

SLOW DOWN AND
LIVE! HELP STOP
HIGHWAY DEATHS

THE PILOT

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TWENTY-TWO PAGES

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1955

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PRICE TEN CENTS

Town Council Endorses Natural Gas Proposal

But Doesn't Commit Town To Any Action

The possibility of Southern Pines deriving revenue from a natural gas installation, while bringing this new low-cost fuel to town, was spread before the town councilmen Tuesday night. While admitting the prospect was pleasing, the three councilmen present went along with Mayor Gilmore in limiting their plans at the present to a possible endorsement of a natural gas line to the State Utilities Commission. "Bringing natural gas to the area will certainly mean progress, and we can join other towns in endorsing it, while not obligating ourselves," said Mayor Gilmore, who said he would send a letter

to the State Utilities Commission, and if possible get up a delegation, for its hearing on the matter to be held October 20 in Raleigh at 10 a. m. The hearing will be in the library of the State Utilities Commission building.

Map Displayed

Russell Matherne, representing Porter, Barry and Associates, consulting engineers, of Baton Rouge, La., presented before the council a map showing the route of the proposed pipe line which would open up the central North Carolina area for natural gas from the Texas oil fields.

The Piedmont area has had natural gas for two years, and planned extensions will take it to other areas of the State.

Matherne explained the plan by which many municipalities are boosting their revenue through self-operation of their natural gas lines, or through franchising private concerns to operate them.

The plan starts with a bond issue to cover all costs, returning revenue while it liquidates itself over a 20-year period. For a town the size of Southern Pines the bond issue would be, he estimated, about \$800,000 or \$900,000, a figure which caused his hearers to blink. This would provide the complete installation, with pressure-regulating equipment, lines all over town and to each home desiring it (at an average length to be determined—possibly 75 feet), also all engineering costs involved.

Operation is simple, he said, and operation costs low, particularly where the municipality already owns its own water works as some of the procedures can be combined.

Revenue Producer

For the installation, he said, the town would gain a new revenue-producing utility, and the home owners would have a modern fuel, one of the cheapest and most efficient in the world, for cooking, space heaters, hot water heaters and certain other appliances.

He cited Lexington as a town (Continued on Page 5)

Tennis Group Sets Rummage Sale, Annual Meeting

A rummage sale for benefit of the Sandhills Tennis Association will be conducted at the Straka Building on N. E. Broad St. from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. Saturday and the Association will hold its annual meeting and election of officers Tuesday.

Norris L. Hodgkins, Jr., president of the association, asks that anyone wanting to give items for the rummage sale get in touch with Mrs. Danny Devins, Mrs. Kim MacKie or Mrs. N. L. Hodgkins, Jr.

The dutch dinner meeting of association members is to be held at Dante's Restaurant at 7 p. m. Whit Cobb of Durham, president of the N. C. Tennis Association and tennis coach at Duke University, will be a guest. Election of officers for the coming year will be on the informal program.

Tract On Highway I Sold For New Phillips Station

Prospects for the building of another large service station on US Highway 1 South, midway between Southern Pines and Aberdeen, were seen with announcement by L. T. Clark this week of the sale of a tract to a Phillips Petroleum Co. representative.

Bobby Burns of Sanford, distributor for Phillips 66 products, has purchased the "Klabatz corner" with 214 feet frontage for \$6,500. It is expected that Phillips' best type of station will be built there.

The tract is some 200 yards north, and on the same side of the highway, as the old sandpit tract bought last May by the Esso Standard Oil Co. for a service station and other uses.



YDC AWARDS—Congressman C. B. Deane, right, congratulates Voit Gilmore, president of the Moore County YDC last year, on the club's winning the award for best club program in the state during 1954-55.

Left, W. Lamont Brown, chairman of the Moore County Democratic executive committee, admires one of the two trophies—one floating, the other permanent—awarded at the state YDC convention at Durham October 1.

The Moore County YDC program during Gilmore's administration was highlighted by a dinner meeting held at Pinehurst in the fall, with Adlai Stevenson and Gov. Luther S. Hodges as honor guests, and a rally at Carthage in the spring at which John D. Larkins, State Democratic chairman, was speaker. Both were attended by many notables of the YDC and senior party. (Photo by V. Nicholson).

