

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 4

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

JANUARY 24, 1985

14 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX



Sharpe Is Kenansville Jaycees DSA Recipient

Charles Sharpe of Kenansville received the Kenansville Jaycees Distinguished Service Award. The presentation, along with other plaques for outstanding leadership and community activity, were awarded Jan. 19 at the Country Squire Restaurant. Sharpe is the director of Kenansville's Guardian Care Nursing Home, a member of the North Carolina National Bank of Kenansville Board of Directors, a Jaycee officer, and

a member of the Kenansville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The DSA was sponsored by the Kenansville office of the North Carolina Farm Bureau. Pictured above, left to right, Kenansville Farm Bureau agent Jack Stevens, Kenansville Jaycee President Dennis Kirby, 1985 DSA winner Charles Sharpe, and Jaycee Week chairman and vice president of the Kenansville chapter, Carey Wrenn.

Duplin Tobacco Farmers Hear Discouraging Words

Their numbers indicated their concern as about 500 Duplin County farmers and agribusiness people packed the Duplin County courtroom and the courthouse corridors and stairways for the annual county tobacco production meeting last week.

In most years such meetings, held in all tobacco-producing counties under extension service sponsorship, draw 100 to 200 people.

Glum, grim expressions replaced fleeting smiles of friends' and neighbors' greetings as farmers silently sat or stood listening to speakers say there is little farmers can do right now but await administrative and Congressional actions on the tobacco production control and price support program.

Of most immediate concern is the size of the assessment on tobacco sold next summer. Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp. has asked for a 25-cents-a-

pound assessment to finance the price support and production control program.

A strong effort to lower the support price from \$1.699 a pound to possibly as low as \$1.40 is expected in Congress. Numerous farm organizations and farmers are hoping a support price reduction will make U.S. tobacco more competitive and enable farmers to produce more tobacco as well as dispose of the huge 700-million-pound surplus.

Farmers can lease tobacco acreage allotments and poundage quotas from owners who don't want to grow tobacco. The deadline for leasing is April 15. The secretary of agriculture will announce the assessment. T.C. Blalock, executive vice president of the Tobacco Growers Association of N.C., said the announcement may come in two weeks.

Blalock said the support price must be lowered if U.S. Tobacco is to maintain its place in both U.S. and

world trade. He noted the assessment will have to be raised from its present seven cents a pound to pay for the support program as required by Congress.

"If we're going to make it, we're going to have to get this surplus off our backs. The federal government is going to have to take a loss. Manufacturers have said they are willing to help," Blalock said.

He added, "as long as tobacco is a political thing you're going to have to please Congress, and tobacco is a political thing."

Blalock said that with the support level and the assessment unknown, about the only way an owner and a renter of an allotment can deal with each other is to agree to split any profit when tobacco is sold.

Duplin County tobacco agent J. Michael Moore said signing a lease agreement now could mean financial suicide to farmers.

Duplin Officials Seek Grant To Win Local Jobs

The turkey plant would be in the northern part of the county near Scotts Store.

Duplin County officials are considering whether to ask for a grant to help finance a turkey processing plant that could mean an \$18 million investment and 800-1,000 new jobs for the county.

The plant would be in the northern part of the county near Scotts Store, said Woody Brinson of the Duplin County Industrial Development Commission. Scotts Store is a crossroads about 10 miles north of Kenansville at the intersection of Secondary Road 1500, S.R. 1502 and S.R. 1521.

The Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the question last week. Another hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m. Jan. 28 at the Duplin County Courthouse in Kenansville.

Goldsboro Milling Co. and Carroll's Foods of Warsaw have planned the plant as a joint venture. They

and \$6.6 million in bank financing or company contributions.

The Warsaw Town Board met Monday night to consider the UDAG grant application.

The two companies plan to begin construction in May if the grants are approved, Brinson said.

The plant would employ 800-1,000 employees by its third year of operation, Brinson said. Many technicians, including refrigeration technicians, would be needed, he said. Training programs would be established at James Sprunt Technical College and other nearby technical schools, he said.

