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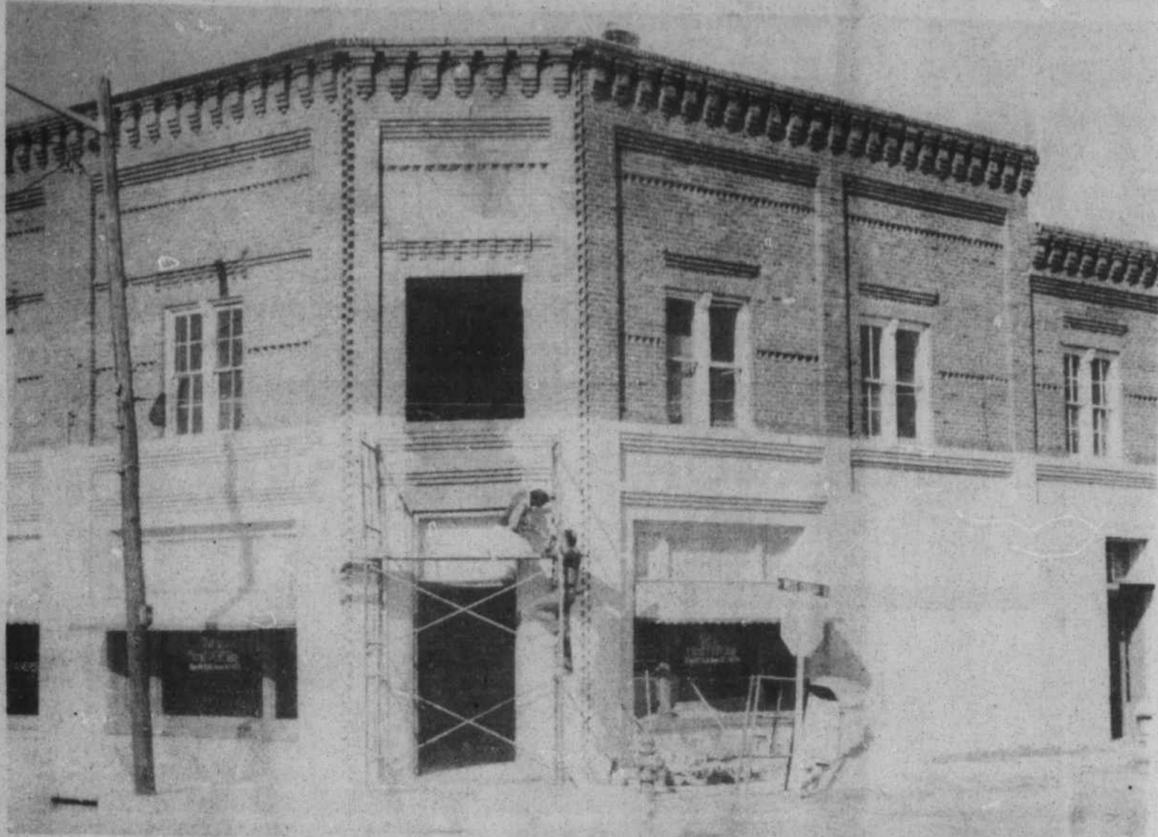
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Building Gets A Facelift In Faison

The building constructed in the early 1900s and used many years as the offices of the Faison town postal system and telephone company is getting a facelift. The building is being renovated to house a convenience store which specializes in hot dogs and a real estate office on the first floor and two

apartments upstairs. Renovations began about a month ago and are expected to be completed by the spring of 1986, said Domenick Sanducci, project developer and owner of Faison Manufacturing Company. The building is located on the corner of Center and Main streets.

Downtown Building Gets New Life In Faison

A building most commonly known for its past role as the town post office and telephone company is getting a new life in Faison.

The two-story building standing on the corner of Main and Center streets is being renovated to house Prize Package Convenience Store, Award Real Estate, Inc., and two luxury apartments. The building has most recently housed a florist shop.

"The area is going to need apartments," Domenick Sanducci, owner and developer, said. "I'm an optimist and things are going to get better in this area." As an example of the need for housing and creation

of new local jobs, Sanducci pointed out the growth of Mount Olive College into a four-year institution and the employment possibilities with the construction of the \$18 million turkey processing plant near Scott's store.

"This is a start," Sanducci said as he supervised the construction last week. "The building is smiling now. It had been crying for such a long time."

"I have lived in this area 15 years and I like the people and I like it here," Sanducci said. While he has no immediate plans to purchase additional downtown buildings for

renovation, Sanducci pointed out the acceptance of the current project may lead to another. Sanducci is the owner and operator of Faison Manufacturing, a garment company located just across the railroad from the renovation project.

