

Duplin Teacher Of The Year

Working in a bank and hoping for a chance to teach, the 1984-85 Duplin County Teacher of the Year Johanna Vest now knows the reality of at least two of her dreams.

Johanna Vest of Wallace has had a permanent position in Duplin County schools at North Duplin Junior High since 1980-81. And, only in the past two years has Johanna moved from teaching student labs to the regular classroom. Today she teaches five math classes and one science to seventh and eighth grade students.

Johanna came to Duplin County public schools after working almost three years in banking. The experience led to Johanna's study and certification in math. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University with an education major in home economics.

"This is the second year I have been in competition for teacher of the year," Johanna said. "Last year I was an honor teacher. But, the faculty here felt like I should try again and have supported me in a second try." Johanna will advance into regional competition for Teacher of the Year in Jacksonville, November 15.

"Teachers should be viewed as professionals," Johanna said. "As always, it is important that we (teachers) reach as many students as possible. In schools today teachers mold students' characters and introduce them to many social skills, as well as teach them academics. And, those responsibilities weigh heavy on us. But, teachers recognize we must get the most out of our students because they are our future and what they learn will make an important difference.

"Every child has some potential and something to give," Johanna said. "I think it is up to the teacher to discover and teach through the student's interests. And, above all, something I try to do is build self-worth and pride in the students."

An easy way to measure teacher effectiveness, Johanna said, is through the building of a scrapbook. One look through a teacher's scrapbook would reveal her teaching philosophy and accomplishments. A requirement in the teacher of the year competition is a scrapbook.

"All teachers should keep a scrapbook for themselves," Johanna said. "It tells you that you've made some accomplishments and you are worthwhile as a person — that your life has made a difference." Often the difference is made in the life of an ideal student and a student who has been turned around to realize school is a benefit, Johanna pointed out.

"An ideal student is one that is

willing to work," Johanna said. "A student that realizes school is important for their future and is willing to cooperate usually gets support at home. But, a teacher can build an ideal student by motivating the child who has a distaste for school."

Johanna serves Duplin as the local NCAE secretary. She also participates in the Beta Sigma Phi chapter of Wallace. Beta Sigma Phi is a cultural and service organization with an international membership. Johanna has served as president of the Wallace chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. And, she and her husband, Donald Vest, attend the Wallace United Methodist Church. Donald is employed with J.P. Stevens of Wallace. The couple has resided in Duplin since 1976.

Duplin named Mary Anna Grady of East Duplin High School and Beth Brinson of Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary Honor teachers in the 1984-85 county teacher of the year competition.



Duplin Teacher of the Year Johanna Vest

Education Week Declared in Kenansville

Kenansville Mayor Don Suttles is pictured, seated, above as he signs a proclamation declaring American Education Week November 11-17. Pictured with Suttles

is Kenansville Elementary School principal Wilbur Carr and Kenansville Elementary School teacher Bobbye Kennedy.

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Farmer Finds Corn Missing From Stalks

When his combine failed to spew kernels of corn out of its spout while traveling through a corn field, Morris Kornegay of Route 2, Faison, thought something was strange.

The corn stalks stood naturally. The corn had been streaming from the spout — until, suddenly, nothing came out.

Kornegay told Duplin County sheriff's deputies that he stopped, checked the combine and found that it seemed to be working. He then looked at the corn stalks and found, to his amazement, that ears had been removed from some.

He estimated about 50 bushels of corn had been hand-harvested and stolen from the field. At harvest time prices for 50 bushels of corn would bring no more than \$130 to \$140.

Harvesting corn by hand is slow, hard work. Officials doubt that whoever made off with the corn would make the equivalent of minimum wage.

DUPLIN TIMES-PROGRESS SENTINEL
Published Weekly by
DUPLIN PUBLISHING CO., INC.
Ike Riddick, Publisher
P.O. Box 68
Kenansville, NC 28349

Second Class Postage Paid at
Kenansville, NC 28349

SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
Single Copy 11 Cents
In Duplin and Adjoining Counties
6 Mos.—\$1.83 1 Yr.—\$3.66
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