

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

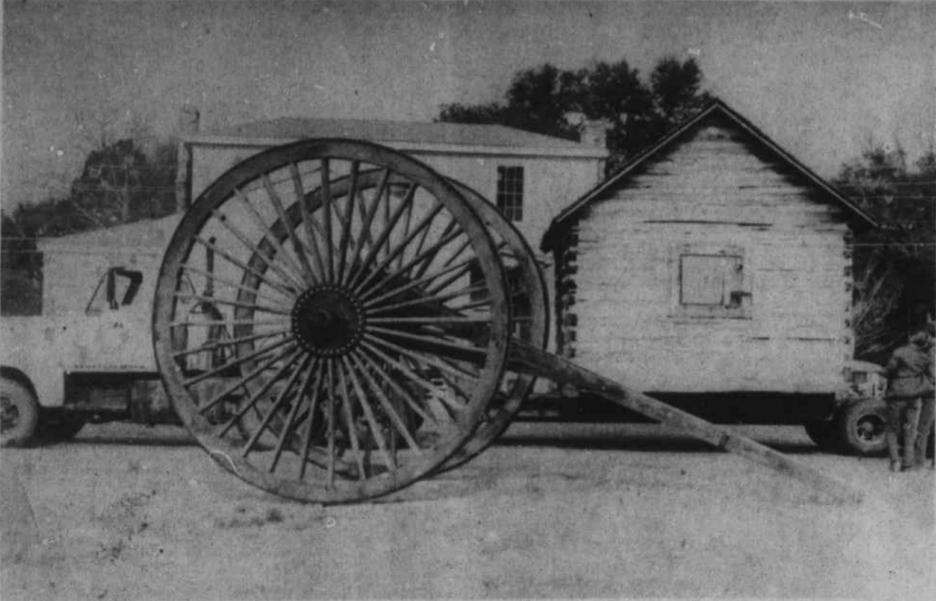
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Progress Continues At Cowan Museum

The Cowan Museum begins moving its artifacts this month into the restored historical Kelly-Farrior House of Kenansville. Plans for the grounds surrounding the Kelly-Farrior House are to be used to house support buildings for the museum. Two of the support features of the museum grounds are in place today and pictured above. Wheels used to help construct the foundation of the Washington Monument have been restored and

were placed on the grounds during December. Monday the Duplin County Maintenance Department completed a second support feature on the museum grounds when a log cabin donated by Dallas Herring of Rose Hill was moved. Pictured above are the giant 10-foot wheels and the log cabin as it was being placed on the museum grounds.

Duplin Rolls Out Links To Capital Monument

Some of the monumental wheels that hauled stones for the Washington Monument have found a home in Kenansville.

A set of rebuilt wheels with the original iron rims and a rebuilt cart stands in the yard of the Kelly-Farrior House. The building soon will house the Cowan Museum of rural artifacts.

The wheels were brought to Duplin County after their labor in Washington was finished. The great obelisk built to honor George Washington measures 555 feet, 5 1/2 inches and weighs about 91,000 tons. It was built between 1848 and 1884 and dedicated in 1885.

The path the wheels took to the museum has been traced by George Cowan of Beulaville, who donated

the Cowan collection to Duplin County as the Cowan Museum.

Cowan said the wheels belonged to Stephen Richard Williams, whose "home-place" was "between Wallace and Harrells Store on N.C. 41." In Washington, Williams had the job of "seeing that materials got to the construction site of the monument."

"The monument needed huge stones and special carts had to be built to carry these stones," Cowan said. The large stones were tied under the axle of the cart, which was pulled by a team of oxen.

Williams shipped the metal parts of the wheels of one cart to Wallace, Cowan said. "We have the shipping weight record. The metal weighed 2,500 pounds," he said.

Williams eventually gave the iron

rims to his daughter, Serene Williams Smith.

Cowan said Richard Boyce, who lives in the Wallace area, told him about the wheels after seeing them used for flower gardens beside the driveway of the daughter's house. "She gave us the rims," Cowan said.

After the museum was given the wheels, donations of wood and labor enabled it to have the 10-foot diameter wheels and the cart rebuilt.

