

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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JSTC To Ask For Half A Million

James Sprunt Technical College will request \$498,838 from the Duplin County Commissioners for the 1983-84 fiscal year.

The total breaks down to \$212,324 in operating expenses, \$177,190 in capital expenses and \$109,324 for housekeeping expenses.

President Carl Price said the county provided \$185,272 for the school's operating budget and \$76,000 for the capital outlay budget for the current fiscal year. The housekeeping request is the same as the school received last year. It includes the salaries of 10 county-paid maintenance workers.

The County provides funds for physical plant maintenance and construction. The state pays for most instructional

supplies and faculty salaries.

Price said the requested \$35,000 current expense increase would be spread "across the board."

He said the school is asking for \$123,654 for electricity and water costs, compared with \$118,898 last year.

The request for contracted services, such as some repair work, is up sharply because cuts last year left much needed work undone. The school is asking for \$17,000 for this purpose. Last year, it received \$4,000.

The largest item in the capital outlay request is \$75,000 for a construction reserve fund.

Alfred Wells reported last week that 485 students have

signed up for the spring quarter. The winter quarter enrollment of 816 is 25 percent more than the 651 enrolled in the winter quarter last year, he added. Wells attributed the increase to the depressed economy and lack of job opportunities.

The J.P. Stevens Co. worker retraining program conducted by the school for the company's - Wallace plants will reduce the amount of money the school must clip from its current budget under the state's efforts to save money. The state had directed a 6 percent cutback, which would have meant slicing \$117,000 from the budget. The retraining program reduced the roll-back to \$96,392, business

manager Bob Lee said.

Price said the school will ask the county board to transfer \$11,300 from the school's unbudgeted cash reserve to current expense and maintenance accounts. It has \$19,247.14 in reserves but must obtain permission of the county board to use the money.

It also plans to ask the county for \$3,675.71 from county capital funds to add to \$1,200 the school has on hand to build a field house with two rest rooms, a concession stand and storage room at the softball field.

James Sprunt, part of the state college system, is on N.C. 11 south of Kenansville.



DUPLIN RESIDENT CELEBRATES 103RD BIRTHDAY - Martha McKiver was 103 years old Monday, April 4. She was born in Alabama and moved to North Carolina around the age of 20. Pictured above, Ms. McKiver shows off the

two birthday cakes she received from local Kenansville residents. The cakes were served to Ms. McKiver's friends at Guardian Care Rest Home in Kenansville, where she is now a resident.

Duplin General Board Ponders Hospital Options

County commissioners are looking at possibilities for financing the Duplin General Hospital, including private management.

The 80-bed hospital's operating expenses exceed its income.

Last week at the commissioners' invitation, a representative of Hospital Corp. of America (HCA) of Nashville, Tenn., described the corporation's "for profit" hospitals.

Edwin L. Childs, director of domestic development for HCA, told the 100 people at the meeting that the county would have to continue its subsidy if the hospital oper-

ates at a loss under a private management or ownership firm.

HCA owns, manages and builds hospitals. Childs said he did not come to make a proposal, but to describe HCA and answer questions.

If his firm bought the hospital and the institution operated at a loss, he said, "HCA has staying power to await a turn-around."

He said a company like HCA can operate at 10 to 15 percent lower cost than most small hospitals because of volume buying power and management capabilities.

The commissioners took no action but indicated they will study the situation further.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell of Rose Hill commented, "It's money against mercy."

Beulaville pharmacist Russell Bostic said he thinks the hospital situation will improve. He noted that more physicians are practicing at the hospital than in past year, delivery of infants has been resumed, and patient load has increased.

Commissioner Chairman W.J. Costin said the county has appropriated whatever funding the hospital needed in addition to its operating revenues.

Childs said HCA owns 225 hospitals. Of its 160 clients, 60 percent are cities and counties. The firm owns four

hospitals in North Carolina and manages 10 others.

The 14-year-old firm has 125,000 employees, most retained after HCA took over management or ownership of public hospitals. It has built 96 hospitals and has 19 under construction, including a \$23 million unit in Statesville.

Dr. Oscar Redwine, a surgeon at Duplin General for 24 years, said he can remember when "we had patients in the halls."

He said daily rates a quarter-century ago were \$5 for semi-private and \$12 for private rooms. Daily rates for private rooms now range from \$110 to \$118.



