The Duplin Times

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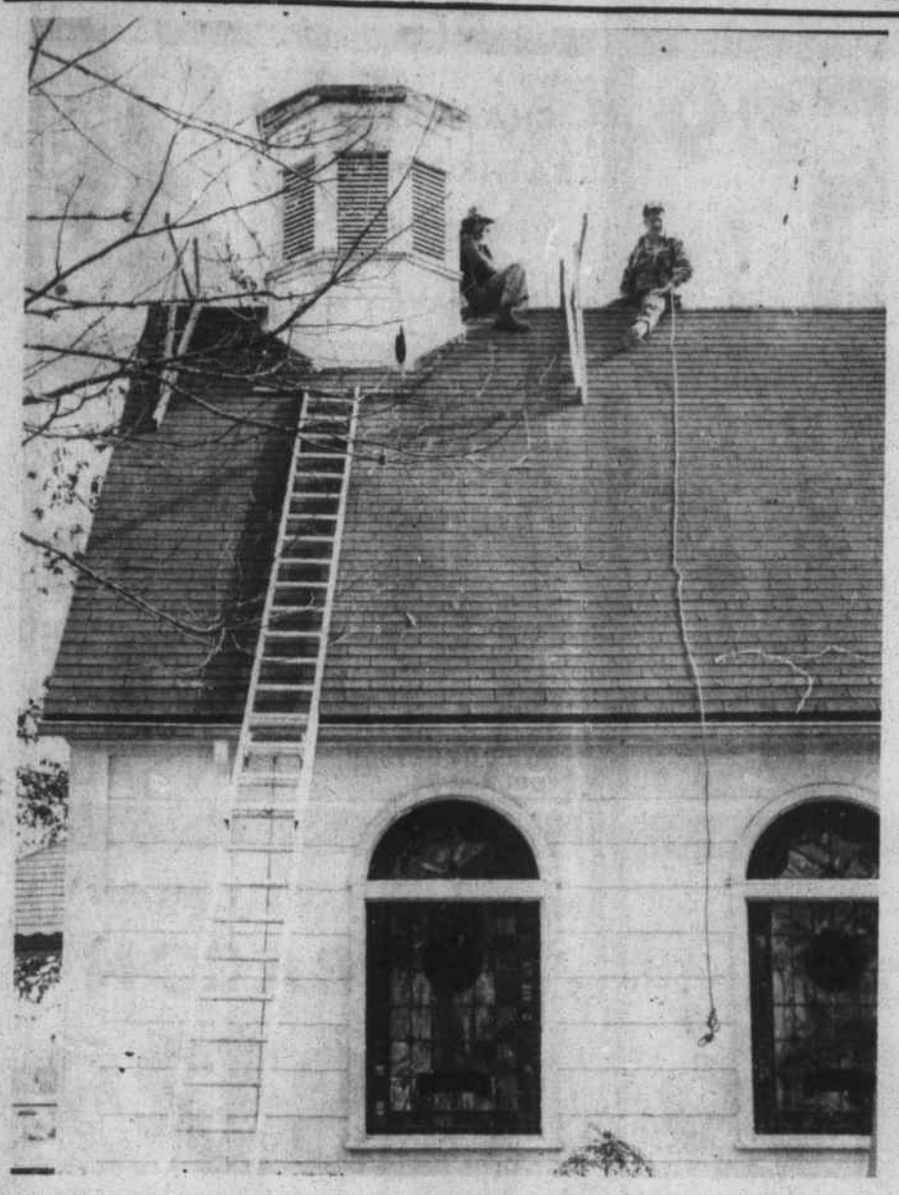

STEEPLE REPAIR - Unity United Methodist Church at Outlaw's Crossroads, three miles east of Warsaw, is having its steeple repaired. The country church was established in 1945 and the steeple was built about 1947. The wood deteriorated and the trimwork is falling from the roof. Repairmen Kenneth Holloman and his son, Carl Wayne Holloman, are building a scaffolding around the steeple for a sure-footing before beginning the work.

Kenansville Town Board Discusses What To Do About Its Tobacco Quota

The Town Board of Kenansville is moving out of the farming business.

The town owns 1,400 pounds of tobacco production quota which it acquired with some property it purchased several years ago for its utilities system. The question before the board is what action it must take to sell the quota.