Wood for the project was donated by Duplin County Commissioner Calvin Coolidge Turner and the labor came from James Sprunt Technical College.

Prentice Smith, a Sprunt instructor who supervised the project, estimated that the wheels weigh 4,000 pounds.

Faison Seeks Grant For Turkey Processing Plant

The town board of commissioners met in Faison Jan. 2 and approved a grant application that could make funds available to Carroll's Foods, Inc. and Goldsboro Milling Co. in their plans to construct a turkey processing plant.

The funds would be available in the form of a low interest loan to the two companies if the Urban Development Action Grant is awarded.

Plans to build the turkey processing plant were made last October by the two companies. A site for the 200,000-square-foot plant has not been announced, but a 1986 completion date is slated.

According to the October announcement, the plant will be one of the world's largest with a 200 million liveweight production capacity per year. That means an average of 12 million turkeys a year.

The plant is expected to employ 750 to 1,000 people when it goes into operation — adding about \$8 million to the region's industrial payroll.

Both companies are major turkey processors, each processing about 100 million pounds or about 6 million turkeys a year. In addition to basic dressed turkeys, the plant is expected to process turkey parts, turkey hams, sausage, cooked turkey breasts, smoked turkey and other turkey specialties.

The two companies now contract

with about 350 turkey growers in mostly Duplin, Sampson and Wayne counties. The plant is expected to be constructed on a site convenient to both companies.

The UDAG grant application was also approved by town boards in Warsaw and Calypso. Public hearings will be held in each town; Faison has scheduled Jan. 14 at 5:30 for their public hearing. Public hearings on the UDAG application will be held 7:30 p.m. at the town hall in Warsaw and Calypso on January 14.

According to Duplin Development Officer Woody Brinson, who is coordinating the application activities, the grant would make \$1 million available to the companies in the form of a low interest loan for the turkey processing plant project. The plant is expected to cost \$18 million.

"We want to have every avenue available and ready if the companies decide to locate in Duplin," Brinson said. "And, we feel very optimistic that the companies will locate in Duplin."

In addition to application for UDAG assistance, Brinson said Duplin is in the process of holding public hearings for potential community development block grant funds. Application for the Community Development grant funds would

also be made available to the companies in the turkey processing plant project if the site is slated for Duplin County.

520 Students Register

Winter Quarter Begins At Sprunt

James Sprunt Technical College registered 520 students Wednesday, the opening day of the winter quarter, said Rita Brown, director of admissions and records.

Registration for day students continued through Monday and for evening students through Wednesday.

Classes for the quarter began Thursday. The quarter will end March 21.

Ms. Brown said Thursday she expects final registration to reach the 736 enrolled during the last year's winter quarter.

The school offers 22 programs. Class size is limited in some programs such as computer programming and nursing, she said.

Business and nursing programs are among the most popular, she said.

The five business programs — accounting, business administration, general office technology, executive secretary and computer — have 101 students, Ms. Brown said.

She said 56 students are enrolled in the nursing course, a two-year program with each class limited to 30 students.

Fifteen students are in the two-year computer program. Each computer class can accommodate 12 students. Many students are taking a course in computers, she said, to help their work in other courses.

She said 20 students have enrolled in electronic engineering technology, 30 in criminal justice, 45 in cosmetology, 30 in criminal justice, 45 in cosmetology, 20 in welding and 13 in commercial art.

Price Supports Unsure As 1985 Tobacco Season Begins

Farmers may be unsure about the price support on the 1985 leaf crop until after the tobacco plants have been transplanted.

Expected for the coming season is a drop of about 30 cents in the support price average. The Tobacco Growers Association and North Carolina Grange organizations said the drop in support prices would make the U.S. leaf prices competitive on the world market, explained Duplin Agricultural Extension Service tobacco agent J. Michael Moore.

"That does not mean the actual selling price will be down," Moore said. "It just lowers the support price companies have to pay so we (U.S. farmers) can replace a pound of foreign tobacco with a pound of our tobacco, dollar for dollar." Last season the average support price was \$1.69 while the warehouses averaged \$1.77 in Wallace and the entire Eastern Belt averaged \$1.81.

