

# THE PILOT

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PRICE TEN CENTS

## Bids For New Town Hall Too High For Funds Now In Sight

### Council Has 30 Days To Accept Or Reject Them

Bids for construction of a new Town Hall in Southern Pines, opened at the Civic Club Tuesday afternoon, ran some \$33,000 higher than available funds voted in a bond issue last year.

Council members, all of whom were present at the bid opening, immediately voted to start holding sessions with the idea of either trimming some parts of the building or seeking new avenues of raising the necessary funds.

They have 30 days in which to either reject the bids or make an award.

Base bids for the building ranged from a low of \$89,973 to a high of \$115,499. With five alternates, which included a fire station wing, stone in lieu of redwood, jail cells and bunks, a drive-in window, and terrazzo floors, the lowest bid was placed at \$133,578, which also included plumbing and heating, electrical work, and an air conditioning system.

The low bid for the general contract was submitted by the T. D. Saunders Company of Troy.

The Council met for almost two hours last night in the offices of Thomas T. Hayes, architect who designed the building, to canvass the bids and begin exploring possibilities of possibly cutting out some features.

The general feeling at the meeting last night was that the basic building could be built with the \$100,000 in bonds voted February 1, 1956, plus other funds.

## No Candidates Filed Yet For Town Council

Though there has been some speculation that a large number of candidates would file for Southern Pines Town Council in the upcoming elections, no one had filed this morning.

Deadline is April 5. Present members of the Council still are holding off any formal announcements though at least two are expected not to bid for re-election.

Candidates are required to pay a \$5 filing fee at the time they file. If there are ten or less who file, there will be no primary; more than ten would require a primary which the Council voted should be conducted April 22.

## MOORE, HOKE COMMISSIONERS AGREE

### Legislation To Annex Little River Township Introduced In Assembly

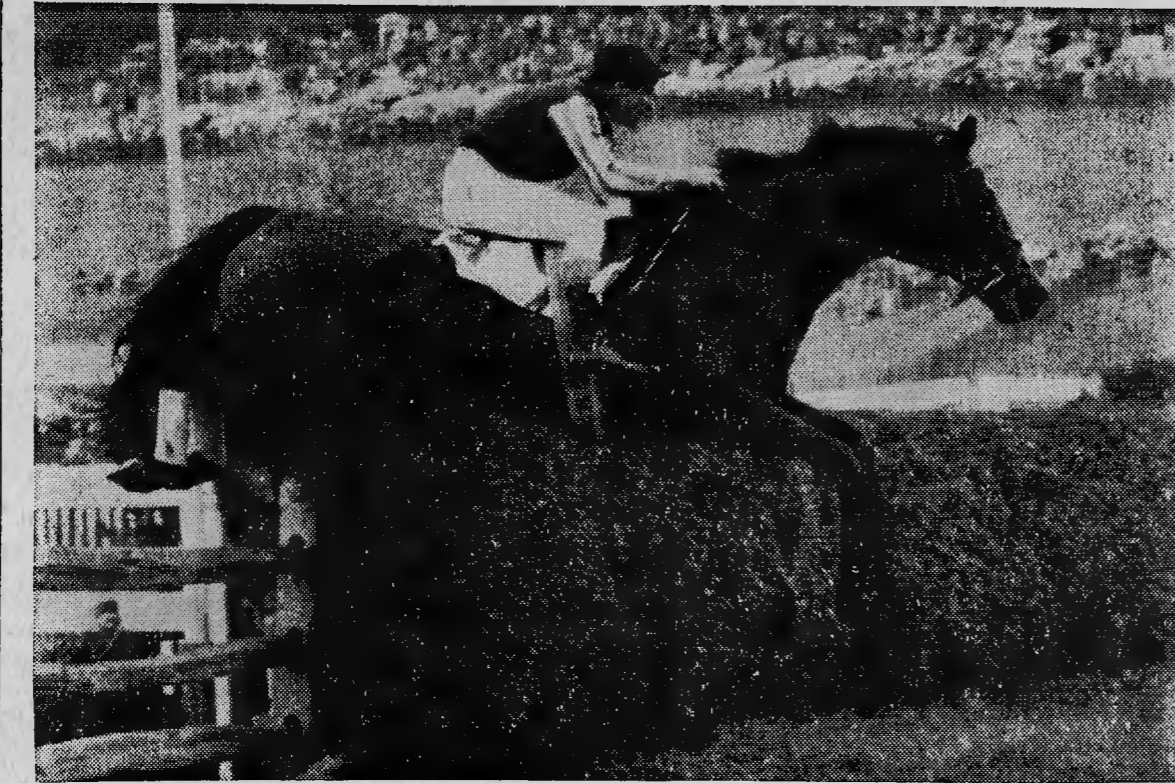
A bill that would authorize annexation of Little River Township in Hoke County to Moore was introduced in the Senate Tuesday by Senator J. Benton Thomas of Hoke.

