

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Status Of Watershed Project In Limbo

The future financial status of the Limestone and Muddy Creek watershed projects in eastern Duplin County remains uncertain following the freezing of funds for all watershed project start-ups by the federal government. Most of the construction funds for the long-planned projects would come from federal watershed appropriations. "From what I have been able to find out, they're holding back about \$11 million in federal watershed funds, frozen all watershed start-ups and brought the program to a standstill all over the country," Kenneth Futreal, Duplin County soil conservationist, said last week. "We're hoping to have all the agreements ready for the

sponsors (of the two projects) to sign in August so that as soon as funds are turned loose, we'll be ready to ask for bids," Futreal added. Sponsors are the Duplin County Board of Commissioners, the county soil and water conservation district supervisors, and the Duplin Watershed Commission, composed of George Cowan, chairman, Calvin Mercer and Larry Harper. "By going ahead with the formalization and printing of agreements," Futreal said, "we will be ready to jump when and if funds are released and it is our understanding that when they are, it will be on a first come, first served basis. We want to be ready." The sponsors had hoped to call for bids on the initial

construction phases of the projects by September prior to the fund freeze. "We are able to proceed with contracting with landowners for the land treatment program on a cost sharing basis," he added. Adoption of land treatment projects designed to prevent erosion of soil into the stream channels is an integral part of the overall plan, Futreal observed. He said four contracts have been signed and about 30 other landowners have made applications. He estimated about 300 landowners will need to adopt land treatment projects. Total cost of the twin projects is estimated at about \$4.6 million, of which the federal cash outlay would be \$1.2 million. Duplin County's

share of the cost is expected to total about \$800,000. Most of the remainder of the cost is in the value of land and access rights provided free of cost by landowners. The two watersheds include about 30,000 acres of cropland in approximately a 100,000-acre area. The projects will include clearing debris from existing streams and channels and adding some drainage canals. A 130-acre recreation area including a 65-acre lake is also planned. Two hundred years of logging and farming operations have blocked drainage channels with forest debris and soil eroded from fields, creating severe water problems. The projects have been in the planning stages since 1969.



Man Killed In Hit & Run

Troopers with the State Highway Patrol were searching for a hit-and-run vehicle that killed a 21-year-old pedestrian near Kenansville early Saturday morning. William Elmer Miles III, 21, of Route 4, Mount Olive, was struck at about 4:50 a.m. on Rural Paved Road 1004, eight miles north of Kenansville, according to the patrol. The victim apparently was walking north in the south-bound lane and was struck by a vehicle headed south, a patrol spokesman said. No description of the vehicle was available from the patrol Saturday.

Middleton To Resign As ECU Dean

Dr. David J. Middleton, dean of East Carolina's division of continuing education since it was established, has announced that he will resign as dean effective next Jan. 1. Although relinquishing his deanship after 19 years the university's chief administrator of continuing education and extension programs, Middleton will remain on the division's faculty as a tenured professor. During his tenure as dean, the continuing education program as expanded into a wide variety of credit and non-credit programs off-campus, reaching as many as 20,000 people annually, including businessmen, teachers, the military, commercial fishermen and others.

A native of Warsaw, and the son of Mrs. Carrie Middleton, he received his undergraduate degree at Duke University and earned the master's and PhD degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From 1958 until 1962, he was on the faculty and assistant director of extension at Appalachian State University in Boone. He was named director of extension at East Carolina in 1962, succeeding Dr. Ralph Brimley. In 1967, when the division of continuing education was established, Middleton was appointed its first dean. Middleton has held numerous state, regional and national offices in professional organizations. Included are chairman of the Southern Region of the National University Continuing Education Association (NUCEA), a member of the board of directors of NUCEA for three years and president and director of the Association of Continuing Professional Education.

He also served on the board of directors of the United Cerebral Palsy of North Carolina from 1970 to 1980, and for the last 11 years has been on the board of directors of the North Carolina Rural Fund for Development, a special project for low-income rural families. "Dr. Middleton has served the University long and well," said Dr. Robert H. Maier, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "Under Dr. Middleton's leadership, for almost two decades, the division of continuing education has delivered the University's academic programs throughout the region and even beyond. In so doing, tens of thousands of students have been given an opportunity for higher education that otherwise they would not have had. Dr. Middleton's leadership has been chiefly responsible for this accomplishment," Dr. Maier said.

School For Migrant Children Nears End

A migrant children's six-week summer school session with 71 enrollees closed at North Duplin Elementary School near Calypso Friday. The students are children of parents mostly from Texas and Florida who have worked in the area's cucumber and pepper fields for the past two months. Annie Jackson, program supervisor of the federally sponsored program, said about 80 percent of the children speak some English but not enough to get along without special help. The program covered kin-

dergarten through sixth grade. It was financed by a \$37,000 federal grant. The children have spent six to eight hours a day in the school. Principal emphasis has been on English, reading and mathematics. They have physical education, music, art and crafts activities in addition. The Duplin school food services program has provided breakfast and lunch. This has been the first summer program of its kind in the county, although other programs have been carried

out during the regular school terms when migrant workers harvest sweet potatoes and in the spring work in planting the produce crops. The migrant school includes a staff of three full-time teachers, one full-time teachers' aide, four part-time aides, two part-time bus drivers, a records clerk, a home school coordinator, a director and a part-time staff speak Spanish. Most of the students are quartered in the Faison-Calyppo area. The Employment Security

Commission assists in locating students, and the nearby Goshen Medical Center handles health problems. Duplin, Sampson, Johnston and Wayne counties have developed into a major fresh market cucumber and green pepper producing area in the early summer. The area also is one of the nation's principal sweet potato growing regions. While the migrant workers usually move on north after the pepper harvest has been completed in late July or early August, they return in the fall for the sweet potato harvest.

