

GREETINGS FOR  
THE NEW YEAR  
FROM THE PILOT

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FOURTEEN PAGES

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**CHRISTMAS BASKETS**—Only a few of the 80 food baskets and many toys which were distributed to needy families last week by John Boyd Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, are shown in this picture. Note the tricycles going to families with children. Fred Hall, Jr., project chairman, said it was the biggest distribution of Christmas Cheer baskets ever made by the post and this week again thanked all who contributed in any way. VFW members pictured here, just before the baskets were delivered last Thursday night, are, left to right, front, Ernest Klabbatz, Cleo Garner and A. O. Monroe, Jr. Back, same order: Chairman Hall, Thom McKenzie, post commander, and Robert McDonald. Other committee members not shown include: Ralph Kleinspehn, Francis Shea and Clyde Smith. (Photo by Humphrey)

## Highlights In Town, County Recalled

### 1954 Ends As Memorable News Year

Triumph and tragedy mark this community's list of the 10 top news events of 1954—a list hard to make, as it's been a memorable year.

Though some may differ with The Pilot's selection of 10, certain it is that one man, and also one group of men, provided a noteworthy outcropping of news stories.

The one man was Adlai Stevenson, who, through two visits—in the spring and in the fall; at a public reception and a victory rally; being ill and rushed to the hospital, going deer-hunting and bagging no deer—landed Southern Pines on front pages, on broadcasts and telecasts, from coast to coast.

The group of men was the Southern Pines town council, heading the town into its second year of council-manager government and simultaneously into a period of striding progress. Lumping the council's major

achievements together into one big story, we get: reduction of town taxes, equalizing and reducing of water rates, swapping a \$20,000 deficit for \$30,000 surplus, elimination of poll tax, paving of over two miles of streets, out of cash; construction of over two miles of sewers, out of cash; inauguration of backdoor garbage collection; radio-equipping of town vehicles; streamlining of office and billing procedures; placing sewer system on self-sustaining basis through sewer service

charge and other accomplishments.

Another major result provides a news story all its own—the annexation of Knollwood, increasing town area by 50 per cent—the first extension of city limits in 23 years.

**Fire Tragedy**

Other main news events—not necessarily in order of importance:

The \$100,000 Cameron Oil Co. fire, in which Alex Cameron was

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## Top County News Events Listed

What were Moore county's top news events of 1954? Here's one list—admittedly open for discussion:

The public reception in the Carthage school gym last March for Adlai Stevenson, at which more than 2,000 shook his hand and heard him speak.

Also honoring Adlai Stevenson the Democratic victory rally at Pinehurst, attended also by Governor Luther H. Hodges, Senator Scott and other notables.

Acquisition of the House in the Horseshoe by the Moore County Historical Association, preparatory to its becoming an historical shrine of the State.

Closing of the County Home in

November, with the seven remaining inmates placed in boarding homes.

Appointment of a native son, W. A. Leland McKeithen of Pinehurst, by Governor Umstead as a special judge of superior court.

Crackdown on speeders by the State Highway Patrol with speed-watch, reducing deaths on Moore highways outside towns to only five this year (13 last year, 20 the year before). (Five deaths in municipalities brought Moore total to 10 for the year.)

Rejection of county budget by board of education, with ensuing arbitration by Clerk of Superior Court, and acceptance of his com-

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## Some Stores To Close Saturday For New Year's

Some local businesses will be closed Saturday, New Year's Day, while other will remain open.

Closing is recommended in the Chamber of Commerce calendar for the year. However, the situation has been altered by the fact that some businesses closed Monday, giving their employees a long Christmas weekend.

A spot check reveals that, generally speaking, department and apparel stores will be closed. Exceptions: Style Mart, variety stores.

Grocery and drug stores will be open. Service stations in town will be closed.

The Citizens Bank & Trust Co. will, of course, be closed. So will the Chamber of Commerce office and auto license sales bureau along with other branch offices of the Carolina Motor Club in the State.

**Post Office**

The post office will follow regular holiday schedule with windows closed except for one hour, 10 to 11 a. m., no city delivery of mail, but mail will be put in boxes and dispatched as usual.

The library will be closed Saturday.

The town office will be closed, as will county offices in the courthouse at Carthage. There was no session of recorders court Monday of this week, but court will be held at Carthage today (Friday).

Christmas vacation will end for pupils in the Southern Pines schools when they return to their classrooms Monday morning.

## Hospital Fund Program Given Full Approval

### Commission Okays Financial Aid Up To \$300,000 Top

Approval of a construction and alteration project costing up to \$300,000 at Moore County Hospital has been received from the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, it was announced this week by Thomas R. Howerton, hospital administrator.

This means, said the administrator, that if \$106,800 is contributed locally, state and federal funds will be available to make up the balance of the \$300,000.

Approval means that the project also has been okayed by the U. S. Public Health Service which checks state-federal hospital aid proposals.

While approval was given subject to availability of funds and a priority schedule, Howerton said that no delays for these reasons are anticipated.

