

Sketches of Candidates In The Municipal Primary Election To Be Held Monday

To help introduce the candidates in Monday's town primary to the public, The Pilot brings readers the following items about each. The items appear in no particular order. The Pilot has attempted to treat each of the candidates alike, using information provided by the candidates themselves, with no word limit on what each has to say in behalf of his candidacy.

Walter E. Blue



W. E. Blue, owner of Modern Market here and a councilman since 1949, is a native of Moore County. He moved to Southern Pines in 1927.

Mr. Blue helped to organize and build Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, of which he is an elder, clerk of the Session, and superintendent of the Sunday School.

He is a former director of the Chamber of Commerce, two terms, and was the first president of the Southern Pines Merchant's Association. He is an active Mason.

He is married to the former Iola Poole Currie and they have five children.

At present Mr. Blue is serving as treasurer of the town. He received the greatest number of votes in the Council race in 1955.

He says of his present candidacy:

"I am a candidate for re-election subject, of course, to the will of the voters. In making this announcement, I do not pretend to possess unusual or outstanding qualifications; however, I feel that seven and one-half years of experience on the Council will be very helpful in the future.

"I am very proud of Southern Pines, its wonderful people, lovely churches and outstanding schools. If re-elected, I will serve to the best of my ability, striving at all times to make it a better place in which to live.

"Good government demands our very best."

Mrs. John Ruggles



Mrs. John Ruggles, the only woman candidate for Town Council in the election, has been living in Southern Pines since 1946. A native of Jacksonville, Fla., she came here originally to be near members of her family.

She was employed for two years with the Red Cross, resigning her position when she married Mr. Ruggles.

During World War 2 she was with the Red Cross overseas as a club director. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in fine arts.

In Southern Pines she has been active in the Sandhills Music Association, serving as co-chairman of ticket sales, and in the BPOE Does. She is a member of Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

At present she is associated with Mr. Ruggles and others in Barnum Realty and Insurance Company.

This is her first experience in politics.

She says of her candidacy:

"I am for progressive council-manager government, and believe that our community can reach its best development un-

der this form if it is efficiently administered, with a view to the needs of all the people.

"I believe that as a resort we can attract good industry, and that as the center of suitable industry, we can also grow and develop as a resort. I am for the kind of vision and cooperative spirit which will accomplish these aims.

"Women are here to stay, and I believe that the viewpoint of a business woman will help to balance it up to date with modern thinking."

D. E. Bailey



D. E. Bailey, a native of Vass, retired from his position as a ticket agent with Seaboard Airline Railway in 1955 after 44 years with the company. Most of those 44 years were spent in Southern Pines.

Now 66 years of age, he is the father of 13 children, several of whom make their homes in this area. He is also a retired Justice of the Peace, an appointment he held 24 years.

Mr. Bailey attended a one-room schoolhouse in Vass. He has seen Southern Pines grow from a small village that depended for its livelihood almost entirely on tourists and other non-residents, and says the changes have been good.

He is an elder and one of the charter members of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, and has served as assistant superintendent of the Sunday School there for many years.

He is a member of the Woodmen of the World and recently received a 40 year pin for membership in the Masonic Order.

He says of his candidacy in the elections:

"If I am elected as Councilman I plan to keep, as I always have, the welfare of the Town and its citizens as my primary concern.

"I expect to examine all questions and projects with the utmost care, using all available information so that the best interests of the greatest number of our fine citizens shall be served, regardless of personal prejudices and animosities."

Sam Richardson



Sam Richardson, 76, a member of the present Town Council, is one of the "oldtimers" of Southern Pines. He came here from his native Jefferson, Maine, 51 years ago as part owner of Patch's Department Store.

He was mayor for seven years and a member of the Town Commissioners eight years. His present membership on the Council stems from an appointment made more than a year ago when he was named as replacement for L. T. Clark, who resigned.

He is a member of the Baptist Church and a Deacon. He has taught in the Sunday School there and has taken an active role in the church's development.

Mr. Richardson has one distinction that perhaps belongs to no other person in the Sandhills:

he is a charter member of both the Sandhills Kiwanis Club and of the Southern Pines Lions Club. He has also been a Shriner and is a past Master of the Masonic Lodge. At one time he served as president of the Chamber of Commerce.

He has been a merchant, peach grower, and a real estate developer. In the latter category he was instrumental in the development of Knollwood. At present he is with the E. C. Stevens Real Estate and Insurance Company in Southern Pines.

