

Along The Way



By Emily Killete

Education is a very important part of today's society. Educational freedoms are one of the cornerstones of America.

Not many of us know a great deal about early educational opportunities in Duplin or the state. Private schools were the most common colonial educational institutions. And, it was only until the 1830s that private schools were replaced by a public education system. Today public education is much improved from the way schools were when first opened to the public.

Early in 1935 a well-known Duplin County lawyer compiled the history of education in the state and presented the following information before a Parent-Teacher Association meeting. The following is a reprint of an article from the January 31, 1935 issue of THE DUPLIN HERALD

Beasley Discusses School Financing
Kenansville Attorney traces history of education in state at P.T.A. Meet

The January meeting of the Warsaw Parent-Teacher Association was held on Thursday evening in the grammar school, announced Mrs. H.L. Stevens Jr., in the chair.

Mr. Paul Potter, principal of the grammar school, announced that Mrs. R.D. Johnson is offering two prizes for achievement in the elementary school, one to the boy and one to the girl whom the teachers adjudged the best, this to be reckoned from January 28 until the close of school.

Mesdames F.P. Fonvielle, James Middleton, C.B. Best and Ralph Best were appointed as a committee to assist with the minstrel show to be sponsored by the P.T.A. on Feb. 15.

The secretary was asked to write Duplin's representatives to support the state platform of the state congress of parents and teachers.

The main feature of the evening was a talk by Hon. L.A. Beasley, attorney of Kenansville, on "Sane and Sound School Finances."

Mr. Beasley is a student of history and gave a most interesting and entertaining address. Beginning with reminiscences of the Warsaw school, of his school days, here, then of the present day school. He told of the old Grove Academy at Kenans-

ville which was built in 1785 and which was one of the best schools in Eastern North Carolina, then of the progress of schools up to 1835 and the progress of the country. One sign of progress, he said, was the old plank road from Warsaw to Fayetteville over which a toll was paid to ride.

Only three counties in Eastern Carolina — Wayne, Edgecombe and Columbus — failed to vote for public schools in 1835, the speaker declared, but by 1841, old field school houses had been built all over the state. In 1950 there were 26,000. Teachers' salaries were \$20 a month for three months of school.

The first graded schools were begun in 1864, and salaries were \$30 per month per teacher for eight months, \$7 of which was from the county and \$23 from the state. Like all new movements, the schools were

fought because of taxes. Leading up to the present day, Mr. Beasley told of how the schools were financed. He deplored the present low salary schedule, and in answering those who are saying "Get the money from where it is," he said, that was the bandits' method, and that the present sales tax was one of the sanest and soundest methods of raising money for schools, for in this way everybody shares in the burden and by this the colored people, of whom the majority pay no tax, are helping support the schools. He said they were doing it willingly and

gladly. Mr. Beasley presented the thoughtful message in a most convincing manner. Mr. Paul Potter and Miss Grace Talton delighted those present with two instrumental duets.



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Tree Day Ordering

Time is running out. Tree Day ordering is almost complete. You have only until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15 to place your order.

Mrs. Adelaide Rice, Tree Day chairperson, is urging everyone in Duplin County to plant one or more trees. She stresses that trees not only add beauty to the landscape, they also work to clean the environment of pollutants.

Tree Day is Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is when the trees will be available at the Duplin County Agricultural Extension office in Kenansville for pick-up. You should pay for the trees at this time. After 3 p.m., all trees left over are to be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

The trees available are: loblolly pine, free (limit 25); longleaf pine, 5 cents each; white dogwood, 10 cents each and red maple, 10 cents each. Crape myrtles are available for \$1 each. These are seedlings 12-24 inches tall.

There are over 20 Tree Day volunteers in the communities to take your orders. They are: Warsaw - Charles Sheffield, 293-4615 and Tom Hall, 293-4503; Faison/Bowdens - Mrs. Joyce Cottle, 267-4531 and Mrs. Ruby Sauls, 293-4557; Kenansville - Mrs. Adelaide Rice, 296-1371 and Mrs. Arthenia Hall, 296-1823; Wallace - J.T. Wiggs, 285-5433 or H.S. Wait, 285-2271; Rose Hill - Mrs. Robert Ward, 289-2345 and Mrs. Adele Cottle, 289-2485; Scotts Store-Summerlin - Mrs. Garland Alphin, 658-3794 or Mrs. Ruth Outlaw, 658-3458; Cedar Fork - Elmore Brinson, 298-4342; Beulaville - Mrs. Paul Bolin, 298-4480 or Mrs. Helen Ingram, 298-3494; Potters Hill - Mrs. Ellis Quinn, 298-4473; Albertson - Mrs. Lena Davis, 568-3694; Chinquapin - Mrs. Odell Raynor - 285-3412; and Magnolia - Mrs. Carrie Lillie Gillispie, 289-3438 or Ralph Bishop, 298-3578.

For more information contact the Duplin County AES at 296-1996.

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