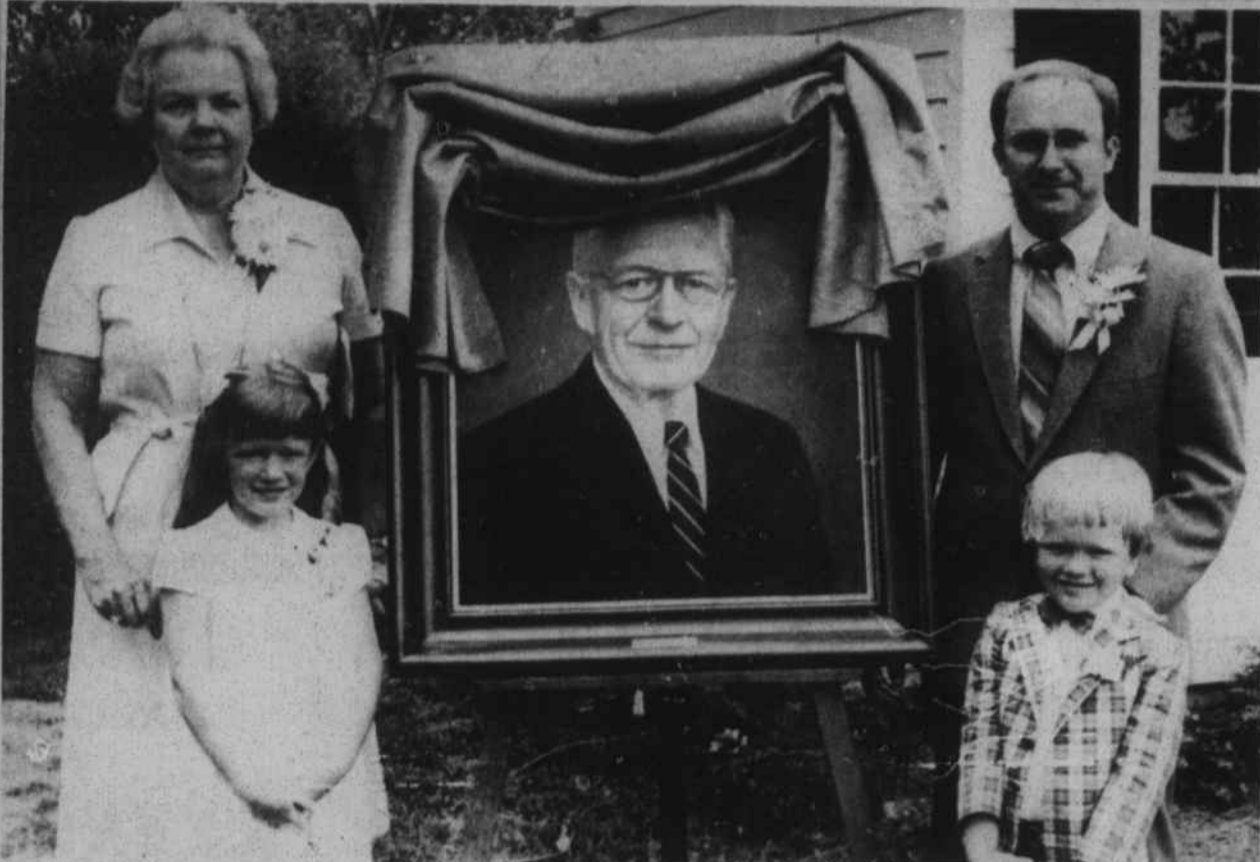


Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL



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Portrait Presented

United Carolina Bank of Kenansville presented the portrait of the late Philip Kretsch Jr. to the public July 13 at the bank. Kretsch, a former UCB executive, came to Duplin County in 1951 to establish a branch office of Waccamaw Bank in Kenansville. In recent years the Waccamaw Bank merged to become United Carolina

Bank. The portrait will be displayed in the bank lobby. Pictured above, Kretsch's grandchildren, Heather and Philip Roller, complete the unveiling of the portrait as their grandmother, Juanita Kretsch and UCB executive Carey Wrenn watch.

Duplin Benefits In Support For Firefighters

Many rural North Carolina counties appropriate substantial sums from their general funds for volunteer fire departments, county officials said Friday.

