

Along The Way

By Emily Killete

In order to understand what makes Duplin such a special place to live, you have to know the people in the county.

All through history, Duplin has been the home of many important people in our state as well as to people of the county. A great many of these important people are noted for their unique personalities. But, in all of Duplin the people are special and they make our county one of the best places in the state.

A.T. Outlaw, a former Duplin Register of Deeds, wrote a historical sketch of a judge named Oliver H. Allen. The article was published in the September 16, 1949 issue of THE DUPLIN TIMES. Judge Allen is just one example of the unique personalities in Duplin's history.

Incidents in the Life of Judge Oliver Allen

Judge Oliver H. Allen, now long since gathered to his illustrious fathers, was one of North Carolina's well know Superior Court jurists.

Born in Wake and raised in Duplin, he became a lawyer and started the practice in Kenansville. As District Solicitor and then as Superior Court Judge, he was in public service for many years.

Noted for kindly words of encouragement to the unfortunate, and for merciful judgements, he was a humble and sincere Christian gentleman and knew the Book from cover to cover and lived by its teachings. He was partial to the Scofield reference edition of the Bible and wherever he went, went also the Scofield. He was often seen at jails and prison camps urging the unfortunate to seek better ways of living.

Many stories, typical of life and character of Judge Allen, could be told.

While holding a term of court in Duplin a young man charged with a crime entered a plea of guilty. The Judge was impressed with the young man's appearance and asked for the names of his father and grandfather.

"Yes," said the Judge, "I know them well and they were good men." The Judge then gently proceeded with a fatherly discourse on the ways of the transgressor, the wages of sin, the paths of righteousness, and often quoted from his indispensable Scofield. When the young defendant was lastingly impressed and the Judge turned to the Clerk and said, "Let judgment be suspended upon payment of costs and defendant show good behavior at the next term of court."

On another occasion a young Negro man entered a plea of guilty and was fined \$100 and costs. An aged Negro woman proceeded to the bench and humbly offered all her money to the court in payment of the costs. "Who are you, Aunty?" the Judge inquired. "I'se his mammy," she replied.

"How much money have you there and how did you make that money?" asked the Judge. "I can't count and I takes in washing," came the answer. Turning to the Clerk the Judge said, "Strike out that fine and give the money back to Aunt Sally. Let judgment be suspended on condition that the defendant appear at the next term of court, show good behavior and that he is supporting his mother." It was later testified that all conditions were fully complied with.

Years ago the late R.C. Lawrence of the Lumberton Bar, gave his version of the cast against Judge Oliver Allen in the final judgment: defendant. Then will arise About "I fancy that on the day of judgment when the Great Judge takes His seat upon the bench, and calls the case against Oliver Allen. He will inquire whether any counsel appears for the defendant. Then will arise Abou Ben Adhem, and say: "I appear for the defendant." Then will the Great Judge say: "Call the witnesses." Then 500 North Carolina Negroes will rise up and say: "We witness for Judge Allen." Then will the Great Judge ask the recording angel: "What does the record say?" Then will the recording angel thumb over his records and report: "He always gave his fellowmen a second chance." Then will the Judge look down with compassion on Oliver Allen and say: "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto Me. Let this defendant spend his eternity here with Me: let him rest under the shade of My trees, the leaves of which are for the healing of all the Nations."

And now, my own Scofield, purchased more than 20 years ago, is just one of many examples of the living influence of Judge Oliver Allen, and I would that I were worthy to even shine the shoes of so good a man.

The hummingbird's wings beat so rapidly they produce a faint humming sound.

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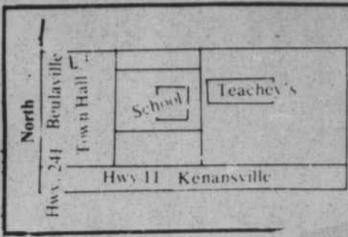
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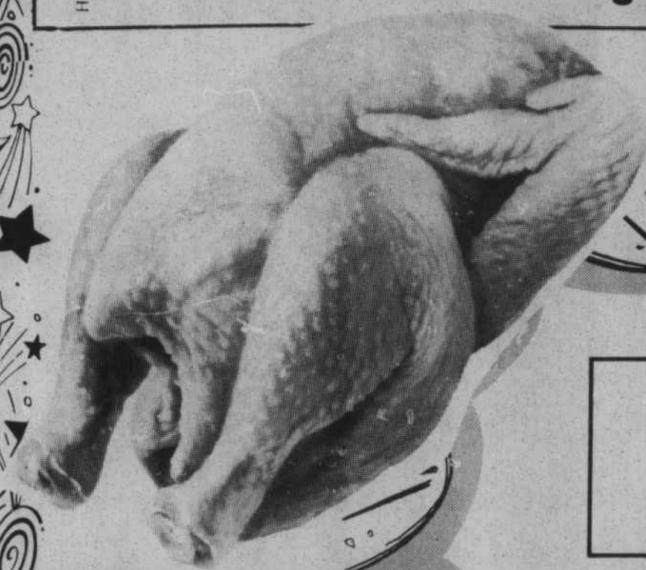
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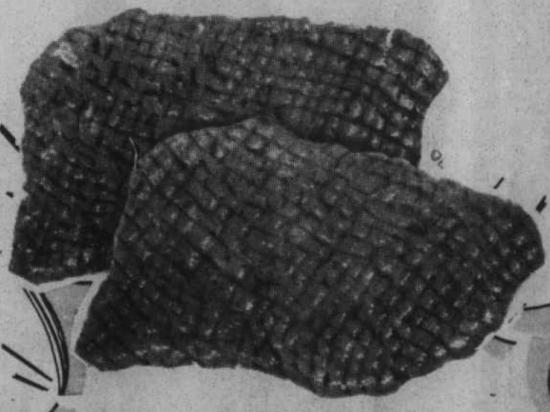
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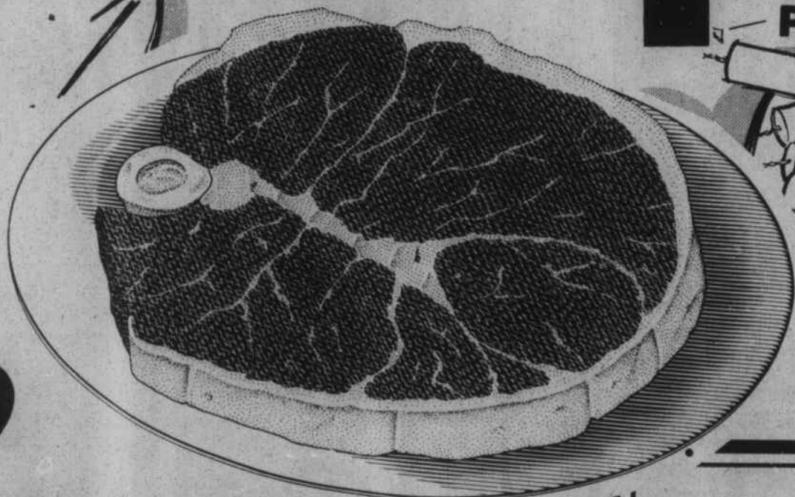
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