MARIJUANA . . . MARIJUANA . . . Sheriff's deputies uprooted more marijuana. This batch came from near Maxwell's Mill — 109 stalks fully grown and cultivated. The tops had been broken out to make the limbs spread out causing more leaves. Sheriff Elwood Revelle stated deputies are constantly pulling up plants here and there about the county. "All do not make the newspapers," Revelle stated. "This time of the year there is more homegrown than during the winter months. During the off-season, it is imported and brought in from other places. Our efforts here, locally, are no more effective than those folks in Wilmington. They discovered or captured three boatloads recently and say they are getting less than ten percent of the weed. I

see no reason to think we are doing any better. The local-grown stuff is not as strong as that imported; however, a stronger strain is being cultivated. . . One with more THC. The local marijuana is being sold for about \$250 a pound, while the imported goes as high as \$400. It takes about a double handful of the dried weed to make an ounce and an ounce makes 16 cigarettes. The law says under an ounce is a misdemeanor and over an ounce is a felony. . . Selling or manufacturing is a felony, regardless of the amount. . . The use of marijuana is growing. Youngsters are using it like we used to slip around and drink beer. It is being accepted more and more, but it is still against the law to have it or use it." Pictured, Deputy Glenn Jernigan.

High Temperatures Take Toll On Area Poultry

Sustained high temperatures and humidity have taken a toll on poultry in Southeastern North Carolina, according to two Rose Hill Poultry program operators. Losses have been spread across two months instead of over a week as they were three years ago when the poultry industry suffered heavy losses, the operators said. The total loss during

this year's long period of high humidity and heat, which started at the end of May, probably equals that of the earlier year, they said. David Hoxie of Watson's Poultry Co. of Rose Hill said that some individual growers have had severe problems. "We had one grower who had water pump problems and lost 7,000 out of 25,000 broilers before he could get

water to them. A power transformer blew out in another house and the grower lost 600 out of 10,000 birds." Overall, Hoxie said, growers have been faring reasonably well. Monday was the worst day (a week ago), he said. Numerous growers lost 2 percent to 3 percent of their birds from their older flocks.

Most houses average 12,500 broilers, he said. Larry Swanda of Nash Johnson & Sons said he didn't believe the losses so far this summer will have any effect on the broiler market. Poultrymen also pointed out poultry does not eat as well in hot weather as in cooler periods and thus requires more time to put on weight. This increases production costs.



THE LIBERTY CART'S POULTRY PERFORMER - Miss Thang, is pictured with Dick Jones of Channel 7 Television, and David Thomas, THE LIBERTY CART PRODUCTION COORDINATOR. Miss Thang made her television debut on Jones' Almanac program during a segment featur-

ing THE LIBERTY CART and historic Kenansville. For information about THE LIBERTY CART, contact David Thomas, P.O. Box 470, Kenansville, NC 28349 - (919) 196-0721. (Liberty Cart photo by Kerry Maher)

Liberty Cart Chicken Makes Television Debut

THE LIBERTY CART'S only poultry performer made her television debut recently when she appeared on a special segment of Dick Jones' Almanac program, which featured THE LIBERTY CART and historic Kenansville. Despite a reluctance to converse on the program, "Miss Thang" displayed remarkable stage presence and managed to maintain her composure in spite of several comments made regarding her moral turpitude. "Miss Thang" is the successor to several other hens who have performed in THE LIBERTY CART. Betsy, last year's animal actress, is reportedly performing on a nationwide tour, in a production which salutes the contri-

butions made by poultry to the American stage. The tour is being financed by the Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation. Although several of the former fowl performers have met untimely ends, "Miss Thang" is confident that she will survive the 1981 season if the financial condition of starving actors remains stable. Miss Thang performs as an extra in the first act and then unleashes her full range of emotions and acting artistry when she assumes the role of Dominican Hen in Act II. She rarely drops a line, and her subtle flutters and clucks have received rave reviews from audiences and critics alike. **Crash Victim** A 19-year-old Duplin County resident died Saturday night from injuries received in an early morning accident four miles south of Goldsboro. The victim, Leslie J. London of Route 1, Warsaw, was a passenger in the back seat of a car driven by King



JSTC BOARD MEMBERS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE - Three members of the James Sprunt Board of Trustees were sworn in prior to the July 23rd meeting. James F. Strickland of Warsaw took the oath of office and will begin serving his third consecutive term. Claven C. (Jack) Williams of Faison was sworn into his second term with the JSTC Board and Donna Jones of Rose Hill begins her first term. Both Williams and Strickland will fill eight-year

terms. Jones will fill the position as ex-officio board member while serving as the James Sprunt Student Government Association president. Pictured above, left to right, Register of Duplin County Deeds Christine Williams administers oaths of office to JSTC Board of Trustee members Jack Williams, James Strickland and Donna Jones. Strickland will also be serving as chairman of the board.