

# Duplin Times

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## Verdict is Guilty in Landmark Death Case

A Duplin County man was found guilty of manslaughter last week after his wife testified against him in a shooting death.

District Attorney Dewey Hudson had said it was the first case in North Carolina involving a spouse testifying against a spouse. That was allowed under an April 7 ruling by the N.C. Court of Appeals.

Superior Court Judge Napoleon B. Barefoot of Wilmington sentenced defendant George Dewitt to 15-18 years in prison. He will be eligible for parole after serving four years.

Dewitt has been charged with second-degree murder

in the shooting Jan. 13 of Freddie Lee Neal outside Dewitt's home in Kings Court subdivision outside Warsaw.

Mrs. Dewitt testified that Neal had come to their home after her husband accused her of seeing Neal and confronted her with long-distance telephone bills from their home to Neal's office.

A deputy sheriff told the court that Dewitt called him and said he had shot Neal.

Mrs. Dewitt had testified that a rifle-carrying Dewitt took Neal outside the home following a "discussion," not an argument. Later, she said, she heard three shots.

According to the earlier testimony of a pathologist, Neal died from a wound in the back by a .22-caliber bullet.

While he sat in the room talking with Neal, Dewitt testified, Neal and his wife were laughing at him. His

wife insulted him in front of Neal, Dewitt said.

As the two men were going outside, Dewitt said, he stumbled and the rifle discharged twice accidentally.

Voluntary manslaughter is the unlawful killing of a human being without malice in the heat of passion, Judge Barefoot said.



DEDICATION CEREMONIES for the new CPCA and FLBA of Kenansville were held May 21 at 3 p.m. Pictured above, C.W.S. Horne, president of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank and FLB in Columbia, spoke to a

huge crowd on the "more efficient service" the new facility will provide to area farmers. Also pictured are John Peterson, Arthur Kennedy, Roy A. Houston, John A. Smith and other dignitaries.

## Still No Arrest in Jernigan Case

Sheriff Revelle reaffirmed there is one prime suspect in the Inez Jernigan murder case, and he is not from Duplin County. He refused to give further information at

press-time Tuesday.

There has been no arrest in the murder of the prominent Kenansville businesswoman who owned Jernigan Tractor Company. She was

brutally killed by crushing blows to the head. She was also stabbed and found dead in her home about three miles north of Kenansville over a month ago.

## Democratic Chief Criticizes Clark

The chairman of the Duplin County Democratic Party is criticizing state Rep. Douglas A. Clark for backing a new six-county state House "superdistrict" against the wishes of county Democrats.

Party Chairman Melvin G. Williams, in letters last week to all county elected officials and party executive committee members, urged those officials to call Clark at home personally this past weekend to complain about creating the new district.

He said the county Democratic convention passed a resolution "strongly opposing" putting Duplin County in a six-county district with Columbus, Brunswick,

Bladen, Pender and Sampson counties. The resolution, one of the major acts of the convention, called for a one- or two-county district with Jones, Sampson or Lenoir in that order of preference, the letter said.

Legislators from all six counties have backed creating the "superdistrict."

Duplin is now in the 10th House district, a one-county district with one legislator.

