

# Duplin Times

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## Picking Just One Favorite Beagle

When there are seven beagle puppies, it is hard to pick a favorite and no one knows what better than little boys. Pictured above, Joseph Davis of

Wilmington visited his grandad's puppies in Duplin and decides they are all his favorites!

## Farmers Say Co-Op Gets Best Quality Tobacco

"If it's good tobacco, it's going to the government," discouraged tobacco growers grumbled last week in Wallace as they watched pile after pile of good-quality tobacco going under price support.

"The pool" or "the co-op" are farmers' terms for Flue-cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp., which administers the price support program. The farmer-owned cooperative buys tobacco that fails to get company bids higher than the support level, and pays farmers through the warehouses just as companies would. The sales tickets on piles of tobacco that go to stabilization are marked "Co-op."

The co-op was the largest single "buyer" of the day Monday and Tuesday of last week in the Carolinas.

The trend is scaring farmers throughout both states. As higher-

priced tobacco comes to market, the amount going under price support appears to be increasing.

Farmers and warehousemen have noted that companies appear to buy most of the poorer quality, lower-priced tobacco, but pass over the good quality leaf.

A different trend has developed in Georgia and Florida where companies, particularly export-buying companies have been snapping up the better tobacco, although at lower prices than a year ago. Grade prices are considerably higher in southern area, however, than in the Carolinas. The Market News Service reported Wednesday, for instance, that fair variegated mixed leaf (B4KM) averaged \$171 per 100 pounds in the Carolinas Wednesday and \$182 in Georgia. Low variegated mixed leaf (B5KM) averaged \$176 in the Border Belt and \$178 in Georgia.

"I'd like to see those fellows who said last fall that if we lower our

price our tobacco would sell," Larry Wooten of Currie said as he watched a row of good-quality second cropping tobacco go to Stabilization under price support. Most of the piles carried support of \$189 per 100 pounds.

"What they've said about quality tobacco selling doesn't mean a thing here," he added. Wooten echoed a chorus of farmers in saying, "We've really worked to put up good quality tobacco and they're not buying it."

A row of tobacco damaged by dry weather near Wooten's row went to companies, but its prices were mostly in the \$113 to \$145 range.

As bad as the situation is, Wooten believes that if the tobacco price support and production control program ended, the price would drop even more sharply.

Demand is appearing to weaken rather than strengthen as the season advances, said Joe Bryant, a Wallace

warehouseman. Warehousemen in Whiteville and Chadbourne have said the same thing.

The weak demand has come about despite a drop of \$15-\$17 per 100 pounds in tobacco prices since last year.

Eastern Belt farmers placed 37.9 percent or 2,441,419 pounds of their tobacco sales under price support Tuesday and 31.2 percent or 2,665,703 pounds Monday. They have placed 23 percent of the 44.2 million pounds offered for sale in the Eastern Belt under price support. The Eastern Belt season average of \$149.04 per 100 pounds is \$17.24 under the average for the same number of pounds sold last year.

N.C. Border Belt farmers placed 27.6 percent of Monday's offering last week, and 32.6 percent of Tuesday's sales with Stabilization under price support. They have placed 24.4 percent or about 11 million pounds under price support for the season through Tuesday of last week.

The Market News reported that the S.C.-N.C. Border Belt through 14 days of sales this season averaged \$154.98 per 100 pounds on sales of 45,579,000 pounds compared with an average of \$170.28 per 100 pounds during the same period last year.

Bryant said he had the same company build the A&P store in Wallace about 13 years ago.

Bud Nalley of the South Carolina company said that he was not prepared to announce the names of prospective tenants. He expects to complete leasing arrangements in a few days, he added.

## Land Cleared For Shopping Center In Wallace

Construction of a new shopping center will begin in the near future between U.S. 117 and Teachey Road in Wallace.

Joe Bryant, owner of the site, said land has been cleared. Earth fill is being hauled onto the site.

"We put in 900 yards of dirt Tuesday and 1,200 Wednesday," he added last week. About 3,000 yards

of earth will be needed.

Quality Construction Co. of Easley, S.C., will build the center, he added. At the outset it will have a chain supermarket, a chain department store and a drug store, Bryant said.

The site covers 13 to 14 acres. The center will be accessible from the highway and from Teachey Road.

## KKK Peacefully Parades Saturday In Beulaville

The military-attired members of the White Patriot Party, formerly the Ku Klux Klan, peacefully paraded through Beulaville last Saturday chanting "White Power" to the beat of their march.

The parade consisted of only about 50 Klan members, said Beulaville

Chief of Police Aubrey Murphy. More than 400 KKK members were slated to march in Beulaville according to the parade permit. The parade was led by WPP state leader Glenn Miller, who was an unsuccessful candidate in the race for North Carolina governor during the last election.

WPP members concluded the parade in Beulaville and traveled to Jones County for a rally, and the next day the group marched again in Raleigh. The parade through Beulaville began about 5:30 p.m. on NC #24 at Wilson Ave., and proceeded east on NC #41 where it turned left and ended at Bostic St.

## Duplin Native Arrested On Felony Drug Charges

A guard at the state's Sampson County prison has been arrested on four felony drug charges, including a plot to deliver two ounces of marijuana to an inmate, authorities said.

