

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Poultry Operation Cuts Back Closing Local Hatchery

Hy-Cross Co., the Pennsylvania firm that opened a poultry operation at Rose Hill this spring, closed its hatchery recently. The closing threw about 14 people out of work.

David Rackley Jr., former hatchery manager for the Duplin County operation, said workers had about 10 days notice of the closing. "Things kind of dropped off and I could see it coming," he said.

The company will keep open its pullet operation, which employs two people, Rackley said.

Rackley said he and 10 to 12 others who lost their jobs are still out of work. Many will look for work at other hatcheries, he said.

Agri-General Corp. in Letitz, Pa., owns Hy-Cross. Company official

Bob Boucher refused last week to comment on the closing.

Boucher said only Andy Hanson, Agri-General's general manager, could comment. "I know that he is in meetings also and is not in Pennsylvania," Boucher said.

Rose Hill Commissioner Keith Hinson said he had not expected the company to expand its operation, but had thought it would remain in Rose Hill.

Rackley said Hy-Cross closed its Rose Hill operation because agricultural authorities lifted the quarantine in Pennsylvania caused by avian flu. That allowed the company to resume production there. Rackley said a drop in egg prices has cut the demand for laying hens. He expects the operation to reopen if there is

another outbreak of avian flu or if orders for laying hens increase.

"They had planned to stay," Rackley said. "The price of eggs dropped to below break-even, so people are not putting in orders for layers. They have a hatchery in the quarantine zone in Pennsylvania. The quarantine was lifted in the first of October."

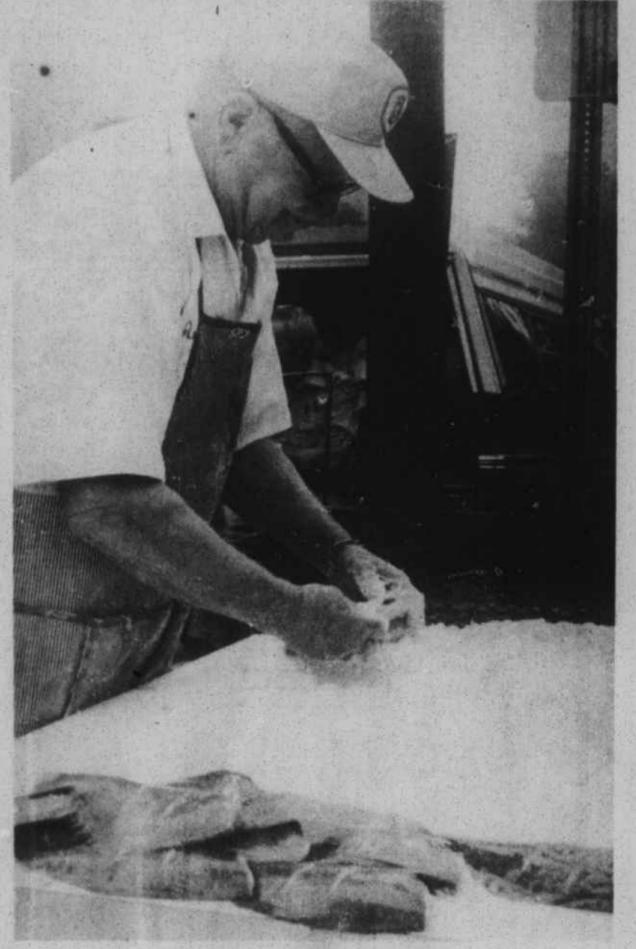
"I realized they are a Pennsylvania company and knew when the quarantine was lifted they would have a decision to make," said Hinson, who formerly worked for the Watson Seafood and Poultry Co.

Watson's property was sold in a bankruptcy sale this spring. Rackley said Hy-Cross rented the hatchery building, formerly used by Watson, from two Rose Hill residents.

"There's some disappointment, really," said Woody Brinson, director of the Duplin Development Commission. "Everybody automatically jumped to the conclusion that they would buy Watson's whole operation. They never bid on it. I think that's where expectations came about."

A lot of people around Rose Hill really assumed Hy-Cross would buy eggs from farmers and contract with growers, Brinson said.

With the closing, Hy-Cross will ship its 60,000 laying hens to its Pennsylvania hatchery, Rackley said. He said the company spent \$15,000 to \$20,000 per month in Duplin County. That included salaries, rent, utilities and feed.



Frying Fish For Charity

The Duplin County Shrine Club sponsors a fish fry each October to raise funds for crippled children. Pictured above, Duplin Shriner Moses Farmer prepares fish for frying at the park in Kenansville. The fish fries are currently held in three locations in Duplin County and proceeds are donated to help sponsor 21 Shriners hospitals for crippled and burned children. According to Shrine members, the annual fish fry began more than 20 years ago in Wallace and branched to Kenansville and then Beulaville.

