

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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## Cowan Museum Dedicated

The Jo Ann Cowan Brown Museum collection was formally presented to Duplin County and dedicated Sunday afternoon in the county agricultural building in Kenansville.

Containing more than 1,100 antique items, featuring farm and home utensils of the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as appliances of the early 1900s, the collection was given to the county by George and Ila Cowan of Route 2, Beaulville, in memory of their late daughter, who died in 1973 as the result of an automobile accident.

Housed during its early years in the Cowan home and farm outbuildings, the collection was moved during late summer and fall to its present location on the ground floor of the county agricultural building. The ceremony and open house were held there.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays. On most days, Cowan will be around to describe the use of various tools and appliances and their history for visitors.

Some of the items came from Europe, while others were made in the American colonies and the United States.

Among unusual items are a Sterling hot air engine and an 18th-century bleeding knife once used by doctors to drain "impurities" from patients.

Another interesting item is a 125-year-old fly chaser with strips of cloth or paper suspended from a horizontal arm extending outward from a balanced pole which spins. Cowan said window screens were unknown in earlier times.

Other useful devices from "the good old days" are a whale oil lamp with narrow tubes with caps which could be closed to eliminate the unpleasant burned oil smell

and a portable flax wheel that could be disassembled quickly by removing the wooden pegs which hold it together. The flax wheel dates to 1827.

Kitchen and farm tools include an array of axes and hatchets, saws and planes for working wood, and roasting spits, including one that turns the roast. A butter churn and an 1857 Wheeler-Wilson sewing machine are other home conveniences.

For entertainment during the early 20th century, folks might have used the 1903 Edison phonograph, which cost about \$10 at that time. Cowan said many new owners paid for their musical fun by playing requests and charging a five-cent listening fee.

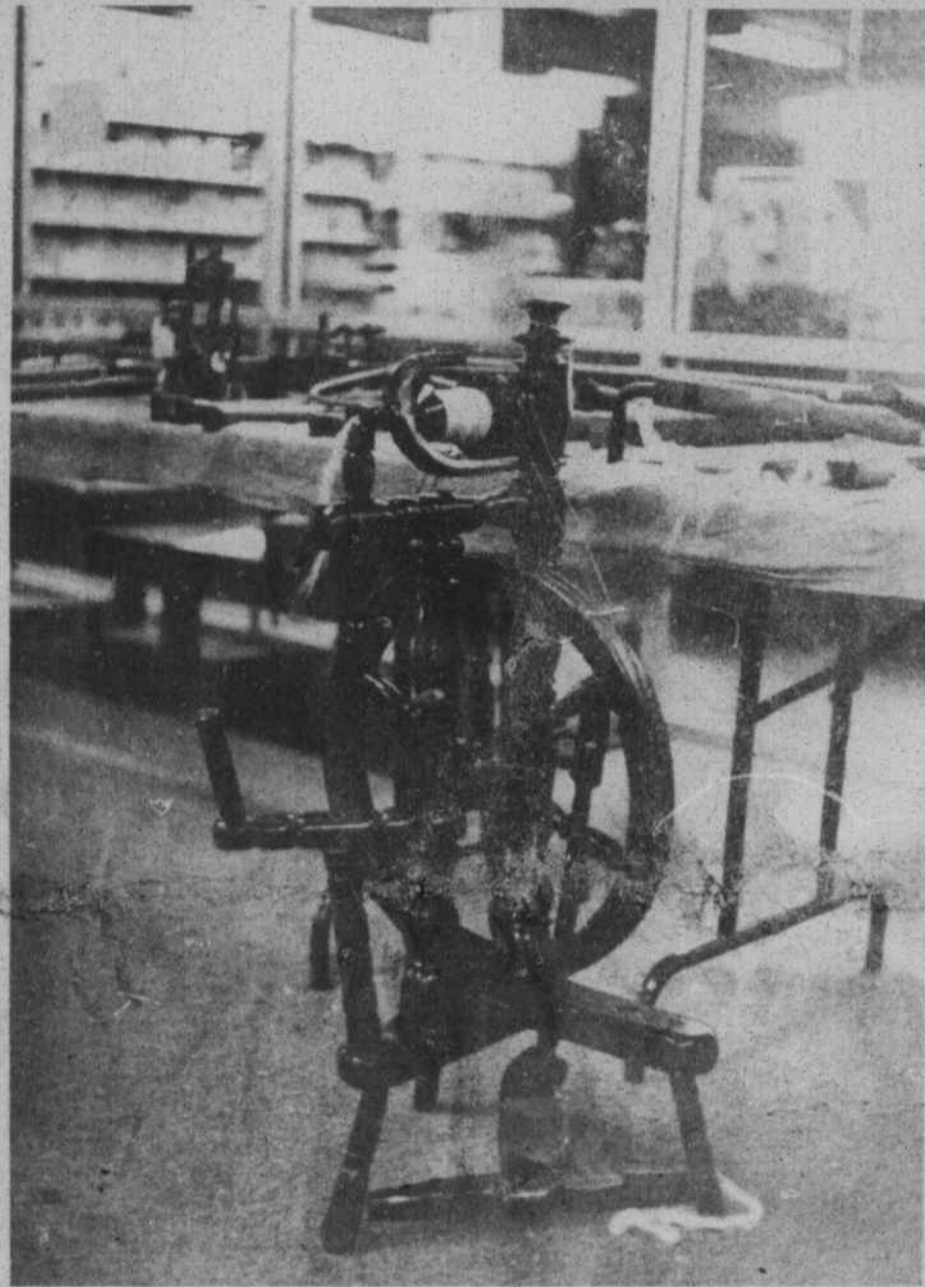
The collection includes a 1913 Edison phonograph and several 1920s model radios, among which is an Atwater-Kent, one of the most popular sets of its day.

