

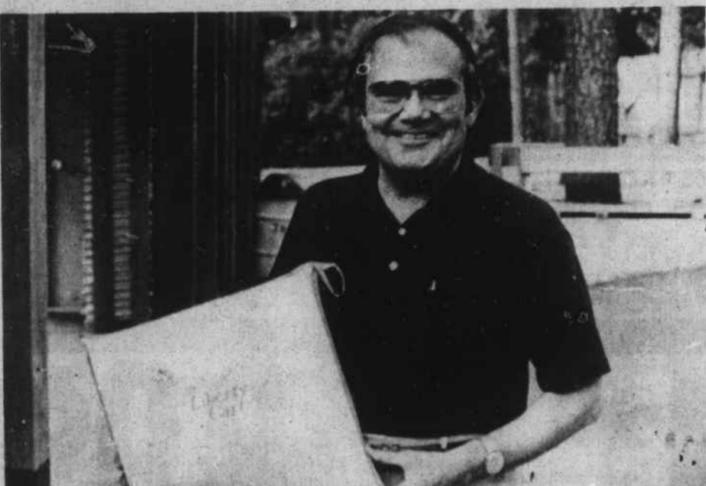
Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

OL. XXXVII NO. 28 USPS 162-860 KENANSVILLE, N.C. 28349 JULY 14, 1983 16 PAGES THIS WEEK 10 CENTS PLUS TAX



COUNTRY FRESH - Local gardens are beginning to yield and many Duplin farmers are offering vegetables and produce for sale. Roadside produce and vegetable stands dot the county offering a variety of foods including fresh canteloupes, watermelon, tomatoes, peaches and corn. Pictured above is a small roadside garden stand just outside Faison.



James F. Strickland

Liberty Cart Dedicates 1983 Season To James F. Strickland

A member of the original cast of the 1949-50 productions of THE DUPLIN STORY and current president of the Duplin Outdoor Drama Society, James F. Strickland is honored this season by the Kenansville-based outdoor drama THE LIBERTY CART, General Manager Jim Johnson announced opening night, July 8 at the William R. Kenan Memorial Amphitheatre.

Strickland has served on the Board of the DODS since its creation to organize outdoor drama in Duplin County during the bi-centennial celebration in 1976. The Warsaw businessman is a life-long native of Duplin County and better known to most citizens as "Jimmy."

"Since THE LIBERTY CART opened in 1976, Jimmy has probably missed no more than two or three of the approximately 175 performances," Johnson said. "He and his wife Margaret are always on hand to pitch in where they are needed, handing out cushions, greeting people, selling conces-

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners last Tuesday approved the 9-member hospital board nominated by the former hospital board of trustees.

Last week, the hospital board, following wishes of the county board and recommendations of a study of the hospital's financial situation appointed a new hospital board consisting of eight voting members and one non-voting member. The board previously numbered 28 members.

The old board dissolved itself at midnight June 30.

The new board took office July 1, subject to confirmation by the county commissioners. The county owns the hospital which was financed by county bond issues. It leases the facility to the hospital board.

The commissioners rejected a Board of Education request for an additional \$87,750 to pay the salaries of 2½ principals and eight teachers aides to help the system retain accreditation by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. The commissioners last month budgeted \$1,890,586 from county funds for the school system. The appropriation was the same as that for the 1982-83 school year.

Commissioners Chairman W.J. Costin responded to the plea of School supporters for the additional money with, "The county is poor. We have a lot of people out of work. The state has not added funds to reduce class

size. We're obligated to keep up the school buildings and we receive no money from the state for that."

In other action, the board approved a resolution asking the Farmers Home Administration to obligate funds for the proposed Alberson community water system project in northeastern Duplin County.

During a hearing on the water system proposal, Bob

Pittman of Rivers and Associates of Raleigh, a consulting engineering firm, estimated the project cost at \$1,325,000. He said an FmHA grant of \$697,900 and a state grant of \$313,100 may be available if local residents would approve a bond issue of \$313,100 in a referendum. FmHA would buy or guarantee the bonds, he added.