Eddie Earl Simmons, 35, of

Faison, a guard at the prison for 11 years, was arrested last week and released on \$10,000 bond, court records show.

He was charged with furnishing a controlled substance to an inmate, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of percodan and

possession of dilaudin, according to the court records.

The Sampson County Clerk of Court's Office said the charges involved two ounces of marijuana and one tablet each of percodan and dilaudin.

## Buses Line Up For School Year

Duplin County school bus drivers will assemble Aug. 30 at the school bus garage to receive their buses.

Classes will begin in the county's schools Sept. 3, the day after Labor Day.

Allen Wood, school bus supervisor, said the system will operate 133 regular buses and seven special education buses.

It expects to have four new diesel buses. The diesels have nine-liter engines, power steering, power brakes and automatic transmissions. Four mechanics were sent to a training session on diesels during the summer.

Wood said winter starting, long considered a problem for diesels, caused no problem in Asheville, which has colder winter temperatures than Duplin County. He said that in winter at Asheville, a fuel mixture of 75 percent diesel and 25 percent kerosene has been used.

The diesels will be operated in one area of the county to reduce the distance fuel must be transported.

Last year the buses carried a daily average of 6,084 students. They averaged loads of 33.8 students per bus. The buses were driven a total of 1,242,065 miles. They burned 256,654 gallons of fuel.

The system includes 17 schools, mostly around the edges and corners of the county, with the exception of Kenansville Elementary near the county center. The system includes four high schools, North Duplin near Calypso, East Duplin near Beulaville, James Kenan west of Warsaw and Wallace-Rose Hill at Teachey.

Last year 10 school bus accidents occurred but no students were injured.

Bus drivers are 16½ to 18 years of age and must have had driver's licenses at least six months. They are paid \$4.24 per hour.

## School Board Oks Plans For Addition

The Duplin County Board of Education approved an architect's plans for an addition to James Kenan High School costing about \$1 million in a special meeting held last week.

It will call a meeting of parents and teachers to discuss the plan with Wilmington Architect Herb McKim. The board also agreed on the architect's fee of 6.6 percent of the construction cost.

The plan calls for a 15,000-square-foot building and a hallway extension from the present building. It includes six classrooms and a library. Eight mobile classrooms still will be needed. James Kenan will

add the ninth grade when the addition is completed. The ninth grade students now attend Warsaw Junior High and E.E. Smith Junior High in Kenansville. James Kenan now has 470 students. Enrollment will increase to 647 with the ninth grade.

In other business, the board decided that a moment of silence will open each school day. It will be the first minute of the first period.

The board appointed Charles Blanchard assistant principal of North Duplin Junior and Senior High schools. Replacing him as principal of Wallace Elementary will be Mary Wellons.

## Stevens Makes Memorial Gift To JS Foundation

The James Sprunt Foundation was the recipient of a \$5,000 memorial donation presented Aug. 16 in honor of Mrs. Winifred "Winnie" Wells by J.P. Stevens and Co., Inc.

Making the presentation at a luncheon in Wallace, Jim Wellons, Holly plant manager, recalled Mrs. Wells' exemplary service to her community in both her public and private life. Mrs. Wells, of Wallace, was an attorney and superior court judge, and served on the James Sprunt Foundation Board as well as the J.P. Stevens Board of Directors.

Accepting the presentation was

Marion Elkin, a member of the Foundation Board. "We are very pleased and grateful to receive this generous contribution in honor of Mrs. Wells, and in support of the work of the Foundation and James Sprunt Technical College," she said.

The presentation marked the third \$5,000 contribution to the Foundation from J.P. Stevens in memory of Mrs. Wells. The JSF supports JSTC by providing funding assistance for academic scholarships, professional development and other cultural and educational programs.

## Whitley Mobile Office

Congressman Charlie Whitley's Third District mobile office will visit Duplin County on Sept. 3. L.J. Outlaw, field representative, will be manning the office and available to those having matters they wish brought to the Congressman's attention.

Locations and times are as follows: Beulaville - 9:30-10:30 a.m. - Post Office; Greener - 11-12 noon - Town Hall; and Faison - 1-2 p.m. - Fire Station.

The schedule is subject to prevailing weather conditions affecting travel.



## Reception For New Physicians In Duplin County

The Duplin General Hospital Foundation and Duplin General Hospital sponsored a reception for physicians recently locating in the county and becoming members of the hospital medical staff. The reception, held at the Country Squire restaurant, August 19, was attended by more than 200 citizens representing Duplin's business, industry and rural and community leaders. Pictured above, Dr. Jane Atkins, M.D. of Duplin Medical Association talks with Dr. M.I. Ammar, M.D. of

Kenansville, left, and Duplin General Hospital Trustee Ray Sanderson, right, during the reception. Dr. Atkins was one of the five new physicians honored. Others included Dr. Ronald Dietrick, M.D. of Duplin Surgical Associates in Kenansville; Dr. Mohib Ghobrial, M.D. Thoracic and Vascular Surgery in Kenansville; Dr. Carl D. Pate Jr., M.D., family practice in Beulaville; and Dr. David Smith, M.D. of Goshen Medical Center in Faison.