

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVII NO. 33

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

AUGUST 18, 1983

18 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX



CONSERVATION PRACTICES EXPLAINED - Furney and Margaret Boyette of Kenansville assist Kenneth Futreal in explaining some of the conservation practices adopted on the Boyette Farm to Charles Bullock of the District program section, Soil and Water NRCD along with Jim Oliver.

master of the N.C. State Grange, and John Sledge, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau, who were three of the eight judges making the 1983 selection for Farm Family of the Year. The Boyettes were named North Carolina's winner later during the day.

Faison Native Is Astronaut

By Emily Killete

As a kid in Faison, William Thornton was introduced as 'genius' and within two years of his father's death, the future astronaut and young teen opened a radio and television repair shop, Faison native Ann Taylor remembers.

The town of Faison will proclaim William Thornton Week beginning on the launch day of the space shuttle Challenger, tentatively set for Aug. 30. Thornton will be among the five-man shuttle crew launching at approximately 2:30 a.m. from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Taylor's family was among the many Faison townspeople to receive special invitations from NASA to attend Challenger's lift-off.

The five-day space trip is the eighth in a series of shuttle missions. The Challenger followed the first shuttle Columbia which flew five space missions. According to information provided by NASA, the Challenger mission is to deploy two satellites and provide the astronauts an opportunity to perform several in-orbit experiments. Thornton is scheduled to conduct tests on space sickness.

The Faison native was educated as a physician at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and then joined the United States Air Force. Astronauts scheduled to accompany Thornton are Richard Trull, Dan Brandenstein, Dale Gardener and Guy Bluford. Thornton, at the age of 55 years, is the oldest astronaut to go into space.

Both the Challenger lift-off and landing are set for darkness; the shuttle is scheduled to land at approxi-

mately 3 a.m. at Edwards Air Force Base in California, Sept. 3.

"William was always smart," Ann Taylor, lifelong friend of Astronaut William Thornton, said. "He was very inventive and was always taking things apart and putting them back together. William wanted to know how everything worked, and he was always creating things." As a young teen Thornton opened a radio and television repair shop in Faison to help support his mother after the death of his father. According to Taylor, young Thornton took responsibility very seriously and earned the respect of all people, young and old, in Faison.

"We respected his mind and the way he lived," Taylor said. "When we wanted to see William we would go to his shop and

there was an extra stool just for any one of us kids — and one of us would be there talking to him about all the time. But, William still took time to be a young boy. He'd usually take time off to go swimming with us kids." In recent interviews, Taylor said, Thornton has commented on small-town life, praising the way of life and the values he learned from the closeness of a small community.

Following the return of the shuttle Challenger, Thornton plans to return to his hometown of Faison and Taylor said a celebration will be planned by the town. A resolution will be submitted to the Duplin Board of Commissioners from the Faison town board to proclaim William Thornton Week throughout the county during the flight of the space shuttle.

Wallace Board Favors Half-Cent Tax

The Wallace town board favors adoption of the half-cent local sales tax and will urge the Duplin County Board of Commissioners to adopt the new tax during the public hearing on the question at 8 p.m. Aug. 23 in the courthouse at Kenansville.

The N.C. General Assembly in its last session authorized counties to add a one-half cent local sales tax to the one-cent tax 99 of the state's 100 counties levy on each dollar's worth of taxable goods and services. All of the counties in Southeastern North Carolina levy the one-cent tax and so far, none of them have ruled out adding the half-cent option.

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners on Aug. 1 ordered the Aug. 23 public hearing on the half-cent tax.

"Although the town's share of this tax is generally for water and sewer extensions, if we show we don't need that we can use it for other things," Wallace Mayor Melvin Cording told the Town Board at its meeting Thursday night.

"This will negate the \$300 million bond proposal for this fall. We need to go to Kenansville and help the commissioners make the decision."

"If they call for a referendum it won't pass. One

thing they don't need to do is call for a vote of the people," he said.