Pittman said the first two

payments of such a bond issue would consist only of the interest. He estimated the interest would be \$30,000 each of the first two years. The proposed system would take in \$58,000 a year in fees, a study by FmHA indicated. The estimated water rate would be \$12 per month for a minimum of 2,000 gallons. Pittman estimated the average fee would be \$16 a month for 5,000 gallons.

The board also voted to combine the positions of landfill secretary and gate attendant in an effort to save \$7,000 a year. The latter position had been vacant for some time due to the retirement of the previous attendant. The current secretary will handle the combined position. The secretary's salary will be increased from \$8,745 to \$9,906 a year.

Duplin Commissioners Approve 9-Member Hospital Board Nominees

Federal, State Cutbacks Trim School Outlay

The new budget of \$16,938,611 was approved by the Duplin County Board of Education last week. The 1982-83 budget totaled \$17,845,405.

The system had an average daily attendance of 7,904 students during the 1982-83 school year.

Of the total budget, \$2,321,775 is expected to come from county sources, including taxes, fines, forfeitures and miscellaneous items for current expenses and \$225,000 for capital outlay. The county appropriation from the general fund (primarily from property tax revenue) is \$1,890,586 for

current expenses, the same as last year. The capital outlay fund was cut about \$35,000.

The state will contribute \$10,392,706 plus about \$900,000 in matching funds. Federal funds are expected to total \$1,209,271.

The lunchroom gross income is projected at \$1,758,930.

The board decided to keep the prices of school lunches at 75 cents for high school students, 70 cents for other students and \$1.25 for adults for lunch. Breakfast prices will be 45 cents for students and 65 cents for adults. Students whose families meet certain income require-

ments can qualify for a reduced lunch price of 40 cents or for a free lunch.

The federal government paid the school lunch program its full cost of \$1.17 per meal for free lunches during the past year for the first time, according to the annual report of Shelby Kilpatrick, food services supervisor. In the past, she said, the government paid a flat fee that was less than the free meal cost.

The school system operates one of the largest "restaurant" businesses in Duplin County. The breakfast and lunch program took in \$1,715,942.19 in student fees and federal contribu-

tions. The cost of the program was \$1,572,878.27.

Mrs. Kilpatrick reported food for the 1982-83 program cost \$741,828.82 and labor, \$612,404.01. Student and adult payments for lunches totaled \$354,221.38.

The program has \$472,413.72 in cash and inventory to start the food program this fall. Mrs. Kilpatrick said this is enough to operate for 2.66 months without any income. Federal payments begin arriving one to two months after the start of school.

The federal payment to the lunch program during the past year totaled more than \$1.1 billion.

East Coast Headwear Cap Factory Taking Applications In Chinquapin

Billboards across the forehead — caps today serve as one of the nation's most popular forms of advertisement. And, Duplin County will join the trend and manufacture caps at Chinquapin.

East Coast Headwear will open July 18 employing approximately 30 people in the production of caps. Plant manager Hilda Houston of Potters Hill expected more than 100 applications last week at the hat company. The factory will operate one shift of workers. The cap company is located in Chinquapin on Highway 41.

"There are 15 operations to assemble a hat," East Coast Headwear Plant Manager Hilda Houston said. "I know it doesn't look like there is that much to do in making caps, but some have even more — up to 21. The type we will mostly make only have about 15 steps." Houston explained many of the caps made in Chinquapin will be used in sports and promotions. The caps at the Chinquapin plant will be made under contract. "Over the past several years the demand for caps has gone up more than the price which makes them good for advertisement."

Houston received training in cap manufacturing at a Virginia-based plant which specialized in the production of military headwear. And, Houston pointed out, the success of the cap industry depends on the speed of production and the quality of the product.

"One of the reasons Chinquapin was selected as the site of the cap factory is that we draw from the applicants that are experienced sewers," Houston said. "The outlook is good for the future and if business goes as well as expected during the next couple of months, East Coast Headwear will open another plant or build onto the present building. I believe this plant will be just the beginning of a successful

operation." Cap factory employees will operate chain-stitch sewing machines which are similar to the straight stitch machines used by local manufacturing plants, Houston said.