Representative H. Clifton Blue of Aberdeen will introduce a similar measure in the House. No difficulty in getting the bill passed is foreseen by either of the legislators since the proposed transfer has the blessings of citizens of the township and of the commissioners of both counties.

The township, comprising some 2,500 acres, is cut off from direct contact with the rest of Hoke County by the Fort Bragg Military Reservation. Some 800 to 600 people live in the area and are mostly engaged in farming. Petitions from a majority of them have been presented favoring the annexation.

In the bill introduced Tuesday Senator Thomas pointed out that "business and social relationships of the people in the township are with the people of Moore County."

Several difficulties were ironed out last week at a joint meeting in Raeford of the county commissioners of both counties, including taxation and pending



DANCING BEACON, who won the Sandhills Cup inaugurating the hunt racing season last year, is reported in top form for a repeat performance March 23 when the 1957 jumping season opens at Stonebrook Stables, Saturday. Owned by Mrs. G. P. Greenhalgh, Jr., Boyce, Va.,

Dancing Beacon is trained by W. Burling Cocks, and is shown with Mel Ferral up. The nine-year-old bay gelding, besides capturing the opening timber event last year, went on to win three other top races, including the Carolina Cup at Camden, S. C., in which he's also expected to be tough to beat on March 30.

## SEVEN EVENTS LISTED

### Field Of 59 Entered For Annual Stonebrook Steeplechase Saturday

## Marge Burns Takes Medalist Honors In N-S Amateur

Marge Burns, a former teacher from Greensboro who has twice been honored as North Carolina's outstanding woman athlete, upset the pre-tournament predictions yesterday by taking medalist honors in the annual North and South Amateur Tournament at Pinehurst by two strokes.

She bettered a women's par by one stroke with a 37-36-73, best score in a field of 59 qualifiers. Sharing second place, at two strokes back, were Clifford Anne Creed of Opelousas, La., and Anne Richardson of Columbus, Ohio. Ann Quast, Marysville, Washington, teenager, the pre-tournament favorite, posted a final 81.

There were no major casualties in the field as 32 players qualified for match play with (Continued on Page 5)

## Verhoeff, Hobbs Get MVP Awards

Patti Hobbs and Roger Verhoeff were named outstanding players on the 1956-57 basketball squads at the annual Rotary Club basketball banquet last night at the Elks Club, and received the VFW Most Valuable Player awards.

Verhoeff, one of the most outstanding players ever to play in Southern Pines, was also recognized for his selections on the all-county teams, the Kiwanis Carolina Classic team that recently defeated South Carolina in Charlotte, and for making the Charlotte News' all-state third team.

Miss Hobbs was a member of the East all-star team that played its first annual game in Robbins recently, defeating the West. She was also a member of the all-county team.

Bobby Parker was named permanent captain for the boys' team and Anike Verhoeff was accorded the same honor for the girls' team. Everett Cushman and Lillian Bullock were elected "most improved."

At the banquet, attended by more than 100 people, letter awards and silver basketballs were presented to the boys' squad, runners-up in the county with a 15-6 team record. The girls had a 11-7 record for the year.

