

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Duplin Times
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Santa Visits With Preschoolers

Santa Claus arrived, with some assistance from the Kenansville Fire Department, at the Bo-Peep Nursery in Kenansville, Dec. 19. Santa took time to talk with each individual child about their Christmas gift list before he was escorted back to his sleigh by the fire department.

Santa is pictured above at the Bo-Peep Nursery as he chats with a preschooler. The Bo-Peep Nursery is operated by Gail Brinson of Kenansville.

Opens In January

Cowan Museum Begins Move

The Cowan Museum closed Friday and will reopen in early January at its new permanent home in the Kelly-Farrior House next to Liberty Hall in Kenansville.

The museum opened in July of 1981. Its home was the old Duplin County-Dorothy Wightman Library on Seminary Street in Kenansville. Since it opened, records show that more than 1,000 people visit the Cowan Museum each month to see the more than 1,500 rare tools, household furnishings and other items, many of which are relevant to the history of this area.

"We have so many ideas about what our forefathers did and how we can bring those memories back," Curator George Cowan of the Cowan Museum said. "We plan to have working examples of the methods of doing things that our forefathers used." Included in those plans are bee hives, a cane mill, saw mill, grist mill, smoke house, whiskey still, and a one-room log house.

"We have mixed feelings about the move," Cowan said. "If we get the things (support features) on the grounds like planned, it will be a much better place than we have now. Not only that, but we feel our move will help us and Liberty Hall," Cowan said. "Where we are now, we are hard to find. But, when we move, people can make one stop and see both the museum and Liberty Hall."

The museum collection was a donation to the county by its present curators, George and Ila Cowan of Cedar Fork. The historic Kelly-Farrior House was donated by the United Carolina Bank to Duplin and slated as the home of the Cowan Museum in 1983.

The historic home was moved from its original site next to the Kenansville United Carolina Bank office more than a year ago. Exterior and interior renovations were completed last week and for the first time, the 136-year-old Kelly-Farrior House

was wired with electricity and equipped with a plumbing system. The restoration of the house was completed to accommodate museum artifacts and at the same time be a historical part of the collection, pointed out Duplin Agricultural Extension Service Director Lois Britt, who acts as county coordinator for the Cowan Museum. The restoration lends a special emphasis to the interior construction using pegs and hand-hewn support beams of carpenters more than 100 years ago.

The Kelly-Farrior House was built in 1848. The house is listed on the National Historic Register and is one of the earliest Greek revival style homes built in Kenansville. The house, originally built for John J. Kelly, is thought to have been constructed by Thomas Sheppard, a native of Onslow County. Sheppard is credited with construction of the Isaac Kelly home and Liberty Hall, both Kenansville houses listed on the National Historic Register.

"It's not very often I have an opportunity to tell the people of this county what we want to do at the Kelly-Farrior House," George Cowan said. "I know when it all comes together, everyone will be more proud of their county and what it has to offer."

"All the time we get people in the museum from Duplin," Cowan smiled, "and, I take them through — it takes about an hour-and-a-half if I talk constantly — showing them items in the collection. When we get through most of the local visitors just scratch their heads and say — 'I'll be darned, I didn't know that!'"

"You know, I've been told you can learn more here in a couple of hours than you can at the Smithsonian in two or three days," Cowan continued. "We have the simple everyday things which teach us the basic ways of life of our forefathers."

"And, the teaching part of the museum is really great," Cowan said. "There are a lot of things to be learned from a place like this."

I-40 Construction Contracts Awarded

Among the contracts approved by the state Board of Transportation at its monthly meeting Dec. 14, were two affecting Duplin and Pender counties.

The first contract calls for construction of a 4.9-mile section of the I-40 Benson-to-Wilmington Freeway in Duplin County. The project extends from south of Secondary Road 1921 to north of Secondary Road 1162, north of Wilmington.

Construction will begin in January and is scheduled for final completion in September 1987.

Hardaway Constructors of Wilmington received the contract for

\$5,983,855.

The second contract calls for construction of structures on a section of the Benson-to-Wilmington Freeway over Rock Fish Creek, southeast of Wallace at the Duplin-Pender County line.

The structures lie within the limits of a project let to contract in September, 1983 extending from south of US-41 at Wallace to north of US-117.

Barnhill Contracting Company, Inc. of Tarboro received the contract for \$726,686. Construction will begin in January and is scheduled for completion in December, 1985.

I-40 Fact Sheet

Length: 91.4 miles from I-95 at Benson in Johnston County to Wilmington in New Hanover County. (Also goes through Pender, Duplin and Sampson counties.)

