

# Duplin Times

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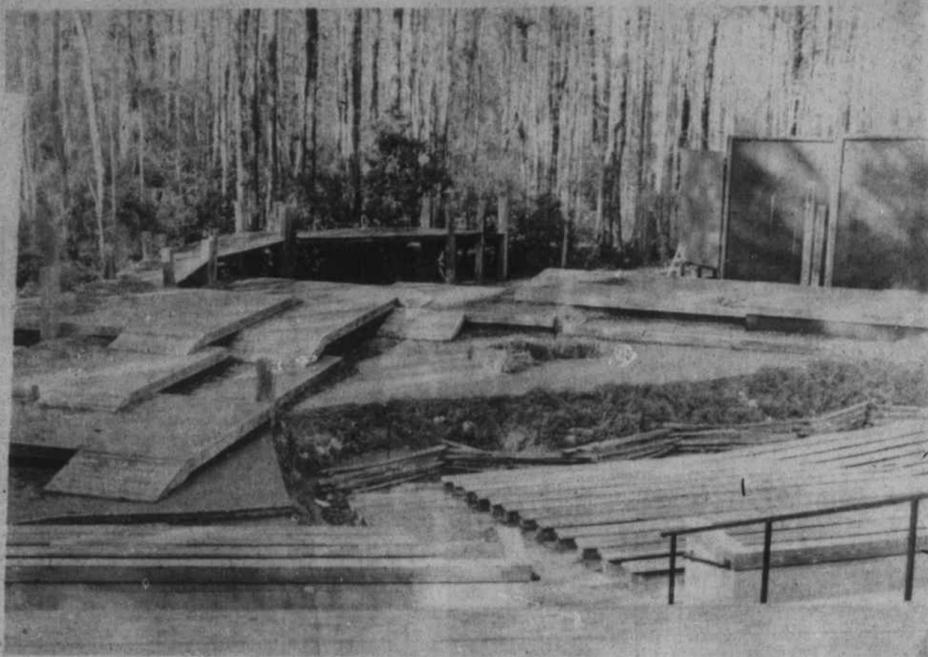
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Kenansville Amphitheatre To Install Stadium-Style Seating By Summer

## Grant Seats Amphitheatre

Lean back and enjoy the 10th anniversary of THE LIBERTY CART outdoor drama in Kenansville.

A \$50,000 grant from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust of New York has been awarded the Kenansville amphitheatre for the purpose of installing stadium-style seating. In announcing the grant monies, THE LIBERTY CART General Manager Jim Johnson said the new seating would be installed before the summer and this year's 10th anniversary production of the outdoor drama.

The William Rand Kenan Jr. Amphitheatre in Kenansville was constructed in 1976 as the home of THE LIBERTY CART. At its completion,

the amphitheatre provided seating for 1,100 people.

Funds for the seating project were received earlier this month after official notification of the grant came by letter last October, Johnson said. As completed in 1976, the amphitheatre is valued at more than one-half million dollars, excluding the cost of lighting and sound equipment.

"The addition of the new seats is expected to increase the total value of the amphitheatre as well as provide a more comfortable viewing area," Johnson said. "It is a great pleasure to be able to announce the seating project, especially as we go into our 10th season."

"The addition of the seats makes it easy to say the William R. Kenan Jr. Amphitheatre is one of the finest amphitheatres in the state," he said. Duplin citizens should take great pride in the facility as well as the historical outdoor drama performed here each summer."

The William R. Kenan Jr. Memorial Amphitheatre was designed by Wilmington architects Ballard, McKim and Sawyer. Engineer for the project in 1976 was Henry Von Ossen and Associates. Funds to construct the amphitheatre were provided by the Sarah Graham Kenan Foundation, the William R. Kenan Foundation, and the Flagler Foundation.

## State School Officials Brief Public On Proposed Educational Plans

The state Department of Public Instruction told regional legislators politely but clearly last week in Beaufort to put their money where their mouths are.

