

Duplin Times

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Wilkins Take Oath On School Board

Duplin School Board Installs First Black

The Duplin County Board of Education installed its first black member in board history last week. Riddick Wilkins, a retired agricultural extension agent, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board.

Wilkins had previously run unsuccessfully for a position on the board and was defeated by James Strickland, a current board member.

Wilkins was nominated by the Democratic Party executive committee to replace Patricia Broadrick who resigned to move with her husband to North Dakota. Wilkins will serve the remaining three years of her term.

The board also elected board member Joe Swinson as vice chairman, a position previously held by Mrs. Broadrick.

The board quickly gave Wilkins some work to do,

assigning him to a committee with Supt. L. S. Guy and board attorney Hubert Phillips to study the problem of students who attend county schools but whose parents or guardians live outside the county.

State legislation allows the county schools to charge a fee for students whose parents live outside the county. Under an agreement with surrounding counties, Duplin does not charge the fees for students living in those nearby counties and attending Duplin schools.

The board has a problem, however, with about 295 students whose parents or guardians live outside the state. Most of those students are living with relatives in Duplin County.

School officials have decided that if a fee is to be charged, it should be \$218 per student, the amount of school money the county

spends for each student enrolled.

Guy, however, told the board he thinks many of the relatives of these students will be unable to pay the \$218 because of limited incomes. Many of the relatives, he said, receive some type of government assistance.

The committee was appointed to study whether to charge the fee for the students, how to collect the fees and other alternatives.

Potentially, failure to pay the fees could lead to expulsion of the students, but Guy indicated that option would be difficult, since expelling large numbers of students might lead to reductions in the number of teaching positions.

Swinson said he did not like the prospect of massive expulsions, either.

"When we go this route, it looks like you're punishing the child and the grand-

parent," Swinson said.

In other action, the board made some shifts in personnel.

Assistant Superintendent Alice Scott, who is now vocational director, will be shifted to assistant superintendent in charge of personnel at a salary of \$28,000 per year.

Robert C. Tart, presently assistant principal at East Duplin High School, was named to replace her as vocational director at a salary of \$20,000 per year.

Tart will remain at his present job until a replacement can be found.

Guy also told the board he plans to ask for two new teaching positions.

The board also decided to change its meeting time from 8 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. beginning at its next meeting on Nov. 3.

Jury Indicts Mt. Olive Minister For Murder

A grand jury returned a first-degree murder indictment Monday against the Rev. C. Sheldon Howard in connection with the April 21 beating and stabbing death of Inez Quinn Jernigan.

Arrestment has not been set, but is expected to be held sometime this week, said a spokesman for the district attorney's office.

Howard's attorneys, Doug Conners and E. C. Thompson, are expected to ask for a change of venue to move the trial out of Duplin County because of pre-trial publicity.

Howard, 44, pastor of

Northeast Original Free Will Baptist Church near Mount Olive, has twice been denied bail and is being held in the Duplin County Jail.

Evidence presented at a probable cause hearing Oct. 7 indicated that a \$20,000 loan made by Mrs. Jernigan, 53, to Howard would figure prominently in the state's case against Howard.

Judge Stephen M. Williamson at that hearing ruled the state's case was sufficient to present to a grand jury.

Three relatives of Mrs.

Jernigan, a Duplin County business and civic leader, said at the hearing that they were not aware of the loan until after her death. They also testified that Howard told them the day of Mrs. Jernigan's body was found, April 22 in her Kenansville home, that he had repaid the loan in cash about a month before, but did not have a receipt.

Obie Allen of Wilson, the suspect's brother-in-law, testified that Howard asked him after the slaying to say that he had lent Howard \$20,000 to repay Mrs. Jerni-

gan. Allen said that was what he originally told investigators, but he changed his story after his attorney advised him to tell the truth.

Mrs. Jernigan's estate has filed a lawsuit seeking to recover the \$20,000 plus interest from Howard, claiming the loan was made in December 1979.

Howard as said in documents filed in the suit that he paid Mrs. Jernigan \$23,000 on the evening of April 21, using money he borrowed from his brother-in-law.

60th Annual Veterans Day Celebration

The 60th annual Veterans' Celebration, with a full scheduled week of events with the parade to highlight the affair, is scheduled for Nov. 9-15 in Warsaw.

The Veterans' Celebration in Warsaw is the oldest Veterans' Celebration in America. This year's celebration will be honoring J.J. Armstrong, who was at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

Monday night starts the week off with the opening of a carnival which will remain open through Nov. 14. On schedule for Wednesday are the Veterans' Day Super

Bowl Game of Midget League Football, with the first game slated for 6 p.m.

Saturday's events begin with the parade at 11 a.m. Dennis Rogers, columnist for the Raleigh News and Observer, will serve as marshal.

Appearing in the parade will be local and professional floats. Miss Duplin County 1981 Julia Spicer, Miss North Carolina 1981 Lynn Willford.

There are scheduled to be over 100 units in this year's parade, including several high school bands and 60-75 clowns.

Arnold Jones of Warsaw,

National Guard Battalion Commander of the Wilmington district, will be recognized during Saturday's events.

A barbecue dinner will immediately follow the parade at the fire station. And from 12:30-1 p.m. there will be a gospel sing at the fire station.

The Buck Swamp Kickin' Cloggers will perform at the fire station from two until three o'clock.

There will be a National Guard static display all day Saturday behind Hardees. Also throughout the day

there will be a sidewalk sale on Front Street.

Saturday night the Jaycees are sponsoring a dance at the Armory in Warsaw with a live band. Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets will be available at the door. And at 8 p.m. in the Recreation Building, there will be a square dance.

