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of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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FIVE CENTS

CHICAGO GUNMEN KILL BROTHER OF WILLIAM A. LAING

Prominent Southern Pines Resident Rushes to Bedside on News of Fatal Shooting

PROMINENT PHYSICIAN

Dr. George C. Laing of Chicago, brother of William A. Laing of Southern Pines, was fatally wounded by two bandits who entered his Chicago residence and at the point of a gun robbed him of his money and watch. The shooting took place on Thursday, February 5th, but Dr. Laing survived until Tuesday night of this week. His brother left Southern Pines for Chicago on Monday upon news of the physician's serious condition.

According to a special despatch to The Pilot from Chicago, the two bandits had surprised Dr. Laing at his residence and ordered him to throw up his hands. They searched the apartment and were on the point of departing with such money and jewelry as they found when Dr. Laing reached in a drawer of his desk for a revolver. Hearing the sudden move one of the men wheeled about and fired. Dr. Laing was hit but returned the fire from his own gun and hit one of the burglars in the shoulder. Laing was hit in the right arm and the lower part of his right side.

One of the bandits was picked up two blocks from the scene of the shooting and was rushed to headquarters where he was found to be suffering from a broken shoulder as a result of the doctor's aim. He gave the name of Fred Nelson, and was held on a charge of assault pending the outcome of Dr. Laing's injuries. This charge was changed to murder when the news of Dr. Laing's death reached the police Tuesday night. Nelson has steadfastly refused to divulge the name of his accomplice, who made good his getaway after the shooting.

The wounds received by Dr. Laing were not at first thought to be dangerous, and the sudden turn for the worse in his condition the forepart of this week prompted the Chicago police to suspect that the bullets fired by the bandits had been poisoned. These are now being analyzed by chemists attached to headquarters there.

Dr. George C. Laing has been a prominent Chicago physician for some time, enjoying a large practice. His brother, whose riding stables play an important part in the winter life of the Sandhills, left hurriedly for Chicago Monday when reports of his brother's condition were less favorable. Another brother also lives in Chicago and has been with Dr. Laing through his fight for life. Mrs. W. A. Laing and her sons Noel and William A. Jr., are in Southern Pines, spending the winter at the Park View Hotel. Noel Laing is one of the whips of the Moore County Hounds.

CONTRACT FOR HIGHWAY NO. 74 LET THIS WEEK

The contract was let at Raleigh this week for the hard surfacing of Route No. 74 of the State Highway system. This is the stretch from the Montgomery county line toward Carthage, a distance of 13.22 miles. Brown Paving Company of Lexington was the low bidder with a price of \$248,865.

The State Highway Commission let 13 projects on Tuesday, among them the new bridge across the Cape Fear River at Lillington, the cost of which is to be \$74,605. T. A. Loving & Company of Goldsboro were awarded this contract.

FATHER OF MRS. RALPH PAGE DIES IN BOSTON

News has reached here of the death of J. W. Tuckerman of Boston on last Friday. Mr. Tuckerman was engaged in the insurance business there and was well known in the Sandhills, having visited here several times. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ralph Page of Pinehurst, who was on the way to his home at the time of his death, and a son, Willard H. Tuckerman.

Governor Says Reorganization of Highways Assures Tax Relief

Figures Show Moore County Would Benefit by \$47,642 Reduction in Property Tax

A table released by Governor Gardner today (Friday) shows that Moore County taxpayers will receive relief from taxes to the extent of \$47,642 if his proposed plan for highway reorganization is enacted into law. The figures are as follows: Tax for overhead taken off, \$2,371; tax for maintenance taken off, \$35,157; tax for equipment taken off, \$10,114; total \$47,642.

The table shows in itemized detail the tax relief that each county will receive by reason of the State's assuming the complete burden of the maintenance of county roads. The figures are based on the expenditures of each county for the year ending June 30, 1930, as compiled by the survey of the financial operations of each county's road fund. The data for this survey were gathered from the official records of the county accountants, county road superintendents and township road commissioners, etc. The survey was made under the direction of the United States Bureau of Roads and represents actual transactions for one year, as nearly as information on file in the county offices permitted.

