

Plans For New Phone Exchange In Lumberton Are Announced

\$900,000 Structure To House Dial System

Detailed plans to expand the telephone facilities of Lumberton at a cost of approximately \$900,000 were announced yesterday by L. B. Eisenhart, local manager of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company.

Involved in the project will be the construction of a two story reinforced concrete, brick faced building which will be erected on the property recently purchased at the northwest corner of East 5th and Cedar Streets. The building will face East 5th Street.

The business office and certain of the equipment will be housed on the first floor and the dial equipment and the long distance operating room will be located on the second floor. The power plant will be housed in the basement. According to Mr. Eisenhart, work on this project will start some time during this year. Mr. Eisenhart pointed out that the rapid growth in Lumberton in recent years has brought about a tremendous demand for telephone service and that this project is in keeping with Southern Bell's plans to care for the growing needs of Lumberton.

"The number of telephones installed in Lumberton have almost doubled since V-J Day until today we have 3,026 telephones," Mr. Eisenhart stated. "Despite this record achievement, we still have nearly 500 applicants waiting for service. We are making every effort to reduce this waiting list and the enlargement of our facilities will mark a major step in the direction of giving the people in this city the best telephone service in history," he concluded.



Southern Bell. Tel. and Tel. Building, Architect's Drawing.

N. A. McEachin Rites Held Last Thursday

MAXTON.—Funeral services were held for Neal Arch McEachin, 79, on Thursday afternoon at three o'clock from the home. Mr. McEachin died Wednesday morning at Scotland County Memorial Hospital after a long illness. The rites were conducted by Rev. Charles Parrish, pastor of Skyway Presbyterian Church, who was assisted by Rev. Forrest Young, pastor of the Baptist church. Interment was at Centre Cemetery.

Mr. McEachin had made his home here for several years, having been formerly in business in Pembroke. A native of Robeson county he was the son of the late John C. and Margaret McEachin, one of fourteen children. He is survived by his wife, Susan Walker McEachin, one son, Earl; one daughter, Annie Neal, and a sister, Mrs. N. D. Smith, all of Maxton.

Active pallbearers were Rufus Smith, Glenn Crofton, Sr., Mack Smith, Malcolm Watson of Red Springs, Donald McLaughlin, and H. D. Morrison of Rowland. Honorary pallbearers were J. G. Guiney, Alton Greene, Bill Joseph, James Drennan, Murphy McGirt, Arthur McEachin of Red Springs, C. S. McIntyre, and A. J. McRae of Laurinburg. Mrs. Glenn Crofton and Mrs. Rufus Smith were in charge of the many floral offerings.

Joan Hardesty Is Contest Winner

RED SPRINGS.—Joan Hardesty will represent the Red Springs schools in the County contest of the American Legion Oratorical competition which will be held in Lumberton on February 24. Miss Hardesty won the local contest last week and was awarded the \$10 first prize. Joan Stevens won the \$5 second prize. Other participants were Beth Stancil and Elbert McPhaul, Jr.

The school contests throughout the county are sponsored by the local Legion's posts, which pay the awards, and the countywide contest will be sponsored by the Legion with prizes of \$50 and \$25 bonds being presented by the Robeson County Voture of the 40 and 8. Higher awards will go to the State winners, and the National winner will be given a four-year scholarship.

It's Just Ducky Say Legionnaires

RED SPRINGS.—Last week Commander R. D. McMullan of the American Legion, gave his members the bird. R. D. fetched a duck to Legion Hall for the regular meeting. At the end of the session handed the bird over to Vice Commander Al Grant, with the following words: "This is a very highly prized bird, the property of Ida McNeill. He is not in the best of health and I can't have excellent care and attention. When you have got two new members to the Legion Post you can hand the bird over to the second vice commander, who in turn may pass him on to the adjutant, and so on down the line of officers. Then the bird is to be passed down the list of members, alphabetically. Keep him moving. Each member must bring in another member before he can be rid of the duck. If he dies on your hands, you will owe the entire Post a steak dinner."

That duck has really travelled. Charlie Leigh, Jr., Stephenson, Chaplain Graham Eubank and Sam Thomas had control and care of the bird one day, and E. I. Alexander, Morrison Peterson and Mack Ridge beat the bird to the draw and went out after their members before the bird could set to them. "Nobody wants the bird for fear of having to buy about 150 steak dinners, so that new Navy jet job has nothing on the Legion Duck when it comes to traveling."

