

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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## Case Delayed, Howard Returned To Raleigh

The Rev. Sheldon Howard, convicted of murdering Kenansville native Inez Quinn Jernigan in April, 1981, was returned to Raleigh last Friday after being brought to Kenansville to stand trial in civil court.

The trial, which was scheduled for Wednesday, June 2, involved the \$20,000 loan Howard supposedly owed Mrs. Jernigan at the time of her murder. Charges are being brought against Howard by Mary J. Williamson, Mrs. Jernigan's daughter and executrix of her estate. Although he pled guilty to second-degree murder last November, Howard denied owing Mrs. Jernigan the money. He stated that he had paid back the loan, but did not have a receipt.

Apparently the civil case was called off Tuesday while Howard was still enroute to Kenansville. Douglas P. Connor, Howard's lawyer, filed a motion early in the week to withdraw as counsel to the defendant. The motion was approved, leaving Howard without legal representation.

When contacted at his office in Mt. Olive, Connor declined to comment on his decision not to represent Howard in the civil case, saying only that "the public record speaks for itself."



**SCHOOL DAYS** - Despite the 50 years that have passed since these former students attended Kenansville High School together, most were present to enjoy their 50th and 51st high school reunion Saturday afternoon. Twenty-eight members of the classes of '31 and '32, along with family members and three former teachers, ate lunch at the Graham House Inn and then toured the Cowan Museum, Liberty Hall, the spring and the amphitheatre. CLASS OF '31: Row one left to right: Louise Wells Mitchell, Kenansville; Doris Newton Sitterson, Kenansville; Elizabeth Grady Frasca, Indian Harbor Beach, Fla.; Tina Scott, Rose Hill; and Blanche King, 5th grade teacher, Troy, Row two: Coral Williamson Miller, Fayetteville; Reba Pickett Greene, Wilmington; Berna Bland Bostic, Kenansville; Felton Rackley, Rose Hill; Amos Brinson, Kenansville; and Christine Whaley Williamson, Pink Hill. CLASS OF '32: Row three: James Dobson, Kinston; Margaret Yarbrough, Greensboro; Milton Whaley, Portsmouth, Va.; Inez Brown Chestnutt, Kenansville; Jim Grady, Mount Olive. Not pictured Elizabeth Ferrell, 7th grade teacher, Magnolia; and William B. Murray, Jr., Class of '31.

received scholarships. Valedictorian was Gary Ray Brock, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Brock of Faison. Salutatorian was Kenneth Lee Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Davis of Calypso.

## Dozens Of Seniors To Join Military Service

Fifty-two graduating seniors from three Duplin County high schools plan to enter U.S. Military service, according to reports of school guidance counselors.

The 52 seniors were from East Duplin, North Duplin and James Kenan high schools. Plans of Wallace-Rose Hill High School graduates were unavailable. The four Duplin high schools held graduation ceremonies Friday night for 548 seniors.

Ninety of the graduates plan to attend four-year colleges, 54 to attend two-year schools, 26 to join the military and 60 to seek local jobs. Sixteen of the graduates received scholarships.

East Duplin's valedictorian was Judith Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jarman Taylor of Deep Run. Salutatorian was Malcolm Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Jones of Chinquapin.

## Wallace Board Receives Budget

The Wallace town board received the 1982-83 fiscal year budget recommendation of \$1,137,530 from Steve Routh, town administrator, at a special meeting last week. The recommendation is approximately \$150,000 less than the current budget.

Despite the proposed reduction, the budget recommends retaining the 67 cents per \$100 assessed valuation ad valorem tax rate because of lower anticipated revenue in the 1982-83 fiscal year.

The proposed budget calls for \$262,129 for the water and sewer departments compared with \$380,355 budgeted a year ago. The departments will use an estimated \$292,797 during the current fiscal year. All of the

decrease appears in the water department which is expected to use \$242,564 of the \$329,985 budgeted to it for the current fiscal year. The \$207,132 allocated for water in the 1982-83 budget proposal is \$102,853 less than the \$329,985 budgeted in June 1981. During the current fiscal year, the town has drilled a new well, Routh added.

