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NEW JAYCEE OFFICERS - The Warsaw Jaycees inducted their new officers at their awards and installation banquet on April 30 at Carson's Restaurant in Warsaw. The new officers are as follows: pictured - back (left to right) Bill Costin Jr. - Interior Vice president, Ed Holt -

treasurer, David Rouse - State Director, Bill Holt - Secretary, Joel Smith - Director, Front - Dennis Perry - President, Not pictured: Exterior Vice-President - Tracy Johnson, and Directors - Gilbert Johnson, Frankie Steed Jr., Tim Sandlin and Al Brown.

Area Vegetables Are Suffering From Weather

Lack of rain will reduce vegetable crop quantity and quality in Duplin, Sampson, Wayne and Johnston counties this spring.

Since the area is a major vegetable supplier in season, this could result in higher consumer prices.

Tobacco, corn and soybean crops must have rain within 10 days or they will be seriously damaged.

The high wind and dry, hot weather has already damaged some of the pepper and tobacco crops, according to agricultural agents. They indicated many acres of tobacco and pepper will have to be reset. Vegetable crops, especially green pepper, provide \$15 to \$20 million gross return a year to farmers of these counties in good years.

Elton McGowan of Bowdens said the water table is

so low "we need two inches of soaking rain in the next 10 days. If we get that, we still can come in with a pretty good crop."

He said his early-planted cucumbers are up about an inch, but the late-planted cucumbers have not come up. McGowan plans about 200 acres of pepper and 300 acres of cucumbers. He sells some vegetables on the fresh market, but most on contract with processors.

"My dad used to say dry weather will scare you to death, but wet weather will kill you," he said, noting rain does come in time to rescue the crop in most years.

The dry weather also creates a tillage problem as the herbicides have not worked into the ground to kill weeds. The weeds are as tall as the corn. Cultivation at

this time would further dry the soil.

Snodie Wilson, agricultural agent, said, "If rain comes soon, cucumbers can be replanted. The trouble with pepper is you have to have the plants and the plant beds will be done for if we don't get rain right soon."

Walter Rouse of Warsaw has 125 acres of early cucumbers. "We have a pretty good stand, but must have rain if the crop is to make anything."

He leases most of the farm to a Sampson County pepper grower whose pepper fields will have to be reset.

Harold Precythe of Faison, owner of Southern Produce Co. and an associate of the Faison produce market, said,

"This dryness is really taking a toll on vegetables. Vegetables are made up largely of water and you've

got to have rain to make good vegetables. Some of the farmers are holding back on planting, waiting for moisture. It hasn't rained enough in the county to put out a cigarette. To have a normal season, we must have rain soon."

The Faison market usually opens about May 23-25. In recent years, \$5 million to \$10 million worth of vegetables have moved through the Faison market and nearby country points annually.

Precythe warned that late production from replantings will run into marketings from northern growers in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and New Jersey and the oversupply will cut prices.

"If the state applies higher fees and gasoline taxes to trucks, truck rates will have to be increased," Precythe also observed.



LIFETIME MEMBERS - During the Jaycee banquet on April 30, Dwight Smith and Billy Knowles were elected lifetime members of the Jaycees. They are pictured above with 1980 President David Rouse. The election of Knowles and Smith brings the number of

lifetime members to eight. The others include: Frank Steed Sr., Colon Quinn, George West, Gerald Quinn, Brooks Boyette and Craven Brewer. Connie Price of Fremont, regional Jaycee director, was the featured speaker for the evening.

Jernigan Murder Top Priority

Duplin County Sheriff Elwood Revelle Tuesday stated the two-week old murder of Inez Jernigan, a prominent Duplin County woman, is foremost in the department's activities.

Revelle stated, "We have to investigate every lead or clue, no matter how small. It is time-consuming, but to be certain, we must be thorough. This murder was a brutal and senseless act, and when we make an arrest, we want to be certain and not have all our work fail because of a legal technicality."

When asked if an arrest would be made soon, Revelle said, "We have eliminated some with voluntary lie detector tests, and our suspect list is narrowing. When we feel we have a case, we will present it to the grand jury. But just when I cannot say."

Mrs. Jernigan was found beaten and stabbed to death in her home north of Kenansville two weeks ago.

Inez Jernigan, 53, who lived on N.C. 11 about three miles north of Kenansville, owned Jernigan Tractor Co. in Kenansville.

Tax Valuation

Duplin County's assessed property valuation for 1981 will increase \$24,585,239 over 1980, Tax Supervisor Frank Moore reported to the county board of commissioners Monday.

He said the total valuation for tax purposes this year will be \$637,556,678.

At the present 70 cents per \$100 tax rate, the increase would bring in \$172,000 more than the \$4.3 million of 1980, he reported.

The assessed value of public utilities (railroads, bus companies, power companies, telephone companies) is \$30,015,011, up \$874,223 from 1980.

Moore said \$1,300,000 attributed to Seaboard Coast Line is in litigation. He said that valuation would bring in \$9,100.

One person appeared before the board of equalization and review to protest the \$27,580 valuation of a 70-acre farm. Sarah M. Lloyd said a 30-acre pond on the farm was valued too high at \$390 per acre.

The board found there is a regulation requiring ponds to be valued at the value per acre of the lowest value cleared land on the farm.

The board took the protest under advisement.

Funds For Watershed Projects Seem Less Certain

State funding of the Limestone and Muddy Creek small watershed projects appears less certain than a few months ago, according to Kenneth Futreal, Duplin County soil conservationist.