The table shows, under the appropriate heads, the tax relief for expenditures for salaries, convicts, maintenance, equipment, and gas and oil, and the total tax burden which will be removed from the counties when the entire cost of maintenance is assumed by the State.

The figures do not include the sum of one and one-half million dollars for construction, interest and miscellaneous expenditures, which burden will also be removed from the property taxpayers in the 100 counties. These figures represent only the relief which property will receive from the maintenance of county roads by the State.

The amounts of taxes taken off range from \$355,489 of expenditures in Mecklenburg County, all the way to \$6,580 spent in Clay County.

The table shows that the 47 counties which maintain their roads

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Local B. & L. Has Successful Year

Earnings of Near Seven Per Cent Reported to Stockholders at Annual Meeting

The annual stockholders' meeting of the Aberdeen Building and Loan Association was held in the high school auditorium January 29.

Gratifying reports of the past year's operation were made, and it was evident that this is one organization that apparently goes on its way despite the depression. A total of \$100,000.00 paid in on stock is within \$1,000.00 of the total one year ago.

The failure of stockholders to withdraw these savings despite talk of hard times was justified by the rate of earning which was maintained at approximately 7 per cent, to be exact 6.93 per cent. When it is remembered that this stock is non-taxable, it is seen that this is equivalent to 10 per cent on a taxable investment.

The nineteenth series opens this month.

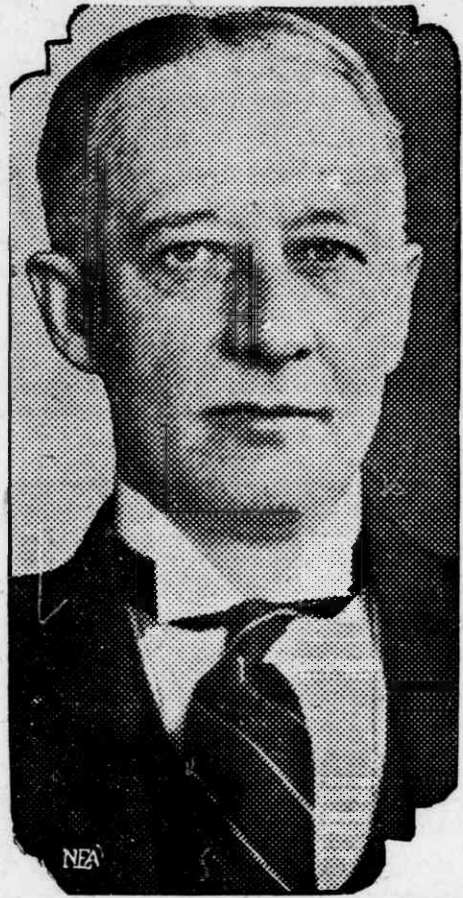
The following directors were elected for 1931: Robt. N. Page, G. C. Seymour, M. H. Folley, H. A. Gunter, Theo Berg, F. D. Shamburger, Murdoch M. Johnson, Dr. E. M. Medlin, T. D. McLean and D. I. McKeithen.

At a meeting of the board of directors Tuesday night the following officers for 1931 were elected: president, Robt. N. Page; vice-president, G. C. Seymour; secretary-treasurer, D. I. McKeithen; attorney, Murdoch M. Johnson; loan committee, G. C. Seymour, H. A. Gunter, F. D. Shamburger.

METHODIST PASTOR'S FAMILY JOINS HIM AT PARSONAGE

The Rev. W. C. Ball has returned with his family, Mrs. Ball and two children, from Asheville. Mrs. Ball and children have been spending some time with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Bown of Asheville.

On Visit Here



ALFRED E. SMITH

Al Smith Endorses Gov. Gardner's Plan

Former Governor of New York Gives Views on Government Simplification

(By Hugh W. White)

That Governor Gardner has the right idea in his proposed reorganization of the state government was the opinion expressed by Alfred E. Smith, former governor of New York State, and nominee of the Democratic party in the last election, to the Sandhills Daily News yesterday.