Charlotte Doctor Denounces Move To Socialize Medical Care

LUMBERTON.—A gathering of physicians, dentists and pharmacists, and their wives, from Robeson and Bladen counties met last Wednesday to hear Dr. V. K. Hart discuss the "Socialization of Medicine" bill which is before the congress of the United States. Dr. Hart, president of the Mecklenburg county medical association described the people who seek passage of the measure as a "small, ruthless group of people interested only in political control of government." The doctor pointed his finger directly at the Federal Security Administration, which would control administration of socialized medicine, as the worst offender against administrative economy in government but nursing charges from physicians charges.

Dr. Hart emphasized the fact that some provision for medical care in low income groups must be made but denied that socialization of medicine was the answer; he cited the private insurance plans such as Blue Cross as the answer to the problem.

Dr. Hart's theme of the evening was that relief for low income means of providing medical care for all. He said that the public relations of the profession were at a low ebb for three reasons. Fees charged by a minority in the medical ranks, he said, are excessive and such excessive charges produce an unfavorable public reaction. The lack of medical service in many areas because of the shortage of doctors is another reason cited by the speaker for the public's demand for relief. And the poor public relations of the profession can be charged partially to propaganda emanating from government departments and paid for with public funds. Some complaints of fees, continued Dr. Hart, arise because of the public failure to separate hospital and nursing charges from physicians charges.

Hackett To Speak To PTA Safety Meeting Tonight

RED SPRINGS.—On Thursday night a 7:30 p. m. the Red Springs Parents Teachers Association will hold its regular meeting in the high school auditorium. At this time the program will be in charge of Mayor E. H. Alexander and Chief of Police Floyd Whitman, who plan to have a joint meeting of the P. T. A. with the Robeson County Safety Council. Frank Hackett, prominent attorney of Lumberton, will be guest speaker for the evening.

According to Superintendent Walter R. Dudley, letters are being sent through the school to all parents urging them to attend this meeting. He further urges all members of the Red Springs community to attend and take part in the discussions on school safety, highway safety, and other safety precautions.

Womanless Wedding Tonight In Maxton

MAXTON.—A "Womanless Wedding" will be presented by the Junior Class at Maxton high school on Thursday evening (tonight) at eight o'clock at the high school auditorium. Proceeds netted will go for the Junior-Senior Banquet, which is an annual school affair. A hilarious evening is in store for Maxton and it is hoped that the attendance will be good at the "wedding." Miss Retha Watts is class homeroom teacher.

RS Square Dances At Legion Hall For Scout Benefit

RED SPRINGS.—The series of square dances held here each Thursday evening will be in Legion Hall, beginning tonight instead of at the Veterans of Foreign War clubhouse. Proceeds of the dances will be used in the local work of the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, which are now being sponsored jointly by the American Legion and the VFW.

Tax Listing Ends Saturday

Listing of real, personal, and poll taxes without penalty will end Saturday. The listing, scheduled to end on January 31, was extended through February 19 by action of the county commissioners. Commissioners have said that no further extension of time for listing without penalty will be given, as listing must be completed speedily so that equalization of valuation can be begun by the county appraisers.

New Look For Old School Building

RED SPRINGS.—The Elementary building of the Red Springs Schools is taking on a "new look." New venetian blinds are being placed over the large windows which were recently installed.

Grange Supper At Lumber Bridge

LUMBER BRIDGE.—On Wednesday night, February 23, the Lumber Bridge Grange will sponsor a benefit barbecue and square dance toward raising funds for the community polio drive in the school auditorium. Barbecue and chicken plates will go on sale from 6:30 to 8 p. m. and the square dance will begin at 8:30.

ELMER PASSES

RED SPRINGS.—Elmer, for many years the shadow that followed Murphy Singleton about town, died last Friday—age 11, the same as that of the Singleton's daughter, Carolyn. This half-dog-high and dog-and-a-half-long moved to the country about two years ago, and has not been seen often since, but for many years was quite familiar to the folk here as the only dog of the Dachshund variety of the town.

Revision Sought In UNC Trustee Board

Bills introduced in the senate and in the house by Senator H. A. McKinnon and by Representative John E. Regan and F. Wayland Floyd would increase the number of trustees of the University of North Carolina and distribute appointments equitably to NC counties.

The present system of appointment leaves some counties without representation and gives others a disproportionately large number on the board. The proposed revision would name 20 trustees at large and 120 members from the counties on the same basis that they have representation in the House of Representatives. Terms would be for eight years but would be staggered.