Total Cost: \$224.3 million (\$22.7 million in right-of-way funds already authorized. Represents right of way for the entire project.)

Estimated Completion Date: 1991 (Before acceleration in program - 1995)

Total Miles Under Construction: 39.2 miles

Total Miles Under Contract: 45.1 miles (includes two contracts awarded by the Board December 14)

Amount of Contracts to Date:

\$115.8 million (includes two contracts awarded by Board December 14.)

Funding for Project in this Year's Transportation Improvement Program: Interstate Rehabilitation Funds.

Funding for Project in Last Year's Transportation Improvement Program: Federal-aid Primary Funds (This meant that the project had to compete with all other needed primary projects across the state.)

Interstate Rehabilitation Funds: Used for rehabilitation of the state's older interstate system.

No other major project of this size and scope has ever been built in this sort of time frame.

Wallace Building Inspections Will Be Handled By County

Building inspection in Wallace will be conducted by the Duplin County building inspection department starting Jan. 1.

The County Commissioners last week approved a request from Wallace town administrator Robert Hyatt for the service.

Wallace has maintained its own building inspection program in the past.

Brice Sanderson, chief county building inspector, said the Wallace resolution called for an inspector to be in Wallace one day a week to answer questions. At Sanderson's request, however, that portion of the resolution was deleted. Sanderson said he plans to provide that service to both Wallace and Faison, but might not be able to maintain a regular schedule.

Sanderson said Wallace and Faison residents must pay long-distance rates for calls to Kenansville, the county seat. By having an inspector in those towns on a regular basis, these fees could be eliminated.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell commented, "It seems to me it would be cheaper to make a phone call than to send a high-priced man down there all day."

In other business, W. Hillman Ray Jr. of Mount Olive, who has contracted to survey the recreation area of Limestone-Muddy Creek watershed projects, said that instead of paying for a bond to guarantee completion of his work, he would do the work and await approval by the

board before expecting payment. Soil Conservationist Kenneth Futreal said he would have a state engineer inspect the job when it is completed.

In other business, the board: • Extended the franchise of Univision Cablevision until March 1985. The company holds a franchise to serve all of the county except Warsaw.

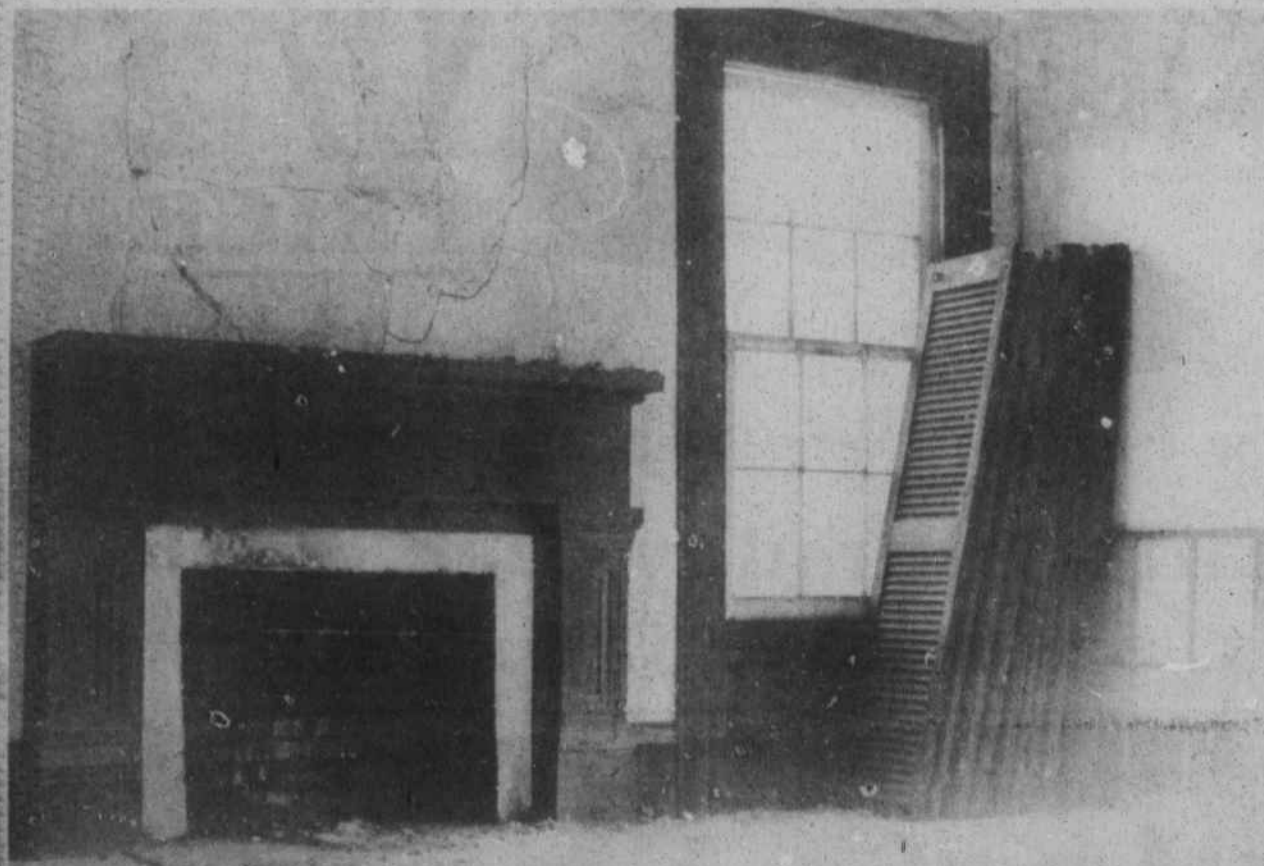
The commissioners expressed unhappiness over the pace of the installation of cable equipment. The company should serve 85 percent of the county, board members said. The company says it serves 85 percent of the area.