The two-story building under renovation by Sanducci was built in the early 1900s and has served as a department store, grocery, Women's Club meeting hall, auto parts shop, television repair business, pool hall, exercise classroom, florist and as distribution center for clothing and furniture after the March 1984 tornadoes. The building, however, is

remembered most for the many years it served the town as headquarters for the post office, telephone company and a beauty shop. According to town residents, the upstairs served as the switchboard office and living quarters for the telephone company employee.

When renovations are completed, the turn-of-the-century building will once again provide living quarters in the upstairs and business offices below. The convenience store will operate in the front section facing Main Street and entrance to Award Real Estate is planned on Center Street.

James Kenan High School

Project May Be Finished By Early '87

New classrooms and a new library at James Kenan High School could be ready for students, teachers and

books by January 1987, if the state approves plans adopted last week by the Duplin County Board of Educa-

tion. Herb McKim, a member of the Wilmington architectural firm

Ballard, McKim and Sawyer, outlined plans for the board. McKim will send the construction plans to Raleigh for approval by the state Department of Public Education.

According to the schedule approved by the school board, construction documents will be submitted to the state Jan. 23. Specifications would go to potential bidders Feb. 7 and the school board would get bids March 6. Contracts would be awarded March 11.

If all steps go according to plan, construction should be completed Dec. 10, 1986, and the new portion would be ready for occupancy when school resumes in January 1987.

The project, which is estimated at \$1.5 million, includes new classrooms, a library and renovations to existing classrooms.

Ninth-graders in the James Kenan district will be quartered in the new addition. They now attend junior high schools in Kenansville and Warsaw. When the ninth-graders leave, the junior highs will be converted to middle schools.

Energy conservation improvements totaling \$37,562 are planned for James Kenan and North Duplin high schools. "The time to do this work at James Kenan is now as it goes right along with the planned construction," Superintendent L.S. Guy said.

Plans call for spending \$20,000 to block windows partially at James Kenan to reduce energy loss. Computerized temperature controls designed to cut heating and cooling costs would be installed at a cost of \$8,762 at James Kenan and \$8,460 at North Duplin.

Allowing James Sprunt Technical College to use Wallace-Rose Hill High School for night and Saturday classes is working out well, said Harold Brewer, principal of the high school. "We have realized much benefit and have established that a significant need exists."

December 15 Is Special Day For Cowan Museum

December 15 will be a special and busy day in Historic Kenansville. It begins the official holiday season with a series of special activities planned by the Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. and Mrs. George Cowan will celebrate their first Christmas in the Kelly-Farrior House by hosting open house from 1-5 p.m. Liberty Hall Restoration will also welcome visitors at the same time to view the annual decorations.

The 3rd North Carolina Battalion (Battery B) will be camped on the village green in front of Liberty Hall for the weekend activities and will be holding informal lectures about military life in the 1800s.

A special Christmas exhibit is planned as part of Christmas at the Cowan Museum. Rich Boyd, special consultant to Liberty Hall and project manager for the Kelly-Farrior House Restoration, will decorate the parlor in the period of the 1870s. Boyd, who

also acts as consultant to the Kelly-Farrior House Commission, has researched the period and will recreate a Christmas that was celebrated by North Carolina families after the War Between the States. The room will remain decorated throughout the season and special material has been prepared for guests explaining the style and method of decorating.

For more information contact the Curators, Cowan Museum at 296-0762.

Kenansville Mayor Sworn Into Office

Donald Suttles was sworn into his first full term as Kenansville's mayor at the opening of the town's board's December meeting last week.

Suttles previously was appointed to complete an unexpired term as mayor.

Also sworn into four-year terms were two re-elected town commissioners, Ronnie Bostic and Earl Hatcher.

The board appointed Willie Steel to the Alcoholic Beverage Control

Board to complete the term of the late Bennie Prince. The term expires Dec. 31, 1987.

The police budget was adjusted to increase the amount appropriated for part-time police. During much of the past year, a full-time position was vacant and part-time policemen were hired. The board had budgeted \$3,120 for 832 hours for part-time police service. The time and money limits were approached with more than half the fiscal year remaining.

The town now has its full complement of a police chief, assistant chief and one part-time officer. They provide 24-hour coverage except for an eight-hour period on Sundays.

Hatcher voted against the adjustment. Commissioners Bostic, Betty Long, Jimmie Newkirk and Mark Vinson voted for it.

In other business, the board agreed to buy an aluminum flagpole for the new town hall. The price, including installation, was \$350.

Rep. Charles Whitley Announces Retirement After Five Terms

Charles Whitley announced his retirement with the following:

The Book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament tells us that for everything under heaven, there is a time and a season: "A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to harvest..."