Albertson Water Bids Awarded To Raleigh Based Firm

Duplin County Commissioners awarded \$1.1 million in bids for the Albertson community water system last week. This is almost \$219,000 less than the expected cost.

The project, to be completed in December 1985, will be funded through federal and state loans and grants and bonds sold by Duplin County. Under the cost-sharing for-

mulas, the county's share is \$111,000 less than estimated.

Heater Well Co. of Raleigh was low bidder for a well at \$64,493.46. The company must start drilling within 30 days and has 45 days after that to finish. The highest of the seven bidders offered to drill the well for \$89,800.

The lion's share of the project —

water lines to homes — will cost \$919,159. Paul's Pipeline Inc. of Danville, Ky., was low bidder. R.H. Moore Co. of Murrell's Inlet, S.C. was highest at \$1,126,396.75.

Caldwell Tanks of Louisville, Ky., got the contract to build a 150,000-gallon water tank for \$122,502. High bid for the project was \$162,200 from NaCon Services of Norcross, Ga.

James Parker, Albertson water system chairman, is anxious to see the work begin. "I want to see one of those spigots dripping," he said.

In other business, the commissioners decided to advertise for an assistant finance officer for \$15,331 yearly. The job is a reclassification of a former computer technician posi-

tion. Three people were hired in that job and all quit for better-paying jobs.

Duplin General Hospital Administrator Richard Harrell said the hospital is "in the black." He also said the hospital is completing negotiations to have a portable CAT scanner, a computerized X-ray machine, brought to the hospital twice a week.

People needing the special X-ray must now pay \$200 for an ambulance trip and insurance companies and Medicare will not pay for the ride, Harrell said.

Frank Moore, county tax supervisor, said state motor vehicle lists helped add more than \$2 million to the county's list of taxable property. Taxes and penalties from that amount will bring in about \$15,000.

Malpractice Trial

A malpractice trial began in Kenansville Monday.

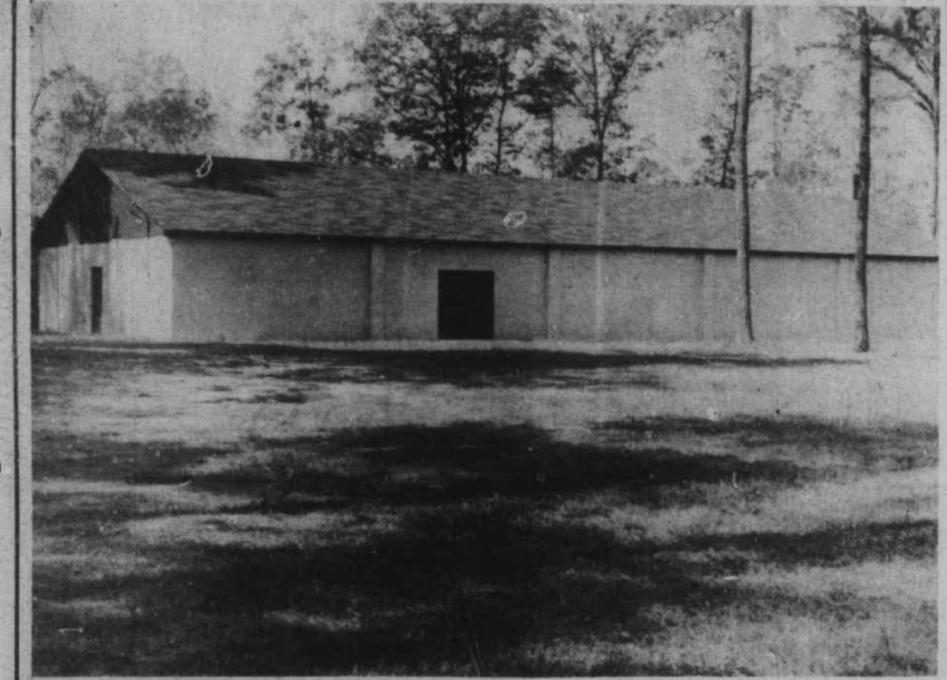
The case alleges that through neglect, Dr. Oscar L. Redwine, a surgeon of Kenansville, caused the death of Henry Noah Blackburn of Warsaw. The incident occurred in

March 1982.

Superior Court Judge Henry L. McKinnon of Lumberton is presiding over the civil case.

Jury selection is expected to be complete by Tuesday noon.

