

Duplin Times



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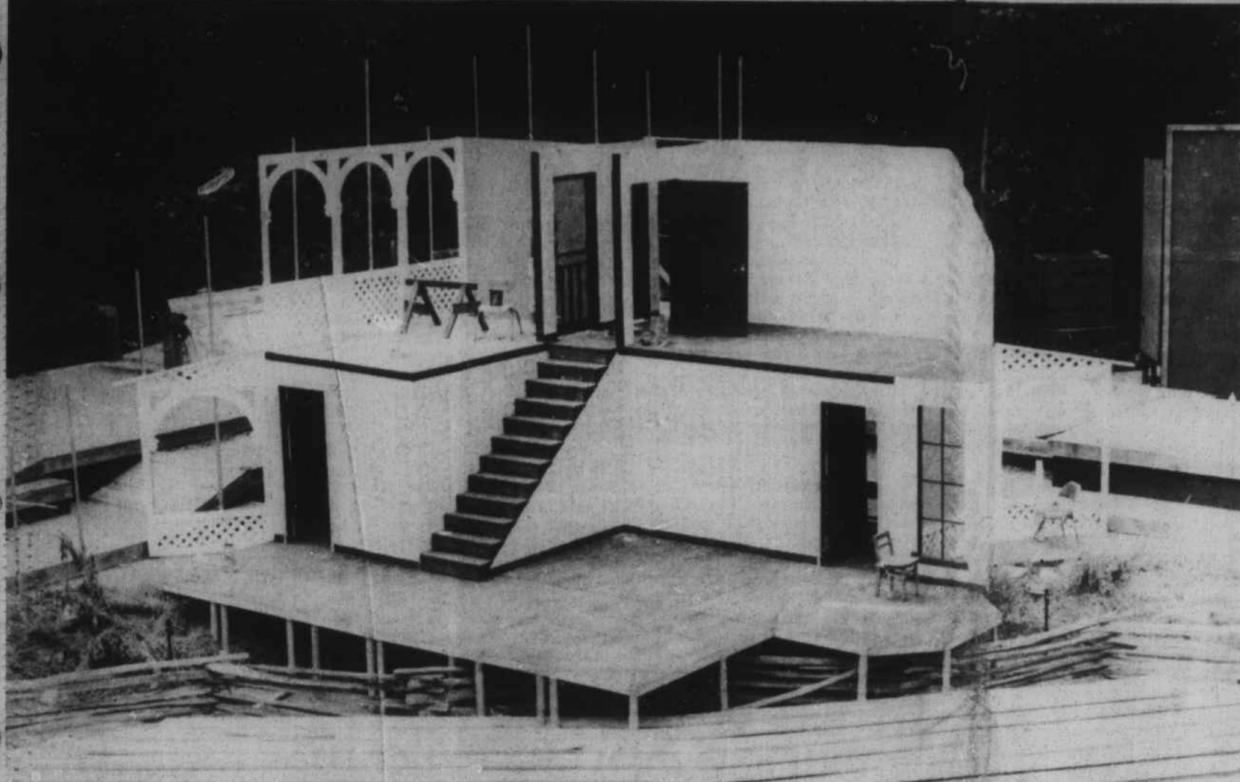
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Set Completed For Alternate Production At The Liberty Cart

The two-story boarding house set for WAR BRIDES, the 1984 alternate production in the William R. Kenan Amphitheatre of Kenansville, was completed last week. WAR BRIDES will appear weekly with the historic outdoor drama THE LIBERTY CART. The alternate show will play five consecutive Wednesday nights beginning July 25 with THE LIBERTY CART showing Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights beginning July 13. The set for

WAR BRIDES is the first ever to be constructed for a play in the Amphitheatre. Other dramas have used only the open stage of the outdoor theatre. And, the set is designed to be reconstructed and then dismantled after each performance of WAR BRIDES to allow for the following productions of THE LIBERTY CART. Pictured above is the WAR BRIDES set which will be furnished to resemble the World War I period.