Mr. Smith arrived in Pinehurst yesterday morning from New York, to be a guest in the W. H. Todd home over the week-end. He was accompanied South by Mr. Todd and William F. Kenny, close friends of the ex-governor.

In commenting on Gardner's plan of reorganization, Mr. Smith said that he has studied the proposed scheme

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Ringier Appeal Is Made for Support of Work of Committee on Unemployment

Local Author Points Out Existence of Crisis and Endorses Relief Plans Worked Out by Southern Pines Committee

By Struthers Burt

We happen to be facing a crisis. It is not a Southern Pines crisis. Southern Pines is probably better off than most of the rest of the country. Our hotels are well-filled, we have no factories, the sunshine is good, and, on the surface, life goes on as pleasantly and to all appearances as prosperously as ever. But nation-wide depression is nation-wide depression and Southern Pines can no more hope to escape its share of it than it can expect not to be part of the United States. How do you face an industrial depression—that is, if you have any backbone and any vision? Why, with head up, a determination to do more work than ever, and a generous hand in your pocket for those less lucky than you. That's the only way to fight a depression, and the sooner you face it that way, the sooner its over, and the sooner you can take your hand out of your pocket with a sigh of relief.

These are facts. There are over 250 people registered with our unemployment bureau. Many of these are heads of families. The total number of people, therefore, on the edge of starvation, and it's actual starvation, number somewhere between 700 and 900. Of these 250 registered, at least 200 are honest, hard-working people who want work and can't get it. I wish everybody could hear the stories I've heard.

Now what are you going to do about this? There are three methods to deal with such a situation. You can use straight out charity, which is no more or less than the dole system, and which is bad for a locality, bad for

PAGE ENDORSES GOVERNOR'S ROAD CONTROL PROGRAM

Former Head of Highway Commission and Leslie R. Ames, Engineer, Support Move

WOULD DECREASE TAXES

A special dispatch to The Pilot says:

"While the road program suggested by Governor O. Max Gardner has drawn some scattered opposition, leading authorities on highways of North Carolina and the nation have indicated unqualified approval of the plan.

"Among those known to favor the new plan are Frank Page, former chairman of the Highway Commission, under whose direction the highway system of North Carolina grew to attract national and international attention; Leslie R. Ames, former State Highway Engineer; and experts of the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.

"The federal bureau, it is pointed out, conducted a survey of the county road system in North Carolina and has expressed approval of the administration plan as it will be submitted to the General Assembly. Officials of the bureau have expressed the opinion that the plan is not only feasible but that it will result in a substantial saving.

"Endorsement of these individuals and agencies, proponents of the Governor's plan point out, establish the practicability and workability of the program. They contend that the county roads will be better maintained than they now are under the present system.

"One of the most popular features of the proposed program is the fact that it will make possible the relief of land taxes averaging some 19 1-2 cents on each hundred dollars of valuation in the counties. A total of approximately \$6,000,000 can be lifted from the land owners of the State under the proposed program, it is asserted.

"In the face of the logical and clear-cut reasons for the plan submitted, opposition has found little upon which to base its claims, and is believed to be rapidly breaking down."

Fire Hazard Increases Safety of North Carolina Prison Population

Shall We Burn Them?

An article in The Pilot this week taken from the Prison News, and written by a prisoner who seems to know, admonishes the State of North Carolina that the state is holding over the heads of every inmate of the penitentiary a threatened death sentence that should wake a protest from every quarter of this nation.

The Raleigh prison is built to prevent people from getting out at any time. It is built substantially in that respect. It is also built, except for the outside walls, of that fine old long leaf pine which burns like oil. It is built compactly. Those within its walls are confined by iron doors and bars and locks to their individual sections.

A holocaust at the Raleigh prison that would tell the world of a death roll of several hundred people would be a great bit of news to flash around the world. But the possibilities are there this minute as they have been for years and as they promise to be unless some positive step is taken quickly.

This prison writer serves notice on North Carolina. In event of such a catastrophe the state becomes a party to the ghastly crime. The responsibility is on the shoulders of every citizen, of the state as a unit, and of the state government as the temporary authority for a continuation of the danger.

