

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVI NO. 37 USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Duplin Landfill Supervisor David Underhill Resigns

Also Supervised The County Garage And Mosquito Control Program

David Underhill, Duplin County landfill supervisor, resigned last week "for personal reasons effective immediately."

The county Board of Commissioners received his letter of resignation Tuesday. In the letter, he said he would stay on for two weeks if the board wished. The board agreed to have him remain on the job for two weeks.

In addition to his landfill duties, he is supervisor of the county garage and the mosquito control program.

Underhill, of the Rone's Chapel community, has been employed by the county for 10 years. He was the county's first and only landfill supervisor.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in the 1982 primary election.

Commissioner Allen Nethercutt said, "I hate to see

him go. He has done an outstanding job for Duplin County."

In other action:

The board decided the county would not charge its municipalities for building permits on public buildings.

The action followed the request by building inspector Brice Sanderson for direction on handling such fees.

County Attorney Russell Lanier told the board he found no statutory authority on the matter. "It's really just a matter of shifting tax moneys," he said.

Merle Creech, county arts director, reported that the videotaping of the story behind each item in the Cowan Museum is between 50 and 75 percent complete.

She said a short program on the county and museum is being taped for presentation to students in the county schools.

Tax Supervisor Frank Moore told the board that about \$2 million worth of automobiles in the county are not listed for taxes that would amount to \$18,020. He said normally 35,000 vehicles are registered in the county. About 10 percent of the total number in the county are not listed each year.

Moore said the state increased public utilities valuation in the county by \$1 million, to a total of \$31,803,000. On the basis of the county's 70 cents per \$100 tax rate, property taxes of utilities total \$222,000. He said for the third year the railroad valuation is not included as it is still under litigation.

The board decided to readvertise for bids for a front-end loader crawler tractor.

The board voted 4-1 to ask the Institute of Govern-

ment to make a county employee classification study. The study will determine if employees are being paid according to their job classifications.

"You can get ready to spend more money if this goes through because reclassification will cause everyone to get more money," Commissioner D.J. Fussell said, as he voted against the motion. Voting for it were commissioners Frank Williams, W.J. Costin, Allen Nethercutt and Calvin Turner.

Wade Carlton of Warsaw was appointed to the Duplin General Hospital board to replace Tom Hall of Warsaw, who resigned.

The board approved a resolution supporting a \$10 million industrial development loan for National Spinning Co. of Warsaw.

School Officials Seek Ways To Fix Kenansville Elementary Roof

The similarity between the leaky roof of comic strip character Snuffy Smith's mountain top home and the multi-million dollar Kenansville Elementary School building fails to amuse Duplin school officials seeking an end to the problem.

The school's roof has leaked since it was built two and one-half years ago.

Last week the Board of Education asked the architect, Herb McKim of Wilmington, to present three proposals for solving the problem at its next meeting, at 8 p.m. Sept. 21 at the school system headquarters in Kenansville.

"We don't want to spend all of our maintenance money on this roof every year," Superintendent L.S. Guy said.

McKim blamed "a combination of factors" involving installation and design for the continuing trouble.

Wednesday of last week, McKim estimated repair cost at from \$8,000 to \$14,000,

depending upon which proposal the board accepts.

Work will be done at no cost to the school system, he said.

The three possibilities McKim outlines to the board were:

Spraying the present roof with an acrylic covering, the lowest in cost at an estimated \$8,000, but with a two-year guarantee.

Covering the roof with exterior grade plywood and reshingling it with a cost estimated at about \$14,000.

Removing the present shingles and laying a roof built up of several layers of felt covered by asphalt and some kind of gravel with cost estimated at about \$11,000.

"We've had two roofing consultants look at it," McKim said.

They blamed improper installation by the roofing contractor, E.L. Scott Roofing Co. of Kinston and incomplete specifications for most of the trouble, he added.

"We have contended all along that if the nailing had been properly done much of the trouble would not have happened," McKim said.

Superintendent Guy said the roofing company has attempted to end the leakage problem several times, but the roof always started leaking again after a rain.

McKim said the D.C. Virgo and College Park schools in Wilmington and New Hanover County have similar roofs that have given reasonable service.

