

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVII NO. 34

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

AUGUST 25, 1983

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Municipal Officials Approve Tax Hike In Duplin

Representatives of six of Duplin County's 10 municipalities in an informal vote urged adoption by the county of the half-cent additional sales tax during the August meeting of the municipal officials association in Rose Hill Thursday night.

Only Calypso and Magnolia failed to approve the tax. Warsaw and Kenansville were not represented.

Mayor Melvin Pope of Magnolia said the town's board passed a resolution opposing the additional tax. "It's not this tax as such," he said, "we're just against any additional tax. There are already too many new taxes. This is just not the time for another tax."

Wallace Mayor Melvin Cording urged adoption of the tax. He considers it a substitute for a proposed \$300 million bond referendum. If the voters approved a \$300 million bond issue, Cording said, they would be saddled with a total payment of \$700 million including principal and interest.

Cording said 23 counties have approved the half-cent local sales tax and several others have hearings scheduled on it.

The Duplin County Board

of Commissioners were to conduct a public hearing on the question Tuesday night in the courthouse at Kenansville.

The N.C. Association of County Commissioners has estimated Duplin County and its municipalities would receive \$590,000 in fiscal 1983-84 from the half-cent additional local sales tax if the county adopts the tax.

County Manager Ralph Cottle said the association based its estimate on 56 counties' adopting the new tax by Oct. 1. The Oct. 1 date is the earliest the tax can be put into effect, which means during the current fiscal year a county could only get nine months of income from the tax.

Under a distribution formula mandated by the N.C. General Assembly, Duplin County would receive \$455,000 of the anticipated \$590,000, Cottle said. The 10 municipalities in Duplin County and two other towns that have small areas in Duplin County but are basically located in other counties would divide the remaining \$135,000.

Forty percent of the county's share, or \$182,000, would have to be applied to

school facility construction.

Forty percent of the share of each town would have to be used for water and sewer system improvements for the next five years and 30 percent for the following five years. After 10 years the restrictions would disappear.

The money would be divided on the basis of population, Cottle said. The county's population is 40,854 and the population of the incorporated areas is 12,112.

If the projections are borne out Beulaville would receive about \$11,685; Calypso, \$7,831; Faison, \$7,062; Greenevers, \$5,369; the portion of Harrells in Duplin County, \$390; the portion of Mount Olive in Duplin County, \$780; Kenansville, \$10,304; Magnolia, \$6,584; Rose Hill, \$16,610; Teachey, \$4,266; Wallace, \$31,805; and Warsaw, \$32,350.

Cottle said the county received \$265,000 from the one-cent local sales tax for the quarter ending June 30. Of that total the county government was allocated \$204,899.42. The shares for the county's towns were: Beulaville, \$4,930; Calypso, \$3,525.83; Faison, \$3,179.77; Greenevers, \$2,417.43; Harrells, \$175.54; Kenansville,

\$4,639.25; Magnolia, \$2,964; Mount Olive, \$35.11; Rose Hill, \$7,427.82; Teachey, \$1,920.90; Wallace, \$14,318.98, and Warsaw, \$14,564.74.

Drivers Asked To Be Careful

Extra care on the part of children and motorists may prevent pain and suffering as the big, clumsy school buses take to the roads. Public school classes opened Monday.

"In the next week or two vehicle drivers should be extremely careful, because the young children are excited about school and not thinking about traffic," said Duplin County Sheriff T. Elwood Revelle. "The children don't think anything can happen to them."

State Trooper Billy Floyd echoed Revelle's warning and added, "When people are going to work in the mornings they should leave home a little earlier. When they get behind school buses they have to slow down. Buses can go only 35 miles per hour. Around a school bus is not the place to get impatient and take chances in passing."

Floyd had some warnings for the bus riders and drivers as well.

"When a child's waiting for a bus, don't stand on the pavement; stand at least three feet back of the pavement," he said. "When the bus stops, don't run to the door because your shoes can be slippery from the morning dew."

"Don't distract the bus driver," he said.

"When leaving the bus, you should walk away out in front if crossing its path. If you drop something keep on going until you can get the driver's attention. Accidents have occurred because the driver thought the children had gone," Floyd said.

The bus driver should keep his mind on what is ahead and keep both hands on the wheel, Floyd said.

"If things are happening in the bus, the driver should pull off to the side of the road rather than glancing up in the mirror to see what's going on," Floyd said. "When backing up, the driver should have a student at the back of the bus or behind the bus to keep watch for kids or obstructions."

Vehicle drivers should stop four to five car lengths behind a stopped school bus, the trooper said. He emphasized that state law requires other vehicles to stop for a stopped school bus.