With such assistance, in addition to the fire departments' or districts' fund raising efforts, someone will respond to a fire call from any part of those counties, even if the fire is not in a fire district, the officials

said. In addition to reducing damage from fire, the presence of fire fighting equipment reduces fire insurance premiums in rural areas. The reductions vary with distance from fire stations but range from 10 percent to about 16 percent, according to county officials.

The Duplin County commissioners appropriated \$103,412 for the 24-

volunteer fire departments serving the county during the 1984-85 fiscal year, according to County Manager Ralph Cottle. The county also provides \$38,550 in operating expenses for its rescue squads as well as providing ambulances for most of them.

The county is purchasing two ambulances for about \$50,000 this year, Cottle said. The total appropriation for operations — just over \$142,000 — represents just over 2 cents of the county's 75 cents per \$100 assessed valuation tax levy.

Duplin provides \$400 a month to the fire departments in the county and smaller amounts to four departments in other counties that serve portions of Duplin. The county has about 41,000 people scattered over 819 square miles.

Duplin has one fire tax district — Oakwood — in the northern part of the county, which has a fire tax rate of six cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The tax brings it \$8,404 a year in addition to the county's \$400 a month contribution.

\$345,000 for the construction of a treatment clinic at the Duplin Sampson Area Mental Health Center. According to legislative staff members, these appropriations were not funded.

Legislature Passes Duplin Bills

Southeastern N.C. Legislators were busy during the short session of the General Assembly.

In addition to dealing with a wide variety of bills of statewide interest, area lawmakers introduced and lobbied for local bills that directly affect their constituents.

Rep. Wendell H. Murphy, D-Duplin, introduced three bills that were ratified. Murphy represents Duplin and Jones counties. The legislation:

- Limits hunting from roadsides in Jones County.
 - Increases from \$75,000 to \$300,000 the value of work and materials the county's labor pool can use in the conversion of a Kenansville school to county office space.
 - Allows Jones County to sell certain property at private sale. The bill validates an agreement between the county and Trenton Apparel Co.
- Appropriations asked by Murphy, included \$100,000 for the Duplin County livestock facility and

Rose Hill Seeks New Well

The Rose Hill Town Board this past week directed town attorney Richard Burrows to seek a 90-day option on a potential well site on the northwest edge of town.

The 3.74-acre site lies at Secondary Road 1102 and Ridge Street. The owners, Edd Monk and J.W. Maynor Jr., are asking \$11,000 for the whole site and \$5,000 for a portion of about 1 1/4 acres, Burrows said.

After obtaining the option the town will have a test well drilled to determine whether a sufficient quantity of water can be obtained.

The board declared two police vehicles surplus and voted to open sealed bids on the cars at noon July 23 in Town Hall. The vehicles are Chevrolet Impalas. One is a 1978 model and the other a 1979 model.

Eugene Fussell, town maintenance supervisor, was directed to begin mosquito spraying immediately. The twice-weekly spraying will continue through August.



Chinquapin Church Is Getting New Siding

Donald and David King of Pink Hill are placing vinyl siding on the Chinquapin Church "from the bottom board to the steeple." The brothers work with Eastern Exteriors of Warsaw. The church is located at the junction of Highways 50 and 41. It is a group of nine.

Warsaw Recreation Director Awarded Extra Pay

WARSAW — The Town Board increased the salary of its new recreation director by \$1,000 a year for one year during its regular July meeting this week.

George W. Lloyd will assume the position of town recreation director July 25 at a regular salary of \$12,729 per year.

The board agreed to increase that figure by \$1,000 the first year to help him with medical expenses un-

til he is covered by the town's insurance after 12 months.

In other business, the board awarded fuel contracts.

Service Oil Co. of Warsaw was awarded the contracts for regular gasoline at 95.8 cents a gallon, unleaded gasoline at 99.8 cents, premium unleaded gasoline at \$1.032, non-highway diesel oil at 86.2 cents and No. 2 fuel oil at 85.2 cents a gallon.

Par Gas Co. of Warsaw was awarded the contract to supply the town sewage plant and fire station with liquified petroleum gas at 69.9 cents a gallon.

Smith Bros. Gas Co. of Magnolia received a contract to furnish LP gas for the town recreation center and garage for 71 cents a gallon.

The board reappointed town clerk Alfred Herring as fiscal officer and tax collector for 1984-85.

Wallace Board Discovers Old Ordinance Declaring Sidewalk Sales Illegal

WALLACE — A long discussion about a little-remembered town ordinance banning the placement of merchandise for sale on sidewalks resulted in the Town Board this week directing the town attorney to work up a new ordinance.