Whit Cobb, freshman basketball coach and head tennis coach at Duke University, was principal speaker.

## Old-Timer, Noted Columnist, Calls Sandhills Intelligent Place To Live

By C. BENEDICT

At 76 years of age, Ralph W. Page—one of the Sandhills' most distinguished sons—speaks of retirement only in terms of a vague future. The fact is, he's too busy to give it much thought.

Retirement—that golden goal toward which Americans are said to yearn from the moment they start work—is a notion that Mr. Page appears to approach with a combination of surprise and distaste. The idea apparently hasn't occurred to him often and when it is brought up, it's something he doesn't like to discuss.

There are, it seems, many more interesting subjects of conversation.

"If I should retire," he told The Pilot this week (he was interrupted while writing his column on national and international affairs for The Philadelphia Bulletin) "I would come back to the Sandhills." The emphasis was on the "IF."

An adjective hitherto neglected in Chambers of Commerce in this area was used by Mr. Page to tell why he would come here. "It's an intelligent place to be," he said.

Visiting for the past several weeks at the home of Mrs. Henry Page, Jr., in Aberdeen, Mr. Page

## Dawson Elected To Head Library Assn. For Second Term

### Book Circulation Declined In 1956. Librarian Reports

A drop from the previous year in the total of books circulated through the Southern Pines Library was reported by Mrs. Stanley Lambourne, librarian, at the annual meeting of the library's association last Friday.

In 1955, she said, a total of 28,337 books were circulated; in 1956, the total dropped to 26,149. Mrs. Lambourne could trace the decrease to nothing in particular but suggested that television might have caused some of it.

In other action, the association re-elected A. C. Dawson as president, along with three other officers: George Leonard, first vice-president; Mrs. James Boyd, second vice-president; and C. H. Bowman, treasurer. Thomas C. Darst was elected secretary to succeed John Ostrom. In addition, Mrs. Charles Phillips and Ostrom were named new trustees.

The treasurer's report indicated the library was in sound financial condition.

W. Lamont Brown, a member of the association, agreed to investigate the legal aspects of obtaining town and state support for future operation of the library. At present, the town owns the building but the other facilities, including all books, are owned by the association. The town is responsible for maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and appropriates funds annually for the library upkeep.

## Open Meeting Of C OF C Set Tonight

An open meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss plans for the coming year will be held at the High School library tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m.

Earl Hubbard, president, said all members of the Chamber's Board of Directors would be on hand and that suggestions from private citizens could be made directly to them.

The Chamber has a program this year aimed at getting more people to make their permanent homes here. Salesmen, retired people, and executives who do not necessarily have to live in the same town where their offices are located are the principal targets for the new program.

The public is urged to attend the meeting.

## New Jersey Carpet Manufacturers Buy Amerotron Building

### Production To Begin In Early Summer of 1957

## HONORS

To the Moore County Historical Association has come a coveted award.

The American Association of State and Local Historians has presented to the local society the Association's Award of Merit.

Accompanying the citation was a letter from William S. Powell, History News Editor of the association, stating that the Moore County association had been chosen for this past year's award: "for the manner in which the Moore County Historical Association made possible, from conception to publication, Blackwell Robinson's MOORE COUNTY, N. C., 1747-1847."

The award was made at the fall meeting of the national association, held in Sturbridge Village, Conn. Inscribed on parchment in letters of black and red, it now hangs suitably framed, on the wall of the Old Shaw House, the first completed project of the society.

## Attempt To Have 3 Former Residents Extradited Denied

A Federal District judge in Washington, D. C., has denied a request from North Carolina authorities to return three former residents of Southern Pines to the state to face criminal charges.

The three, V. J. Daly, Miss Edwina Hallman and Mrs. Martha Underwood, had been arrested earlier this year in Washington and ordered to appear at a hearing Tuesday.

The hearing was extradition proceedings, an attempt to have them returned to this state to stand trial on charges preferred by Mrs. Valerie Nicholson of Southern Pines.