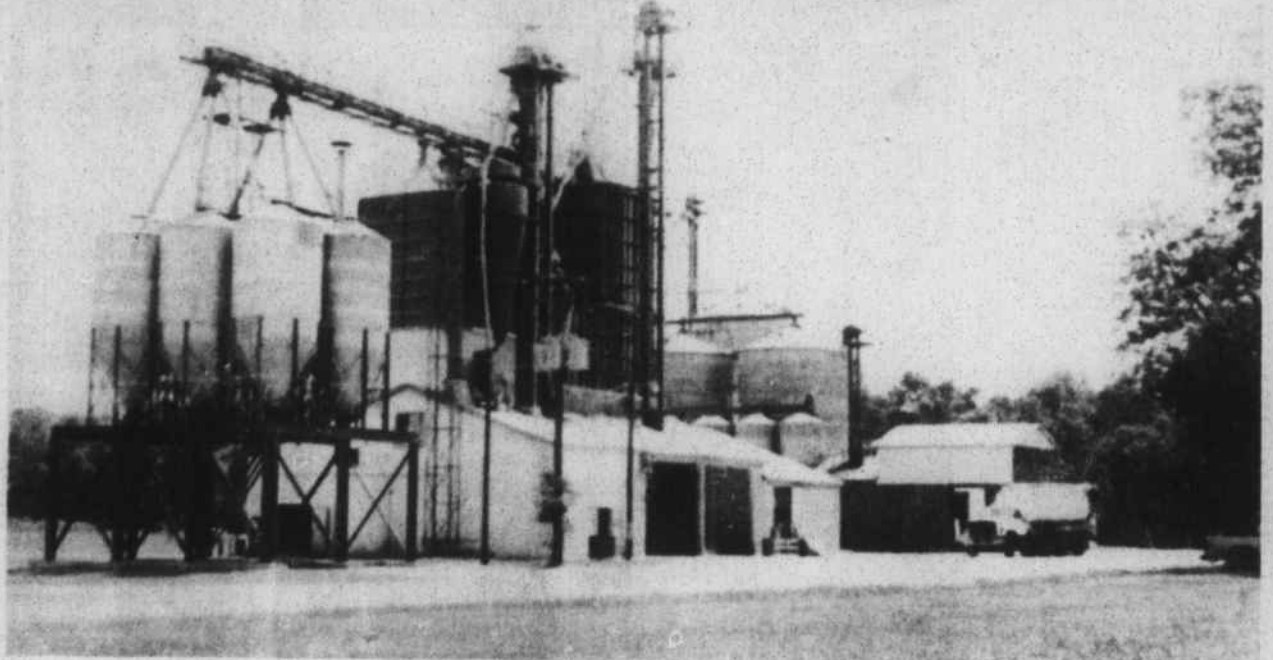
Buses in the county school system had four minor accidents last year, but no one was injured, said Allen Wood, school bus garage superintendent.

School buses carried an average of 6,442 students out of Duplin County's average daily school attendance of about 8,500 students last year, Wood said. The system's 138 buses traveled 1,234,882 miles.

Jaycees In Wallace

The Jaycees are coming to Wallace. A new chapter of the Jaycees, a young men's leadership training and service organization, is being formed in Wallace.

A meeting to organize the chapter will be held Tuesday, August 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the NCNB downtown office on Sutherland Street. All young men interested in joining or finding out more about the Jaycees are invited and encouraged to attend.



Turkey Production To Expand

Sale of the Swift & Co. turkey growing-out operation and feed mill at Harrells to William Prestage of Clinton will lead to expanded turkey production in the region, both buyer and seller said.

Prestage and Dave Bray, manager of the Swift & Co. turkey processing plant near Wallace, announced the sale last week and agreed expansion will result.

Prestage said he is making plans to construct a new feed mill with 50-tons per hour capacity. The new mill will be located beside U.S. 421, about seven miles south of Clinton. The present grain operation and poultry houses will be maintained at the research farm near Harrells, he added.

Prestage also plans to go into the hog business. He has begun construction of a breeder herd housing project that will house a 624-sow breeder herd to provide a 7,000-sow commercial herd over a four or five year period.

"We'll have \$12 million to \$14 million invested in 3½ to 4 years," he added.

"I hope to have the new

mill in operation by the first part of 1985," Prestage said. Bray said Swift made the sale because of the outstanding job Prestage had done in the turkey production field for many years with Carrolls Foods of Warsaw.

The turkey operation will produce 1.5 million birds this year. Prestage plans to increase this to 2 million next year and 3 million by 1986. The program now has 22 turkey growers on contract.

Swift will continue to maintain its breeder flock and hatchery operation, Bray said. It will supply young turkeys to Prestage, who will sell his birds to the processing plant in Wallace, he added.

Bray said 5 million to 6 million turkeys a year now are processed at the plant in Wallace for an annual output of about 50 million pounds of turkey meat. About six million pounds of this output goes into export channels, mostly through the port of Wilmington, he added.

He expects production to increase by about 20 percent in the next year, especially as a large freezer-storage plant

is being built adjacent to the processing plant. It should be in operation by November, at the latest, he said.

Production from the processing plant will be frozen and stored in the adjacent freezer instead of being shipped to half a dozen freezer storage firms in the two Carolinas, Bray explained. This will reduce the overall costs. Turkey meat stored in Wallace will be in a more convenient location for export, being only 40 miles from a port, than when it had to be stored at locations farther inland.

Bray said without the growing operation the company employs 345 people, making it one of the three or four largest employers in Duplin County. He expects employment to increase to about 375 in the next year. The mill and grow-out operation employs about 30 people, he added.

