

FLYING COTTAGE OUT OF RACE

Thousands Expected for Stoneybrook Saturday

Flying Cottage, winner of the recent Carolina Cup, has been eliminated from Saturday's 23rd running of the Sandhills Cup in the Stoneybrook Hunt Race Meet here, due to a recurring leg injury. Denied a chance to repeat

last year's winning effort in the local race, the Irish-bred gelding has been shipped from his quarters in Camden, S. C. to the Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania to undergo surgery on a leg bone.

AT EASTER

The Pilot greets its subscribers and friends this Eastertide which has been so tragically overshadowed by fires that caused huge losses in this area—blessedly, however, with no loss of human life.

Surely, this is a time to find solace in the spirit of Easter—a time for new beginnings and faith in the future.

While large areas of the county lie blackened and barren, other areas are fresh and colorful with Springtime blossoms and new green leaves.

As worshipers from all the churches of this area join in Holy Week and Easter observances in the next three days, they can find much for which to be thankful and strength for the tasks ahead.

Council Praises Service Of Mayor

A resolution formally adopted by the four other members of the town council Tuesday night recognizes the outstanding service of Mayor John S. Ruggles "in his many years of activity as a public servant" on the occasion of the mayor's retiring from public office at the end of his term, May 8.

The resolution cites not only the mayor's local service but his work as a member of the North Carolina Hospital Board of Control and expresses gratitude "for a job well done."

The mayor expressed his appreciation for the action, after the resolution was read by Mayor Pro Tem J. D. Hobbs, and said that "without the constant cooperation and support of those I've worked with, nothing could have been accomplished."

Full text of the resolution will be published next week.

GARDENS OPEN

Mr. and Mrs. Denison K. Bullens invite the public to visit their "Homewood Gardens" in Knollwood, one of the places on yesterday's Garden Tour. Visitors are asked to please park outside or in the parking lot at the service entrance.

THE WEATHER

Maximum and minimum temperatures for each day of the past week were recorded as follows at the U. S. Weather Bureau observation station at the W. E. B. studios on Midland Road.

	Max	Min.
April 4	87	59
April 5	78	37
April 6	56	37
April 7	65	42
April 8	75	37
April 9	74	55
April 10	71	45

School Superintendent Adams Resigns To Accept Similar Post In Stanly Co.

Luther A. Adams, superintendent of schools of Southern Pines City Administration District, has resigned effective at the close of the present school year, in order to accept the position of county superintendent of schools of Stanly County, it was announced this week by N. L. Hodgkins, board of education chairman.

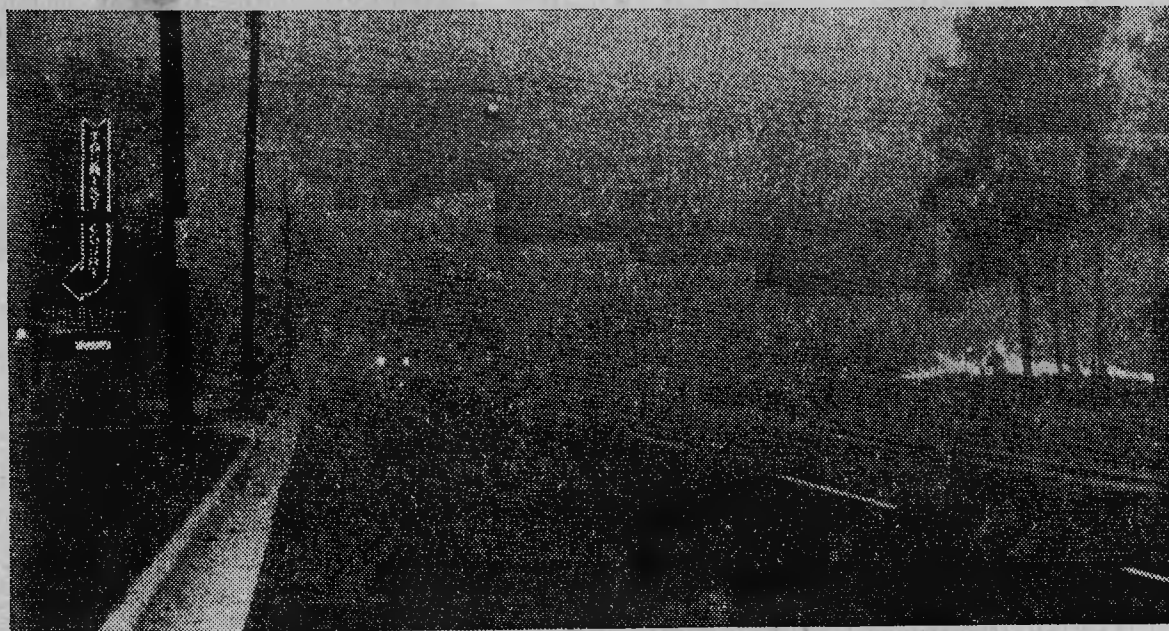
In his letter of resignation, Mr. Adams stated that this decision was a most difficult one for him to make, since his term of service in Southern Pines "has been most enjoyable and fruitful." Stanly County is, however, "home territory" of both Mr. and Mrs. Adams, and the situation of-