## The Liberty Cart Announces The Liberty Tour For 1982

THE LIBERTY CART will again conduct its popular LIBERTY TOUR during the 1982 season, beginning July 9, through August 22. The tour consists of visits to over 15 historic homes and sites in Kenansville, a trip to a working winery in Rose Hill, including a wine tasting party, a visit to Liberty Hall, a restored plantation home, dinner at either The Country Squire, or The Graham House Inn, topped off by a

performance of THE LIBERTY CART on Thursday thru Sunday evening, or GODSPELL on Wednesday evenings.

The tour package is available to groups of 15 or more persons, at a cost of \$15 per person, one of the best entertainment values in any part of the country. Dinner alone, at either of the two fine restaurants included in the tour, is worth the price. Many people journey to

Kenansville just to visit Liberty Hall, browse through Cowan Museum, or attend THE LIBERTY CART. To be able to accomplish all of this in one afternoon and evening is well worth considering. You won't regret it!

## Faison Board Adopts Budget Ordinance

By Sharon Overton

With only three citizens present and no discussion in opposition to the proposal, the Faison Town Board unanimously approved its budget ordinance for the 1982-83 fiscal year last Wednesday night.

The total budget is \$311,771, which represents a \$17,017 increase over last year's budget.

The board also passed a second ordinance of resolution concerning the recreation committee. The resolution abolishes the existing committee and provides for a recreation commission to

take its place. The decision to dissolve the former recreation committee stems partly from the failure of several of its members to cooperate with the town in its investigation of alleged misuse of funds within the recreation department.



**LIBERTY HALL RECEIVES GIFT** - The Liberty Hall Restoration Commission honored Mr. and Mrs. George Elliott London of Raleigh at a luncheon at the Graham House Inn in Kenansville recently. Thomas S. Kenan III, chairman of the Commission, selected this occasion to officially announce the gift of the London Collection of North Carolina fine furniture made to Liberty Hall in December, 1981. This highly prized collection of southern antiques has been on loan at Liberty Hall, the ancestral home of the Kenan family in Kenansville for ten years and consists of 14 pieces. Included in this fine collection is a dining room table, grandfather clock, blanket chest, tables, slant top desk, mahogany bow-front Hepplewhite sideboard, and an early North Carolina baby's cradle. In colonial times, London's family owned plantations in Elliott near Kenansville and near Fayetteville, and some of the furniture came from these homes. In making the announcement, Kenan remarked that the association between the Kenan and London families had continued for many generations. He also stated that the value of this gift makes it one of the most significant gifts to historic preservation in North Carolina. The furniture will be permanently displayed and known as The George and Francis London Collection and will greatly enhance the beauty and historical significance of Liberty Hall.

In forming the recreation commission, the town places all fund-raising and expenditure responsibilities in the hands of commission members. The commission will also hire a new recreation director to replace Charles Lee King, who is presently under investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation. According to Faison Town Clerk H. Kelly,

"The commission is already considering several applications for the part-time position and will make a decision as soon as possible."

## Librarian Will Leave County

Roberta Williams, who supervised the Duplin County Dorothy B. Wightman Library's move into its new quarters last summer, will leave her position as county librarian in August to become head of the Brevard library in Transylvania County.

Ms. Williams became county librarian in May 1980, a coming from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she was in charge of the library periodical section.

She said the Brevard library has twice the staff and about six times the circulation of the Duplin County Library.

While not involved with the design and location of the library, Ms. Williams helped with the planning of the interior and supervised the moving of about 38,000 volumes from the crowded wing of the agricultural building where it had been located since 1965.

"We're still not 100 percent settled. We still have a few books in storage. We're just beginning to think how to best use the building in the interest of everyone," she said.

Six weeks ago she instituted a new library card system to reduce the amount of time involved in checking books in and out of the library. Each user has a number which is on the card. Ms. Williams said 869 people now have received their cards.

**New Appointments**

Charles F. Eakin has been appointed pastor of the Turkey-Friendship United Methodist Churches and Robert C. Flynn will be at The Wallace United Methodist Church. These are new appointments effective June 17th.

## Films To Begin

The Duplin County Library has scheduled three family films to be shown at its regular Wednesday Night at the Movies programs this summer.