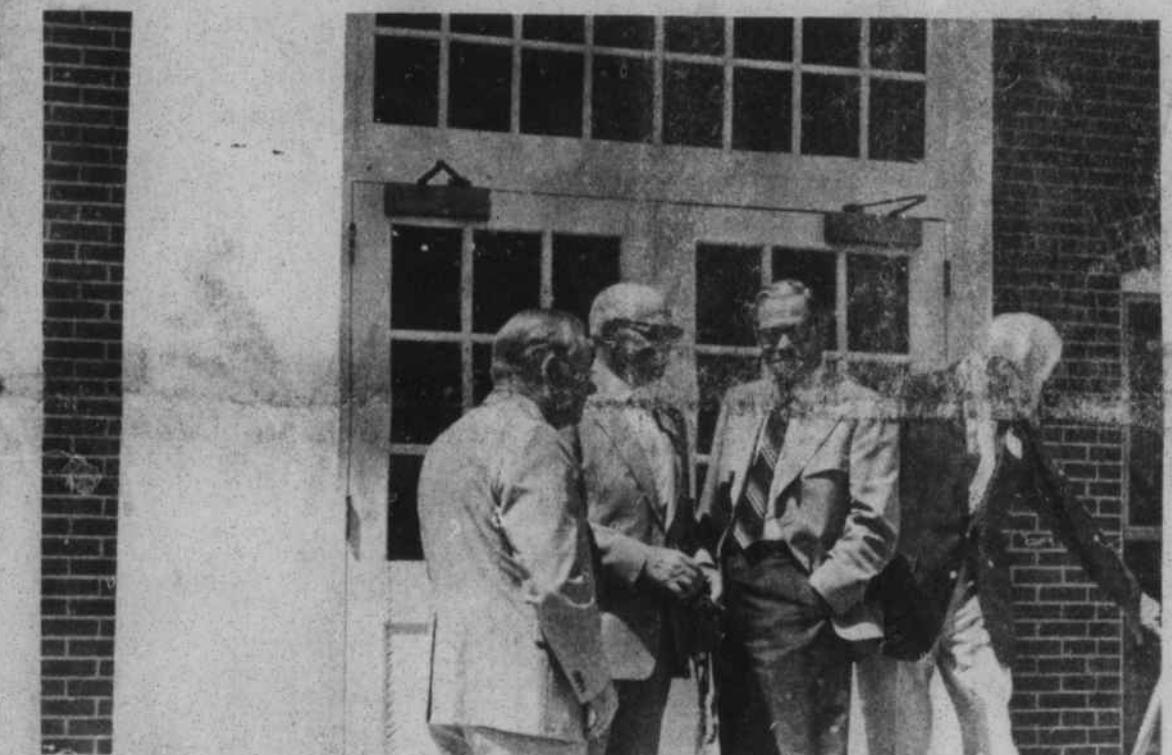
Williams' letter complained that Rep. Daniel T. Lilley, D-Lenoir, chairman of the state House re-districting committee, told him the General Assembly cannot put Duplin County in a one- or two-county House district

while Clark backs a six-county district.

"His actions in Raleigh are diametrically opposed to the express wishes of the Democrats of Duplin County," Williams said of Clark in the letter.

"The six-county district could easily mean that Duplin will not have anybody in the legislature for the next 10 years," the letter said. "This is especially true because the counties in the southern part of this district have a history of sticking together closely in elections."

Clark's home telephone is 296-9383. His home address is Box 237, Kenansville, NC 28349.



GARLAND KING, ARTHUR KENNEDY, DEWITT CARR AND JOHN PETERSON performed the ribbon-cutting

during open house and dedication ceremonies of the new CPCA and FLBA building in Kenansville May 21.

## Kenansville PCA and FLB Open House, Ribbon Cutting

By Joni Nethercutt

"This new facility will be of greatest service. The merger of these two huge financial interests, Coastal Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank of Kenansville, will provide farmers more efficiently with their credit needs," said C.W.S. Horne, president of FLB and Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia, S.C. in a telephone interview with DUPLIN TIMES.

Horne was the featured speaker Thursday at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Coastal PCA and

FLBA of Kenansville.

A huge crowd was present during the ceremony. The new facility was open for public viewing from 1-5 p.m. with the ribbon-cutting at 3 p.m.

Garland King, a Duplin native who was the first general manager of PCA, which began in Duplin in 1934, reflected that he wrote the first loan application in Duplin County for \$64,000. He commented that since then, PCA has undergone "phenomenal growth" over the past several years. He delivered the invocation.