ferred presents, his letter stated, "a considerable challenge."

The Southern Pines City Board of Education, at a meeting Monday, accepted with regret Mr. Adams' resignation, and praised the work which he has done while in Southern Pines. The Board felt that, during his incumbency, Mr. Adams has worked in close cooperation with his faculty and with patrons of the school, while maintaining in the school high academic standards, Mr. Hodgkins said.

Action by the board of education has been initiated toward securing a successor. Several applications have been received, the board chairman stated.

Vast Acreage Swept by Fire in Moore County; Businesses, Homes, Barns, Outbuildings Lost



Flames enter Pinebluff, leap the 6-lane highway . . .

\$40,000 Disaster Relief Planned By Red Cross Chapter

The American Red Cross expects to spend around \$40,000 in disaster relief funds in Moore County, helping families critically affected by the fire to get back on their feet.

Trained personnel was rushed immediately into the area, making an investigation which has so far revealed 14 families with critical losses, and no insurance, or insufficient insurance to offset them. A few more are expected to apply.

Brig. Gen. L. W. Miller of Southern Pines, chapter vice-chairman in charge of disaster relief, noted that the families qualifying for help are those who lost not only homes, but rather the farm buildings, tools and equipment, livestock and feed and other means by which they made their living.

The names, and amount of help rendered, are confidential Red Cross records, but it is known that

Pinebluff Mayor, Chief Thank All Who Fought Fire

Fire Chief W. K. Carpenter, Jr., and Mayor E. H. Mills, who is also a member of the volunteer fire department, this week issued an expression of thanks and appreciation to all the fire-fighting units, civilian and military, also the Rescue Squad units, which aided in the successful fight to save Pinebluff from destruction by fire last Thursday.

"Without the help of all these fine outfits we could not have done the job," Chief Carpenter said. "Our community would be just a pile of ashes today. They came immediately, as

Bliss-Spence Firm Plans To Rebuild

The Bliss-Spence Corporation, horseshoe manufacturing plant that was completely destroyed by last Thursday's Big Fire, south of Pinebluff on No. 1 highway, this week was making tentative plans to rebuild and re-equip its modern forge shop.

The shop, with its electrically driven machinery for making horseshoes shipped to all parts of the country, was valued by David Spence, partner in the business, at about \$40,000 partially covered by insurance.

Max D. Bliss, Sr., of Bellows Falls, Vt., the other partner, arrived here this week to talk over rebuilding plans with Spence.

A trailer near the plant, occupied by an employee of the business, was damaged by the fire and a pickup truck at the site was burned.

OTHER FIRES DO EXTENSIVE DAMAGE

The "Big Fire" that ravaged Pinebluff was one of three large blazes and several smaller ones that burned in Moore County Thursday.