Town Not Able To Finance Rotary Party For Children Maxwell, Who Shot Sheriff, Held In Bond of \$10,000

The town council, expressing much regret, Tuesday night in regular session had to turn down the Southern Pines Rotary club's request that financing for the annual Halloween party come out of town recreation funds. They said it couldn't be afforded from this year's budget.

J. B. Perkinson, Rotary president, made an eloquent appeal for town aid for the party, which he said was now serving 1,000 to 1,500 children, and had far outgrown the treasury of the sponsoring Rotarians.

He said the Rotary members would continue supervision, contribute to certain phases of the entertainment and use their "props" already on hand. He pointed out that the carnival-style event is not only valuable recreation for children and young people, but a practical aid to merchants and home owners in substituting wholesome activity for traditional mischief.

Perkinson estimated the need at \$225 for the East Southern Pines celebration, and "about half that" for West Southern Pines where a smaller party, toward which the Rotary club has been donating funds, is held. Consulted by Mayor Voit Gilmore (Continued on Page 8)

Seventy-two-year old Gentry Maxwell of near Carthage, who fired a shotgun blast that peppered the face and neck of Sheriff C. J. McDonald and blew the hat off Deputy Sheriff A. W. Lambert last Saturday morning, was in jail in default of \$10,000 bond this week.

Bond of \$5,000 on each of two counts against Maxwell was set in a hearing before Magistrate Charles McLeod of Carthage on Monday. He is charged with secret assault and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting injuries. Maxwell, the sheriff recalled, is one of the first men he had to arrest when he took office more than 25 years ago. And the arrests have been continuing at intervals during the past quarter century for such offenses as beating his wife, drunken driving and others.

In the Saturday shooting, the sheriff's injuries were superficial and he was soon back on duty after treatment at a physician's office. None of the pellets struck his eyes. He had turned his head by chance when the shot was fired from the Maxwell house, one half mile out of Carthage, as he, Deputy Lambert and ABC Officer C. A. McCallum approached the dwelling to arrest Maxwell on (Continued on Page 8)

LOCAL DEPARTMENT OBSERVES FIRE PREVENTION WEEK Parade, Open House At Fire Station Slated Saturday

This is Fire Prevention Week across the nation and Southern Pines volunteer firemen are preparing to hold open house Saturday in recognition of the observance.

Features of the local program include a parade of equipment through the business section, led by the Southern Pines school band at 11 a. m., and free rides for children on fire trucks in the afternoon at the firehouse, from 1 to 2 p. m., for white children and in West Southern Pines, from 2 to 3 p. m., for Negro youngsters. Firemen are taking a truck to schools on both sides of town, to stage surprise fire drills, this week.

And all day, on Saturday, citizens are invited to visit the fire station on New Hampshire Ave. to inspect trucks and other equipment, ask questions and familiarize themselves with some of the problems faced by the local volunteers.

Huge Toll Cited

Purpose of all this, says Fire Chief Harold B. Fowler, is not just to display the fire department but to remind people here that fire takes a huge and largely

avoidable toll of lives and property over the nation each year. Firemen will be prepared to tell visitors what they can do to make their homes and places of business safer, if they ask for this information.

In 1954, Chief Fowler says, local firemen answered 54 alarms and fires they fought took one life and resulted in an estimated \$41,000 of property damage.

That was an exceptionally heavy loss, the chief notes, explaining that the fatality and some \$35,000 worth of damage were the result of one blaze—the Southern Pines Motor Co. and Cameron Oil Co. fire. But the record shows, he says, the threat that fire poses to the community.

More of an average year was 1953 when the volunteers responded to 57 alarms, property loss was an estimated \$16,000 and there was no loss of life attributable to fire. But even that loss, the chief believes, could have been largely avoided if owners of the property had been alert to fire prevention measures.

Proud of Equipment

Southern Pines firemen are proud of their equipment which

Amerotron Offices Concentrated At Aberdeen; Power Costs 'Excessive'

Huffines Also Hits 'Phone Service Here

The Aberdeen plant has been chosen for the location of all administrative work of the manufacturing and accounting departments of Amerotron Corporation, giant textile firm with four mills in this area.

This was the big news emerging from the conference of all heads of departments and officials of the company meeting at the Mid Pines Club over the past weekend. About 90 executives attended the convention.

Announcement of the decision to concentrate these important parts of the whole here, was made by R. L. Huffines, president, at a press conference held before a buffet lunch at the hotel Friday.