RS VFW Changes Meeting Times

RED SPRINGS.—The John Tucker Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars now holds its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Friday evenings at the VFW Club house, Jimmy Parnell, commander, stated this week.

The Thursday square dances are no longer being held at the club house, but beginning tonight will be held at Legion Hall. Proceeds will be used for the local Boy Scout fund.

County Commissioners Hear Coble Air Views On Scott Road Program

Robeson County's board of commissioners conferred Monday with the new highway commissioner for the sixth division, George S. Coble. Mr. Coble replaces Dr. Henry W. Jordan who has been named chairman of the state commission. Dr. Jordan was also present to introduce Mr. Coble.

An outline of Governor Kerr Scott's proposed road program was given by Mr. Coble and he said that under the plan, which requires approval of a \$200,000,000 bond issue, Robeson county would get about 300 miles of paving on secondary roads. Mr. Coble said that one of the bond issues would be needed for administrative purposes as, he said, the present organization could supervise the new construction. 12,000 miles of paving will be done in the state on secondary roads if the bond issue is approved. Widening, draining, and stabilization of 2nd and 4th class roads is also envisioned.

The new commissioner painted a utopian view of the financial aspect of the building program, which includes an additional one-cent per gallon gasoline tax designed to retire the bonds in 20 years. Mr. Coble said that the increased paving would lower maintenance costs and allow better upkeep of unpaved secondary roads. The saving on school bus maintenance was noted as one of the advantages of the Scott program.

In answer to a question raised by chairman of county commissioners C. A. Hasty, Mr. Coble and Dr. Jordan said that the program did not include more extension of the state road system than is now normally made each year. But they voiced the belief that increased paving would make for increased travel, increased tax revenue, and eventually an extension of the road system.

The program would add 300 miles to Robeson's 343.6 miles of paved roads. The county at present has a total of 1418 miles of state maintained roads. 1018 miles of this system is used by school buses.

New paving, under the plan, would be allotted to counties on the basis of motor vehicle registration, county area, gas tax revenue, and miles of paved and unpaved roads. Mr. Coble said that vehicular registration would reflect the population of the county. Construction would be complete in four years. Continued on Page 8

Lum'ton Venders Enroll 14 For Diamond Season

Spring Training Begins March 28 With 19 Players

LUMBERTON.—Lumberton's ball club for 1949 is shaping up with 14 players assigned to the Five more will be assigned the locally before spring training gets underway on March 28.

Returning to Lumberton are Jimmy Balaugh, who officiated at third last year, and Boyce N. Bridgeman who saw action here in 1948 as a southpaw hurler. Willie E. Crammie who was assigned to the Lumberton Cubs in 1947 and voluntarily retired in 1948 will be here as a short-stop.

Ernie Elizabethtown, Tenn., the Auctioneers will get right-hander Edward E. Stevens, and Charles R. Rickard is assigned from the Florida State League.

Other assignees to Lumberton are rookies. They are: Gordon C. McDonald, LHP, Ohio; William A. O'Hara, RHP, Illinois; Edward S. Rutkowski, RHP, Illinois; Harold Salby, RHP, N. Y.; Louis M. Skibicki, RHP, Illinois; George W. Somers, RHP, Illinois; Robert J. Jones, C. Pinner, Gene R. Shrewsbury, C. W. Va.; Ralph E. Gatto, SS, Illinois.

Judge Burney Cleared By Investigation

Judge John J. Burney, recently accused of being intoxicated while presiding over superior court in Cumberland county, has been exonerated by J. Elmer Long, who has been investigating the matter for Governor Scott. The investigation was an outgrowth of letters to the Governor accusing the jurist of indiscretion.

The report said that the judge was indisposed because of an over-dose of medicine prescribed by a physician, and that the accusations were made on hearsay evidence and not by witnesses who were present in court.

AT FARM BUREAU MEET

W. D. Reynolds, county manager, and Talmadge Graham, county commissioner from Howellsville are among those attending the annual convention of the NC Farm Bureau in Asheville this week.

An average forest fire burns 142 acres.

PJC Radio Club Gives Original Air-Dramas

MAXTON.—The Radio Club of Presbyterian Junior College presented the first in a series of two plays on Sunday afternoon over station WEWO at two o'clock. "The Fading Light" written by Emory Chambers, PJC student, from Greenville, was ably dramatized as the story of one man's conquest over illness and death. The cast included Leland Galt, Robert Hazard and Frances Cashwell. It was directed by the author, assisted by Prof. Lelan Crawford, faculty advisor.

