



Architect Model Of The Addition To Social Services Building

This model was presented to the county commissioners Monday by Architect Herb McKim of the firm Ballard, McKim and Sawyer of Wilmington. The new addition will be three stories high with 14,250-square-feet of space and cost an estimated \$800,000. The new

addition will be built to the front of the existing structure, and be connected by a hallway, or passageway. Construction plans were presented to the county commissioners for their approval.

Duplin Educators Say Schools Are Cut Short

Duplin County school officials insisted this past week that county officials should rearrange their financial priorities to provide the school system with the \$631,000 budget increase it is seeking for the 1985-86 fiscal year.

School officials say they are not asking for a tax increase, but for a greater share of the county's income. They do not suggest what other county services should be slashed to release the money.

A James Kenan High School district meeting last week at the Warsaw Elementary School was attended by about 40 people, 10 of whom were school employees or officials. School administrators are holding similar meetings throughout the county.

The high school district takes in Warsaw Elementary and Junior High schools, Kenansville Elementary and E.E. Smith Junior High schools of Kenansville and the Magnolia ninth graders who attend E.E. Smith.

"It seems that education is on the low end of the totem pole as far as

funding goes from the County Commissioners," said Bill Taylor, James Kenan principal.

"The Board of Education doesn't believe the commissioners put the right priorities on education," said Superintendent L.S. Guy. "The Board of Education believes people of the county want education given a higher priority. Therefore we're going from district to district to discuss the proposed budget with the people."

The school system is asking for \$3,314,000, an increase of \$631,000 or 23 percent over the current budget. The proposed budget provides \$154,745 for a 10 percent pay increase for county-paid school employees. State-paid employees are expected to receive the same increase.

The requested budget increase equals 9.6 cents per \$100 of property tax levy. Each cent of Duplin County property tax brings in \$65,988. The present county tax rate is 75 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

"We're not trying to pressure the County Commissioners. We just

want to tell the people what's in the budget. It's not to create pressure. If the people believe our budget has credibility, we want them to let the County Commissioners know. But it's not to turn the screws on the commissioners," Guy said.

Guy has said the school system is not asking for a tax increase but he declines to suggest cuts that could be made in general county services to fund the school budget increase.

When he presented the school system's proposed budget to the County Commissioners April 24, Guy urged the commissioners to change priorities.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell at that time asked Guy, "Where would you take this money from to give to schools?"

Guy responded, "I wouldn't touch that with a 10-foot pole. You are the ones to set priorities."

The system has about 8,300 students. The budget request amounts to \$406 per student from county funds. In 1983-84 school year the county spent \$311.42 per student.

Governor Martin Vows Again To Let I-40 Contracts

Governor Jim Martin repeated his pledge to get the Interstate 40 extension completed in reasonable time during his appearance last week at the Duplin Municipal Association's May meeting.

"I-40 is the only road I promised, and I'll get it done. . . We'll get every mile under contract this term."

The stretch from N.C. 132 at Gordon Road in New Hanover County to N.C. 210 at Rock Point is nearing completion. Contracts have been awarded and construction begun on another stretch of the highway in northern Pender and Duplin counties.

About 200 people attended the meeting. Melvin Pope, a Magnolia town board member, introduced the governor.

Martin urged support for his effort to eliminate the infangibles tax, inventory tax and state sales tax on food and non-prescription drugs, saying that natural growth in the state's income will more than make up the lost money. He said his plans include making up the lost money to towns and counties from state funds. Only one-fourth of the anticipated growth income will be required to replace the lost money, he said, leaving three-fourths for schools and other services.

He said he expects the General Assembly to come out with a compromise package on taxes that might include some relief from the inheritance tax, so that when a father dies a son or daughter can take over a small farm without having to sell it. This is also a problem for many small businesses, Martin said.

The inventory tax costs the state jobs and other tax money, he said. The governor said Rite-Aid Drug Stores and Kroger supermarkets built big warehouses in South Carolina instead of North Carolina because of the inventory tax in North Carolina. South Carolina does not tax inventories.

Xerox also built a new facility in South Carolina instead of North Carolina because of the inventory tax, Martin said.

He said American Express, which built a large facility in North Carolina, has no inventory to be taxed.

Brockway Glass of Pennsylvania had chosen North Carolina for a plant site, Martin said, until it found out about inventory tax from Florida promoters and went to that state instead.

Martin said there has been growth in North Carolina, but mostly in the Piedmont. It has not been that great

in this area, he said. Unemployment is highest in the rural border counties, except for those that adjoin Virginia. People in those counties are working in the Norfolk-Virginia Beach area. "We're not getting jobs for our people," he said.

He said he was glad Sen. Harold Hardison and Rep. Wendell Murphy called on him to help settle some of the problems connected with getting a new turkey processing plant in northern Duplin started. He helped break ground for the plant May 6.



Governor Jim Martin Talks With Warsaw Businessman Milford Quinn In Duplin

Bill Would Upgrade Sprunt's Level

A bill to grant community college status to James Sprunt Technical College was introduced Friday in the state House of Representatives by Rep. Wendell Murphy.