"My wife Audrey and I have concluded that for us, it is a time to change to another phase of our lives. A time to step back from the public spotlight to a more private life to which we very much look forward. I shall not be a candidate for reelection at the end of my current term in Congress.

"I have delayed making this announcement until now in order to maintain as long as possible a maximum level of influence in the House, which is considering legislation of the utmost importance to North Carolina and my district, but in fairness to potential candidates who must file by February 3, I feel that I must act now to give them an opportunity to make the necessary contacts and have the necessary consultations to decide whether to enter the race.

"Let me answer in advance two questions which might naturally arise. First, my health is fine, and I hope for quite a few more happy birthdays. Also, I believe my political health is sound. While one always assumes he will be opposed, I have received what I consider to be reliable information and assurances that should I seek another term, my chances for success would be favorable.

"I feel, also, that as a strong and early supporter of the man most likely to be elevated to the position of Speaker of the House in the next Congress; as a senior member and subcommittee chairman of the Agriculture Committee; and with the associations I have built up in the House over the years, I would be in a position to represent the third district effectively.

"But at the end of my current term, I will have served as a member of the House for 10 years, following 16 years as administrative assistant to my predecessor - a total of 26 years in Washington. I hope that my service has been beneficial and acceptable to the many thousands of third district people who chose me as their representative and placed their trust and confidence in me. I have done my utmost to justify their faith.

"It has been a tremendous experience. There are, of course, some officials in Washington, as there are people in all walks of life, who leave something to be desired, but on the whole, the men and women who serve in the Congress are people with high integrity, intelligence and dedication. It has been a source of strength and inspiration to know and work with them.

I want to express my appreciation to my staff, both in Washington and in North Carolina, for their service. No congressman is ever better than his staff, and to the extent that my service has been acceptable, the members of my staff deserve at least as much credit as I do. They have

been not only employees, but friends. I shall miss them.

"I cannot express in words how much the aid and encouragement of loyal friends and supporters in all of the now ten and one-half counties of the third district have meant to my family and me over the years. To be elected and re-elected by half a million people to represent them in the world's greatest legislative body is a heartening and humbling experience. We shall be forever grateful.



Charles Whitley

"What does the future hold? No one can give a complete answer to that question, but it is certainly my intention to return to my home in Mount Olive and live there with family, friends and neighbors who have always been the bedrock of my moral and political support. Hopefully, my life will proceed at a more leisurely and less hectic pace.

"Let me reiterate my faith in our country and our constitutional government. I am not bitter or disillusioned. It has been accurately said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the other forms, and I am reminded of the conclusion reached by the French journalist, Alexis DeToqueville, after an exhaustive study of the American system of government. "America's greatness," he wrote, "lies in the goodness of her people, and when America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." I still believe in the basic desire of most Americans to do what is right and just, and as long as that is true, our system will endure.

"Finally, I want to thank our party for what it has done for me, for our counties, our state and the nation. I am and will remain an unapologetic Democrat.

"I will not become involved in the selection by my party of its nominee to succeed me. That candidate will have my full support in the fall campaign, but assuming we follow tradition, there will be a contested primary election in the spring, and I will not endorse or favor any candidate in that primary.

"My family and I thank all of those who have supported us through the years. Good fortune to you all, and may God bless you and our nation."

Holiday Season Begins In Kenansville

The holiday season officially begins in Historic Kenansville when Liberty Hall Restoration welcomes guests to its annual open house on Sunday, Dec. 15 from 1-5 p.m. for "A Plantation Christmas." It is just one of many activities that have been scheduled during the holiday season by the Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"A Plantation Christmas" has become an annual tradition in Eastern North Carolina. Last year over 800 people attended the Christmas open house at Liberty Hall Restoration to view the decorations and enjoy the refreshments provided by the Kenansville Beautification Committee. The house and all the support buildings will be decorated to reflect how Christmas was celebrated in the mid-nineteenth century.

Tradition will also be repeated

when Rich Boyd returns to direct the decorating of the Restoration. Boyd, now assistant director of the Tennessee Arts Commission in Nashville, serves as special consultant to Liberty Hall. This will be the seventh year Boyd has designed and implemented the decorating of the Kenan ancestral family home. In planning "A Plantation Christmas," Boyd said, "The decorations do not remain the same each year. We may repeat some things from previous years, but we are always looking for new ways to do it and for new materials to use. There is continuous research about the family and their holiday habits, but it is always faithful to the spirit of the home as well as the season."

Liberty Hall Restoration will remain decorated throughout the holiday season. For information, contact: Liberty Hall Restoration at 296-0522.

The Twelve Days Of Christmas In Kenansville
December 14-25