On Sunday afternoon, February 20th, at two o'clock over WEWO, the group will offer a comedy entitled, "A Man in the House" written by Robert Hall.

Rae ford Cage Tourny Play Begins Monday

MAXTON.—The Rae ford American Legion post is staging their annual basketball tournament beginning Monday, February 21, through Monday, February 28th. This year for the first time, girls teams will compete and much interest is being shown by all teams that have accepted. Last year's winner was Aberdeen and word from Rae ford this week stated that Maxton was the favored team this year.

Maxton teams will play Hoke High of Rae ford on Wednesday night, and the winners of that game will play again on Saturday night. Finals will be played off on Monday night. Teams that have accepted are Wagram, Philadelphia, Red Springs, Maxton, Parkton, West End, Laurel Hill and Rae ford. All games will be played at the high school gym. First games each night will be the girls' game at seven-thirty. Boys' teams will play at eight-forty-five.

Fairmont Beta Club Giving Variety Show

FAIRMONT.—The Beta Club of Fairmont high school is sponsoring a local talent show to be held Tuesday, February 22, at 7:30 p. m. at the high school auditorium. L. I. Campbell will be master of ceremonies and the acts will include dancing, singing, musicians, acrobats, impersonations, musical acts, and the first grade rhythm band. There will be three judges and prizes will be given. First prize to be a trophy, second prize \$5.00, and third, fourth and fifth honorable mention.

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Three PJC Founders To Be Honored At College Ceremonies February 21

Maxton Re-Opens Community Club

MAXTON.—At the board of directors meeting of the Maxton Community Clubs, Inc., held Wednesday afternoon at the club, it was decided to reopen the club as soon as possible. Discussion was held regarding future operation of the club and it was decided to employ someone to direct club recreational activities and maintain the Snack Bar. It is felt that if the Snack Bar offers hot drinks, sandwiches and possibly ice cream, it will serve as an excellent gathering place for the younger set. Plans were discussed for future repair of the building and equipment.

Written applications for the position of club hostess may be sent to R. E. Hellekson, chairman. Interested persons should make application as soon as possible, so that the board of directors may take further action toward opening the club.

The board of directors consists of representatives of the eight civic clubs which participate in Community Clubs, Inc. The club was closed recently because of lack of interest and attendance.

MAXTON.—Founders' Day will be observed at Presbyterian Junior College on Monday, February 21st, with a special service at eleven o'clock Monday morning in the college chapel. By special action of the Board of Trustees last June, it was decided to honor the three living founders of the college as Founders' Day. They are W. H. Bell of Charlotte, Dr. Wator Fairley of Montreat, and E. H. Evans of Laurinburg. These men are the only living members of the first Board of Trustees.

Another highlight of the morning service will be the presentation of a picture of the first president of Presbyterian Junior College, Rev. R. A. McLeod, which will be given by the McLeod family of Maxton.

Main address of the day will be made by Rev. I. M. Ellis, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, who is to conduct the service in connection with Religious Emphasis Week at the college. The public is most cordially invited to this special observance of Founders' Day.

That afternoon, according to long tradition, the faculty challenges the students to a "work day" during which time special projects are carried out for improving the school grounds and campus buildings.

Parkton Guard Parade In St. Pauls; Will Demonstrate Heavy Tank Equip.

PARKTON.—A public demonstration and display of the armored equipment of the Heavy Tank Company 19th Infantry, North Carolina National Guard will be held at St. Pauls on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 19, at three o'clock, it was announced today by Capt. Roger F. Hall, commanding officer of the Parkton national guard unit.

Among the items to be offered to the public inspection will be the M-26 (General Pershing) tanks, 90MM rifles, 30 and 50 cal. Machine guns, inter-communication systems, SCR-300 (Walkie Talkie) radios, and other items of the latest equipment used by armored companies.

The four M-26 (General Pershing) tanks will move in convoy with wheeled vehicles of the heavy tank company from the National Guard Armory here at 2:30 p. m. The convoy will move along the cut-off to Highway US 301, and then along this highway to St. Pauls, arriving there at 3:00 p. m. The convoy will be under command of 1st Lt. William E. Shaw, executive officer of the company, and Master Sergeant

S. P. Hall, motor sergeant. Upon arrival in St. Pauls, a brief demonstration will be held on Main street, and the tanks will then be parked on Main Street, and opened to the public inspection until 4:00 p. m., at which time the convoy will return to the Parkton armory over the same route.