**More Contributions**

The administrator revealed this week that between \$16,000 and \$20,000 in gifts for the hospital project have been received since it was announced December 10 that Mr. and Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson of Pinehurst have given \$50,000 to be used for construction of a modern, adequate emergency service and also expansion and improvements in the children's ward. The gift was made in memory of the Jacksons' two sons who died in accidents.

Pledges for considerable additional funds to be given after the first of the new year have been made, Howerton said, for a total of \$25,000—or nearly half of the remaining needed local contribution—"in sight," in addition to the Jackson gift.

Representatives of the George Watts Carr architectural firm of Durham have visited the hospital, Howerton reported, and expect to have preliminary sketches for review by the board of directors within 30 days.

## Tax Listing To Begin January 1 In 9 Townships Of Moore County

### List Takers Appointed; Schedule Set



**IS THAT REALLY SANTA?**—Wide-eyed wonder on the faces of these children can be explained: they're looking at Santa Claus himself during the Christmas party given for hundreds of children from this area by the Southern Pines Elks lodge at the Country Club Wednesday afternoon of last week. The children, left to right: Julie Schilling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schilling (Mrs. Schilling stands at left behind her daughter); Robbie and Debbie Hearn, children of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hearn and cousins of little Julie; and Sharon Rogers, daughter of A. I. and Mrs. Ernest Rogers (Mrs. Rogers is standing behind her daughter). (Photo by Humphrey)

Listing of real and personal property for 1955 taxes will begin throughout Moore County Saturday, to continue through the month of January.

The nine township tax listers appointed by the county commissioners have been announced by Miss Maida Jenkins, supervisor, as:

McNeill—Mrs. Irene F. Mullinix, Vass.

Sandhill — Mrs. Adelaide Schnell, Pinebluff.

Mineral Springs—Mrs. Harold Markham, West End.

Carthage—Mrs. R. W. Pleasants, Carthage.

Greenwood—J. A. Shaw, Cameron.

Sheffield—W. A. McLeod, Robbins.

Deep River—J. M. Campbell, Carthage, Star Route.

Bensalem—Mrs. Nina C. Monroe, Biscoe, Route 1.

Ritter—Miss Alice Ritter, Carthage, Route 1.

**Locations Posted**

Cards announcing location at which the list takers may be seen at various times during the month of January have been posted in public places throughout the county.

For the first time in many years, a new list taker, Mrs. Mullinix, replaces Mrs. D. J. Blue of Carthage, Route 3, in McNeill Township which includes most of Southern Pines and also the Country Club, Pinedene and adjoining areas on the south, are in Sandhill Township.

Schedule of visits to various sections of their townships have been announced by both Mrs. Mullinix for McNeill and Mrs. Schnell for Sandhill.

**McNeill Township**

Mrs. Mullinix has announced her schedule as follows:

Niagara—January 4.

Evans store (afternoon)—January 5.

Lakeview — January 6.

Vass—town clerk's office (Mrs. Mullinix is the town clerk), January 8, 15 and 22.

Southern Pines—town hall, January 10 through 14, also January 17 through 20.

Manly—January 25.

Farm Life School (afternoon)—January 26.

Michael's store (afternoon)—January 27.

Clayroad store—January 29.

At times not listed, at the town clerk's office in Vass.

**Sandhill Township**

Mrs. Schnell has announced her schedule as follows:

Pinebluff, town hall—January 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Addor, post office—January 6 and 7.

Roseland, Patterson's store—January 8.

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## Annual Tobacco Meeting Monday

The annual tobacco meeting for Moore County farmers will be held at the courthouse in Carthage Monday at 7:30 p. m., it was announced this week by E. H. Garrison, county farm agent, and F. D. Allen and John A. Dinan, assistant agents.

H. H. Nau, tobacco specialist from State College, Raleigh, is expected to attend the meeting and answer questions.

All tobacco farmers of the county were urged to attend the gathering. Among subjects to be discussed are irrigation for tobacco, plant bed treatment, best varieties to plant and fertilizer.

## Extensive Improvement Plans Revealed For Highways 15-501 Throughout State

**Work To Start Soon On Relocation Road To By-Pass Carthage**

In an effort to keep pace with the tremendous growth of traffic, the State Highway Commission is striving to modernize its primary highway system, according to a report from the commission's Raleigh headquarters. Two important north-south routes—US 15 and 501—are now being improved and are slated for even more extensive road work. The routes are being built to high engineering standards of modern highway

construction, says the report.

The 10.4-mile relocation of US 15 and 501 bypassing Carthage in Moore County is part of an overall program to improve the highway from the South Carolina line to Virginia line. Work should get underway soon on the grading and building of structures on this job, the report stated, continuing with the following information about the 15-501 program.

**One of Worst**

The present narrow, winding 12-mile stretch of US 15 and 501 from Pinehurst to Carthage has served its purpose since it was built in 1925. It has been resurfaced since then but its numerous curves and high crown make it inadequate to carry present-day traffic. This 12-mile section is considered one of the worst links in the primary highway system.

The antiquated condition of the road plus the adjoining valuable buildings, homes and businesses meant that new location was necessary. It was impractical and too expensive to widen or improve the present route because of the roadside development.

