.

In other business, the board directed Commissioner Frank Steed to inform the high bidder for the former city hall property that the building is in bad condition and must be repaired or torn down within a year. The board feels the building

poses a danger to passers-by as bricks from the walls could fall on them.

The high bidder on the property is Bessie Jones. She submitted a bid of \$4,296.63 for the property.

The city was given the property by Branch Bank & Trust Co. when it moved into a new building on U.S. 117. The city used the structure as a city hall until three years ago when it erected a new city hall. Since that time, the old bank building has deteriorated.

Magnolia Board Names Melvin Pope New Mayor

The question of who is the mayor of Magnolia was settled for the remaining two and a half years of the current term last week when the town board of commissioners named Mayor Pro Tem Melvin Pope to the post.

The confusion initially arose when Marjorie Pickett, who had been elected mayor without opposition, refused to be sworn into the office. More than a year later, she came before Duplin County Clerk Johnson A. Johnson and was sworn into the office. She took the mayor's seat for the March 1980 town board meeting.

The state attorney general's office advised the

town, however, that a person elected to an office became disqualified after refusing to be sworn in at the regular time and thus the office was vacant.

Pope, the former mayor, had not run again for the post but instead sought and won a seat on the town board. The board named him mayor pro tem and in that position he served as acting mayor until the Tuesday night action.

The board appointed Clifton Chestnut to fill Pope's unexpired board term.

Commissioner H. L. Howard resigned and Charles Bowman was appointed to complete his term

which expires in November.

A bid of \$3,193 from Seegars Fence Co. of Goldsboro to install fence around the tennis courts in the new recreation park was accepted.

The board approved the first reading of the Clear Tel Cable Television franchise proposal. The final reading will come up at the board's May 12 meeting.

Genealogy Workshop

The continuing education department of James Sprunt Technical College in cooperation with the Duplin Historical Society will sponsor a six-hour workshop in genealogical research on Saturday, April 25th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 2-4 p.m. in the auditorium of the Hoffer Building.

The workshop will be designed for those who wish to improve their current skills or add to their knowledge of research methods. Leader will be Mrs. Lora Hattie McEachern of Wilmington, a researcher, well known throughout the area.

There will be a \$5 registration fee.

Hardison Discusses Bills

Bills that would provide "a sort of state revenue sharing" for the state's municipalities are being considered in the House and Senate, state Senator Harold Hardison told the Duplin Municipal Association at their meeting in Rose Hill Thursday night.

Hardison represents Duplin, Lenoir and Jones counties and is chairman of the senate appropriations committee.

He said the bills, Senate

Bill 46 and House Bill 63, would provide municipalities one-tenth of 1 percent of the state's general fund receipts or about \$3 million a year at present if they are approved by both chambers.

"This is not a panacea, but it would set a precedent in the state," he said.

Hardison noted the approximately \$3 million proposed in the bills would just about equal the loss in Powell Bill funds due to the decreased state gasoline tax

revenue. Under the Powell Bill one cent of the state's gasoline tax reverts to the municipalities for street upkeep.

DST Returns Sunday

Daylight Savings Time returns this weekend. Move your clock ahead an

hour before retiring Saturday night.

Spring Up . . . Fall Back . . .