Tom Morgan, regional vice

president of FLB and Federal Intermediate Credit Bank in Columbia, said that at the present, the amount of money the two associations (FLB and PCA) have loaned to farmers in this area is \$175 million.

Morgan stated that "Duplin County is the largest agricultural county in the state" and that it is "appropriate to have a building of this stature." "We are proud to work with the local associations to build such as this new facility," added Morgan.

Morgan went on to say

that "we look forward to continued service to the farmers of this area and with this new facility, will be more efficient in serving those farmers."

During the dedication ceremony, Roy A. Houston, president of Coastal PCA, and John A. Smith, president of FLBA, were presented commemorative keys.

The annual stockholders' meeting of CPCA and FLBA of Kenansville was held later in the evening with entertainment provided by Charlie Albertson and the Swingmasters. Slim Short presided over the meeting at Kenan Memorial Auditorium.

## Stroud Dekalb Award Recipient



dent can receive on a local level.

While attending James Kenan, Stroud has been a member of the Future Farmers of America for four

years, a Federation delegate, and has attended many face-to-face contests. His agricultural program consists of corn, soybeans, tobacco and cattle.

Stroud is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clara Stroud of Kenansville. Upon graduation from James Kenan, he plans to continue his work on the farm, and possibly enter into the mechanical field.

## Dixon S. Hall Scholarship



The James Sprunt Technical College scholarship committee met May 14 in the board room of the McGowan Building. The purpose of the meeting was to select a recipient of the Dixon S. Hall Scholarship.

The scholarship was awarded to Miss Debra Hall, a senior at East Duplin High School. Debra is a member of

the Business Education Society, Student Government Association, Math Club and Spanish Club; treasurer and president for the National Honor Society. She is a member of her church choir and secretary of Sunband Class. Debra has received a typewriting award, and excellence in Spanish award. Other scholastic honors received are outstanding senior, honor roll, marshal,

and alternate for EMC Seminar. Her hobbies include singing, reading and working with children.

Debra will enter James Sprunt Technical College in the fall to major in executive secretary. Debra is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvanus Hall of Beulaville, according to Donna S. Thigpen, chairman of the scholarship committee.

## Cable Contract Awarded in Magnolia

The Magnolia town board awarded a cable television franchise to Clear-Tel of Hope Mills last week.

The firm will provide 18 channels of programming, according to the franchise agreement. Fourteen channels will be offered for \$9.50 per month. Four movie channels will be available for additional fees.

The town will receive 5 percent of gross receipts. Gerald Michaux of the

company said the town has 270 homes. If 50 percent are connected to the cable, the city should receive about \$1,000 a year, he added.

Two new board members, Clifton Chestnutt and Charles Bowman, attended their first meeting as members. They were appointed last month to succeed Commissioner Melvin Pope, who was named mayor, and Commissioner Hubert Lee Howard, who resigned.

Calypso native, Dr. James Royall Lambert, will become the fifth physician at the Mount Olive Family Center when he joins the practice on August 1st of this year.

Dr. Lambert attended Duplin High School and Mount Olive College where he graduated with honors. He graduated from Wake Forest University magna cum laude and then attended

medical school at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem. Dr. Lambert is completing his third year of post graduate training in family medicine at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

Family practice residencies for Dr. Lambert consist of extensive training in internal medicine, pediatrics, emergency medicine, family dynamics and other medical

sub-specialties. He has particular interest in obstetrics and has completed several rotations through the obstetrical service.

Dr. Lambert, 28, is married to the former Mary Jo Bundy of Mount Olive. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Lambert of Calypso.

Dr. Lambert has also presented a scientific exhibit in Pinehurst and in New Orleans, La., at the National

Academy of Family Physicians annual meeting. The presentation, entitled "Clinical Applications of Aerobic Exercise," received the Outstanding Scientific Exhibit Award.

He is a member of the N.C. Medical Society, N.C. Academy of Family Physicians, and American Academy of Family Physicians.