

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 31      USPS 162-860      KENANSVILLE, NC 28349      AUGUST 1, 1985      16 PAGES THIS WEEK      10 CENTS PLUS TAX

## Duplin Attractions Worth A Vacation At Home

Vacation to most Duplin families means packing the auto and traveling several hours to relatives or resorts at the coast or mountains.

Vacation to 29,000 people last year meant traveling to Duplin County where they visited one of many local restaurants, Liberty Hall, The Liberty Cart outdoor drama, the Cowan Museum, the Duplin Winery, the Wallace stockyard flea market, the tobacco and produce markets, antique shops or other local sites. According to the North Carolina Department of Travel and Tourism, Duplin's 29,000 visitors generated \$186,000 in the county and each of those dollars turned over at least three times and as many as seven times in the local economy.

"I think local folks are cheating themselves by not visiting what their own county has to offer," Cowan Museum Curator George Cowan said. "I would think the community people would have more interest in their local attractions. They would certainly derive a lot of knowledge and pleasure from attractions like this museum, Liberty Hall and the Liberty Cart outdoor drama."

Within the past month the Cowan Museum in Kenansville has hosted 754 visitors. According to Cowan, as few as 25 percent of the museum guests are local Duplin citizens.

"When we do get some of our local folks in the museum," Cowan said, "they leave wishing they had been sooner."

"We have put a lot of time and thought into the collection and museum grounds and think it is paying off," Cowan said. "We're getting a lot of letters to the effect that the museum is becoming a major tourist attraction throughout the state."

"We have been having unusually good attendance," Cowan flipped through the museum register point-

ing to repeated addresses from Goldsboro and Raleigh. "The biggest crowds we've been having are from Wayne County, lately."

Liberty Hall, the restored southern plantation home in Kenansville, has been open to the public 17 years and according to Curator Dorothy Rollins as much as 50 percent of Duplin's population has visited the home. She also pointed out, a majority of the local visitors have toured the home as public school students. Each year fourth grade students in Duplin visit Liberty Hall as guests of Tom Kenan and the county board of education.

Liberty Hall is recognized as one of the most authentic restorations of a southern plantation home and has recently been featured in Atlanta, Ga. based magazine "Southern Accents." The home and grounds have also been photographed by "Southern Living" magazine for a feature later this year. Listed on the home's register are guests from all 50 states and 21 foreign countries.

"While there are lots of people from Duplin who have seen Liberty Hall," Rollins said, "there are just as many who have not visited."

"The house is a typical southern plantation home and by visiting you can see the way people lived in those days," Rollins said. "Liberty Hall is ideal for local folks with guests or visiting relatives. Our local people who have toured with their visiting family or friends keep coming back and bringing more guests."

In addition to Liberty Hall, Rollins pointed out, historical attractions like the Kenansville Baptist Church and Grove Presbyterian Church can

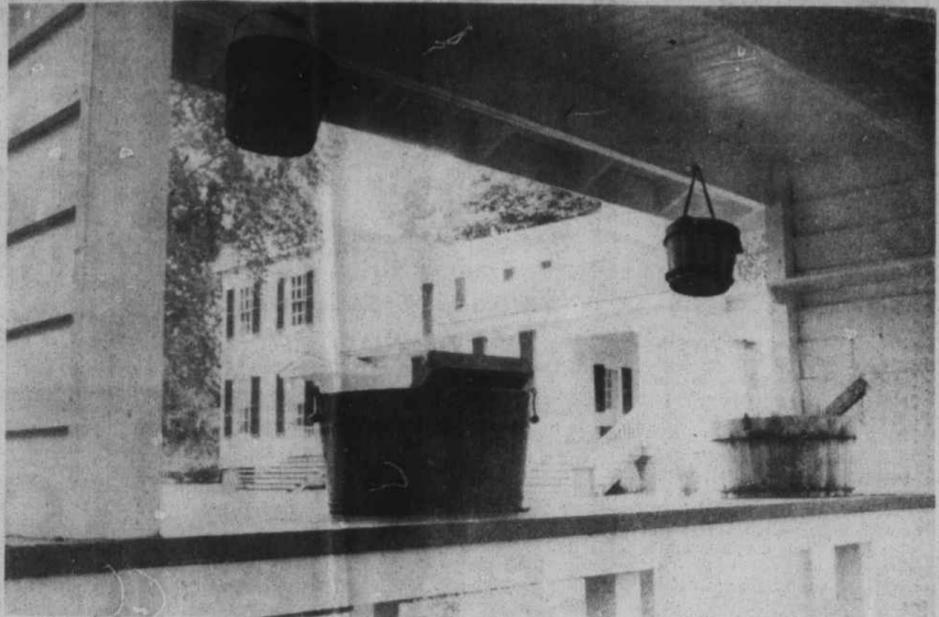
be toured. Another attraction is the courthouse spring which has flowed more than 200 years.