"Of course, there is a feeling of fright," Houston said. "I guess when you start anything new and give up what you have been doing, you feel a little scared. I am

excited about the prospects of the cap factory and feel like it will be good for Duplin — not only providing jobs, but promoting Duplin County everywhere the caps are sold."

East Coast Headwear is owned by Sammy Miller of Richmond, Va. Miller is a native of Duplin. The manufacturing company began taking applications July 5.

Beulaville Town Employees Receive 10 Percent Pay Raise

Beulaville Town Commissioners approved a 10 percent pay raise for town employees after local citizens appeared before the Board in favor of the salary increase, July 5 at the town hall.

A 10 percent salary increase had been included with the June 27 special Board meeting. A group of Beulaville citizens appeared at the public hearing on the proposed budget June 27, and opposed the salary raise for town employees due to the increased trash collection fees.

Commissioner S.A. Blizzard made the motion to raise town employees salary 10 percent. The motion carried with Commissioner Rabon Maready voting no.

Sarah Bolin appeared before the town board requesting the town repair or replace the septic tank at her rental home on Stanford Street. A letter to the Board from Bolin's attorney David Phillips was presented to the Commissioners. The home is serviced by a septic tank which was covered when an addition was constructed to the house. Bolin explained the property would be condemned by the Duplin County Health Department if sewer problems were not alleviated.

Town attorney Rusty Lanier advised Commissioners that Beulaville was not the only municipality which

maintained septic tanks. Maintenance and repair to septic tanks at homes beyond sewer lines within city limits and not tank replacement was the extent of the town's responsibility, Lanier explained.

Commissioner Rabon Maready stated his residence has not connected to the town water system and requested town clerk Carol Miller average his sewer fees for the past 12 months and bill him. Town attorney Lanier advised Maready that a home can unhook from the Beulaville water system, but

town ordinances require payment of the minimum bill at that residence. Disconnected from the town water system, Commissioner Blizzard stated, the fees for sewer services would be impossible to calculate without a meter.

Several bids for the treatment plant operator position were presented to the Beulaville Commissioners and rejected. Commissioner Maready opposed action on the bids, stating a specific set of specifications should be written for the position.

The Board requested Stanley Miller, currently serving as Beulaville treatment plant operator, to write a job description on which bids would be taken.

Kenneth Smith and Charlie Chasten were reappointed to the Beulaville Recreation Board. Both men were serving terms expiring July 31. Cecil Lanier and Quincy Greene were reappointed to the Beulaville Zoning Board, each were serving terms expiring July 17.

Wind, Hail Damage Tobacco In Duplin

Duplin County agricultural officials last week were checking reports of hail and wind damage to tobacco fields.

Hail and wind damage was reported on Monday in several sections of the county

including the eastern area. County Commissioner Calvin Turner said he had 29 acres of tobacco damaged by a storm.

Other damage was reported in the Brices Store area northwest of Rose Hill.

Turner said he had a crew working to straighten tobacco stalks blown over by the wind. He said the rain had made the ground so soft that most of the plants could be salvaged. Leaf damage was extensive, however.

Inmates Recaptured In Kenansville

Two inmates who escaped from the state prison facility in Kenansville Friday were found about three hours later, said Sgt. Jack Grady of the N.C. Prison Unit 4125.

Mark Steven Taylor, 27, and Robert Brown, 22, jumped the fence at the minimum-security prison about a mile south of Kenansville around 8 p.m., Sgt. William Hendrix said.

Prison officials began searching for the inmates with bloodhounds at 9 p.m., Grady said. One of the dogs followed their scent into woods about a mile north of the prison where they were found, Grady said.

Taylor was serving a nine-year sentence for breaking and entering. Brown was serving a two-year sentence for possession of stolen

goods. Both will be charged with prison escape.

Fire Kills Chickens

About 20,000 chickens were destroyed last week in a fire that consumed two chicken houses near Seven Springs, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department said.

Losses of the building and chickens owned by Durwood Grady, were estimated at \$82,500.