About 10 people attended the County Commissioners' meeting to ask the board to use any available grant money for housing rehabilitation in the Scotts Store area.

Brinson said the upcoming grant may be used only for economic development. Grant money may be available later this year for housing, he said.

have asked the county and the town of Warsaw to help out by applying for government grants.

Brinson said the project would include a 200,000-square-foot turkey processing plant, a land application sewer system and a private water system.

Brinson said he could not give more details about the site of the plant because the land purchase is not complete. Three hundred acres are needed and several land owners are involved, he said.

The site must be approved by two environmental agencies, Brinson said.

Brinson said the proposed financing would include \$10 million from revenue bonds to be issued by the Duplin County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority; \$900,000 from an Urban Development Action Grant to be requested by Warsaw; a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant to be requested by the county;

Warsaw OKs Coal Transfer

Warsaw has given a warm greeting to a firm that would provide coal for a steam-electric generating plant near Kenansville.

"We couldn't promise to be a boom to the local economy but I feel we could make a contribution to the business community of Warsaw," wrote C. Richard Smith, president of Cumberland Elkhorn Coal and Coke Inc., in asking the Town Board to approve his company's plans.

The company, based in Louisville, Ky., wants to build a coal unloading and transfer facility on U.S. 117 along the Seaboard System Railroad line. The coal would be unloaded from railroad cars, loaded onto trucks and taken to the Cogentrix plant on N.C. 11 near Kenansville.

About six to eight people, including truck drivers, would be employed in the operation, Smith wrote. The company owns and operates five other transfer stations, three in Kentucky, one at Castle Hayne and one near Riegelwood.

The company expects to handle about 120,000 railroad carloads of coal a year, according to W.W. Brinson Jr. of the Duplin County Industrial Development Commission. That translates into eight truckloads a day, six days a week, Brinson said.

The truck traffic will not go through Warsaw.

"I think Warsaw can handle this very easily," Mayor Sam Godwin said last week before the Town Board approved the concept of the transfer station.

Before the station can be built, however, the Town Board must approve a zoning change, which will require a public hearing. The site is just outside the town limits, but within the town's zoning jurisdiction.

In his letter to the Town Board, Smith pointed out that the railroad traffic generated by the company would help keep railway service to Warsaw.

Last year, Seaboard System had considered abandoning rail lines between Mount Olive and Castle Hayne, ending rail service to Duplin and Pender counties.

Efforts led by Duplin County business leaders caused the company to change those plans. In November, the railroad filed an application with the federal government to abandon only the tract

between Wallace and Castle Hayne, mostly in Pender County.

According to Smith's letter, the facility would be built on Seaboard System property and consist of a conveyor belt and an unloading building, approximately 20 feet wide, 100 feet long and 20 feet high. The coal will be unloaded from rail cars directly into waiting trucks.

A "dust suppression system will ensure no effluent dust is released into the air," Smith wrote.

The Cogentrix plant is under construction next to the Guilford Co. textile factory. The \$30 million plant will sell steam to the textile factory and electricity to Carolina Power & Light Co. Similar plants are being built beside the West Point Pepperell plants at Elizabethtown and Lumberton.

Jan. 28-Feb. 1

Violinist To Appear In Duplin Schools

A well-known South Carolina violinist, Sarah Johnson, will visit Duplin schools beginning Jan. 28.

Sarah is presented by the Duplin County Arts Council and sponsored by the Reader's Digest Association. She was selected to join the roster of Affiliate Artists Inc., in 1983 by the Reader's Digest Association.

The Affiliate Artists program provides performers with income, extensive performance experience,

wide exposure, and the opportunity to develop contacts and a following nation-wide. Artists in the program work closely with institutions like the Duplin County Arts Council throughout the country. In Duplin, Sarah will appear before more than 2,000 school children.

In her home state, Sarah was the first artist ever to receive a South Carolina Performing Artist Fellowship. She currently maintains an artist residency in Camden, S.C. She

is a frequent guest artist with numerous orchestras and chamber groups, and Sarah served as concert master of the South Carolina Chamber Orchestra 1979-82.