Duplin County could receive as much as \$900,000 a year from the half-cent tax, according to W.J. Costin, chairman of the county board. Forty percent of the total must be assigned to schools for building improvements.

In other business, the board agreed to refund \$46.42 in property taxes to Sam Briley. Briley lives on the edge of town and has been paying Wallace taxes since 1979 when he built a new house.

Briley had asked for a refund on town taxes he has been paid on his garage, which is located outside the town limits, and on his vehicles, which are kept in the garage. A refund on those items would have amounted to \$174.46.

The \$46.42 figure was reached after town attorney Richard Burrows told the board that the town could tax the vehicles, no matter where they are kept. Vehicles are registered where the owner lives, he said.

The board appointed Lester Caison as temporary building inspector to succeed Wayne Rich, whose temporary state permit expired last week.

Magnolia Opposes Additional Tax

The Town Board of Magnolia will oppose implementation of the half-cent local sales tax authorized by the recent state legislative session.

The board approved a resolution opposing the tax at its August meeting last week. It will present the resolution to the next Duplin Municipal Association meeting.

While board members individually agreed the sales tax is a fair tax, they said they opposed any new taxes.

"We've already had too

many taxes passed this year," said Mayor Melvin Pope, expressing the board's feelings. "The poor consumer can only stand so much."

In a related matter, Town Auditor Doug Clark told the board it should make a big effort to collect current and back taxes.

Clark said 31 people owe 50 percent of current and back taxes due to the town. He said Magnolia's tax collection rate last year was 75 percent and that "anything under 95 percent is just bad."

Phillips Speaks At Study Conference

Speeches, workshops and other activities were scheduled when the Duplin County public schools' first annual study conference was held at the Kenan Memorial Auditorium in Kenansville Aug. 16.

The conference was held with approximately 65 teachers, aides, administrators

and others participating. Dr. A. Craig Phillips, state superintendent, was the featured speaker for the opening session.

The theme for the conference was "Proud, But Not Satisfied." After the general sessions, there were more than 50 workshops covering a variety of topics.

Kenansville Couple Named Family Of The Year

Furney and Margaret Boyette of Kenansville were named the North Carolina soil conservation farm family of the year last Wednesday following a tour of their farm by the judges earlier in the day.

The Boyettes had won the Duplin County and Coastal Plain regional soil conservation family of the year honors earlier this year. The state is divided into mountain, Piedmont and Coastal

Plain regions for this contest.

Judging the three regional winners were John Sledge of Williamston, N.C. Farm Bureau Federation president; James Oliver of Fairmont, N.C. Grange master; Jim Canterbury, state soil and water conservationist; Walter Lambeth Sr. of Lumberton, executive secretary of the Land Improvement Contractors Association; Charles Bullock and Steve Bennett of the soil and water

division of the N.C. Department and Dr. Jack Baird of the state agricultural extension service.

The Boyettes will be entered in a national soil conservation family of the year contest, Canterbury said. Judging of that event will be based on written reports on the farms submitted by the state soil and water conservation service officials.

Following the judging Boyette said, "I'm very pleased." Mrs. Boyette was too busy preparing a barbecue lunch for the judges to comment.

"The farm was in terrible shape when the Boyettes bought it in 1970," Kenneth Futreal, Duplin soil conservationist, explained. "The fields were terrible eroded, farm roads so bad you couldn't drive a pick-up through the gullies and crops washed out with every heavy rain," Futreal said.

The Boyettes are the first owners to live on the farm and make a living from it in decades, Futreal said.

"They were unable to go to the expense of establishing all the necessary conservation measures for several years," he added.

"but the farm continued downhill until in 1978 they decided they had to fix it or leave it."

The 150-acre farm, located about seven miles north of Kenansville on N.C. 11, now has 90 acres of crop land. Its hilly terrain and soil type makes the farm highly subject to erosion, Futreal said.