"Another important place is the spring," Rollins said. "The spring is the reason Kenansville was selected as the county seat. And, there are free picnic facilities around the spring."

Bringing all of Duplin's history to life is the outdoor drama THE LIBERTY CART. And, like other Duplin attractions, local citizens make up a small percentage of the annual attendance, the LIBERTY CART General Manager Jim Johnson said.

"Duplin families, local businesses and industry support the show in many ways. Opening night at least 90 percent of the audience is local people and that is generally the largest crowd of any night during the season," Johnson said. "After opening night local people make up a very small portion of the daily attendance." The Liberty Cart is in its 10th season at the William R. Kenan, Jr. Memorial Amphitheatre in Kenansville. The outdoor drama is performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday night from mid-July until late August each year.

"Kenansville is ideal for a vacation," Johnson said. "It would be easy to fill-up an entire day visiting Liberty Hall, the Cowan Museum and eating at one of many fine local restaurants before attending an evening performance of the Liberty Cart. And, you need not be from out-of-the-county; Duplin's attractions have a lot to offer local citizens, too."



Southern Plantation Life At Liberty Hall

Liberty Hall in Kenansville offers a walk through the past which has been taken by people from all 50 states in the native and more than 20 foreign countries. The home is just one of many tourist attractions within Duplin, and since the home was opened, additions have been made to the restoration project in the form of

support buildings on the grounds of Liberty Hall. The support buildings represent models of facilities commonly found around a plantation home such as a smoke house, chicken house, wash-house, carriage house, bath house and overseer's cottage. Liberty Hall is pictured above viewed from behind the wash house.

## Public Typewriters Funded At Duplin County Library

The summer youth reading program ended yesterday at the Duplin

County - Dorothy Wightman Library and local town branches, but the big excitement is the funding of public access typewriters, Linda Hadden, Dorothy Wightman librarian said.

According to the librarian, the public access typewriters will be available this September. She expects the typewriters to be a great service to high school students and local college students.

Another service beneficial to high school and college student research will be the possibility of having heavily used periodicals microfilmed from the previous ten years and filed at the Dorothy Wightman Library. Some of the most heavily used periodicals include the magazines Time and Newsweek, Hadden said.

But for now, Hadden pointed out, the library is closing out the summer reading program in which more than 150 Duplin youths have participated. In addition to the 45-55 youths participating at the Dorothy Wightman Library in Kenansville, 40-50 youths signed up for the program at both the Rose Hill and Beulaville branches of the county library.

"This is the first year we have included the pre-school age children," Linda Hadden said. "School age youths contracted through the program to read a certain number of books and the pre-school age were included through the read-to-me agreement with parents."

"Each youth completing the contract will receive a certificate signed by the Governor, during a party held at the library," she said.

"Presently, we are trying to purchase new titles and get ready for a new school year," Hadden said. "I know there is quite a bit of student

research each year. And, we are always trying to keep up the collection of new best sellers. We also plan to expand the variety of large print books at the library."

"I want to stress the availability of the interlibrary loan program, too," Hadden said. "If you come to the library and don't find what you are looking for, ask us and we may be able to get the book through the loan program." According to Hadden, requests from Duplin's library are made to the state library. If the book is not available through the state library, the exchange program searches university and technical college libraries.

The Duplin County - Dorothy Wightman Library offers services beyond its Kenansville headquarters. The library branch offices open in Faison, Beulaville and Rose Hill and the bookmobile travels a regular schedule through out Duplin.

