Along The Way

By Emily Killette_

Very often things in plain sight are often unnoticed. An example is the bell outside the Duplin County

Near the west entrance of the Duplin County courthouse is a bell which was used to toll for courts and important meetings. The June 18, 1943 issue of DUPLIN TIMES carried an article about the courthouse bell. The article is reprinted below.

Duplin's Courthouse Bell Tolls On The Duplin County courthouse bell continues to toll for courts and other important county doings though it no longer hangs in the tree on the north

side of the courthouse, which was its home for many years. Recently the tree was found to be so badly decayed that it was not

thought safe. The bell, which weighs 211 pounds, was taken from the tree and has been mounted on a standard by the door on the north side of the courthouse.

In the old Duplin County courthouse, which was torn down in 1911 for the erection of the present structure, there was a bell cupola, in which a brass bell, which tolled out calls to court for many years, was hung. When the old courthouse equipment was sold, the bell was sold along with the other equipment to a farmer somewhere in the county.

No plans were made for installing a bell in the new courthouse but a bell was purchased to hang at the post office, to ring when the mail was brought in. Gradually the use of this bell was discontinued and the county, in need of a bell, this bell was brought to the courthouse and hung in the tree, where it has served its purpose for the past 15 or 20 vears.

Prior to the publication of the. article about the courthouse bell, a local citizen wrote a poem about the historical trees in Kenansville. Helen Helen H. Beems signed the poem with her name and the comment, "Who loves the old trees in Kenansville." The poem appeared in the March 18, 1943 issue of THE **DUPLIN TIMES** and in later editions several letters to the editor appeared

Alternate **Show Opens** At The **Liberty Cart**

The Duplin Outdoor Drama Society announces the opening of an adaptation of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM on July 24 as the 1985 LIBERTY CART season alternate show at the William R. Kenan Jr. Amphitheatre in Kenansville.

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM is a classic comedy written hundreds of years ago by William Shakespeare. This adaptation of the famous play shows for five conseculive Wednesday evenings beginning

July 24.
. "Shakespeare is one of the earliest authors of outdoor drama," Director Gail Evans said. "Many of Skakespeare's plays were performed in an amphitheatre and it only seems hatural to present the works of such a great author as he had written

"Children and adults alike will enjoy A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, "Gail said. "The play involves elves and fairies in an adventure of romance and comedy. And, like all tales involving fairies, magic and mischief, the show generates unlimited laughter!"

In addition to directing A MID-SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, Gail is the production stage manager of the historical outdoor drama THE LIBERTY CART. Gail has returned to Kenansville for her second season with the Duplin Outdoor Drama Society. Last season she held two of the leading female roles in the production of THE LIBERTY CART. She is a native of Virginia and a theatre arts graduate of Virginia

Join the Duplin Outdoor Drama Society in its first production of a timeless comedy by William Shakespeare each Wednesday night thru Aug. 21. Group and tour rates are available for A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. Additional information is available at THE LIBERTY CART office, P.O. Box 470, Kenansville, N.C. 28349, or phone 296-0721.

> Piano Tuning and Repair Jimmy C. West Registered Piano Technician Box 502, Warsaw Kenansville - 296-0219

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about the cutting of the pines near Grove Church. Beems' poem is reprinted as follows:

Trees in Kenansville If you're a tree in Kenansville You'd better start a crying, For the trees are a dying

Their hearts are cut with axes In the hands of men,
They are felled by people
Who can't make them grow again.

The cemetery is so stark Where trees once stood it's bare, The big pines lay upon the ground, Doesn't anybody care? The church grounds where the big pines stood Singing all the day
Of their chief beauty is denied

The trees that took so long to grow,

Since the trees were cut away

But one short day and they will be A little pile of lumber. And man, with logic so perverse That it might be called funny Doesn't realize that growing trees Can't be replaced with money.

The beauty spots of Kenansville, The lovely old pine trees Will soon be lost forever more There'll be none left for these, O, tall pine trees, who one time held Communion with the sky, Because there's no protecting voice It seems you all must die.

Their days are without number.

The Kenansville Jaycees Hot Dog Wagon Will Be At Jackson's IGA On July 31st 11 am til 7 pm

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