Plans call for widening and re-

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## ASSEMBLY SESSIONS TO OPEN WEDNESDAY

### Money Leads 1955 Legislative Problems

(At request of The Pilot, State Rep. H. Clifton Blue has written the following forecast of problems facing the 1955 North Carolina General Assembly.)

**By Rep. H. Clifton Blue**

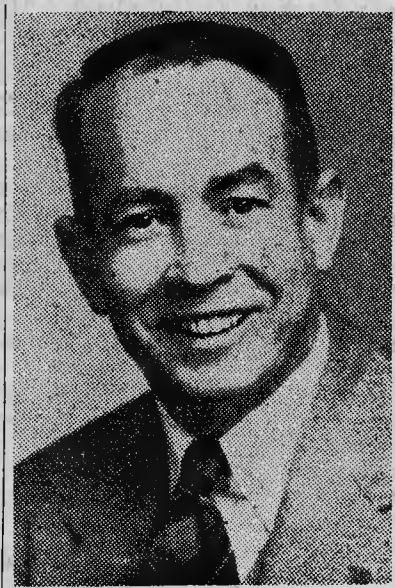
I expect the 1955 General Assembly which will convene on next Wednesday, January 5, to be the most momentous in many years and certainly since I have been representing Moore County during the past four sessions—this making the fifth.

As I said before the primary, and later before the general election, I do not have any particular "pet" county or local legislation in mind. However, the duly elected county officials and the various town councils will likely have measures for consideration.

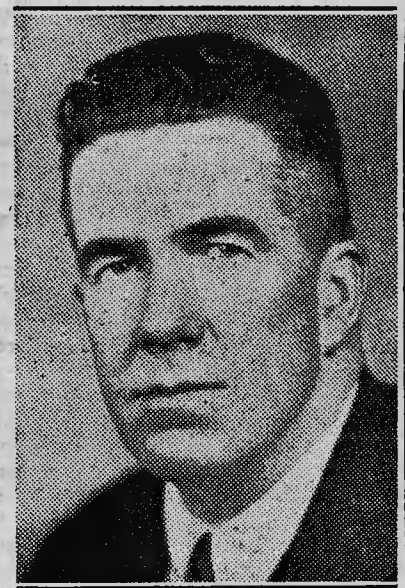
From a state-wide standpoint I expect the major battles of the General Assembly to center around:

1. The budget—revenue and appropriations.
2. Desegregation as a result of the Supreme Court's anti-segregation ruling.
3. Improvement of our primary road system through a bond issue.

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REP. BLUE



SEN. POOLE

**TO RALEIGH**—J. Hawley Poole of West End, Moore County's senator from the 12th District which includes Moore, Hoke, Harnett and Randolph Counties, and H. Clifton Blue of Aberdeen, Moore representative, will leave Tuesday for Raleigh and the biennial session of the General Assembly which opens Wednesday after House and Senate caucuses Tuesday. Poole has represented Moore three times in the House and once in the Senate. Blue is beginning his fifth consecutive term in the House.

## Alumni Games Draw Interest

The best alumni basketball games in years were expected Thursday night in the school gymnasium at 7:30 p. m. when the boys and girls of the high school squads clash with alumni in the traditional vacation contests.

The high school boys will be up against grads who have played on strong teams, including David Page, Tommy Ruggles, Bill Baker, David Bailey, Bill Huntley, Gene Maples, Dickie Matlocks, Gary Matlocks, Norris Hodgkins, Jr., and others.

Alumni girls expected to see action against a high school squad led by Dorothy Newton, Patti Woodell and Kay Davis include: Sieger Herr, Carol Sue Humphrey, Mary Cameron, La Nelle Kirk, Peggy Phillips Tufts, Peggy Cameron and others.

**LEGION MEETING**

A business meeting of Sandhill Post 134, American Legion, was to be held Thursday at 8 p. m. in the Legion Hut on East Maine Ave. All 1954 members and those interested in joining the organization were urged to attend.

## WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

A watchnight service will begin at 11:30 o'clock tonight (Friday) at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, to mark arrival of the New Year with prayer and Scripture readings.

## "The Best Laid Plans . . ."

Two youngsters, out of school and whiling away the time on the day before Christmas, conducted an experiment that doubtless would have proved fatal to one had it not been for the coolness and quick-thinking of the other.

Leon, 12, and Philip, 9, sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Keith of the Cranes Creek section out from Vass, decided to start a gasoline fire. They laid their plans carefully, clearing off a large place on the ground at a safe distance from the gasoline tank.

They drew some gas into a container through a funnel which Philip held, then proceeded with their project. What they didn't take into account was that some of the gasoline had run from the funnel onto Philip's arm and clothing, or that some had sloshed onto his trousers as they went to their selected spot.

The match was thrown, the fire blazed, and simultaneously Philip, also, blazed. The boy started to run, but Leon quickly grabbed him, threw him to the ground and rolled him in the sand, then dragged him to a stock watering trough which was nearly full of water, soured him in, and turned the hose on him.

Philip was treated at Moore County Hospital and allowed to come home. His temperature rose this week and he has been going back for further treatment.