The Federal judge, Bolitho J. Laws, it was learned today by The Pilot, based his decision on a "lack of evidence and the fact that North Carolina authorities have had 10 months since the alleged charges to seek an indictment against the trio but have not done so."

It has also been learned by The Pilot that two libel suits have been filed against the Associated Press and the Raleigh News and Observer by Martha Underwood and Edwina Hallman.

They have charged that a dispatch which is said to have appeared in the News and Observer and to have been originated by the Associated Press, was "untrue, false and defamatory, and was published to aid an employee correspondent of the defendant News and Observer in a legal matter now pending with the plaintiff."

The suits are for \$100,000 each.

## Kennedy Not To Seek Re-Election As Robbins Mayor

Mayor W. R. Kennedy of Robbins announced this week that he would not seek re-election in the forthcoming municipal elections. He cited pressure of business as the reason for his decision.

At the same time Henry Williams, a member of the town commission, said he also would not be a candidate.

Speculation has been running high in Robbins as to who would file before the deadline April 5, but no names had been filed there yesterday. In the past Robbins has been the scene of some heated town elections.



RALPH W. PAGE

and his wife plan to return to their Chestnut Hill home in Philadelphia next week. While here, he has continued to write his column for The Bulletin which is the largest evening newspaper in the nation and with which he has been associated in various capacities for more than 20 years.

A vigorous and independent thinker, Mr. Page makes words (Continued on page 8)

The Amerotron plant in Aberdeen, vacant since early in December, was sold Tuesday to A. & M. Karagheusian, Inc., a New Jersey company that is a recognized leader in the manufacture of carpets.

The company announced it would establish carpet production facilities in Aberdeen to specialize in the manufacture of Velvet carpets on new high efficiency equipment. It is expected that actual production will begin early in the summer of 1957, with full plant operation expected by the beginning of next year.

The sale announcement brought to an end a constant whispering of rumors the plant had been sold. Since Amerotron announced last fall it would abandon operations there, rumors have been rampant that various electrical manufacturing, textile, or other firms would locate there. Dozens of prospects have been shown through the plant but, for one reason or another, have found it unsuitable for their type of manufacture.

R. M. Cushman, executive vice-president of Amerotron, said: "We of Amerotron are very pleased that the Aberdeen plant has been sold. We are especially pleased that the people who are taking it over are one of the leading carpet manufacturers in the United States. They will bring to the Sandhills area good industrial and public relations and their executives are of the highest caliber."

Forrest Lockey, a former mayor of Aberdeen and present 8th District Highway Commissioner, represented Aberdeen in the negotiations that culminated in the carpet company's selection of the plant for expansion. Also assisting in the arrangements were William P. Saunders, director of the State Department of Conservation and Development, and W. L. Webb of Winston-Salem, senior vice president of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company.

Handling the transaction was Hill & Hill, Inc., real estate brokerage firm of Westfield, N. J.

In announcing acquisition of the new facilities, company officials emphasized that the North Carolina operation represented an expansion of Gulistan Carpet production. Current facilities of the Velvet department, located at Freehold, N. J., are not adequate to meet the greatly increased consumer demand, they pointed out, and expansion there is not possible due to physical limitations.

Similarly, the company's yarn dyeing and spinning plant at Roselle Park, N. J., does not allow for warehousing and production of yarns in the quantities demanded at Albany, Ga., and planned for Aberdeen.

J. Cecil Beith, now assistant plant manager at Freehold, N. J., will be the plant manager at Aberdeen, the company announced. He plans to move to Aberdeen in the very near future.

Mr. Beith has been with Karagheusian since 1934. The company said he would be accompanied to Aberdeen by three supervisors from the Freehold plant. All other personnel will be selected from Aberdeen and vicinity.

Some yarn manufacturing equipment will also be installed in the new plant by the company. Yarn will be manufactured in Aberdeen for use both in the plant and in the Georgia division, located at Albany.

Karagheusian produces Wiltons, Axminsters, Velvets and (Continued on page 8)