WHITLEY VISITS JAMES KENAN CLASS - Representative Charles Whitley visited James Kenan High School junior class as part of the social studies curriculum March 30. Whitley briefed the audience on current topics of concern in Washington, D.C. and then answered student questions. The students touched many topics from the

current political scene such as nuclear war and missiles, social security, equal rights amendment, social services and new drunk-driving laws. Pictured above, left to right, Representative Whitley talks with James Kenan juniors Sandra Kornegay, Lisa Quinn and Wanda Carter.

Manslaughter Sentence Seems Light By Comparison

A manslaughter conviction in July 1982 brought Alton Earl Warren a six-year prison sentence, but conviction this past week on burglary and larceny charges, stemming from the same incident, has brought him an additional 14-year sentence.

Warren, 56, of Jacksonville faces 20 years in prison as a result of the 14-year sentence handed down this past week by Judge Bradford Tillery of Wilmington in Duplin County Superior Court in Kenansville. Warren was convicted of first-degree burglary and larceny.

The new sentence is to be served at the end of the previous six-year sentence.

Warren is in Duplin County jail. He will be taken to Central Prison in Raleigh

for processing, including assignment to a prison.

Warren was found guilty of manslaughter July 12, 1982, in Duplin County Superior Court for the Jan. 29, 1982, shooting of Dorothy Emma Kilpatrick Peterson, 58, of Teachey.

Evidence at the trial did not indicate aggravating circumstances. Judge Frank Brown of Tarboro sentenced Warren to six years in prison.

Assistant District Attorney Dewey Hudson said Friday that was the longest term the judge could give the defendant, based on that evidence.

The theft of the victim's purse, discovered after Warren's manslaughter trial, would have been considered an aggravating circumstance warranting a stiffer sentence.

Two weeks after the trial, Mrs. Peterson's purse was found lying in bushes near a Topsail Beach street. As a result of the ensuing investigation, Warren, who was then serving his sentence, was charged with first-degree burglary and larceny Dec. 12, 1982.

Hudson said Warren told officers that on the day of the killing he took a pistol from his mother's house in Topsail Beach and went to Mrs. Peterson's mobile home. There, he said, he laid the pistol on the table and talked with her. According to Hudson, Warren said that when he got ready to leave, he picked up the pistol and it discharged.

The bullet struck Mrs. Peterson. Warren told officers he went for help but

ran his car into a ditch. He said he returned to Mrs. Peterson's home to get her car, but had to break in to get the car key. While in the house, he said, he took the purse, which he later threw into the bushes.

Warren went back to his mother's house and told his stepfather about the shooting. His stepfather called the police and Warren was charged with the slaying. Officers knew nothing about the purse at that time.

Hudson said the first trial jury knew nothing about the purse and the judge had to give the minimum sentence. Warren could have been free in as little as 2 1/2 - 3 years on that sentence, Hudson said, but now will have to serve at least 9 1/2 years in prison, Hudson added.

Wallace Man Didn't Pay All His Taxes U.S. Charges

A Wallace man is on trial in federal court for willfully evading income taxes in a case that prosecutors describe as a "devious scheme," complete with a "mystery man."

John L. Sorrell Jr. is charged with failure to report \$295,000 in income. He allegedly acquired the money in 1976 by selling timber that belonged to five relatives, including his mother.

According to federal prosecutors, Sorrell planned as early as August 1976 to sell timber from land known as S and J Farms Inc. to Georgia Pacific Corporation for \$475,000.

At that time, half of the stock of S and J Farms was owned by Mae Johnson Sorrell of Dunn, the defendant's mother, and the other half was owned by four of his cousins: Cora Jane Johnson Bostic, Carson Johnson, Fletcher Johnson and Dorothy Johnson Lane.

Prosecutors contend the owners of the property had no knowledge of the proposed timber sale.

On Nov. 22, the government contends, Sorrell arranged the sale of S and J Farms to an individual identified as Ronald H. Braswell. Under the terms of the sale, Braswell was to exchange