The N.C. Board of Community Colleges recommended that status for James Sprunt and for Durham Technical Institute during its meeting May 9. The legislature has the final say.

The board also decided not to accept any more applications for community college status pending completion of a six-month review of institutions in the system.

Murphy's bill, H-1237, would limit the college transfer program to no more than 10 percent of the school's total student credit hours. For example, if 700 students were taking 15,000 course credit hours, the college transfer program could enroll students taking a total of no more than 1,500 course credit hours.

Community college status would give students the ability to receive transfer credits for their work in the community college when enrolling in four-year colleges. JSTC students now can receive transfer credits only from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, which has a contract with the college to provide college transfer instruction.

The state community college system comprises 24 community colleges, 29 technical colleges and five technical institutes.

Cowan Museum Takes A Look At Yesteryear

Want to see what pulled great-granddaddy's teeth? Want to hear great-grandmama's favorite tunes on her up-to-the-minute 1898 Edison phonograph?

These are among more than 1,200 exhibits in the Cowan Museum, now housed in the Kelly-Farrior House in Kenansville.

The grand opening of the Jo Ann Cowan Brown Museum and the Kelly-Farrior House restoration was held Sunday, May 19th.

George and Ila Cowan have driven more than 500,000 miles and spent thousands of dollars in the past two decades collecting farm and home artifacts of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. They began assembling the collection as a hobby at their home in the Cedar Fork community of southeastern Duplin County.

In 1982 they donated the collection to Duplin County in memory of their daughter, Jo Ann Cowan Brown, who was killed in 1973 in an automobile accident. It was housed in rooms on the ground floor of the county agricultural building in Kenansville from 1981 until this spring.

The Kelly-Farrior House, an early 1800s frame structure, was moved to its present site, adjacent to Liberty Hall, the ancestral home of the Kenan family, and renovated to house the museum. The house is a "museum" of early 19th-century construction methods.

The Cowans act as curators of the museum. Cowan describes the uses of hundreds of tools and equipment used by generations of rural people.

They are continuing to add to the collection, making several trips each year in their search. They have found the exhibits in many states and many N.C. communities.

"We generally make four or five trips north and one out west every year," Cowan said. "We've been up to Canada and out to the Dakotas."

"We used to buy everything that

everyone said 'belonged to Grandma,' but we soon found that wasn't the right thing to do and started studying."

An example of their smart buying is a foot-powered scroll saw of the type used to create much of the "gingerbread" adorning Victorian houses. "We bought it for \$150. Catalogs list it for \$650," Cowan said.

Outbuildings are being prepared to display some rural artifacts. A pioneer log cabin has been moved to the grounds from the James Sprunt Technical College campus.

Over in a shady corner, a visitor might beware of "Snuffy Smith" trying to protect his moonshine still from "revenuers."

A cane syrup mill is being set up on the grounds.

"We've had just over a thousand to visit in just over the month we've been in here. They include several schools tours," Cowan said.

The old saying "Adam delved and Eve span" has a variation here. Cowan has learned to spin to demonstrate several century-or-more-old spinning wheels.

A successor to hand scrubbing laundry is the 1886-model washing

machine with a lever the washwoman used to spin the washer blades.

Turpentine, carpenter, barrel, shingle and chopping tools cover several walls. "You don't know what this was for" is a favorite comment of Cowan's as puzzled visitors look at some strange-looking device that had a purpose when hand-powered equipment was the rule.



Cut Ribbon During Grand Opening

The Jo Ann Cowan Brown Museum Collection and the Kelly-Farrior Restoration grand opening was held May 19 in Kenansville. Guest speakers were Senator Harold Hardison of Deep Run and Tom Kegan III of Chapel Hill. The Cowan artifacts were donated to Duplin County in 1981 by George and Ila Cowan of Cedar Fork. The Kelly-Farrior House was donated to Duplin

County in 1983 by United Carolina Bank and designated as the future home of the Cowan Collection. Pictured above, cutting the ribbon to the Kelly-Farrior/Cowan Museum, left to right, are Duplin County Chairman of the Board of Education Carl Pate, Ila Cowan, George Cowan, and Chairman of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners Calvin Turner.

Naval Academy Appointment

Congressman Charlie Whitley announced that Douglas Allen Rogers of Rose Hill has been offered an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. for undergraduate study as a member of the class of 1989.

Rogers is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Rogers of Rose Hill. He is a 1984 graduate of Wallace-Rose Hill High School and is presently a student at the Naval Academy Preparatory School at Newport, R.I.

As a student at Wallace-Rose Hill High School, Rogers was a member of the varsity football, basketball and track teams, student council, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society, Math Club (vice-president) and he served as a junior marshal.

"I am very pleased that the Navy shares my opinion of Douglas' leadership potential," Whitley said. "I nominated him on the basis of his scholastic achievements, excellent reputation and leadership record, and I believe he will be an outstanding cadet and Naval officer."