The architect blamed the insulation now required under roofs and uncertain quality of the roofing felt and asphalt for most of the leakage troubles with many modern roofs in comparison with the lasting qualities of roofs on older buildings such as New Hanover High School in Wilmington.

He said the insulation creates a moisture or condensation collection point (dew point) inside the roofs instead of on top of them.

Inconsistency in quality of the asphalt now manufactured from petroleum in contrast with the now-banned coal source pitch or tar and the roofing felts, he said, leads to inconsistency in roof quality.

The coal tar pitch used on older roofs provided much better protection, but its use has been banned because the material could cause flash fires while being melted. It also could explode if foreign matter got into it, he added.

A problem also exists with the floor surface in the school gymnasium. The material contains air bubbles and sand. The air bubbles are bursting leaving the floor surface rough. The contractor, Sureflex of Virginia has refused to do anything about the problem, Guy reported.

McKim told the board he has asked the state school building plans section to declare the material unacceptable for school use in the state unless the company does something about the problem.

Cane Syrup Cooking Time



At the first hints of fall, even before the nights begin to cool, the sweet aroma of sugar cane cooking in an open copper vat (known as a kettle) tickles the senses of syrup lovers at the Sam Miller farm near Warsaw. This old and ancient art of syrup-cooking is almost a thing of the past, as there are few people remaining who take the time or have the knowledge to turn the watery cane juice into thick and tasty syrup. Cleo Atkinson is one of those folks with the know-how, even though it has been some time since he used this knowledge. "I have been busy making a living — just haven't had the time it takes in the past ten years," says Cleo. This past week found him at Sam Miller's cooking away. Miller owns the necessary equipment — the press for squeezing the juice from the cane and the copper vat for the cooking, as well as the know-how. The way it works... The cane stalks are put into the press (two metal cylinders turning with each other.) The cane juice runs into cylinders turning with each other. The cane juice runs into a cloth-covered bucket. Once the bucket is filled, it is poured into a large barrel at the cooking vat. Here again it is drained through a cloth and from the barrel it slowly runs into the cooking vat. The juice runs in the high end of the vat and slowly makes its way to the lower end where it becomes syrup.



Wallace Rejects Fountain

A request to have a public water fountain located in front of Rockfish Glass & Mirror Company was rejected by the Town Board of Commissioners last week.

Town administrator Steve Routh received a petition signed by 411 people from John Brady, a Wallace businessman, asking for the water fountain. Routh turned the petition over to Mayor Melvin Cording, who brought the matter before the board.

Commissioner Charles Blanchard, in making the

motion to reject the fountain, said, "I'm concerned that the sponsor didn't appear before us to present the names."

Other board members expressed concern about the town's liability for injuries in connection with such a fountain.

The board approved submitting a pre-application to determine the town's eligibility for an urban development action grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Duplin County development director John Gurganus

said such applications can speed action if the town finds it could encourage an industry or large business to Wallace with the help of the grant. An eligible town can apply for a grant if it has an interested industrial client that needs financial help.

If Wallace receives such a grant, it would loan the money to the company which would repay the loan with interest. The town can keep the money the company repays and use it for almost any public purpose except government buildings, Gurganus said.

Gurganus said Warsaw is seeking such a grant to loan to National Spinning Co., which has received approval from the county for industrial development bonds.

The board also accepted the bid of Sanderson Tractor & Equipment Co. of Wallace for \$6,876.42 for an Allis Chalmers 21.7-horsepower tractor with a 60-inch rotary mower.

Because of incomplete information, several agenda items were held over to a special meeting the mayor plans to call in the next two weeks.

Duplin County Agribusiness Fair Dedicated To Our Children

By Ruth Wells, Publicity Chairman

Duplin County Agribusiness Fair managers have designated opening day, Monday, Oct. 4th to honor our most valuable commodity — OUR CHILDREN.

Children will be an important part of the week-long fair as they will be entering much of the competition, like tractor-driving contests, and 4-H'ers will demonstrate their cooking skills as they show us how chicken should really be cooked.