At one of eight "briefings" around the state, DPI staff members gave presentations at East Duplin High School on several proposed education programs that the General Assembly will consider this year. They include a teachers' career development plan, a basic education program that would provide more equal education opportunities in public schools around the state, a plan to increase computer training into public school curricula and programs for exceptional children.

Throughout the meeting, state school Superintendent Craig Phillips

reminded the legislators that the state Board of Education and his department prepared the proposals at the specific request of the General Assembly.

Following a presentation on career development for teachers, for example, Phillips said the state board made the assumption that "the General Assembly wants development; the General Assembly intends to fund."

Some 65 people attended the meeting, including several county school superintendents, local school board members and close to 20 legislators. The department was glad to see everyone. "But we're talking to the legislators this afternoon," Phillips said.

Among those who attended were

state Rep. Harry E. Payne Jr., D-New Hanover; state Rep. E. David Redwine, D-Brunswick; state Rep. Murray Poole, D-Sampson; Democrat Alex Hall of New Hanover, recently elected to the House of Representatives, and Democrat Edd Nye of Sampson County, who recently was re-elected to the House after a two-year absence.

Others who attended included New Hanover County school Superintendent Richard Flynn, New Hanover County school board chairman L. Cille Shaffer, Pender County school Superintendent Haywood Davis and Pender school board chairman Twila Jones.

Payne said that he had observed "a split" or "smoldering difference" between the Department of

## Duplin Tax Officer Fights Inventory Tax Repeal

Repeal of the state inventory tax would slash the tax base of Duplin County by 9.6 percent and the tax bases of its towns by as much as 20 percent, Frank Moore, county tax supervisor, said last week.

Gov. Jim Martin said during his campaign that he would repeal the inventory and intangibles taxes and the sales tax on food and non-prescription medicines.

Moore said county officials' organizations are opposing the proposed repeals because they fear they would seriously erode local tax bases.

Repeal of the inventory tax, for example, would remove 20 percent of Faison's tax base, Moore said.

At the current tax rate of 70 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, Wallace would lose \$38,884 in tax income. Rose Hill, with the same tax rate, would lose \$23,980 and Kenansville, with a 69-cent rate, would lose \$6,471 each year.

Towns that have large industries within their limits, such as Faison, would be particularly hard hit, Moore said, unless the legislature provided other income.

Faison's assessed valuation for 1984 was \$36 million and its tax rate 57 cents per \$100. The town's business inventory valuation was \$7.5 million, Moore said. The town received \$43,076 from the inventory tax.

The county received \$490,000 from the inventory tax last year. Business inventory valuation last year was \$65,385,000. The county's assessed valuation last year was just over \$700 million. The county tax rate is 75 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Several of Duplin County's largest industries, including Quinn Co., Carroll's Foods, Nash Johnson & Sons farms, Guilford Co., National Spinning Co. near Beaufort and Murphy Farms, are in unincorporated areas.

Moore said officials fear that if the

General Assembly repeals the unpopular business taxes, it will not fully replace the income towns and counties would lose. He said that in some instances, for example, the legislature has mandated local action, but has provided only part of the money to pay for that action.

Without income replacement, local governments would be forced to raise property taxes or eliminate services, Moore said.

While the Seaboard System Railroad property value in Duplin County is relatively low at \$1 million, the company would have paid \$7,500 in

property taxes last year, Moore added.

Moore said the railroad is paying \$3,500 a year in taxes and withholding the remainder, pending a decision about valuation of its property. The railroads have contended they have been unfairly appraised because they are revalued each year while other real property is revalued every eight years.

The county is now undergoing revaluation, which must be done every eight years. New values will become effective Jan. 1, 1986.

## Voters May Use Machines In Duplin

Duplin County residents may face voting machines instead of paper ballots in the next election.

The Board of Commissioners received an offer for voting machines from one company last week. It has called for other companies to submit offers by Jan. 21.