Duplin Schools Expect To Graduate 550 Seniors Friday Night

Dr. Alice Scott, assistant superintendent of Duplin County Schools, announced that approximately 550 high school seniors will receive their diplomas or certificates in 1984 in Duplin County.

Of the graduating seniors, 176 are from East Duplin, 168 from Wallace-Rose Hill, 140 from James Kenan, and 67 from North Duplin. State-wide, approximately 70,000 public school students are expected to graduate this month, leaving behind only a few seniors who were unable to pass as many as five attempts at the N.C. Competency Test.

At the opposite end of the academic spectrum, approximately 3,900 will receive special recognition in the new N.C. Scholars Program.

Qualifying graduates will be the first to receive gold foil Scholars Program seals for their diplomas to designate completion of the program's requirements for a balanced, challenging high school program. The program was approved by the State Board of Education in March of 1983.

Concerning competency testing in the state, approximately 71,000 first took the test in the fall of 1982. An estimated 183 of these who are not officially classified as handicapped failed to pass reading and 241 failed to pass mathematics. These estimates are furnished by the competency testing scoring contractor.

Those seniors who failed one or

both parts of the tests will have one more chance to pass before graduation, according to Robert C. Evans, director of the statewide testing programs.

In order to graduate a senior must complete the minimum requirements and both parts of the competency tests. A senior who has met minimum requirements but has failed the competency tests will receive a certificate instead of a diploma.

The NC competency tests in reading and mathematics were first administered to the Class of 1984 as 11th graders in the fall of 1982. At that time, 70,958 were tested for reading with 92.8 percent passing. Some 70,883 students were tested in math with 90 percent passing.

Students who failed one or both of the tests during their initial administration were retested with an equivalent edition in the spring of 1983, fall of 1983 and spring of 1984. A total of 2,022 seniors took the reading test in March of 1984 and 51 percent passed, leaving 974 who have not passed. Of them, 1,197 were officially classified as handicapped. The passing rate in reading for the 825 students with no defined handicaps was 77.8 percent. A total of 2,517 seniors took the math tests in March, 1984, and 55.4 percent passed, leaving 1,147 who have not. Of those being retested, 1,387 were classified as handicapped. The passing rate of the 1,130 seniors with no handicaps was 78.7 percent.

Father Charged In Accident

Rose Hill Boy Dies In Auto Wreck

A Duplin County boy and a Wilmington man died in separate wrecks Wednesday night and Thursday when the cars in which they were traveling crashed into guard rails, the N.C. Highway Patrol reported.

Thomas Dee Brown, 4, of Route 2, Rose Hill, was thrown from his father's car and killed when the car

struck a bridge guardrail and broke apart, the Highway Patrol reported.

The wreck occurred around 9:25 p.m. Wednesday on Secondary Road 1148, 2.7 miles south of Rose Hill. The father of the child and driver of the car, Thomas Thurman Brown, was charged with driving while

impaired, careless and reckless driving and felony death by vehicle.

Highway Patrol Sgt. D.O. Dixon said the car Brown was driving was traveling east on the rural road at high speed when it lost control on a curve and slammed into a guardrail, breaking the car into three pieces as

it skidded to a stop on the opposite end of the bridge.

Dixon said a witness told investigators the car passed her about three-fourths of a mile from the bridge. The witness' car was slightly damaged when she ran into part of the wreckage on the bridge, Dixon said.

Auditions Announced For The Cart

The final auditions for the 1984 local cast of THE LIBERTY CART will be held June 10 from 2-5 p.m. at the William R. Kenan Jr. Amphitheatre in Kenansville.

More than 40 people make up the local cast and openings are still available, according to Director David Thomas. Also, openings are still available for young black males

to fill the roles of Peter Piestoe and Little Jonathan.

Auditionees will be asked to read from the script and complete audition forms. Locals are needed for technical assistance as well as roles on stage, Thomas pointed out. All ages, male, female, black and white make up the local cast. Previous experience is not necessary.