The Cowans assembled the collection over an eight-year period, traveling more than 300,000 miles and visiting collectors and families throughout most of the eastern United States in the process.

Cowan farmed most of his life. The family still lives on its farm in the southeastern corner of Duplin County.

Cowan was the first contract broiler grower in Duplin County, a pioneer in the area poultry industry that is now the bulwark of Duplin County economy. While Cowan's poultry houses were crushed under the weight of the 30-inch snow fall of March 1979, his son continues to grow poultry nearby.

Cowan is chairman of the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service committee, a member of the Limestone-Muddy Creek Watershed projects committee and a former member of the Duplin County Soil and Water District board of supervisors.



GEORGE COWAN MUSEUM - large display of tools, household items and many other antiques such as the spinning wheel pictured, are on display at the Cowan Museum.



ART EXHIBIT - Alma Whaley Anderson, left, was reared on a farm near Kenansville, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Whaley. In 1935 she married Norman Anderson from Warsaw and they soon settled in Mount Olive where they have continued to reside. She never painted until 1963 when their only child was claimed by a short illness and she enrolled in art and ceramics classes in Mount Olive, sponsored by Wayne Community College, to provide some creativity in bereavement. Mrs. Anderson's paintings and ceramics have provided

enjoyment for her family and friends and have been exhibited in several places in Wayne County. She is the sister of Mrs. Christine W. Williams, Duplin register of deeds, and Milton J. Whaley, Chief Air Force Warrant Officer, retired, of Portsmouth, Va. Her exhibits in the Duplin Registry during the month of November are for the enjoyment of Duplin Countians visiting the office during November, and are being exhibited in cooperation with the Duplin County Arts Council. Shown, right, is Mary Gardner of the Arts Council.

## 4-H'ers And Leaders Recognized At Duplin Annual 4-H Day

Over 200 4-H'ers, leaders, parents and friends gathered in Kenan Auditorium Nov. 3rd for the 1981 Duplin County 4-H awards and exhibit program. Presiding was Cece Williams, president of the county 4-H Council. Pledges were led by Ralph Britt, vice president of the council, followed by Rene Leverett, secretary, who gave the "thought for the day." Coolidge Turner, vice chairman of the board of commissioners, gave the greetings.

During the awards ceremony, Rose Swain, president of the leaders association, recognized Riddick E. Wilkins as the 1981 Outstanding Citizen as chosen by the county 4-H clubs.

Mrs. Daphne Ezzell presented the health and personal development awards on behalf of the Duplin TB and LD Society. Winners in the junior division were Angie Hood of the New Horizons 4-H Club and Pam Kelly of the Deca 4-H Club. Senior winners were Rayshelia James of the Wallace 4-H Club and Renee Leverett of the Deca 4-H Club.

Safety awards were presented by Bill Costin on behalf of the county Farm Bureau. The club award was presented to the Teachey 4-H Club. In the individual 4-H safety contest, Jackie Moore of the Stanford 4-H Club was the runner-up and Eleanor Wade of the Wallace 4-H Club, received first place award.

Grey Morgan, vice president of Federal Land Bank, presented the outstanding leader awards. Chosen as 1982 outstanding leaders were Mrs. Rose Swain of the New Horizons 4-H Club and Mrs. Ruby Brinson of the Stanford 4-H Club.

The awards for outstanding 4-H'ers were presented by Robert Waller, assistant vice-president of Coastal Production Credit Association, to Juniors - Roxane Pearsall and Pam Kelly, both from the Deca 4-H Club, and Seniors -

Ralph Britt of the Oak Ridge 4-H Club, Cece Williams, member-at-large, and Veronica Williams of the Deca 4-H Club.

Four 4-H'ers who had done outstanding work in their projects were presented medals by their leaders.

County champion certificates and scholarships were awarded to 12 for their work in their long-time records. They were: Roxane Pearsall, Charles Denning, Arthur Hall, Bernard Hall, Lita Fennell, Thevesa Fennell, Ralph Britt, Cece Williams, Wanda Batts, Lauri Swain, Amy West and Veronica Williams. A statewide 4-H award was also presented to the Wallace 4-H Club for their participation in the N.C. Youth Looks at Aging contest.