A 1975 graduate of Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where she studied with Ivan Galamian and Jamie Laredo, Sarah is a native of Iowa. She began studying the violin at the age of seven and by the time she was 10 she had appeared in over

100 concerts, including her solo debut with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra.

While in Duplin County, Sarah will visit B.F. Grady School on Jan. 28, North Duplin Junior High and Elementary schools on Jan. 29, Wallace Elementary and Charity Junior High schools on Jan. 30, Warsaw Elementary and Kenansville Elementary schools on Jan. 31, and Beulaville schools on Feb. 1.



Sarah Johnson

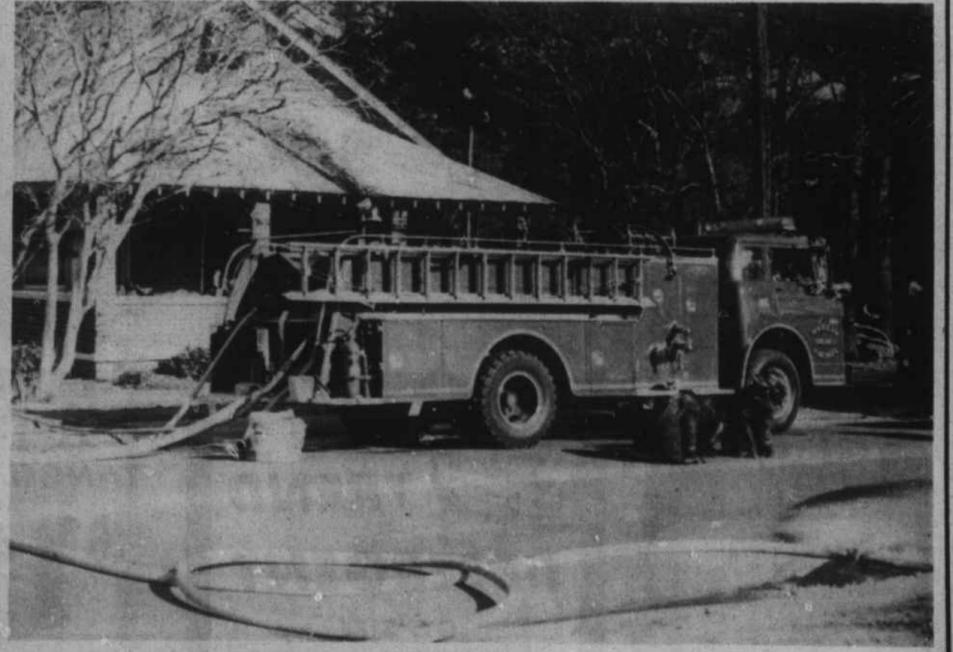
Duplin Feels Effects Of Cold Temperatures



Arctic Wave Sets Record Cold Temperatures

A wave of arctic air made its way to the south and set record cold temperatures. Duplin County was no exception as the wave of cold air moved in Sunday with brisk winds and rain which turned to snow. Before ending, Duplin was blanketed with about an inch of

snow and temperatures dropped around the zero mark. Pictured above is the snow-covered ground and frozen pond at James Sprunt Technical College in Kenansville Monday morning



Firemen Battle Fire And Temperatures

Warsaw firemen responded to a call at the Belton Minshew home shortly before sunrise Monday morning. Temperatures caused water from the fire hoses to freeze on the structure and on fire-fighters' uniforms. According to Mack Dail, assistant Warsaw Fire Department Chief, the fire apparently began in the heating furnace under the house and the Minshews were awakened by a smoke alarm. The house is

expected to be a 75 percent loss, according to Dail, and firemen were on the scene for about five hours. And, Dail added, two other chimney fires were reported while the Warsaw Department was at the Minshew home on College Street. Pictured above is the Minshew home early Monday morning. Photographed are uniforms standing due to water frozen on them while firemen battled the blaze.