In a statement issued several weeks ago when he announced he would seek election to the Council, Mr. Richardson said:

"... The present Council has started several major projects which I think we should feel some responsibility toward seeing through to completion. This is my only reason for running."

Harry H. Pethick



Harry Pethick, present Mayor Pro Tem, was first elected to the Council last term.

He has lived in Southern Pines at various times since 1939 and steadily since 1952. Prior to his retirement he had served in the Far East 26 years as a representative of Standard Oil Company.

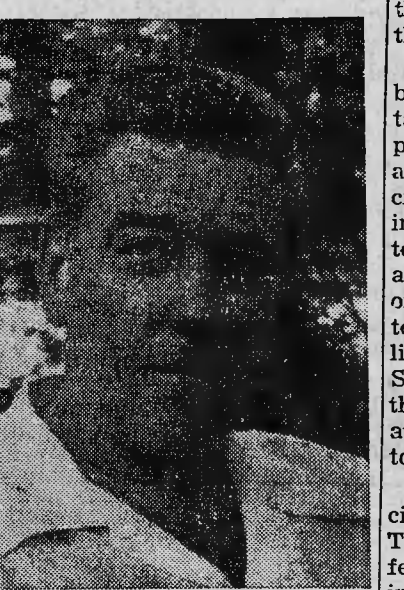
Mr. Pethick is a member and treasurer of the Church of Wide Fellowship. He is also a member of the Sandhills Kiwanis Club. He was active in several Masonic organizations while in the Far East and is Life Governor of the Royal Masonic Hospital in London.

He and Mrs. Pethick, who live here on E. Vermont Ave. have two married daughters. A son was lost in action while serving with the Navy in 1944.

"As a candidate for re-election to the Town Council I have no particular platform to offer," he says.

"I believe it unwise to make any promises other than the promise to use my best judgment in voting for those things that, in my considered opinion, would be best for the Town of Southern Pines and its welfare."

Rev. Tom O'Neil



A resident of the Sandhills for the past six years, the Rev. Tom O'Neil lives at 110 Highland Road. He is seeking political office for the first time in a varied life that began in St. Louis, Mo., in 1911.

He is minister of the Universal Church of Divine Healing, the first church of this denomination that has been established in North Carolina. He conducts a radio program each morning from a Fayetteville station. The program was formerly broadcast from Southern Pines.

Most of Mr. O'Neil's adult life, before he came to Southern Pines, was spent in show business. As an entertainer and master of ceremonies, he has been around the world twice and has played in every state in the

union in theatres, clubs or on television. He describes Southern Pines as "the first town I have liked well enough to settle down in."

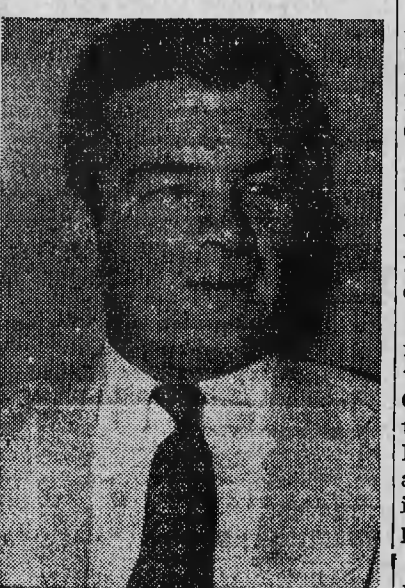
Mr. O'Neil is also the owner and operator of the Hillendale Little Nine golf course on Midland Road, a layout that is lighted for night play.

The candidate's wife is the former Eleanor Barron Knight of Southern Pines, daughter of John C. Barron and the late Mrs. Barron. Mr. Barron has been a resident of Southern Pines for many years. The O'Neils have three children—Fraser, 11, Michelle, 19 months, and Michael, 11 weeks old.

One of the first things he would like to see done by the town council, Mr. O'Neil says, is establishment of a fire station on the west side of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad tracks.

It would also be wise, he thinks, to keep a police car on the west side of the tracks. Both the fire protection and police protection are needed on the west side, he says, in case of an emergency that might arise for either department while a long freight train is blocking all railroad crossings on Broad St.

Leland Daniels, Jr.



Leland Daniels, Jr., 32, is a licensed general contractor who maintains his business in Southern Pines.