The public is invited to a Gospel Sing at 7:30 p.m. at Kenansville Elementary School.

The annual Veterans Celebration is sponsored by the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees.

Warsaw Pedestrian Killed By Car

Bennie F. Armstrong, 28, of Warsaw, was struck by one of two cars racing Friday night on North Front Street in Warsaw. According to Warsaw police, Armstrong was apparently walking toward downtown Warsaw from his home north of Warsaw. He and two females, Darlene Futrell and Glenda Spell, were walking along Front Street beside the pavement, about 7:15 p.m. Friday night, when a 1976 Pontiac TransAm traveling in the passing lane, southbound, struck Armstrong from behind and hurled the body through the air 93 feet and six inches from the impact. Armstrong was dead at the scene.

Anthony Earl Carlton, 27, of P.O. Box 82, Bowdens, was charged with involuntary manslaughter, willful competition (racing), and driving under the influence of alcohol. He is being held in the Duplin County jail in Kenansville under \$5,700 bond.

The second racing car has not been identified.



KNOWLES ACCEPTS SCHOLARSHIP - Robert Knowles Jr. of Wallace is pictured as he accepts the J. Preston Linn and Grace Shulenburg Linn Scholarship from Margaret L. Lentz. The scholarship is awarded annually to a James Spurt

Technical College student enrolled full-time in a vocational program. Margaret Linn Lentz founded the award through the JSTC scholarship committee in memory of her parents, Grace and Preston Linn.

Knowles Receives Linn Scholarship

The James Spurt Technical College scholarship committee announce the selection of JSTC student Robert L. Knowles Jr. as the 1981-82 recipient of the J. Preston Linn and Grace Shulenburg Linn Scholarship.

The scholarship is given to pay tuition and help defray the costs of books and supplies during the school year. Qualifying students must be enrolled full-time or entering a full-time vocational program at JSTC and display an academic excellence and a

financial need. Preference is designated to Duplin County residents, but any JSTC student may apply.

Knowles is a full-time student in the electrical installation and maintenance program. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Wallace. He is a 1974 graduate of Wallace-Rose Hill High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Knowles Sr. of Wallace.

Knowles is the second recipient of the Linn Scholarship. The first presentation of the award was made in

1980. The scholarship was established by Margaret L. Lentz in memory of her parents. Mr. Linn was a pioneer in the early North Carolina textile industry and a founder of the Linn and Corriher Mills. He and his wife were very interested in the education of young people, and in honor of his work in establishing Catawba College in Salisbury, the library was named in his memory. The scholarship is awarded annually by the scholarship committee just prior to, or during the fall quarter of each school year.

Cuts In Duplin Social Services Programs

Of the 2,000 households receiving foodstamps in Duplin County, under the new rules, 12 of those families will be terminated and 287 will receive cuts, according to Social Services Director Millie Brown.

The foodstamp program in Duplin County during September cost \$217,266 and under the new rules about \$3,000 will be cut, which is less than two percent. Mrs. Brown stated that of the 287 to be receiving fewer foodstamp dollars, "some are as low as \$4 and as high as \$27. They will average about \$5 each. We were not cut as bad as we were thinking we would be. Two percent is a lot better than the 15% we were first told." The

2,000 cases include 5,965 people.

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) in Duplin County has 675 cases, of which 64 cases will be terminated under the new rules. Those being terminated are some of the step-parents and others whose wages no longer allow them to qualify. Previously income of step-parents was not taken into consideration.

Another new rule states no child will be eligible for AFDC after their 18th birthday unless they are in school and will graduate prior to their 19th birthday. Previously children 19 and 20 years old still in school were considered qualified. Also, there are 40 cases "set-aside" that will be looked at

in December. The "set-aside" or "30 and one-third disregard" concerns working parents receiving AFDC. As an example, a working mother who makes \$380 per month and has a small child in day care. If she were making \$381 a month, she would not be qualified. \$381 is the cut-off amount for a family of two. Paying a maximum of \$160 for child care and \$75 for uniforms, etc., will make her eligible for \$90 from AFDC for four months. If she continues to work, she will receive no AFDC payments. She cannot be eligible for 12 months after the termination date. If she has no income at all, the most she could receive would be \$167.

Under both examples of

working or non-working, the mother and child would also be eligible for foodstamps (working, just a few) as well as Medicaid.

The AFDC budget in Duplin County is \$1,388,000 for 1981-82. Savings under the new rules would amount to \$114,312. The AFDC funds are made up of 16% county taxes, 67% federal, and 17% state taxes. (It should be noted these figures in no way take into consideration payments such as child support made by either parent.) Nor do the new rules lighten any responsibility of a parent to support his or her offspring. Disappearing parents will still be tracked down under the "D" program and made to support their children.

Million Dollar Housing Project For Wallace

Plans were disclosed Thursday night in Wallace for a town house complex to be built in the northeast section of town on Murray Street, one block east of the railroad. Mrs. Elaine Johnson of R.C.A. Realty will be the exclusive sales

agent. The units will be in clusters of eight, all slightly different in frontal appearance.

The price is expected to begin at \$38,000. Forty one and two bedroom units are planned. Local financing will be available.

The Wallace town board gave approval to the concept providing the town attorney, Richard Burrows says all is O.K. A special use permit is needed for variance from the town ordinances which do not allow multi-family dwellings in a residential area.

The Wallace planning board also endorsed the concept. A public hearing on the matter will be announced later.

The concept is similar to a condominium with the exception that each unit is individually owned. In condos, no one person owns any one part — it is mutually owned.