"Work with THE LIBERTY CART can be a learning experience," Thomas said. "Even though the outdoor drama will take up a great deal of the summer evenings, many local cast members return. Many who return year-after-year assume some of the major roles." THE LIBERTY CART, Randolph Umberger's outdoor drama about the

development of eastern North Carolina, opens its ninth season on July 13. Local cast rehearsals begin June 13. No appointment is necessary for auditions. All local actors and technical personnel receive \$100 to help defray travel expenses. Additional information can be received at THE LIBERTY CART, P.O. Box 470, Kenansville, NC 28349.

Salutatorians To Address Exercises

Duplin high school salutatorians will offer welcomes and thanks to friends, teachers and relatives during graduation exercises tomorrow night. Duplin's salutatorians are Vicky Kelley of Wallace-Rose Hill, Terri Loomis of East Duplin, Mitchell Kernstine of James Kenan and Joy Melody Lanier of North Duplin.

Vicky Kelley is the daughter of James and Nancy Kelly of Wallace and plans to attend Wingate College. Vicky plans to study to become a medical doctor.

"The concern and trust of friendship helps people get through life," Vicky Kelley said. "It is very important that these people — our parents and our teachers and our friends — are thanked for their help in getting us to the point of graduation from high school."

Vicky will be attending Wingate College with assistance from the G.M. Stewart scholarship. During high school she received the Presidential Academic Fitness award and the Math Award. She is a member of the National Honor Society, DECA, math club and Future Business Leaders of America.

Terri Loomis is the daughter of Donald and Carol Loomis of Pink Hill. She plans to attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh and later enroll in medical school and enter the field of forensic pathology.

"The 1984 class will become the future American society," Terri Loomis, East Duplin salutatorian, said. "We are the new generation with new plans and access to new technology and the knowledge to make tremendous advances. Our generation will become the deciding factors in law, government and business in the United States." Terri is basing her salutatorian address on ideas from a speech given by United States President John Kennedy.

At East Duplin, Terri is a member of the National Honor Society,

Spanish Honor Society, Spanish club, band, Phi Theta Pi, Future Teachers of America, historical society and HOSA. Terri served as a marshal, participated in the math quiz contest sponsored by East Carolina University and was a member of the all-county band.

Mitchell Kernstine is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Kernstine of Warsaw. He plans to attend North Carolina State University and major in computer science.

"The graduates of 1984 have shared many common events in sports and academics that we can always look back on and remember," James Kenan salutatorian Mitchell Kernstine said. "The events of the past are just as important as continuing to learn and grow in the future. We are composed of the events in our past and the individuals we have met and both are the key to our individual strength and our future."

As a student at James Kenan, Mitchell was named a Morehead Scholarship and a Kenan Scholarship nominee. He is listed among the Society of Distinguished American High School Students and was named a Rotary Student of the Month. Mitchell was a member of the tennis team, manager of the varsity football team, and served one year as manager for the basketball team. He is a member of the National Honor Society, monogram club, pep club, drama club and attended Governor's School.

North Duplin salutatorian Joy Melody Lanier was featured last week in THE DUPLIN TIMES.

Graduation exercises for North Duplin will be held at the high school. James Kenan commencement exercises will be at the Kenan Memorial Auditorium. East Duplin will hold graduation ceremonies at the high school Fine Arts building. Wallace-Rose Hill commencement exercises are scheduled at Legion Stadium.



Plantation Day To Feature Juggling & Foolery

"One of the bylines of Ken Kay, juggler, is 'Juggling and Foolery' and he really does offer a performance that amazes, tickles and tricks his audience." Thus confirms Merle Creech of the Duplin County Arts Council as the plans for Plantation Day on Sunday, July 8 begin to crystallize. Ken has been juggling for a decade. His unique performance combines the mime and clown skills of a veteran performer with the technical manipulative feats that are among the most refined in the juggling arts. The festivities planned for the afternoon at Liberty Hall in Kenansville include Duplin craftspeople demonstrating local crafts, Liberty Cart actors performing and available to meet and mingle with the residents of the county, Charlie Albertson's Band, open house at Liberty Hall and the Kelly-Farrior House, lemonade and cookies, and the Joe Pierce Family Band and old-timey music. One other addition to the afternoon will be Gary Mitchell and Julia Howard from Ocracoke Island with a program of songs and Chanteys of the Sea. The afternoon is Duplin County's way of celebrating the North Carolina 400th Anniversary of the Roanoke Discovery Voyages.