There are a number of vacancies in the Heavy Tank Company at present, and facilities for enlisting qualified young men will be available at the time of the demonstration. Capt. Hall said.

Azalea Film Seen By Maxton Club

MAXTON.—A film entitled, "A Million Azaleas" was enjoyed at the monthly meeting of the Maxton Junior Woman's Club held on Monday night at the Community Club. With interesting comments by author and poet, Ted Malone, this technicolor movie was filmed last year at the Azalea Festival in Wilmington and is offered to state clubs by the North Carolina Sorority Club of Wilmington. Mrs. Kenneth Chisholm was program chairman.

At the business meeting, held prior to the film, a devotional was presented by Mrs. Morrison McKenzie. Secretary and treasurer reports were heard and Miss Lillis Cousar reported on the recent meeting of the directors of the Community Clubs, Inc., one of the Club's main projects. Mrs. J. E. Hord, chairman of the March of Dimes which was sponsored by the group, gave a report on the progress of the polo drive, stating that nearly one thousand dollars had been raised.

A nominating committee to present officers for the 1949-50 term was named and consisted of Mrs. Ned Crooms, chairman, Mrs. C. M. Custevens, Jr., and Mrs. K. J. Chisholm. The president, Mrs. Bill Stewart, informed the members that February 20-27 is Brothers and Sisters week and urged the club to practice brotherhood.

Following adjournment, the hostesses, Mrs. Russell Hellekson, Mrs. R. R. Donk, Mrs. H. J. Preseren and Mrs. Marvin Campbell, served refreshments in the valentine motif. Approximately twenty-five members were present.

Forest Fires annually burn material for 86,000 wooden houses.

RS-St. Pauls Court Scores Of Week

RED SPRINGS.—The Junior Varsity basketball teams of the Red Springs School traveled over to St. Pauls on Monday afternoon to play a closely contested game with the St. Pauls opponents to come out losers. Final scores for the game were St. Pauls boys, 39, Red Springs, 22. The girls scores were more evenly matched with St. Pauls coming out on top with 19 points to Red Springs, 16.

On last Friday night the boys varsity team of the high school won over St. Pauls by a 9 point margin—the final score being 39 to 30. However, the girls didn't fare quite so well and came home with their first loss of the season. St. Pauls girls topped the Red Angels with a 26-16 score.

Fairmont High To Have Feature Page

FAIRMONT.—Fairmont High School will, beginning next week have a page in the Hometown Newspapers for its news, similar to the page carried for the past two years by the Lumberton High School.

Person-Garrett \$50,000 Addition Being Built By Plant Personnel

FAIRMONT.—Person-Garrett Company, Inc., one of the largest of the tobacco redrying plants in the town of Fairmont, is at present enlarging its plant and preparing for the coming tobacco season. The new addition which includes an enlargement to the present building and the installation of a completely new redrying machine will run approximately \$50,000 according to local officials.

Person-Garrett has been in operation in Fairmont since 1927 and employs one hundred and fifty persons at the height of the season from August until Christmas, usually depending on the amount of tobacco to be redried.

The new addition will not mean any addition to the number of persons employed because of the fact that in the past the plant has run on a double shift and with the installation of the new machine will run only one shift, with the entire personnel working at the same time.

Spotted Poland China Show-Sale To Be In Lumberton Tomorrow

Jay-Cees Sponsor First Joint NC-SC Growers Event

LUMBERTON.—Plans have been completed for the first joint North and South Carolina Spotted Poland China Hog Breeders Show and Sale which will be held here tomorrow, February 18, at Smiths Warehouse on the Fayetteville highway. This show and sale is

being held under the sponsorship of the Lumberton Junior Chamber of Commerce.

This is the first joint Spotted Poland China show and sale that the two state associations have held. Over 30 entries have been received from hog breeders in the two states.

Judge for this event will be Dr. H. A. Stewart, Professor of Animal Husbandry at State College. According to Jack Kelly, Animal Husbandry Specialist of North Carolina State College, the two asso-

ciations were very fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Stewart.

Specialist Kelly states that Dr. Stewart will make the placing of the hogs educational as he will fully discuss the placing of each hog and tell in detail the best type of hog to grow.

W. E. Wilkins, general chairman of the event, reports that the entries received are from some of the top blood lines in the Carolinas from both show winning and production registry records.