"It's all according to whether the legislature puts some money into the small watershed fund," he added.

"If the money is put into the fund, Duplin County will get some of it, maybe not the whole \$409,000 requested from the state for the project, but some of it."

The total cost of both

projects is estimated at \$3.8 million. Of the total, the local share would be \$730,000, Duplin County is asking the state for a portion of this fund amounting to \$409,000. Futreal said, "The legislature is talking 'cut,' and we don't have any assurance it will be available."

Futreal said the county has enough money on hand to start the projects. If the state grants the full \$409,000, the work can be done in three years. If smaller amounts are granted by the state, the work could take up to six years.

The projects stand to lose their federal backing if state and local funding is not provided.

Futreal said the survey of the projects has been completed and engineers are working up the designs. The first work would be to clear and snag channels and dig pilot channels through about eight miles in each of the projects. This initial phase would be from N.C. 41 to Northeast Cape Fear River near Hallsville on the Muddy Creek and from N.C. 24 to the Northeast Cape Fear River near Chinquapin on the

Limestone Creek project.

Machinery to do the work could be in place by July or August if the financial arrangements can be completed, Futreal said.

Land use measures are being established by farmers along the stream channels to prevent or reduce future soil erosion into the streams. Erosion of farm land and debris from nearly 300 years of logging operations have filled the channels, blocking normal drainage and causing flooding of fields and forests in the area.



DUPLIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LENA EDWARDS is shown with Safety

Council President W.M. Garmon, left, and Elmer Burt, secretary-treasurer of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation.

Duplin Farm Bureau Women Win Top Award

The Duplin County Farm Bureau Women's Committee has won a top award from the N.C. Safety Council. The award was presented during special ceremonies at the annual awards luncheon April 24.

The committee was cited for the year-long contest they sponsored for all 4-H members in the county. The club awarded three prizes in October to the clubs which had conducted the best

safety program during the year. The club also continued their promotion of railroad safety, safety against theft, pesticide safety and home safety.

The NCSC presents 19 awards annually through its home and community safety awards program. The N.C. Farm Bureau sponsors the award, which was a com-

munity group award.

The council is an incorporated, non-profit organization created in 1960 by a group of community leaders, physicians and representa-

tives of public agencies to promote safety programs and activities. The council's activities are financed by dues through individual, group and agency memberships.

James Sprunt Forums Examine Liberal And Conservative Views; U.S. Foreign Policy

How does the Soviet Union see the U.S.?

Can the U.S. be truly independent of other nations?

How do liberals and conservatives propose to solve America's problems?

The remaining forums of the James Sprunt Technical College forum series, "America: Where Is It Going?" will explore these questions. Forums will be held May 7, 12, 14 and are free and open to the public. The forums will be held in the Hoffer building auditorium on the campus of James Sprunt from 7:30-9 p.m. James Sprunt is sponsoring the series with the assistance of a grant from the N.C. Humanities Committee, a program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

On Thursday, May 7, Dr. Claude H. Farrell, an economist at UNC-Wilmington, and Lewis Pitts Jr., a lawyer active in energy issues, will examine the role energy plays in America's future. Pitts will speak on the topic, "Nuclear Energy Causes More Problems Than It Solves" and Dr. Farrell will speak on the topic, "Energy and Prosperity."

On Tuesday, May 12, Dr. E. Willis Brooks, historian at UNC-Chapel Hill and Dr. Dean A. Minix, a political scientist at Campbell University, will examine America's role in a changing world.

Dr. Brooks will speak on the topic, "The United States and the Soviet Union: How They View Each Other," and Dr. Minix will speak on "Spiderwebs and World Politics: The United States in an Interdependent World."

On Thursday, May 14, Dr. Lawrence Goodwyn, historian at Duke University, and Dr. Joel Schwartz, a political scientist at UNC-Chapel Hill, will ex-

plore the topic, "Liberal and Conservative Visions of America: Past, Present and Future." Dr. Goodwyn will speak on "The Life and Times of American Liberalism - Triumphs and Fail-

ures." Dr. Schwartz will speak on "Conservatism: America's Salvation?"

At each forum members of the audience are invited to pose questions to the speakers or offer comments.

Rotary Student Of The Month

Gerald Barden has been selected as the April Student of the month by the Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary Club.

Barden, a James Kenan senior, ranks sixth in his class. Some of his activities include serving as secretary for the Future Farmers of America, 4-H president, class treasurer and he is an annual staff member.

During his junior year, Barden attended the Blair Summer School for Journalism and won a \$1,000 scholarship. He was an East Carolina University regional mathematics contest participant, attended N.C. State Minority Day, and was first runner-up at the EMC Washington Youth Tour.

Barden served as a marshal, is a member of Who's Who, and is president of the National Honor Society. A member of the NAACP, Barden is the junior choir



TO SPEAK AT MAY 12TH SESSION - Dean A. Minix of Campbell University will be featured with Dr. E. Willis Brooks at the third meeting of the James Sprunt Technical College forum series "America: Where Is It Going?" Dr. Minix and Dr. Brooks will examine the topic, "America's Role In A Changing World."



Gerald Barden

president and musician at First Baptist Church of Kenansville. The son of Mrs. Alberta Barden of Kenansville, Barden plans to pursue a degree in a health-related field at either UNC-Chapel Hill or Virginia