



Jaycee Week Proclaimed in Kenansville

Kenansville Mayor Don Suttles signed a proclamation designating January 13-20 as Jaycee Week. The organization will be holding several programs in recognition of Jaycee Week, according to Kenansville Jaycee president Dennis Kirby. A Prayer Breakfast will begin the week and the Distinguished Service Awards banquet concludes Jaycee Week. The DSA banquet is scheduled for January 19 at 7 p.m. at the Country Squire. Pictured above is Kenansville Jaycee president Dennis Kirby, Kenansville Mayor Don Suttles, and Jaycee Week chairman Carey Wrenn.

Engagement Announced

Mrs. Jean C. Weber of Covington, Louisiana, and Thomas W. Bailey of New Orleans, Louisiana, announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Anne Bailey, to Walter Richard Powers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richard Powers of Beulaville. The wedding will take place May 25 in New Orleans.

Duplin Revaluation Hits Allotments

The tobacco program's trauma affects other realms, including the revaluation of real property in tobacco-producing counties.

Duplin County is now in the midst of revaluation, a process state law requires every eight years. The new assessments will go into effect Jan. 1, 1986.

For many years appraisers could depend on the tobacco support price level to determine how much value a tobacco allotment added to a farm.

"We are not taxing the tobacco allotments," said Tax Supervisor Frank Moore. "The allotments are used as a factor influencing the value of the property, just like location by a good highway affects the value."

A tobacco allotment now adds \$1 per pound of production quota allotted to the appraised value of a farm in Duplin County. The sale price of farms throughout eastern North Carolina is determined to a great extent by the amount of

tobacco poundage quotas and acreage allotments assigned to them.

For tax purposes, appraisers are supposed to determine the value of the real property, and sale prices of similar land provide one of the major valuation inputs.

The tobacco support price may be lowered by Congress from the present \$1.699 per pound to as low as \$1.35 to make U.S. tobacco more competitive with foreign leaf. Other congressional or administrative actions may be taken in the next few months in an attempt to bail out the financially ailing tobacco price support and production control program.

"We will continue to place some value on tobacco allotments, but as of right now we don't know what it will be," Moore said. "As long as the tobacco program exists it lends some added value to a farm, even though the value may be small."

Wallace Board Delays Decision On Gym Work

Following more than two hours of discussion Thursday, the Wallace Town Board delayed a decision on whether to help pay for a new gymnasium.

It will consider the matter again at 7 p.m. today (Thursday) in Town Hall.

A motion by Commissioner Charles Blanchard, seconded by Commissioner David Jordan, to fund the project over four years at a rate of \$20,000 a year remains "on the table" until the meeting tonight.

Frank Bullard, the gymnasium committee chairman, asked the board for \$80,000, at \$20,000 a year for four years starting this fiscal year. He said the committee would attempt to raise \$70,000 through a fund drive. The committee has about \$7,000 on hand.

He said the gymnasium, which would be in Clement Street Park on the south side of Wallace, could be completed in 1987 or 1988.

Other members of the gym committee appeared with Bullard at the meeting. They are Jay Brinkley, Dean Brown, Kim Nazarchyk, George Strickland and Jack Rivenbark. Blanchard also is a member of the committee.

The proposed gym would replace one that burned in 1979. The park is on the former Wallace School site, which was donated to the town by the school system after it was no longer needed for a school.

Recreation Director Mitch Pergerson said the recreation commission wants a 10,000-square-foot, 80-by-125-foot building. It would be a metal structure over cinder block walls 10 feet high. The building would house basketball and racquetball courts, storage space and bleachers to seat 400-600 people.

Commissioner Arnold Duncan said, "It bothers me to commit us four years down the road." Duncan pointed out that Gov. Jim Martin "is talking about dropping this inventory tax and that will cost us over \$12,000 a year."

Blanchard said the board could take \$25,000 from its \$30,000 contingency fund for this year's payment.

"It's not been too many years ago that the town couldn't pay its bills," Commissioner N. H. Carter said. "There's a Committee of 100 started and the town hasn't contributed anything. There's a rescue quad building right beside us here that cost \$90,000 and the town didn't contribute to it."

"I think we got this thing backwards. You should go out and raise the money and then come back and tell us what you have," Carter said.

Rivenbark replied, "In my business, if I were to say I was going to be out of business in four years, I doubt if I'd last two years. You can't sit back and say things are going to be bad and prosper. This gym will bring people into town. Everytime anything happens in this town

In some places people believed that whoever cuts the last sheaf of wheat at harvest time will marry within the year—to someone old.

"Farmers are caught in a bind on the tobacco situation now. They don't know what they can pay for tobacco and banks don't know what they can lend," Moore said. For many years, farmers have been able to lease tobacco production poundage quotas and acreage allotments from owners who don't want to grow the tobacco themselves. Since 1982, they have been able to buy quotas and allotments. Moore said dollar values must be assigned to property before September so the county can send owners a written notice of proposed property assessments. Notices must be received by property owners in time for hearings on any disputed valuations, he said.

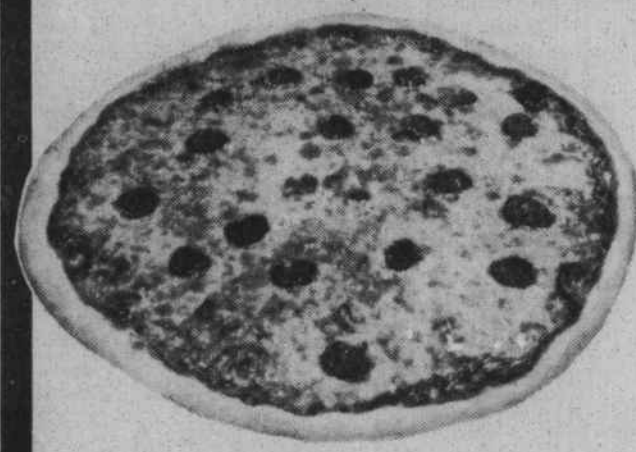
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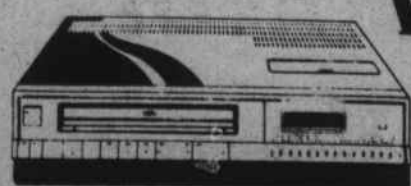
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