Moore pointed out the need for growers to make flexible poundage lease plans as they go into a new season. Final plans for the 1985 tobacco program could be as late as May, well after the April 15 lease / transfer deadline, he said. And, he encouraged growers to lease on a profit-sharing basis.

"I don't think it can be over emphasized that growers cannot make a firm commitment on lease prices based on last year's prices," Moore said. "And, those with allotments to lease are going to have to face getting less or nothing at all. The higher the lease price, the more

likely the allotment holder will be not to get paid in the fall if price supports are dropped." As an example, Moore used leasing poundage for 25 percent of the warehouse check, which, using last season's averages, figured as 40 cents a pound. Lease prices last season averaged 55 cents to 60 cents per pound. The percentage basis will allow flexibility for farmers which, Moore said, would be the only way many could lease poundage if the price supports are not set until after lease/transfer ends in April. Within Duplin there are approximately 1,155 individuals receiving income from tobacco and only about 300 actual producers, Moore pointed out. The 1984 tobacco quota for Duplin was 18,324,984 pounds.

According to Moore, the proposed \$1.35 to \$1.39 average for the 1985 tobacco program price support is approximately 115 percent of production costs. Production costs per pound are figured at \$1.10 to \$1.20.

Current updates on the tobacco program will be part of the information local farmers can expect as Moore holds the annual growers and non-producers meetings throughout Duplin during January and February. The first meeting will be held January 17 for non-producers at the Duplin County Extension Service building in Kenansville. Moore said the meeting will feature information on current economics of production and regulations.

"I would like the non-producers to recognize from this meeting that

times are tough and not to expect the lease price they got last year," Moore said. "And, most should not expect to get their money until the fall when the crop is sold."

Annual tobacco producers meetings begin January 22 in Warsaw. The dinner meetings will feature guest speakers. Each meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. The topics for the Warsaw meeting are curing, handling and energy conservation. The following night a meeting is scheduled in Mount Olive focusing on broad base production, including a look at tobacco varieties, insect/disease control, fertilization and energy conservation. The next night, January 24 at the Mill Swamp Community building tobacco meeting topics will feature insects and pest control.

Tobacco meetings continue Jan. 28 at East Duplin High School with information on plant varieties and fertilization. The following night growers will meet at the Albertson Recreation building and discuss weed control. The final tobacco growers meeting will be Jan. 30 at the Rose Hill Restaurant and features disease control.

The meeting series concludes with two tobacco grading workshops conducted by a grader from the United States Department of Agriculture. The grading meetings will be held Feb. 5 and 6.

Information or reservation for dinner meetings can be made by mail or phone the Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service in Kenansville at 296-1996.

Firm Starts Work On Coal-Fired Power Plant

Construction has begun near Kenansville on a \$30 million coal-fired generating plant to sell steam to a textile factory and electricity to Carolina Power & Light Co.

The generating system is being built for Cogentrix of Charlotte. It is next to the Guilford Co. textile factory on N.C. 11 near Kenansville. Similar plants are being built beside the West Point Pepperell plants at Elizabethtown and Lumberton.

George T. Lewis Jr., company president, said Friday that the generating system should be in operation in early 1986. The general contractor is All-Crafts Plant Services of Wilmington. About 120 construction workers will be employed, he said. The plant will be operated by a permanent crew of 25.

"A portion of the steam produced from the coal-fired boilers will be fed to the industrial host," Lewis said. "We can save them about 30 percent of their thermal energy costs and that's important to helping a textile

company be competitive."

Maximum generating capacity of the facility will be 35 megawatts — 35 million watts. The boilers will be capable of producing 315,000 pounds of steam per hour.

The facility will burn about 120,000 tons of coal a year. The coal will be hauled from the mines to an unloading point somewhere near the plant. Lewis said the coal probably will be unloaded at Warsaw and taken by truck to the plant by a contract hauler.

Woody Brinson, Duplin County economic development director, said the plant's need for coal has helped the county in its effort to persuade Seaboard System Railroad to retain rail service between Goldsboro and Wallace.