Mr. Huffines said that the Sandhills location had been chosen

largely for geographical reasons. Aberdeen, a convenient communications center, is about at the heart of the textile company's field of operations, which stretches from Maine to Georgia.

Products On Display

For the benefit of admiring gazers, there was on display in the hotel lounge an exhibit containing all varieties of Amerotron products, both synthetics and fine woolsens, while in the main reception room was a cheerful crowd of men, all executives of the company's different branches.

Mostly on the young side, these came from the many textile plants located here and in other states. A large group of executives from the main office in New York had arrived by the morning train and were spending a weekend of conferences and inspections of the plants in the area, as well as enjoying some Sandhills golf and fine weather.

Gathered in the sunny lounge, a press group heard the president describe the state of things in his company as of the present. (Continued on Page 12)

CP&L PRESIDENT SPEAKS HERE

Sutton Says Huffines Power Cost Figures 'Inconceivable'

Speaking before a group of businessmen, assembled in convention at the Mid Pines Club today, Louis V. Sutton, president of Carolina Power and Light Company, took sharp issue with a statement made last week by R. L. Huffines, president of Amer-

otron, textile company with four plants in this area. Mr. Huffines had voiced criticism of the local utilities rate.

Said Mr. Sutton: "When Mr. Huffines states, as reported in the state daily papers, that electric power costs in his four North Carolina plants are higher than those in any other location, I feel certain he is in error."

Mr. Sutton quoted the published Huffines statement: that power costs in his four Amerotron plants in this area were higher than those "in other operating areas," and that his company was, in effect, paying a premium of \$750,000 for the privilege of buying from Carolina Power and Light, and the president of the utility said:

"Seeing that the entire power bill of the four plants for the past 12 months, (including part of the time prior to the merger) amounted to \$695,914, it is inconceivable that the statement made by Mr. Huffines should be correct."

(Ed. Note: After publication of the \$750,000 figure in daily papers, following a press conference with Mr. Huffines last Friday, the \$750,000 figure was withdrawn by the Amerotron president in a statement made through a spokesman to The Pilot and the estimate of excessive cost was set not in terms of dollars but at "16 per cent.")

Mr. Sutton explained that the cost of power in a textile operation amounts to from one to two percent of overall costs. He said that the fact that no mill in the area served by his company tried to produce its own power seemed (Continued on Page 8)

'Highland Call' Seen At Campbell

Presentation of Paul Green's symphonic drama, "The Highland Call," will continue through Saturday, with performances at 8 p. m. in the Campbell College amphitheatre, Buies Creek, in observance of Harnett County's centennial.

An exhibition of historical items at the Lillington community center is also part of the centennial celebration.

PTA MEETING NEXT THURSDAY

"Free From Physical Hazards" will be the program topic for the Southern Pines Parent-Teacher Association's second meeting of the year in Weaver Auditorium at 8 p. m. Thursday night of next week.

Garland McPherson, chairman of the Moore County Red Cross chapter, and Dr. J. C. Grier, Jr., of Pinehurst, will have charge of the program.

Mrs. W. T. Huntley, PTA membership chairman, announced this week that the Association will conduct its membership campaign next week, sending home applications by each school child on Monday, with the request that they be returned at once, so that the membership numbers will be known by the meeting.

Blue Knights Beat Curry, Face Tough Aberdeen Friday

The Homecoming Game last Friday night for the Southern Pines High Blue Knights was a huge success as they smashed the visitors from Greensboro, the Curry High Phantoms, 52-22. Coach Irie Leonard's Blue Knights have thus far on the season bowled over five opponents with wide-margin wins in each game and so far have not met any serious threat to the six-man football championship title which they are defending.

Their most serious challenge to a repeat championship this season will come up Friday at 8 p. m. when the charges of Coach Hugh Bowman of Aberdeen High arrive on the scene at Memorial Field. The winner of this game has every reason to move on to the state title. It was the same situation last season at this time when Southern Pines pulled one out of the fire in the last four seconds of the game to defeat Aberdeen. Another thriller is on tap for this week.

Aberdeen Undefeated

Aberdeen comes into the game undefeated, having beaten five opponents as impressively as the Blue Knights have won their vic- (Continued on page 8)

RETURN TO PINEHURST

Gen. and Mrs. George C. Marshall, after spending the summer at their Leesburg, Va., home with the exception of a month spent at Eaglesmere, Pa., returned this week to their home in Pinehurst.