It has been leasing the quota every year to tobacco farmers. This year, for the first time, tobacco production quotas can be sold off the land to farmers within the county. Previously, quotas stayed with the land. The quota could be leased within a county but could not be permanently separated from the farm of origin.

The board has been offered 70 cents a pound to lease the quota. It has been offered $3.50 a pound by a prospective buyer. Institutions and non-farm businesses that do not grow tobacco in their line of operations must either sell their tobacco quotas by the end of this year or turn them over to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for redistribution to actual growers. The ASCS administers the tobacco production control program.

The board's question is whether to lease the quota for this year and call for bids on the quota later, or to accept the $3.50 offer. It directed town attorney W.E. Craft to determine if it must call for bids on sale of the quota.

A sale must be completed by June 15 to be effective on this year's crop.

The board rezoned the Duplin County garage and James Sprunt Technical College area south of town from business to office and institutional use. The area lies within the one-mile jurisdictional area outside the town limits.

The Canal Street area along N.C. 24 east of town was rezoned to R-15 (single family residence on a 15,000-square-foot lot) from R-85 (which allows multifamily units on an 8,500-square-foot lot).

Univision Cable Television of Richlands told the board it expects to have cable television service on line in Kenansville by mid-April.

After 14 Years, Case May Come To Court

An inquiry early last month by the victim's brother revealed the case had never been tried.

A recent inquiry into the disposition of a 14-year-old manslaughter case led to the arrest last week of Marshall Hardison, 32, in Fayetteville.

The case involved a car and motorcycle crash in which a motorcyclist was killed.

Hardison is to be arraigned March 7 in Duplin County Superior Court on charges of involuntary manslaughter, driving under the influence of alcohol, and careless and reckless driving. State Bureau of Investigation Agents John Payne and Tim Batchelor arrested Hardison at his Fayetteville residence. Hardison formerly lived in Wilmington.

Hardison was held at the Duplin County Jain in Kenansville under $20,000 bond until Thursday when Judge Alex Erwin III reduced bond to $5,000. Hardison was freed on bond Thursday.

Hardison had been charged with manslaughter and exceeding the safe speed by State Trooper R.N. Johnson after the crash at 12:45 a.m. March 29, 1969, on U.S. 117 between Teachey and Rose Hill. The cyclist, John Steven Cavenaugh, 29, was killed. At that time Hardison said his residence was at 228 Englewood Drive in Wilmington.

An inquiry early last month about the disposition of the case by a victim's brother, Morris Cavenaugh of Magnolia, revealed it had never been tried.

A court order was issued June 12, 1969, for Hardison's arrest after he failed to appear in court on the manslaughter charge. The court order was sent to the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department. New Hanover officers returned the order to the court on June 21, 1969, saying Hardison was believed to be in the Army in Germany.

That was the last action in the case, according to the record researched by Assistant District Attorney Dewey Hudson. Hudson asked the State Bureau of Investigation to investigate. On Jan. 24, 1983, the Duplin County grand jury brought new indictments against Hardison.

Hudson said the statute of limitations does not apply when an order of arrest has been issued and the subject has not been apprehended.

RETIRING COUNTY EMPLOYEE HONORED - N.B. Grady, a Duplin County employee of over 10 years in the sheriff's department, has worked in the department as a radio dispatcher and jailer. He was presented a certificate of appreciation for his years of service during the meeting of the Duplin Board of Commissioners held in the Courthouse in Kenansville. He retired as of January 31. He is shown in the photo above receiving the certificate from Board chairman W.J. Costin.

Magnolia Depot Saviors Given Another Month To Act

The Magnolia Town Board has reversed itself to give the old Seaboard Coast Line railroad depot a month's respite from potential doom.

The board agreed last week to give the Magnolia Historical Preservation Society another month to come up with funds to move the 130-year-old brick structure from its present location on railroad property.

Last month the board agreed to put the building up for sale and require the buyer to move or demolish it.

Nan Fesperman of Faison, Phillis Ellenberg of Warsaw and Randy Drew, the historical society's chairman, pleaded with the board for more time to save the building.

Mrs. Fesperman had assisted with the preservation of the Faison depot.