The Boyettes have established grass covered waterways on hillsides to carry run-off water to a farm pond. They have established 3,500

feet of parallel terraces around hillsides to halt the down-hill flow of water and soil during rains. They have applied "contour" tillage patterns to prevent the loss of soil from water rushing through down-hill furrows.

Futreal said Boyette told him he used to go to bed at night worried that rain might have destroyed his fields by morning. "Now, he says he sleeps comfortably and doesn't worry about rain damage."

Rose Hill Frying Pan To Get Lid

employees of the former Ramsey Feed Co. of Rose Hill.

For several years the pan had been located alongside Rose Manor Shopping Center on the southern edge of town. The town moved the pan to its present site late last year.

The Town Board named Commissioner Clarence Brown as project supervisor.

The town will spend up to \$1,000 to build a permanent shelter over "the world's largest frying pan" in the Rose Hill Community park on the east side of U.S. 117.

The steel pan, which has been the centerpiece of the annual N.C. Poultry Jubilee, was given to the town of Rose Hill last year. The pan was built in the early 1960s by

Labor will be donated.

An A-frame structure, 24 feet square, is planned. The structure will be 12 feet high in the center and seven feet high at the edges.

The pan, dubbed "the World's largest frying pan" in Poultry Jubilee publicity, measures about 15 feet across. When in use, it is heated by six or seven tobacco curing barn burners.

Duplin School Officials See Enrollment Of 8,500 Students

The Duplin County public school system will open this month with an anticipated enrollment of 8,500 to 8,700 students, approximately the same as last year's.

The 375 teachers were scheduled to report to their principals Monday. Student orientation will be conducted Thursday, although school buses will not make their regular runs until classes start Aug. 22.

Schools Superintendent L.S. Guy said he encourages parents and students to take advantage of the orientation period to obtain school schedules and meet the teachers. The Wallace-Rose Hill School will remain open until 8 p.m. Thursday for the orientation session to accommodate working parents.

A vocational agriculture program will be started at East Duplin High School in Beulaville after a lapse of several years because of lack of student interest, Guy said.

Students in the carpentry trades program at the Wallace-Rose Hill school will begin another house building project this fall. The completed house is sold at auction and proceeds are used to buy materials for the next project. East Duplin High School classes have built several houses in the past 20 years.

One of Guy's goals this year, he said, is to increase parent, business and industry participation in school programs and plans.

The superintendent said

school officials "are excited about the possibilities arising from the half-cent local sales tax." This summer the N.C. General Assembly authorized the local-option tax and designated a portion of it for the benefit of public schools.

The system will operate this year with a budget of \$16,938,611. The source of funding is broken down as follows: the state, \$10,392,706; federal government, \$1,209,271; food services, \$1,758,930, and the county, \$3,352,704 for current expense and \$225,000 for capital outlay.

Guy said he hopes to establish a 10-year school construction and improvement program by October.

The county will operate four high schools, North Duplin near Calypso, East Duplin, Wallace-Rose Hill and James Kenan between Kenansville and Warsaw. East Duplin, Wallace-Rose Hill and North Duplin schools include junior and senior high school classes. The North Duplin complex includes an elementary school.

Other junior high schools are E.E. Smith at Kenansville and Warsaw Junior High. Charity School east of Rose Hill serves as a middle school.

Elementary schools are Wallace near Tin City, Rose Hill-Magnolia between the two towns, Warsaw, North Duplin, Kenansville, Beulaville, Chinquapin 1 and 2 and B.F. Grady in northeastern Duplin County.



GOVERNOR IN KENANSVILLE - Governor Jim Hunt met with the Advisory Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood Industry in Kenansville Aug. 15. The Governor's Advisory Committee is made up of businessmen from all parts of North Carolina and local members include

representative Wendell Murphy and William Sullivan from Mount Olive. The meeting was held at the Duplin County Club. Pictured above are William Sullivan, Governor Jim Hunt and Duplin-Jones Representative Wendell Murphy prior to the Monday morning meeting.