Its destructiveness and human drama took the spotlight from what otherwise would have been at least two other exceptional fires—one between the Fletcher Southern plant and Aiken Road, near Southern Pines Thursday afternoon and another fire, burning thousands of acres, at its height Thursday night, northeast of Southern Pines, threatening the extensive Youngs Road horse training establishments, out through the Lake Bay area and into Fort Bragg. A third fire was put under control

(Continued on page A, 1st Section)

No Serious Casualties Are Listed

The Big Fire started at about 10:30 a. m. last Thursday at a saw-mill site on the West End-Hoffman road, west of Pinehurst. Its exact cause has not been determined. No money value can yet be placed on its vast damage.

Seven hours later, racing east, and then south before the wind, it had hit Pinebluff, eight miles away. By midnight, the fire was roaring into Camp Mackall and Drowning Creek swamp.

During that day the flames gobbled up thousands of acres of pine forest and numerous homes, barns, chickenhouses, sheds and other objects in its path.

That no human life was lost, that dwellings saved far outnumbered those destroyed, was due only to the monumental battle put up by thousands of men.

Historic Fight

It was a historic fight. Said the district forester, J. A. Pippin of Rockingham, who this week estimated the acres burned at 25,000, "We've had bigger fires in the district but mostly over timberland. This was the worst for people, homes and communities involved."

A few brilliant spring days of sun and wind had produced conditions of tinder-dryness. Forest fires were a problem across the State and in many counties, including Moore, burning permits had been banned.

The N. C. Forest Service hopped on the fire as soon as it started and for a while it appeared to be "just another forest fire." Bulldozers and tractors were used in the effort to stop it but within an hour or so the wind took over. Said Moore

(Continued on Page 8)



A building burns, dense smoke obscures the sun . . .



HEAVY DAMAGE—Thomas Kittredge manages a smile despite heavy fire damage to his home in Pinebluff. A garage (not shown), storage shed (rubble in foreground) and kitchen wing of his home burned. Volunteers saved rest of house.



TOTAL LOSS—Elmore Smith, left, tells Mayor E. H. Mills of Pinebluff how his dairy farm was consumed by the flames, with total loss. In background, day after the fire, friends and neighbors build shed for cows that escaped.

McKEAN STABLE, HORSESHOE PLANT HIGHEST

13 Homes Destroyed, Other Losses Big

Thirteen homes, including one trailer home, and a business place were rated a "total loss," while four other homes were extensively damaged, according to a preliminary checkup completed Monday by Moore County Forest Ranger Travis G. Wicker, assisted at Pinebluff by W. K. Carpenter, Jr., fire chief, in last Thursday's woods fire that swept the southwest corner of Moore County.

Seven of the destroyed homes were unoccupied and unfurnished. The others were lost with all or most of their contents. An earlier report of 30 or more homes lost was occasioned by the

destruction of many old and unoccupied former dwellings of little monetary value, scattered about in the rural areas, according to Wicker's findings.

Far costlier losses were sustained in the burning of a large number of other buildings including many well-filled feed barns; tobacco barns, chicken houses, storage buildings, sheds, etc. Two autos and two pickup trucks are also known to have

(Continued on page A, 1st Section)

THE SKY WAS FILLED WITH FIRE . . .

Elmore Smith, Dairyman, Hit Hard

With sympathy for several hard-hit victims of the fire, it's impossible to say who was hurt the worst, but Elmore Smith certainly qualifies for that category.

Fire fell from the sky without warning on Smith's modest dairy farm on the outskirts of Pinebluff. He had seen the smoke from afar and thought, if it should come his way, there'd be plenty of time. For one thing, the home and outbuildings were surrounded by open fields and pasture—the woods were some 500 feet off.

But coming in from the field with his tractor, he suddenly saw "the sky was filled with fire,

boiling in the air." The fire had "crowned" in the wind from perhaps a mile away, far outracing the firefighters. Smith's shouts brought his wife and 18-year-old son running from the house. While the boy, a school bus driver, rushed the bus to the end of the lane, Smith turned out his mule and seven cattle, smacking them to make them run off and save themselves. In their old car, which fortunately started at once, the Smiths got to a neighbor's.

Soon Smith was back, hunting his animals. The home, barn filled with feed, tractor, station

(Continued on page A, 1st Section)

PHOTO CREDITS
Top, center: Humphrey.
Bottom: V. Nicholson.