The board expects to make a decision at that time on whether to buy machines or continue with hand-marked ballots in its elections.

At the board's meeting last week, County Election Supervisor Doug Judge introduced Russell M. Sloss, sales representative for Computer Election Systems of Lewisville. The company has offered to supply voting equipment for the county's 20 precincts for \$77,446 — 20 percent off its list price. The county would need 125 machines and 20 tabulators.

Judge said the county paid ballot counters \$1,900 for the November election. Results from most elections are not complete before the early morning hours after election day, Judge said.

Commissioner Allen Nethercitt said, "We sure need something. It didn't look very official where I voted." He said ballot boxes "were everywhere. Someone cut a hole in the tops with a pocket-knife."

After discussing the possibility of installing voting machines in a few precincts, board members agreed that they should install machines in every precinct or remain with paper ballots.

## Rose Hill Treatment Plant Will Cost Less

A change order reducing the cost of the new sewage treatment plant by \$1,000 was approved by the Rose Hill town board last week.

Plans called for a metal building. The engineering firm of L.E. Wooten Co. of Raleigh recommended changing it to a masonry structure at a cost

reduction of \$1,000.

In other action the board appointed Janet Blanchard, Fuzzy Buckner and Pete Murphy to the recreation commission to replace Alexander Leach, Marsha Whaley and Ben Mathews.



A Nonconventional ABC Store in Faison

Pictured above is Faison ABC Store manager Billy Wood and along the walls are some of the antiques on display in the building. Some of the artifacts pictured can be easily recognized as a Dixie Boy plow and a variety of

drawing knives and the small-brimmed hat worn by the Wild West outlaw, Jesse James. Wood said the store reflects a country-type atmosphere instead of the conventional mood set by the operating procedure of other establishments of its kind.

## Faison Not Just Another ABC Store

The Faison ABC store is not just any liquor store and people who visit are not always there to buy.

Through the front window, an old plow and corn sheller are easily visible and often they are enough to bring in people for a closer look at the old farm implements displayed in the Faison ABC Store.

"Wilson King started the tradition," Billy Wood, Faison ABC Store manager, said. "And we have carried it on." Today the Faison ABC Store carries a variety of liquors, brandy and wine, but it also carries on the tradition of preserving the community's heritage. The store has on display approximately 35 farm implements and household items used in the early 1900s.

"I might have thought of it, but I don't think it would have been done if Mr. King had not started the collection," Wood said. "But it's a good idea and I think all good ideas should be preserved."

"It makes this store different than most and generates a lot of conversation," he laughed. "It's kind of funny because the younger people come in and comment that we have a lot of nice antiques. But, the older folks come and say they can remember using some of the items, like the cross saw, and want nothing to do with the collection!"

"I think Mr. King wanted to change the atmosphere of the store by putting things in here that would reflect the kind of area we live in and

at the same time preserve history. You see, he was kind of a history buff," said Wood.

Unique the store is because there are not many ABC establishments which have the hat worn by Jesse James among a collection of historical artifacts. And, among wanted posters, a buttermond, ox harness equipment, a cowbell, cotton scales and a tobacco plug cutter is a copy of the 1985 Farmer's Almanac.

The store opened in May of 1966 and six years later King and the establishment were featured in Carolina Crossroads, a column by Jack Aulis in the Raleigh News and Observer newspaper. King, who died more than eight years ago, was quoted in that column as saying, "My idea was this. I asked a man for that turning plow over there (one of two on the walls) just to put in the window. But when people saw it they said, 'I've got something you ought to have in here.' And, now it just keeps coming in."

"From time to time some things still come in," Wood said. "But we have about all the store can handle, now."

"You know, if liquor sales ever drop," Wood laughed, "we can always start to sell antiques." Wood, like many others, has contributed to the collection and said he often finds himself stopping at antique shops just to look for something that might go with the other artifacts of the Faison ABC Store.