Possibly an injunction might issue from the court to forbid any further confinements in that death trap which is already overcrowded. Such an injunction would have the backing of the people to the extent that the prison doors at Raleigh would close at once and forever.

Red Cross Nears Quota In County

Workers Hope to Bring Campaign to Close by End of Next Week

The Red Cross association of the county will close its work the last of next week, but it is necessary to procure a little more money to make up the \$2,000 asked for. Over three-fourths of the sum has been provided so far, but it is desired to make up the full contribution expected. Pinebluff, Niagara and Lakeview have gone beyond their proportionate allotments, which is better than the bigger communities have done. Usually Moore county fills its quota without any hesitation and the Red Cross workers have no doubt now as to the outcome. However, they urge everybody to lend a hand on as liberal a scale as possible especially those communities that have allowed the smaller places to step to the front.

DR. MILLER WILL PREACH IN ABERDEEN SUNDAY

There will be regular preaching services at the Presbyterian Church of Aberdeen this Sunday morning and evening. Rev. P. D. Miller of Atlanta, Ga., will deliver the sermon at the morning service. Dr. Miller is Educational Secretary of the General Assembly's Home Missions and is widely known throughout the South. The church is very fortunate in having Dr. Miller at this time and it is hoped that a large congregation will attend the service to hear him.

JOHNSON INTRODUCES BILL

Senator Murdoch M. Johnson of Aberdeen introduced a bill in the State Senate this week to amend present statutes relative to redemption of land from tax liens.

Continued Use of Central Prison Is Sorry Comment on State's Intelligence

By A Prisoner

The gradual expansion of the State's Prison into a number of units located in various sections of the State, has resulted in the main building of the system at Raleigh taking upon itself the name of "Central Prison," and this antiquated, unsanitary and thoroughly disreputable pile of bricks, stone and mortar is the subject of this complaint. The building was erected about the year 1886, which fact alone should be sufficient evidence that it has long since served its usefulness and should now be relegated to the scrap-heap. Its peculiar style of architecture forbids an economical alteration into a modern prison building, and to continue to utilize it in its present condition means an annual loss of thousands of dollars to the State in the items of heat and guards alone. But what should be of considerably more importance to the people of the State of North Carolina than this matter of mere dollars and cents, is the fire hazard which this old building constantly presents.

The recent fire at the Alabama State Prison which consumed an entire wing of the prison building, happily without any loss of life, causes all of those who are in any way connected with the North Carolina institution to shudder at the very thought of the result of a mid-night fire breaking out in either wing of this tinder-box. And the memory of the disastrous fire several months ago at the Ohio State Prison with the alarming loss of life resulting therefrom, still obsesses many here.

Veritable Fire Trap

The opinion that the Central Prison building is a veritable fire trap seems to be unanimous but as is the usual custom of the human race when it's the other man's troubles of menace, very few people appear sufficiently interested to make any move to remedy the defects, particularly when there happens to be some expense attached. Mr. George Ross Pou, the Prison Superintendent, has long realized and urged the necessity of erecting a new and modern plant. Governor Gardner calls the present prison quarters a fire trap and his appoint-

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Southern Pines Will Discuss Charter Change

Commissioners Will Hold Public Hearing Next Wednesday Night

The town commissioners of Southern Pines have invited the residents of the town to meet with them at the City Building next Wednesday night, February 18, at which time they will discuss the matter of a change in the town charter, the proposition being whether the mayor and commissioners shall be elected for two years instead of one as at present.

The commissioners realize that this is a matter of importance to every resident of the city and desire to secure as full an expression of public opinion as possible, therefore they invite the public to attend the meeting next Wednesday night and air its views.

It is said that the proposed change would not affect the present incumbents as the regular caucus and election comes in May.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature having for its object the extension of the city limits of Southern Pines to include the present town of West Southern Pines.

DELEGATION CALLS ON FORMER GOV. AL SMITH

A delegation from the state legislature passed through Aberdeen this morning on its way to Pinehurst to invite former Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York to address the legislature this afternoon or tonight. At the time of going to press the result of their visit had not been made known.

The delegation was headed by Governor O. Max Gardner.

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