A World War 2 veteran (Army) he is a native of Southern Pines and now makes his home here at 660 N. Ridge Street with his wife, the former Marquita King of Packanack Lake, N. J., and their four-year-old daughter.

Mr. Daniels is a member of the Church of Wide Fellowship and the local Elks Lodge.

He is a graduate of Southern Pines High School and is the youngest of the candidates in the forthcoming elections.

Of his candidacy, he says:

"I feel that having lived all of my life in Southern Pines, being a property owner and taxpayer, and having to earn my living for my family here, that I could ably and honestly represent the needs and interests of the majority of the people in our town, those in the same situation as I.

"I feel that more citizens—both men and women—should take an active interest in the policies and problems of the town as they are brought to the Council. We should attend the meetings, study the problems, be able to ascertain the Council's views, and voice our own. In this way only can we insure that our interests are best served. I would like the opportunity to help rid Southern Pines of its apathy in the matter of civic affairs, to awaken a town-wide interest in town-wide problems.

"I believe that the Town Council, in conjunction with the Town Manager, could be an effective instrument in inducing industry to this locale. I am firmly convinced that Southern Pines needs industry to survive, and unless we undertake an active program to bring it here, we will soon have no 'young blood' in this town. I would like to be able to insure our children being able to grow up, become educated, and return to our town to earn a living and in turn raise their families here. This need not hurt our tourist industry, but should supplement it, and take some of the people off the Thursday morning unemployment line. I would work in every way possible to carry out such a program.

"Whether you vote for me or not, I sincerely hope that you will ALL get out and vote—both in the primary and general elections. Exercise your privilege and make 1957 a good year for Southern Pines."

James B. Tollison



James B. Tollison, 41, is a native of South Carolina but has been living in this state most of his life. He is presently serving as Division Manager of Amerotron Mills Corporation.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Cobb of Burlington and they have three children, James, Jr., 15, and Jerry and Geraldine, 14-year-old twins.

Mr. Tollison, who has lived in Southern Pines two years, is a graduate of N. C. State College, class of 1938, and holds a degree in textile management. Prior to joining the Amerotron firm he was a superintendent with the Deering-Milliken textile mill chain.

He is a member of the Methodist Church, a lay speaker, Sunday School teacher, president of the church's Men's Club, a member of the choir, and a member of the Board of Stewards.

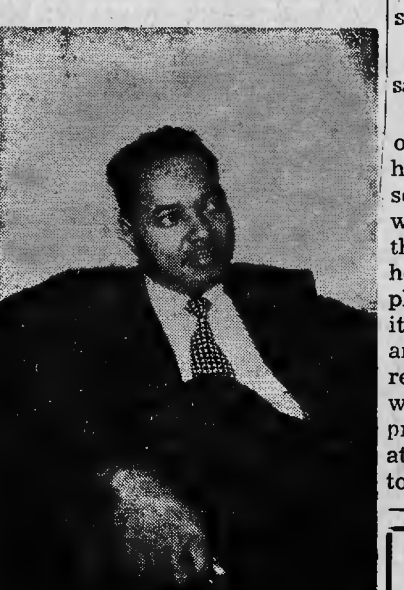
His civic activities include membership in the Elks Lodge, the Masonic Lodge, the Kiwanis Club, the PTA, and president of the Band Boosters Club. He is a Navy veteran of World War 2 and served as a gunnery officer in the North Atlantic and European Theatres.

This is his first venture into politics. Of his candidacy, he says:

"I am running for the Town Council because of my interest in the civic affairs of the town, and a desire to actively participate in the administration of the community.

"If elected, I will, to the best of my ability, uphold the following principles: apply sound business principles to the town affairs; further the efforts to improve the economic position of our town by developing a well balanced and selective growth of business enterprises; continue to encourage the development of Southern Pines as a tourist and retirement resort; and give support to improving the recreational facilities for all ages, especially the teen age and the retired groups."

T. T. Morse



T. T. Morse is the first Negro ever to hold public office in Southern Pines. Several weeks ago he was honored by the Moore County Citizens Club as their Man of the Year. He was endorsed for the Town Council by the West Southern Pines Civic Club.

Morse, an insurance and real estate agent, lives in West Southern Pines where his wife, the former Edna West, has been a teacher in the public school for the past several years. They are the parents of one daughter, who is 15.

He is a native of Aberdeen and attended Berkley High School there. He lived in Durham and was active in the insurance business. He moved to Southern Pines in 1944.