The steam plant must be licensed by the state and meet state pollution standards. Lewis said it will be equipped with bag filters that will trap fly ash from the burning coal.

The ashes will be hauled to a landfill. Lewis hopes to find a market for the fly ash. He said the cement industry offers a possibility. "It has been found fly ash added to cement improves its performance," he said.

He said co-generating facilities that are qualified to sell to power companies must be able to sell power at the price the power would cost if the utilities generated it themselves.

Lewis said Cogentrix is a private company which went into business in early 1983, shortly after the courts required utilities to buy power from such producers. The concept stems from the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act, approved by Congress in 1978, he said.

Lewis said standardization of plants and parts means construction of co-generating plants can be accomplished at about half the cost of conventional coal-fired central power stations.

While most of the school's students come from Duplin County, she said, other area counties are represented. She said 413 of the students

who enrolled Wednesday were from Duplin.

James Sprunt, which began in the 1950s as a branch of Goldsboro

Technical Institute and moved to its present campus in the early 1960s, has enrolled more than 40,000 students in one or more courses during its existence.

Sprunt College President Denies Allegations Of Suit

The leaders of the Technical college are being sued by the former dean of instruction.

The president of James Sprunt Technical College at Kenansville has denied that former Dean of Instruction Gene Ballard was fired for his criticisms of the college, as Ballard alleges in a federal lawsuit.

Ballard filed suit in December in U.S. District Court in Wilmington against the trustees of the college and its president, Carl Price. He is seeking \$250,000 in damages for "violations of his constitutional rights," reinstatement, full back pay and benefits, and legal fees.

The suit says Ballard's contract was not renewed in June for "arbitrary, capricious" reasons, among them Ballard's statements "both publicly and privately, that the college was not serving the needs of the community and that improvement of the college was needed."

Ballard was "cautioned by defen-

dan Price against expressing his views on the college's weaknesses and was warned, both expressly and implicitly, that his continued expressions of opinion would adversely affect his employment at the college," the suit says. "In particular, defendant Price warned Ballard not to recommend the non-renewal of the teaching contract of Dixon Hall, past president of the College, because this action could jeopardize" Ballard's employment, the suit says.

Price denied Monday that Hall's contract had anything to do with his recommendation that Ballard's contract not be renewed. Price said his reasons were outlined in a statement made in June. That statement read: "Over the last two years there has been a deterioration in the relationship between the dean of instruction, Dr. Ballard, and the president, Dr. Price. The level of trust and confidence in each has reached the point that in my opinion it is adversely affecting the communication and decision-making processes of the

institution." Ballard began working for the college in 1969 and was named dean of instruction in 1977. During that time, Ballard "consistently received favorable evaluations and commendations from his supervisor," Price, the suit says.

Ballard's "retaliatory termination has caused him significant emotional distress and anxiety, has diminished his previously unblemished reputation as a community college administrator, and has adversely affected his ability to secure employment in his area of expertise," the suit says.

Ballard's firing has had "a chilling effect" on Duplin County residents who want to express themselves on public issues, the suit says.

Ballard is represented by George T. Rogister Jr. and Ann L. Majestic of the Raleigh law firm Tharrington, Smith and Hargrove.

The defendants are represented by Thompson and Ludlum of Warsaw.

Approves Grant Assistance

An application for a \$1 million Urban Development Action Grant to help finance a major turkey processing plant in northern Duplin County is being prepared by Warsaw.

The Town Board voted to apply for the grant, to be lent to the company building the plant, in a special meeting last week. Officials said the meeting was called on New Year's Eve because of the time pressure in getting the necessary information together. The application deadline is Feb. 1, board members said.

Three commissioners, W.E. Foster, James Herring and John Weatherly, and Mayor Sam Godwin attended the meeting.

The turkey processing plant would be a joint venture of Carroll's Foods of Warsaw and Goldsboro Milling Co. of Goldsboro. It will need several hundred workers.

If the grant is approved, the town eventually could receive about \$2 million through interest and principal paid by the company, officials said.