James Sprunt Hearing Set June 13 On Contract Dispute

The James Sprunt Technical College Board of Trustees will meet on June 13th at 8 p.m. to hear an appeal by JSTC Dean Gene Ballard on his contract not being recommended for renewal for another year. JSTC President Carl Price informed Ballard on May 23 by hand-delivered letter that his contract would not be recommended for renewal.

Dean Ballard has been employed at JSTC since 1969. President Carl Price has been employed at the college since 1968.

Price said "The North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges prohibits institutions in the North Carolina Community College system from granting tenure to their employees. The College, however, has protected its employees' rights through the use of an annual employment contract. The maximum length of any employment contract is twelve (12) months. For the duration of the contract, an employee may not be terminated unless he/she violates

the specific condition of that contract. However, upon expiration of a contract, neither the College nor the employee is under any obligation to enter into a new contract.

"Each year, the needs of the College are reviewed and analyzed to determine the personnel needs of the College in the coming year. Based on this analysis, decisions regarding the issuing of new employment contracts for the year are made. These decisions are based on a wide range of factors such as financial resources available to employ staff, changes in the curriculum, and changes in the organizational structure of the College. In addition, the decisions also sometimes involve confidential personnel information. This information, by law, may not be released without the express written permission of the employee involved. Therefore, to protect the privacy rights of its current and former employees, the College cannot release information related to specific personnel decisions.

"All personnel decisions at the College follow the guidelines governing affirmative action and equal opportunity employment laws. Every effort is made in the employment process to insure that the College has the capabilities to deliver quality education to the students it serves."

The Ladd Report

During the 1982-83 school year, the top management team of James Sprunt Technical College identified six major areas within the college which needed to be addressed. They are: 1) Computerization of the administrative functions of the College. 2) Staff and faculty development including computer literacy training. 3) The development of six additional computer related courses to be added to the curriculum. 4) An organizational development process to strengthen the management of the college and provide additional training for the management team. 5) A comprehensive counseling/retention

program to reduce the student drop-out rate.

The College developed and submitted to the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program of the U.S. Department of Education a proposal designed to address these needs. In October, 1983, James Sprunt Technical College received a three-year, one-half million dollar grant from this agency to implement this project.

One of the major thrusts of this project was to improve the overall management of the college through the implementation of a systematic organizational development process. Jim Ladd, a management consultant with Ladd and Associates, was employed to assist in developing and implementing the process.

The first step in this process was to analyze current management practices to determine specific areas that needed improvement. This analysis has been completed and Ladd has provided the college with a written report of the findings, and

conducted a workshop to explore the implications of this report. With his help, the management team (composed of the president, four top-level administrators, and eight mid-level administrators) is working together to implement the organizational development process.

The organizational development process, when implemented, will: 1) Provide management training for 13 mid- and top-level administrators via workshops, seminars, conferences and courses. 2) Result in more specific working plans for each major division of the college. 3) Develop improved policies and procedures for operating the college. 4) Develop a more effective method of employee evaluation. 5) Clarify the roles, relationships, and responsibilities of the management team in relation to the organizational structure.

The successful implementation of this process, over the three-year period of the grant, will result in a better trained, more effective

management team, who will be better able to cope with the challenges faced by the college in the 80s. The Ladd report is only the first step in a lengthy process. As previously stated, its purpose was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the management practices of the college. With these areas identified, the management team is working together towards strengthening the management of James Sprunt Technical College in order to better serve the educational needs of the community.

As president of the college, I am personally committed to working together with the management team, the faculty and staff to achieve this goal, said Price.

The JSTC Board of Trustees met Monday night in closed session to discuss the matter; however, no comment was made following the meeting except an appeal hearing was set for June 13th.