Mrs. Ellenberg said the Warsaw depot has just been demolished and already many people regret its loss.

Town Commissioner Hubert Howard said he would like to save the building if it could be done without using tax money. "We've been messing with it three or four years now and should do something one way or another," he said.

Commissioner Herbert Tucker said the rent on the railroad property and the insurance premium, totaling $230, are due. He asked how the bill would be paid.

Drew said his group has $200 on hand and Mrs. Fesperman said she would obtain the remaining $30 to make the payments.

The town paid the railroad $600 for the building with the idea of converting it into a library. But the railroad wants to keep the right to order the building removed from its property on 90 days' notice.

Duplin Social Services Agency Caught In 'No-Win Situation'

A federal court order penalizing delayed completion of welfare applications $50 a week may cost Duplin County some money, Social Services Director Millie Brown reported to the county commissioners last week.

The court ordered the penalty applied on welfare applications not completed within 45 days.

Mrs. Brown said her department received 33 applications under the Aid to Dependent Children program and 72 medicaid applications in January. She said she has two people taking applications and three people verifying the claims made in them.

"It's a no-win situation," she said. "If you rush them through and there's something wrong and people are not entitled to money, then the county has to pay everything back and if you check it but don't get it done in time then you have to pay a $50 a week penalty."

County Manager Ralph Cottle said: "Federal and state officials are dumping things on the counties, but to the applicants 45 days must seem like an awful long time. They usually need the help yesterday when they make application to you."

Mrs. Brown reported 1,807 households are receiving $330,966 to help pay home heating bills, the checks, most of which will be paid this month, average $183 per household. An estimated 5,041 people live in the households.

About 2,300 applications for the heating funds were received, she said. The 1980 census listed Duplin's population as 40,952, with 15,591 housing units in the county.

Tax Collector Leland Grady reported tax collections from July 1, 1982, through January totaled $152,682 more than for the same period a year earlier. The total for the current period is $3,920,524.66, compared with $3,777,842.52 a year ago.

The board signed an agreement with the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development for maintenance of the Limestone Creek watershed project under which the county receives $52,864.26. The county's share of the project cost was $121,050.67. The maintenance grant will reduce the amount the county must provice to $68,186.41.

Total project cost is $580,527.46. The federal share is $459,476.79.

The board agreed to purchase three Ford LTDs for sheriff's department use, for $7,952.46 each under state contract. The price per car is $50 less than under the 1982 price. The money will come from unspent fund balances.

Kenneth Futreal, county soil conservationist, told the board a group will meet at 7 p.m. March 8 at Elder Branch Church on N.C. 11, 5 miles south of Kenansville, to discuss the possibility of a watershed project in that area.

Cecil Rhodes of Beulaville complained about trash around county trash containers on N.C. 24 at a drive-in theater near Beulaville and asked the board to move the containers to the old Beulaville dump site east of town, where there would be room to add more containers.

No action was taken by the board pending study.

The board congratulated Anthony Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Thomas; Neal Maready, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Maready, and Reed Southerland, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Southerland, all of the Lyman area south of Beulaville, on their attainment of Eagle Scout rank.

Saying it does not supply fire trucks to any department, the board rejected the request of Tom Davis of Pink Hill for the county to buy the Pink Hill Fire Department a fire truck because the department serves Duplin as well as Lenoir County. Duplin county gives the Pink Hill department $175 a month and provides $350 a month to Duplin County departments.

TELEPHONE CABLE BEING "PLOWED-IN" - Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company is burying new cable from Warsaw to Kenansville along Highway 50 & 24 to upgrade service, according to W. S. Richardson, district manager. The project will cost $205,800. The cable will be used for local and toll service. Pictured is Bobby Jackson of Roseboro, an employee of Underground Construction Co. of Fayetteville, the firm doing the work.

Swine Production Meeting

According to Keith J. Hairr, assistant Duplin agricultural extension agent, there will be a beef production meeting at the AES office in Kenansville on Feb. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Featured speaker is Dr. Paul Mueller, Extension specialist in forage crops and pastures. Other topics to be covered are treating hays with anhydrous amonia to increase their TDN, using implants and fly control in beef cattle. If you plan to attend this supper meeting, give Hairr a call at 296-1996 to reserve a meal for you.