Law Enforcement Hut Dedication



Honored For Work Done

Ronald Brock, a Duplin County Sheriff's Deputy, and Dennis Pope, a masonry instructor at James Sprunt, are presented plaques by Glenn Jernigan in appreciation for the work they did in completing the Duplin County law enforcement building. The presentation

took place at dedication ceremonies Sunday at the building named in honor of the late Sheriff Williamson. Attorney Vance Gavin was the guest speaker. The building is called the D.L. Williamson Law Enforcement Center.

Shriners Fry Fish To Help Crippled Children

Somebody has to care, Duplin County Shriners say and each year they show their concern through fund-raising projects like the annual fish fry to sponsor 21 children's hospitals in America.

"Somebody has to do it," Duplin County Shriner Jimmy Tucker said. "And, it is a lot easier for the public to care because we know who needs help locally and we can make sure the money goes to help them."

"It's hard to say from one year to the next just how much money will be made on the fish fries," Tucker said. "But, we have in the past cleared from \$2,500 to \$3,000 each year on the fish fries, and it all goes to the crippled children's hospitals."

According to Tucker, the Shriner organization supports 18 crippled children's hospitals and three burn centers for children. The Shriner's hospitals accept children under 18

years of age who have been crippled through birth defects, sickness or accident, or are burned and their parents cannot afford proper treatment. Along with treatment, Tucker said, the hospitals research diseases which cripple children.

"Shriners are affiliated with the Masonic order," Tucker said. "And, each affiliate of the Masons supports some type of charitable organization; for us it's the crippled and burned children." Tucker pointed out that the Shriners are an old organization, dating back more than 100 years. But the crippled children's project has only been supported by the Shriners since just after World War I.

"This is the biggest fund-raising project we have each year," Duplin Shrine Club member Elwood Revelle said. "The Shriners sell a few other things like plaques and flowers during the year for the support of the children's hospitals, but the fish fry

is the biggest fund-raiser.

"The Duplin County Shrine Club was chartered in 1964," Revelle said. "It was organized in Wallace. We used to meet in the old Stone Manor building until we completed our club building there in 1969."

"But, even before the organization was chartered," Revelle continued, "there were Shriners in Wallace and they were holding fish fries prior to 1964."

"The fish fries spread from Wallace to Kenansville. The Shriners have held fish fries in Kenansville five years and they spread into Beulaville two years ago," Revelle said.

This year makes the sixth annual Shriners fish fry in the Kenansville Municipal Park and the third held at Beulaville. The Duplin County Shrine Club currently has 50 active members.

Murder Trial Began In Bladen Last Week

Eddie Carson Robinson went on trial in Elizabethtown Monday in the murders of a Bladen County man, his wife and step-daughter. State prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Robinson, 36, testified against co-defendant Elton Ozell McLaughlin in September. Both men were charged in the March 26 murder of James Worley, 50, and the April 29 murders of Sheila Denise Worley,

21, and Psoma Baggett. McLaughlin, 33, was found guilty of the three murders and was sentenced to death and two consecutive life prison sentences.

The jury for Robinson's trial was to be selected from Kenansville in Duplin County and brought to Elizabethtown daily by bus, as in the McLaughlin trial.

During jury selection this past week, 32 potential jurors were

dismissed for being morally opposed to the death penalty. District Attorney Mike Easley said. Eight were dismissed during jury selections for the McLaughlin trial.

The court has appointed Bladen County lawyers Goldston Womble and James Melvin to defend Robinson. Judge Hamilton H. Hobgood, who presided over McLaughlin's trial, will hear the case.

Duplin Dinner Set For MOC

The annual Duplin County gift support dinner for Mount Olive College is planned for Saturday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. at East Duplin High School near Beulaville.

William D. Thigpen is chairman of the dinner which will include an up-to-date report on the four-year program of the college. The 1984 gift support goal is \$10,000.

No tickets are sold, but all interested persons, members of Free Will Baptist churches, alumni and friends of the college are invited to make a contribution in the amount of their choosing. Donors of \$100 or more will be recognized as "bridge-

builders" and will receive special acknowledgment.

A goal of \$200,000 in contributions has been set, including \$175,000 in county goals and \$25,000 in special contributions. Since the dinners were begun in 1963, they have provided \$1.8 million in gift support. By meeting this year's goal of \$200,000 the grant total of dinner gifts will reach \$2 million.

The gifts will serve to help the college in its development of the four-year program.

The dinners are open to the public and feature delicious meals and entertainment by MOC student

musical groups. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Thigpen or the Free Will Baptist Church in their community.

**National
Textile
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