"I can look at the circulation figures and tell they have jumped with opening of additional hours at the town branches," Hadden said. Each branch is open at least 20 hours each week. In Beulaville the hours are weekdays 1-5 p.m.; Rose Hill, weekdays 1:30-5:30 p.m.; and Faison weekdays except Friday, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

Linda Hadden began work at the Duplin County - Dorothy Wightman as librarian, June 3. She is a native of Bladen County and a graduate of East Carolina University with a bachelor of science and masters degree in library science. Before coming to Duplin, Hadden worked as a public school teacher, and youth services librarian in Edgecombe and Stanly counties.

## JSTC Second Summer Session Begins Aug. 7

Five courses in the business education department will be offered in a five-week shortened session beginning Wednesday, Aug. 7 at James Sprunt Technical College.

The courses are Introduction to Business, Records Management, Business Law II, Accounting III and Introduction to Microcomputers. All are regular curriculum courses carrying credit toward an associate degree.

The shortened session will operate until Sept. 16. Students may register for classes on or before Aug. 7. For more information, contact Rita Brown, registrar, JSTC, Kenansville, NC 28349, or phone 296-1341 or 285-2077 toll-free from Wallace.

## Kenansville Jaycees Support FC Telethon

Tim Kennedy and the Kenansville Jaycees will man the satellite telephone bank in Kenansville during the eighth annual Cystic Fibrosis Telethon. The station will be for the convenience of area citizens who would like to support the telethon effort without having to make a long distance call.

Co-sponsored by the New Bern Jaycees, Jaycee Women and WCTI-TV, Channel 12, the telethon will be broadcast for 19 hours beginning at 11 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9 through 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

Over \$108,000 was raised at last year's telethon. The funds are used for research, treatment and education programs conducted by the CF Foundation to help those who suffer with the fatal lung disease. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation supports centers at UNC School of Medicine at Chapel Hill and Duke Medical Center in Durham, and more than 125 other such centers in the U.S. The Foundation also supports a CF research development center at UNC-Chapel Hill.



Youth Interested In Their Heritage

Stuart Miller, Timmy Jenkins and Frankie Wood of Kenansville stop in the Cowan Museum often. Along with their interest in the museum artifacts the boys say the curators are "just good company." Pictured above,

left to right, Timmy, Frankie and Stuart listen to one of many different types of early model phonographs as it is being demonstrated by George Cowan, curator of the museum.



Liberty Cart Season Is Underway

The 10th annual production of the outdoor drama THE LIBERTY CART began July 13. The show is a major seasonal tourist attraction in Duplin County. The drama is performed each Thursday, Friday and Saturday night

in the William R. Kenan Memorial Amphitheatre in Kenansville through August 24. Pictured above are scenes from the 1985 production of the historical outdoor drama, THE LIBERTY CART.

## Architect Seeks Bids For JSTC

An architect expects to advertise for bids on the James Sprunt Technical College student center this month.

Architect Herb McKim of the Wilmington firm of Ballard, McKim and Sawyer told the JSTC Board of Trustees Thursday night that drawings for the structure were virtually complete and would be sent to the state department of community colleges this week for review.

McKim also recommended insulation and replacement of windows to reduce the heating and cooling load on the equipment in the McGowen building. The work would be financed by a \$200,000 special appropriation the school received recently from the General Assembly. The school will receive \$100,000 in each of the next two years.

Two new members were sworn in. Allen Williams of Wallace replaces J.W. Hoffer of Wallace, who had

been vice chairman of the board since its organization in the mid-1960s. Jim Stocker of Kenansville replaces another long-time member, Edd Dudley Monk of Kenansville.

Certificates were prepared for the two veteran members. Hoffer's illness prevented his attendance. Monk said he was appointed to the board 14 years ago when he was 73 years old. He said that as a boy he carried wood on an ox cart to the original James Sprunt school, a private school, for 50 cents a load.

W.E. Craft, who serves on the finance committee, moved to name the auditorium in the Hoffer Building the Edd Dudley Monk auditorium after a \$4,000 improvement project is completed.

The board re-elected James F. Strickland of Warsaw as chairman. Strickland has been chairman since the board was formed. Charles Albertson of Beulaville was elected vice chairman.

## Congratulations Duplin All-Stars, State Champs