

For the People

By Tom Wicker

Except for a visionary idea and a lot of hard work, a modern brick school house in the small community of Potecasi in eastern North Carolina's Northampton county might have suffered the dire fate of rotting to the ground. The building had been abandoned in the county's school consolidation program.

But the citizens of the community, not pleased at this prospect, rolled up their sleeves, beat the peanut bushes of their goober-growing county for the necessary cash, and turned their white elephant into Pine Forest Rest, one of the most modern, best designed, and most attractive homes for old people in the state. And they did it at a total cost of nearly \$50,000.

The story of how Pine Forest Rest grew out of an abandoned school building and a lot of hard work, is not only an inspiring one of a community's and a county's faith in themselves and reliance on their own resources. It is also an educational story of the recognition of a growing need in modern-day living. And it is no less a slightly amazing tale of seemingly insurmountable difficulties overcome by a group of plain John Q. Citizens, who would not admit that they could not do anything they wanted to do if they worked hard enough at it. The whole story is too long to tell here. But a few excerpts may point the way to similar projects in other communities:

Pine Forest Rest is not a county home. It is not a charity institution. It is designed expressly to fit the needs of the growing number of older people in this country who have the money to support themselves but who have no families, have retired from work, and have little liking for living out their lives in loneliness. When the doors of the Potecasi project open, probably in August, there will be more of the flavor of a resort than of an institution, more of the comforts of home than many family dwellings boast, and more services for the residents than many of them ever saw before. And each of them will be paying for his own accommodations.

The building, redesigned for its new use, will accommodate twenty-six guests, both men and women, and a staff of three, most of them in rooms with private baths; operate its own home-style dining room; furnish suitable recreation facilities; and boast a television set and a newly constructed sun parlor. There will be no regimentation, no "lights out" hours, and no more rules and regulations than safety and decency require. Guests of the residents will be welcomed, autos will be permissible, recreational activities will be looked upon favorably, and rooms may be furnished with radios, hotplates, irons, record players and anything else desired by the residents. In short, each resident will be able to do as he pleases, in many cases even carry on businesses which they are unwilling to retire from, and at the same time will receive companionship, personal attention, some medical care, and plenty of solid comfort.

A home designed in the healthy older person who can pay his own way is not spectacularly new. The need for such accommodations, in addition to home for the indigent and for the bed-ridden, has long been recognized and more and more of them are appearing in North Carolina and other states. But what is spectacular about Pine Forest Rest is that, so far as is known, it is the first home in this state which is not operated commercially, not supported by the

government or by such groups as churches, fraternal organizations, or professional groups, and which was conceived, constructed, and will be operated by a group of private citizens, who have no other interest in the matter than to fill a need existing in the social structure of their county.

As such it may be a pioneer project. State Board of Public Welfare officials, who are required to inspect and license all such facilities in the state, regardless of who operates them, in order to maintain standards of care, safety, diet, sanitation, etc., are delighted with the Potecasi program and were active consultants to the citizens who carried out the plan. They are now extremely vocal in their hope that other communities around the state may start similar movements.

Located in Potecasi, 12 miles from Jackson and about 30 miles from Roanoke Rapids, Pine Forest Rest is now open on Sunday afternoons for public inspection and has already welcomed more than a thousand visitors. Inquiries are beginning to come in from aged people interested in residing there when the home opens. Those who are accepted will pay nominal rates, only enough to cover operating expenses. The cost of providing, maintaining and expanding the home will be covered by public subscription, as was all of the initial cost. The home is being run by a non-profit corporation organized by Northampton county citizens. Directors of the project anticipate a full house from opening day. They also anticipate providing a service available in few sections of the state for a growing group of citizens.

Bride-Elect Honored Following Rehearsal

Miss Gwendolyn Pearce, bride-elect, was complimented following the wedding rehearsal Friday evening, June 22, at a cake-cutting in the educational building of the Buies Creek Baptist Church. Joint hostesses were Mrs. M. B. Matthews, Jr., Miss Myrtice McPhail and Mrs. Sue Weddle.

The wedding of Miss Pearce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Pearce of Zebulon, and Carroll Matthews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton B. Matthews, Sr., of Buie's Creek, took place Saturday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the Baptist Church at Buie's Creek.

Guests at the rehearsal party were greeted at the door of the recreational room by Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Matthews, Jr. In the receiving line were Mr. and Mrs. Milton B. Matthews, Sr., Carroll Matthews, the honoree and her sister, Miss Earlene Pearce. Miss Myrtice McPhail presided at the guest register, and Miss Lorraine Britt, at the gift table. Miss Elizabeth Stillwell, pianist, was in charge of the reception music.