Richards To Build More Houses For Sale, Group Told

E. N. Richards, head of the Richards Building Co., of Raleigh, told members of the town's housing committee Saturday that he plans to build eight or 10 houses soon in the Knollwood Apartments area.

The builder's plans were revealed at a luncheon meeting of the committee with Mr. Richards at the Mid Pines Club. Mr. Richards is developer, builder and owner of the Knollwood Apartments and has built and sold eight single family dwellings in the same area.

Norris L. Hodgkins, Jr., chairman of the housing committee, said Mr. Richards described the planned houses as three-bedroom houses, with one and a half or two baths, selling in the \$10,000 to \$16,000 price range.

Mr. Hodgkins was recently chosen chairman of the committee whose other members are Mayor Gilmore, James Boyd, J. E. Causey and George H. Leonard, Jr.

The local housing committee was chosen after a town-sponsored meeting of realtors, builders and other interested persons to discuss a current shortage of (Continued on Page 8)

Arden Fobes Is Chosen Queen At Homecoming Game

Arden Fobes, the candidate of the freshman class at Southern Pines High School, was chosen Homecoming Queen at last week's homecoming game festivities during the half of the Blue Knights' contest with Curry High School of Greensboro. Her escort was James Prim.

Miss Fobes was chosen by three judges—Councilman Harry H. Pethick of Southern Pines, Mayor Archie Barnes of Carthage and Mayor E. H. Mills of Pinebluff. They rated the four contestants, one for each high school class, 50 per cent on beauty, 25 per cent on figure and 25 per cent on poise.

Candidates of other high school classes for Homecoming Queen, with their escorts, were: senior—Jacque Davenport with Paul Kinison; junior—Ginger Woodell with Julian Pleasants; sophomore—Karan Kinnison with John Seymour.

Mayor Voit Gilmore crowned the queen who then drew the winning number on a television set given away by the sponsoring Rotary Club. Winner was Dr. W. H. Johnson, local dentist who held ticket No. 958.

Others appearing on the program were A. C. Dawson, schools superintendent, and J. B. Perkinson, president of the Rotary Club. See story about the game elsewhere in today's Pilot.

CLARK RESIGNS

Richardson Appointed To Council Seat

Sam B. Richardson, local real estate man and a mayor of Southern Pines more than 25 years ago, was sworn in Wednesday morning as a new member of the town council to fill the unexpired term of L. T. Clark, mayor during the term 1953-55.

Mr. Clark submitted his resignation from the council last Friday, effective at once. While no reason was given in his letter of resignation addressed to Town Clerk Louis Scheipers, his appointment as a justice of the peace was also revealed last week, and he has told friends he plans to assume duties as a magistrate after a short vacation.

In announcing the resignation of Mr. Clark from the Council, Mayor Gilmore spoke of the retiring councilman's service and requested Mrs. Clark, who was present, to convey to him the good wishes of the entire board on his new appointment. "We wish him good luck," he said. "Please tell him."

In Mr. Clark's letter, read to the council by the clerk, the resigning councilman expressed his thanks and appreciation to the council, town manager and other officials, also the people of Southern Pines for the cooperation and assistance given him as council member and mayor.

Mr. Clark has stated that he was under doctor's orders to "take it easy," and has put his funeral business up for sale. He plans to put more time, he said, on his real estate and insurance activities, which have hitherto been sidelines.

While he has not been active in town government in recent years, Mr. Richardson in former years served seven years as mayor and about eight years as a member of the town board of commissioners. He at one time also served a year as chairman of the school board. His record of public service, therefore, is one of the longest of any resident of the town and he helped guide the town through its period of expansion and development from World War 1 to the (Continued on page 5)

TODAY'S PILOT PICTURES LOST

Several photos slated to appear in today's Pilot were lost somewhere between here and Rockingham where they were sent by mail Tuesday to be made into plastic engravings to use in the paper today.

Included in the package, which never reached the engraver's, The Pilot discovered after the cuts did not show up in this morning's mail were photos of Southern Pines fire trucks, to go with the Fire Prevention Week feature on this page; a picture of the Homecoming Queen and judges taken at last Friday night's football game, a photo of three football players and others.