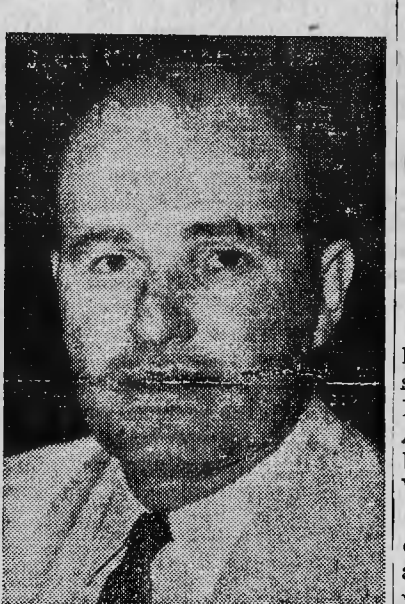
He is a Mason, a member of the

First Baptist Church of West Southern Pines, and a member of the West Southern Pines Civic Club.

Of his candidacy he says:

"When I announced my intention of running for the Town Council in 1955, I made one promise: to furnish within the very best of my ability clean and efficient government for Southern Pines. I reiterate that promise at this time, and add one other. This is a growing town and, like all others where its citizens are in a constant struggle to make it a better place in which to live, it has growing pains. It will require every individual effort in this town to accomplish that aim. If elected, I will continue to cheerfully assume my share of those responsibilities."

Robert S. Ewing



Robert S. Ewing, 37, is the son of a well-known official of the duPont Company. He was born in Wilmington, Del., and graduated from Princeton University in 1941.

He has been engaged in the textile industry, with duPont, Robbins Mills and Amerotron, for the past 10 years. He came to live in Southern Pines in 1955.

A veteran of four years in the Navy, he was discharged as a lieutenant after combat duty in the South Pacific, where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Now living at 220 Valley Road, he is one of the owners and business manager of the Moore County News and manufacturers agent for a packaging company. He is chairman of the Moore County Republican Executive Committee, a member of the county's Industrial Development Committee and publicity chairman of the Finer Carolina Contest in Carthage.

Mr. Ewing is also a director of the Blue Knights Booster Club and a member of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Married to the former Ann Mason of Wilmington, they have five daughters, three of whom are attending Southern Pines schools.

Of his candidacy, Mr. Ewing says:

"Although transferred here originally against my will, we have found this area offers more solid 'living' than any other place we have ever been. And, now that we have decided to remain here, I desire to enter into every phase of this community's activities, to participate in its trials and tribulations as well as its rewarding dividends, and make whatever contribution I can to preserve the pleasant and genial atmosphere and yet help the town and its citizens keep pace

with the modern way of living. "My filing for Town Council indicated that I meant what I said in a recent Moore County News editorial: 'It behooves the many who have cheered or booted from the sidelines to step forward and take their turn at bat. Civic duty should not be looked upon as an onerous task, but one that every citizen should undertake at least once so that he or she would understand the complexities of running even a small town.'"

Gen. Pearson Menoher



Brig. Gen. Pearson Menoher has lived in the Sandhills about six and one-half years following his retirement after 41 years of Army service that included combat duty in Mexico, Europe in World War 2, and in Korea.

He became a citizen of Southern Pines when the Knollwood area, in which he owns a home, was annexed.

A former commanding general and deputy post commander of Fort Bragg, Gen. Menoher had a distinguished career in the Army. He was chief of staff of the 15th Corps of the 7th Army, and was assistant division commander—and later commander—of the 24th Division in Japan and Korea.

Born in Virginia, he is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy. He is a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Since coming to Southern Pines he has taken an active role in Boy Scout work, serving at one time as chairman of Moore District.

He has also been active in Red Cross work and is presently district chairman for the Moore County Chapter.

He places much emphasis on his interest in recreational activities of the town and served last summer as co-commissioner of the summer softball league.

He and Mrs. Menoher have a daughter and a son, both of whom live in California.

Of his candidacy, he says:

"With my background of long administrative experience in the Army, I am confident it could be of value to the Town and its administration. The town has many problems that will require careful and conscientious thought. I was of the opinion that Knollwood should have had representation on the last Council. I still hold that view.

"I have the time to participate in the affairs of the town and would welcome such an opportunity, as everyone should participate in the Town's government.

"I have no political ambitions and, if elected, will not become embroiled in politics of any nature. There is no room for such actions in the Town government."

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(R)

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and

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