Schools are getting together teams for brick-laying contests. Also school bands will provide entertainment throughout the week.

Each night the Duplin County Drama Club will present a one-act play. We know from their past presentations, this is a very talented group of actors and actresses. Entertaining* Monday

night in the Amphitheater will be the Green Grass Cloggers brought to us by the Duplin County Arts Council. This is a professional group that has entertained audiences throughout the United States and Canada. They are the only professional clogging group in North Carolina and have been touring full-time since 1977. They are jointly supported by a grant from the N.C. Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. We are very fortunate indeed to have this group of eight Southern Appalachian dancers known as the Green Grass Cloggers perform for us on opening night.

Tuesday night will be a very special night as the stage of the Kenan Memorial Amphitheater will be shared by four black gospel singing groups. We are very privileged to have: the choral group from Friendship Baptist Church, Wallace; the

Kenansville Male Chorus, Kenansville; The Gospelettes, Rose Hill; and the Friendship Community Male Chorus, Route 1, Kenansville.

Just as tobacco in one way or another plays an important part in the lives of all Duplinites, TOBACCO DAY will be an important part of the fair on Thursday, Oct. 7th. Slim Short, the well-known TV personality, will be our guest and will emcee tobacco-related contests and games. The Duplin County commissioners will enter the corn-shucking contest, so be sure you are present to support your commissioner.

The Spiritual Singers of Mount Olive will entertain on Friday night along with the Marshburn Sisters of Wallace.

The biggest and best day of the fair will be on Saturday when the gates open at 10 a.m. for a full day of activities. This will be POULTRY DAY. Included in the agenda

for the day will be an antique auto show, miniature airplane show, country and western bands, and barbecue chicken cooking contest. You've never really eaten until you have had chicken straight from the world's largest frying pan from Rose Hill. So plan this for your lunch.

And of course, one of the most meaningful of all events will be the Cake Auction. Over the years this auction has produced thousands of dollars to support the mentally retarded programs in our area.

A complete schedule of events will be published at a later date.

These and many more special events await you at the Duplin County Agribusiness Fair. Plan now to get your exhibits here on Monday, Oct. 4 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Remind your neighbor to bring theirs. Meet me at the Fair!

Robbery At Faison Store

Two employees of the Piggly Wiggly Store in Faison were left with their hands, feet and mouths bound with tape after an armed robbery at the store Saturday night.

The robbery took place around 10 p.m. as the store was closing. Deputy Glenn Jernigan of the Duplin Sheriff's Department reported.

The store manager told he

was called into a stock room, he was surprised by a man holding a gun and wearing gloves and a ski mask.

After forcing a second employee — the only other person in the store — into a cooker, the robber bound the

man with duct tape before forcing the manager to open a safe.

The robber then took an undetermined amount of money and bound the manager with tape before fleeing the store on foot.

Poultry Barbecue Contest At Fair

One of the special activities planned for the 1982 Duplin County Agribusiness Fair will be a barbecue chicken cooking contest sponsored by Duplin County 4-H Clubs. The contest will be part of Poultry Day, scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 9 and will begin promptly at 3 p.m.

The contest is open to all Duplin County youth ages 9-19. All contestants will be responsible for providing grills, cooking equipment and chicken. Fair ribbons will be awarded to the top three cooks. So, if you feel you're a

good backyard cook, come to the Duplin County Agribusiness Fair on Saturday, have some fun, and show folks how to barbecue those

chickens. Be sure to pull out the old family recipe and make up a batch of that good barbecue sauce before heading for Kenansville.

Those wishing to enter or who desire more information should contact Ray Rhinehart, associate extension agent, 4-H, at 296-1996.

Warsaw Fire Destroys Store

The cause, according to Steed, was electrical — the electrical panels were overloaded. "One of the reasons it was so bad was that the back door was welded shut and we couldn't get a water hose to the fire," said Steed.

Warsaw firemen were on the scene for five and one-

half hours. Assisting Warsaw were firemen from Kenansville, Rose Hill and Turkey. Three firemen were injured — one with smoke inhalation, one getting to hot, and one with a minor cut.

The building and contents were estimated near \$70,000.