Some downtown business people had complained to board members about baled straw on downtown sidewalks. They complained that it created a fire hazard.

A 1941 town ordinance bans placing any merchandise on sidewalks. At the time it was approved, virtually all local businesses were downtown and many of them displayed merchandise on the sidewalks. The ordinance forced people to walk in the streets to get around the displays.

Enforcement touched off further complaints. If fully enforced, the ordinance would ban sidewalk sales promotions.

"When you tell a man to remove the straw, you also have to tell everybody else to remove merchandise

from the sidewalks," said Town Administrator Robert Hyatt. "If you enforce it for one you have to enforce it for all. You must be consistent."

Merchants have expressed displeasure with the enforcement. They said they want a workable solution so sidewalk sales can be staged.

A definition of what constitutes a public sidewalk is also needed, officials said.

"It looks like downtown Wallace is dying and if a sidewalk sale will help bring it back to life, then I'm all for it," said Joe Blanton, a merchant.

Police Chief Roscoe Rich said, "You mean that these farmers who come in and set up in back of pickups can't do it."

The town's attorney, Richard Burrows, was directed to contact merchants and attempt to draw up a practical ordinance.

During a public hearing the board annexed the area near Tin

City on which a town well is being proposed.

David Criser of Henry von Oesen & Associates of Wilmington was directed to prepare an engineering contract for drilling the well.

Criser said that if the contract is approved at the next meeting, it would take about one year to have the well ready for pumping. He said the state has approved the site, but approval for well house plans and for connecting the well to the water system must be obtained. Approvals will take about 90 days, he said.

A public hearing on drilling the well will be held Aug. 23.

A test well must be drilled before the main well can be started, Criser said.

In other business, the board appointed Webb Turlington to the Planning Board, to replace Tom Davidson who resigned. Turlington to complete term expiring in 1986. It reappointed Joe Bryant and Francis Townsend to six-year terms on the library board.

Lightning Blamed For Several Fires In Duplin

Severe lightning from thunderstorms was blamed for a series of fires in Duplin County Friday night.

Storms swept through the Wallace-Rose Hill area around 8 p.m. Lightning struck the house of Elmer James on Secondary Road 1101 and set it on fire. An outbuilding at another house nearby was also set on fire from a lightning strike, the Duplin County Sheriff's Department reported.

At Teachey, on S.R. 1172, a house owned by Necie Murray caught fire, also from an apparent lightning strike.

At Fountaintown, near Chinquapin, firemen fought a fire in an outbuilding, owned by Ralph Hunter, on S.R. 1715.

In the Rose Hill-Lake Tut area, high water covered some roads.

South of Kenansville, there were reports of heavy hail, but no word on damage, according to sheriff's department dispatcher Addie Chambers.

Fire departments from Wallace, Teachey and Rose Hill fought the fires. There were no reports of injuries and no damage estimates available.

Missing Man Found Dead

A man missing since July 5 was found dead in a Duplin County tobacco field Saturday morning. He apparently died of natural causes.

Johnny Morrissey, 58, of Manassas, Va., was visiting relatives near Warsaw when he went for a walk and disappeared.

Duplin County Sheriff's Department and rescue workers conducted a search of the area off Secondary Road 1105, where he was last seen, but called it off July 7 when they failed to find Morrissey.

Workers in a tobacco field off S.R. 1105, not far from the area that was searched, found Morrissey's body shortly before 11 a.m. Saturday, according to Duplin County Sheriff's Department reports.

The cause of death was not immediately known, but there were no apparent suspicious circumstances.

Bloodmobile In Alberston

The Alberston area churches will host a community-wide Red Cross Bloodmobile on Saturday, July 21 at the Alberston Mormon Church from 10 am to 2 pm.



Herb Garden Dedicated

The O.P. Johnson Memorial Herb Garden was dedicated July 13 at Liberty Hall in Kenansville. Johnson served 35 years as superintendent of Duplin County Schools and played an active role in the restoration of Liberty Hall and the presentation of the 1949 and 1950 pageant, THE DUPLIN STORY. Tom Kenan III presented the garden to the public on behalf of the Duplin Board of Education and the Liberty Hall Restoration Committee. Pictured above, Tom Kenan and Mrs. O.P. "Minnie" Johnson pose for photos in the center walk of the round herb garden.