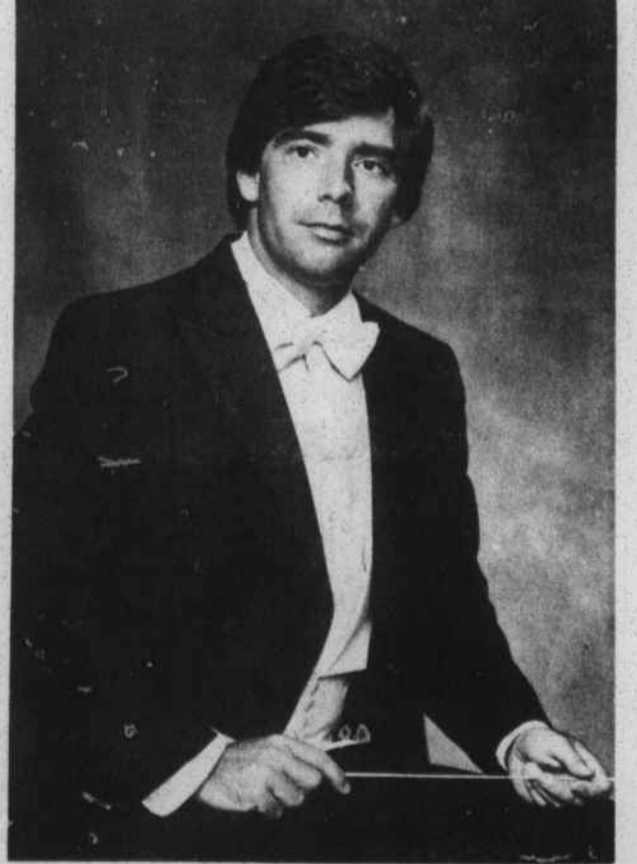
Dixie Farms Inc. with Mae Johnson Sorrell for her half-interest in S and J Farms. Braswell was to pay \$45,000 to each of Sorrell's four cousins for their shares.

The timber sale to Georgia Pacific and the sale of S and J Farms to Braswell were completed by Dec. 31, 1976.

Prosecutors contend, however, that Ronald H. Braswell does not exist. They say Sorrell deeded Dixie Farms documents to his mother, paid \$45,000 to each of his four cousins from the \$475,000 Georgia Pacific timber payment and pocketed \$295,000 in cash, which he failed to report as income.

U.S. Attorney Justin Thornton of Washington told the jury Sorrell met a Georgia Pacific representative in the vault of a bank in Whiteville on Dec. 31, 1976. Sorrell left with \$295,000 in \$100 bills in his briefcase, partial payment for the timber sale.

Defense lawyer William Shell of Wilmington maintains Braswell exists and the \$295,000 was paid to him. Shell also contends that although no lands were ever purchased to compose Dixie Farms, a promissory note from Braswell protected the interests of Sorrell's mother



THE NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY - under the baton of Associate Conductor, James Ogle, will appear in concert on Thursday, April 7 at 8 p.m. in Kenan Memorial Auditorium, in Kenansville. The program, sponsored by the Tar Heel Fine Arts Society, will feature selections by Rossini, Schubert, Vaughan Williams, Mozart, Gershwin and others. Ogle is now in his fifth season as associate conductor. Winner of the Symphony's first Young Conductor's Competition in 1974, he was also a 1974 winner in the Malko International Conducting competition held in Copenhagen, Denmark. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

Budget Requests May Force Tax Hike

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners will face a nearly impossible job of holding the county tax rate to 70 cents per \$100 assessed valuation for the next fiscal year if it grants budget increases being requested by county departments.

With the budget-making process barely underway, increases of \$2.2 million already have been proposed — \$1 million by Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville, \$1 million by the Board of Education, and \$200,000 by James Sprunt Technical College.

One cent of county prop-

erty taxes would increase the county's total revenue by \$62,000. The proposed increases would devour the equivalent of about 35 cents, half the present tax rate.

The total county budget for 1982-83 including state and federal funds was \$8.5 million, of which the property tax provided about \$4.4 million.

The Board of Education is expected to ask for an increase of \$1,062,684 in next year's schools budget during budget sessions next month.

The school board last week approved a budget totaling \$3,647,942 in local funding for the fiscal year starting July 1, an increase of about

\$2,585,258 the commissioners authorized for the current school year.

For the current school year, the state allocated Duplin County's school system about \$11 million, 2 percent of which has been withheld by the state because of a financial crunch.

Superintendent L.S. Guy said the school board asked for a 32 percent budget increase and received 4 percent, which he said barely paid for the increase in utility costs.

The school board is requesting \$2,789,067 in current expense and \$858,875 in

coming year.

Guy said \$123,000 of the increase requested in the current expense budget will be for eight positions formerly financed by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Administration (CETA) and for the equivalent of 2 1/2 full-time assistant principal positions. Guy said the positions are needed for the system to remain accredited by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges.

The proposed \$858,875 for capital outlay is an increase of \$498,211 from the 1982-83 total of \$360,664.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

MEMORIAL GIFTS

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