The sale to Prestage "is a good move from our standpoint, particularly since he is well known in the business and is more up on turkey nutrition than anyone I can think of," Bray said.

He said Prestage is about the only person to whom Swift would have sold its grow-out operation. "We were quite well satisfied with it as it was," he added.

Swift has been in the poultry business for many years, the 35-year company veteran said. The company doesn't often get into the production end of the business, he added, preferring to invest its money in processing operations.

"We procure our turkeys from four major sources, including the one he (Prestage) just purchased," Bray said.

The birds are grown out in Duplin, Sampson, Pender and Wayne counties, he added.

He said the company "backed into the grow-out operation" to protect its supply source as the people that owned the mill at Harrells were planning to go out of turkey production. Swift bought the mill and took over the growers' contracts in the early 1970s. The company bought the processing plant in 1968 from the local group that built it the preceding year.



BOB SCOTT AT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION MEETING - Bob Scott, new head of the North Carolina Community College System, met with the county's mayors, town boards and county commissioners at the Rose Hill Restaurant Thursday. Scott said the community college system is "where the action in education is." Scott said the system, 20 years ago, had 21 campuses and an enrollment of 54,000. Today there are 58 campuses and an enrollment of 600,000. One

of every seven adults in North Carolina is enrolled. The system trains 55% of the nursing graduates and those who graduate from the community college system have a higher passing rate on the state exam than those from four-year institutions. "The system offers education opportunities to all adults in North Carolina at a price they can afford," says Scott. Pictured above are Bob Scott and Duplin County Commissioner D.J. Fussell.



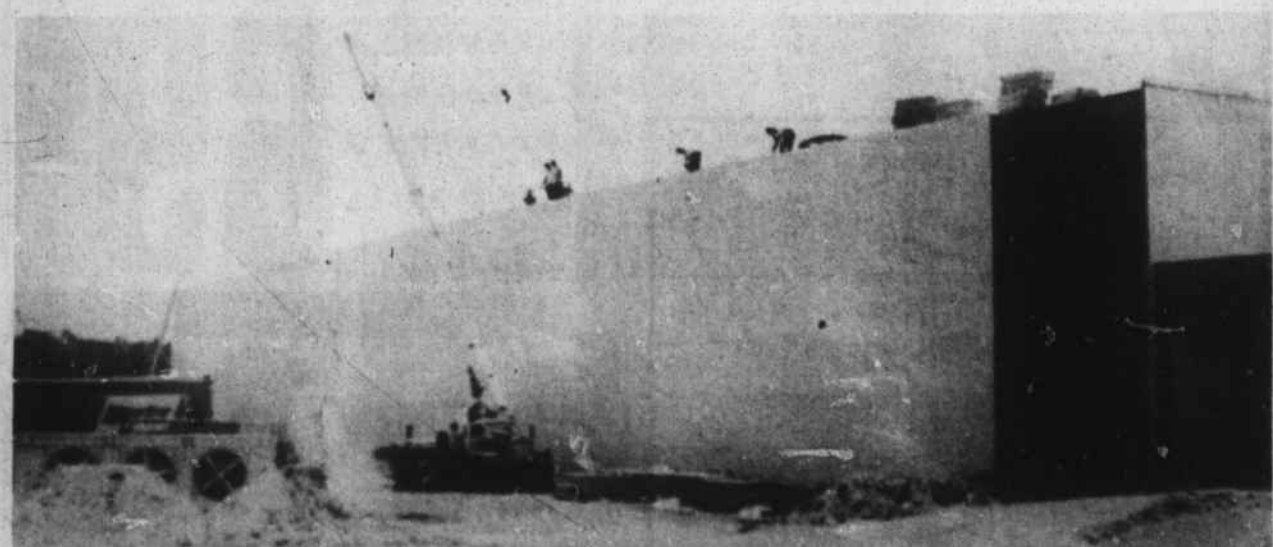
HIGH-FLYING SIGN - A 30-foot long banner is being prepared to fly across the highways into Faison the week of Astronaut William Thornton's shuttle flight. Faison's Pride

Astronaut William Thornton... Fifty Faison townfolks have front row seats for the lift-off at Cape Canaveral. Faison is Thornton's home town.



ANNUAL FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED - Thomas Leon Stroud Jr. received the Duplin County Farm Bureau Scholarship. Stroud is a freshman at North Carolina State University. Each year the Duplin County Farm Bureau awards a \$500 scholarship to a local student

entering into the study of agriculture or home economics. Pictured, left to right above, Jack Williams, president of the Duplin Farm Bureau, Thomas Stroud Jr., Thomas Stroud Sr., and Robert Grady, East Duplin High School vocational agriculture instructor.



FREEZER WAREHOUSE NEAR WALLACE - Freezer storage facilities for Williams Refrigeration Express is taking shape. The facility is beside the Swift processing plant. In fact, the facilities join by a passageway. Turkeys

processed by Swift will be moved into the freezer facility. It will also store other products, many for shipment to the state port in Wilmington.