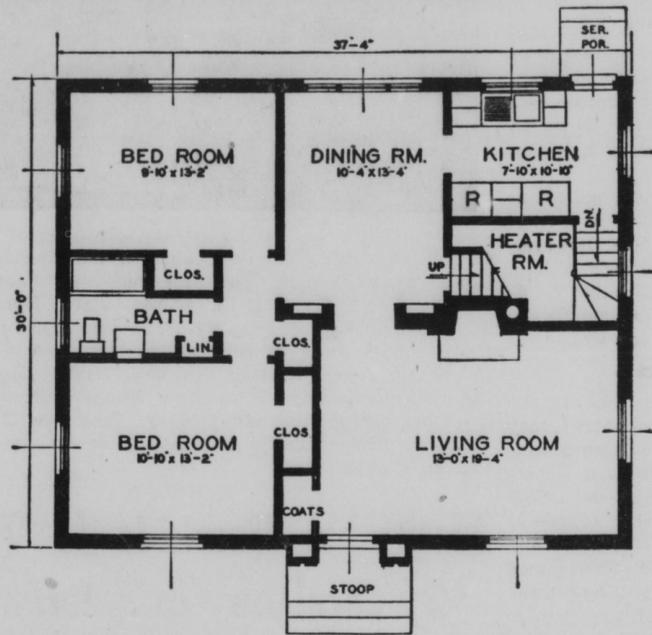
The bride's table was decorated with Queen Ann's lace and larkspur, arrangements of mixed flowers being used throughout the room. Green tapers in crystal candelabra were used on a white lace tablecloth over green. A color scheme of pink, green and white was carried out.

After the bride-elect cut the first slice of the wedding cake, guests were served cake, bridal ice cream, punch, nuts and mints. Mrs. Sue Weddle served the cake and Mrs. Milton B. Matthews, Sr., the punch. Assisting in serving were Mesdames Carl Gregory, O. G. Matthews, C. R. Ammons, Jr., and Otis Williford.

Goodbyes were said to about fifty guests by Mr. and Mrs. Wade Stewart.



HOUSE NO. 102



Simple in its general line, but with a touch of the unique found in its two front windows, this well balanced house represents the best elements to be found in small houses.

This design presents in reality a blend of all home desirabilities with its efficient and compact arrangement of rooms, all on one floor. The living room is assigned

the most commanding spot in the plan with windows on two sides of it. The living room is as large as ones in much larger houses and is designed as the hub of activities within this home.

The dining room adjoins the kitchen on the back side of the house. In this position, the dining room affords a view into the quiet back lawn, which will make mealtime a pleasant occasion.

The bedrooms are both located on the same side of the house so they will be distinctly separated from the rest of the house, but at the same time they are private with respect to each other. Their separation is maintained by an intervening bath.

Closet space is adequate and ventilation excellent. Ample storage space in attic with built in place stairway leading to it.

National Guard Unit Makes Camp Plans

Battery A, Zebulon's crack National Guard artillery unit, will leave on August 17 for Fort McClellan, Alabama, where the men in the unit will join with the remainder of the 30th Infantry Division for two weeks of training and maneuvers. The summer encampment will climax armory drills held throughout the past year.

The August encampment will mark the second year that the local unit has participated in the Divisional training. Last year Battery A joined the 30th Division at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina.

Drill periods from now until the departure date will be filled with intensified training, Capt. Barrie Davis, commander, stated. Since its federal recognition on July 23, 1949, Battery A has achieved an outstanding record, and the battery commander said that the men expect to continue this record in Alabama.

A third firing section, under the command of Sfc. Carl Kemp, was organized two weeks ago. The formation of this section required a reassignment of men in the sections commanded by Sfc. Rudolph Liles and Sfc. Frank Massey, and new men are being trained for nearly every position.

Serving as gunners in the three sections are Baxter Hopkins, Hilliard Greene, and Ralph Creech. Assistant gunners are Connie Bunn,

Herman Moss, and Barbee Tant.

The motor trip to Ft. McClellan will require nearly two and a half days of traveling. The 113th Field Artillery Battalion, with Battery A included, will stop at Raeford, North Carolina, for Friday night. At this point vehicles from eight other Divisional units will join the convoy.

Saturday night will be spent at Athens, Georgia, and on Sunday afternoon the convoy will roll into Ft. McClellan.

The motor section, under the direction of Sgt. J. P. Arnold, is readying the trucks for the extended trip.

March of Dimes

North Carolina raised \$1,125,000 in the 1951 March of Dimes drive, \$125,000 more than its goal, Mrs. Phillips Russell, State Campaign Director, announced today.

The final reports are not in yet, she said, and she expects that the complete figure will be substantially more than \$1,125,000.

Fete Bridge Club

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Appenzeller were hosts to their Couples Club Saturday night at their home on Judd Street. Their home was beautifully decorated with arrangements of summer flowers.

At the conclusion of play high and low score prizes for men were won by Fred Smith and Frank Massey. High and low for women to Mrs. Fred Smith and Mrs. Jimmie Allen. Mrs. Allen also won the floating prize.

A salad course with pink lemonade was served at the end of play. Cokes and salted nuts were served during the evening.

Playing were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Ben Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Massey, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong Cannady, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Allen and the hosts.

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. — Abraham Lincoln

USE PURINA FLY SPRAYS

FOR A COMPLETE JOB OF CONTROL FOR FLIES, MOSQUITOES, ANTS AND BUGS

WE HAVE SPRAYS FOR HOUSEHOLD, CATTLE AND STOCK BARN

MASSEY'S HATCHERY