• Reappointed Commissioner W.J. Costin to the Neuse River Council of Governments board of directors.

• Approved the addition of two eligibility specialist positions in the county social services department. The county will pay half their salaries, or \$11,414 plus half benefits.

• Heard County Extension Chairman Lois Britt report on the Cowan Museum of home and farm artifacts. The museum closed Friday to move to the restored Kelly-Farrior House. It will re-open after the first of the year, she said.

• Re-appointed Ebern Watson Jr. of Rose Hill and Garland King of Wallace to the Duplin Development Commission. It appointed John Hollingsworth of Warsaw to succeed Milford Quinn of Warsaw, who asked not to be reappointed. Terms are for four years.



Kelly-Farrior House Before Restoration

The cracked plaster walls and scarred fireplace mantels have been renovated in the Kelly-Farrior House to accommodate the artifacts from the Cowan Museum. The Kelly-Farrior House was built in 1848 and until its recent renovation, the home had never been wired for

electricity or had a plumbing system. The house was occupied until the 1970s and originally stood between the United Carolina Bank and the North Carolina National Bank in Kenansville. Today the historic Kelly-Farrior House stands next to Liberty Hall.

JSTC Winter Quarter Registration Begins Jan. 2

New and returning students to James Sprunt Technical College will register for winter quarter classes on Wednesday, Jan. 2, in the student lounge of the McGowen Building on the Kenansville campus.

Registration hours are 9 - 11:30 a.m., 1:15 - 3:30 p.m., and 6 - 8 p.m. Students may register for day or evening classes at any of these times. Tuition fees are \$59 per quarter for full-time students. Students should be prepared to pay fees at the time of registration.

Pre-entrance testing is required of all new students. The tests will be given at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. in Room 107 of the McGowen Building.

Classes will begin on Thursday, Jan. 3. JSTC is a member of the North Carolina Community College system and offers over 20 associate degrees or diploma programs in many different areas, plus a college-transfer program.

For more information about registration or career opportunities, contact the Director of Admissions at 296-1341. Wallace residents may call toll free, 285-7077.

Vandals Shatter Bus Windshield

A water balloon thrown from a moving car struck and broke the windshield of a Trailways bus on N.C. 24 about three miles west of Kenansville Sunday night, the State Highway Patrol reported.

No one was injured. Damage to the windshield was estimated at about \$1,000 by Trooper Billy Floyd of Rose Hill, who investigated.

Duplin County Deputy Richard Whitman and Kenansville Officer Byron Thomas also responded to the police call. The officers first believed a bottle had been thrown through the windshield. They found no traces of a bottle but they did find fragments of a balloon. The Duplin and Kenansville officers reported seeing

some boys with balloons earlier in the evening.

Later Sunday night, Dennis Her-ring Brock, 16, of Route 1, Beula-ville, was charged with damage to personal property in connection with the incident.

The driver of the bus, Pittmas Glenn Crumpler of Roseboro, was wearing glasses. He said the glasses saved him from injury to his eyes.

Fifteen passengers were on the bus. Crumpler stopped a passing motorist to call the Highway Patrol. The bus was traveling west and the car, east.

The officers said visibility was poor on the road because of thick fog Sunday night.