In the area of exhibits, the New Horizons 4-H Club received the award for most and best exhibits by a club

and were one of two clubs, along with Deca 4-H Club, with 200 or more exhibits. In individual competition for most and best exhibits, junior winners were Laurie Swain and Angie Hood of the New Horizons 4-H Club, and Vicaria Moore of the FYC 4-H Club. Senior winners were Joel Denning of the Warsaw-Shamrock 4-H Club and Rodney Knowles of the Wallace 4-H Club.

Chosen as overall winner for most and best exhibits was Amy West of the New Horizons 4-H Club. Overall, Duplin County members displayed almost 1,200 exhibits including fresh vegetables, clothing, canned and baked goods, crafts and science items.

### Whitley Mobile Office In Duplin

Congressman Charlie Whitley's Third District mobile office will be visiting in the county Thursday, Nov. 19. Rodney Knowles of the Congressman's staff will be manning the office and be available to anyone having matters they wish brought to his attention. The mobile office will be at Wallace in the Rockfish Plaza Parking Lot from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. and in Kenansville at the old Kenansville Elementary School Parking lot from 11 a.m. until noon. The schedule is subject to prevailing weather conditions affecting travel.

## Duplin To Match Grant For Remodeling Senior Citizen's Center

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners tentatively approved a switch of \$3,000 from salaries in the county aging and nutrition department to match a state grant for completion of remodeling in the senior citizens' multi-purpose building in Kenansville last week.

Walter Brown, department director, informed the board he had been promised \$6,000 from the division of aging in the Department of Human Resources if the county would provide \$3,000 as a matching fund.

The salary fund became available because a department position was not filled after an employee resigned earlier this year.

The construction and remodeling project included adding 2,100 square feet of space and renovating the existing structure, originally built as a jail and used for offices for many years. The social security offices as well as those for the aging and nutrition agency and the nutrition program kitchen are housed in the structure.

Brown said plans call for making use of the building seven days a week.

Cost of the project is estimated at \$61,000 for ma-

terials. Most of the labor has been donated. Completion is expected Dec. 1.

Tax Supervisor Frank Moore informed the board the assessed valuation of personal and real property and utilities is \$645 million, up from \$616 million in 1980. He said real estate makes up 65 percent of the total or about \$400 million. He said the wholesale value of farm equipment will be used in tax listing instead of retail value as in the past. The wholesale value has been used for automobile listing value for several years.

Hogs will be listed at 20 cents a pound, beef cattle at 30 cents a pound. Milk cows are valued at \$200 and mules from \$50 to \$100. Laying hens will be valued at 50 cents each, broilers at 20 cents each and turkeys at 80 cents. Bees will be valued at \$2 per hive, goats at \$2 each and milking goats at \$20.

The board appointed Billie Hollingsworth to succeed Helen Britt on the hospital board of trustees. Both are from Faison.

Also appointed to the Duplin Hospital Board was Tom Davidson, who will succeed Willie Biggs. Both men are from Wallace.

## Murder Trial To Be Moved Out Of District

The murder trial of Rev. C. Sheldon Howard, charged in the beating and stabbing death of Inez Quinn Jernigan, will not be held here or anywhere else in the Fourth Judicial District, a Superior County judge ruled Thursday in Kenansville.

Citing extensive pretrial publicity, Judge Henry L. Stevens approved a defense motion to move the trial outside the Fourth District, which includes Duplin,

Onslow, Sampson and Jones counties. Stevens is expected to announce the alternate location.

The case has attracted wide attention since Howard was arrested earlier in the lobby of a movie theater. Howard, 44, is pastor of Northeast Original Free Will Baptist Church near Mount Olive. He is charged in the April 21 slaying of Mrs. Jernigan, 53, a prominent Duplin County business and

civic leader. According to evidence presented at a probable cause hearing Oct. 7, Mrs. Jernigan had loaned Howard \$20,000 in December 1979 and payment was due on the day she was killed.

Howard, however, maintains that he repaid the loan using money he borrowed from his brother-in-law. His brother-in-law denies that claim.

## Housing Work Contract Awarded In Kenansville

Kenansville's town board last week selected a Goldsboro firm to oversee a grant of \$471,800 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The grant was received last month for low income family housing rehabilitation. The administrative contract for handling the bidding, paperwork and records of the project, as well as supervision of the work, went to McDavid Associates of Goldsboro on a bid of \$50,900.

The project will affect 48 families living in the north-

west portion of Kenansville.

As scheduled, 38 homes will be rehabilitated or demolished with the grant money. Ten mobile homes will be upgraded. Two block-long streets will be paved. Drainage and water lines will be extended to 10 homes and sewer lines to six homes.

Woody Brinson, community grants consultant with McDavid Associates, said bids for the work will be gathered as soon as arrangements can be completed. Application for the grant was made 10 months ago, he

said. In other board action: — The board will hold a special meeting Nov. 25 to open bids for building tennis courts at the municipal park.

— The board approved payment of a \$779 insurance premium for the concession stand and lights at the municipal park for the next 12 months.

— Town ABC Store Manager Ivy Bowden reported a gain of \$12,131 in ABC store sales during the past four months compared with the same period last year.