

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1926

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00

M'KEITHEN WRITES ON SPECIAL TAX LEVY

With His Present Understanding It Doesn't Strike Him Very Favorably

Aberdeen, N. C. March 20, 1926.

To the Editor:

For the past two weeks your paper has carried an advertisement which calls for an election on April 27th in which election the electorate is to decide whether the county commissioners shall have, or shall not have, authority to levy a county wide tax of fifty cents per \$100.00 property valuation, in addition to the now existing rate of sixty-three cents, for the purpose of increasing the terms of all the schools of the county to an eight months school term. As the bulk of our tax money now goes into the operation and maintenance of the public schools and as the schools are that part of county government which comes closer to us than any other, I think it is the duty of every citizen to acquaint himself thoroughly with the proposition before deciding how he shall vote. For that reason I submit such facts as I have been able to get from the County Superintendent of Schools and from the County Auditor; and at the same time ask some questions about matters I would like to be enlightened.

The existing rate of sixty-three cents per one hundred dollars valuation is now bringing in a revenue of about \$156,900.00. The 21 special school districts in the county, having special tax levies ranging from ten cents to one dollar and ten cents (this number including the Southern Pines school which operates under the town government) raise \$101,718.00, making a total of \$258,617.00 collected in the county for school purposes. Under the proposed levy of fifty cents, there would be realized approximately \$125,000.00. I understand that upon the passage of the proposed levy, the special districts with their special taxes will be wiped out. Is this correct? If it is we would then under the new levy raise \$23,282.00 more than is secured under the present plan. This would be the law's limit.

What will this additional \$23,282.00 be called upon to do? There are now 85 schools in the county of which, as stated before 21 are aided by local taxes. Of these specials, two run for nine months, twelve for eight months, two for seven months and five for six months, the remaining sixty-four which make no contribution to their own support run for a period of six months. In the special districts are fifty-eight per cent of the county enrollment, leaving forty-two per cent in these sixty-four schools. An I correct in assuming that it is the purpose of the County Board of Education to extend with this additional \$23,000.00 to terms of eight months the seventy-one schools having shorter period terms? Can an economy be effected by a central administration which will make possible such a great savings over the present plan? I do not believe this can be done. Undoubtedly there has been waste of the public funds, but is there any reason to believe there will be less when the expenditure is farther removed from those most interested.

There are now, according to the school census, 8531 children of school age in Moore County. Of these 7,314, eighty-six per cent, are enrolled in the school. The daily average attendance is 5,649, sixty-five per cent of the census and seventy-six per cent of the enrollment. This means that one child in every seven is not attending school at all and that of those attending practically one week of every four is spent away from the school room. It means, too, that neither the child nor the parent is interested enough to take advantage of the facilities offered. This brings to mind the fact that the law of the State says that all children between the ages of seven and fourteen shall attend the schools for six months. This law is not being enforced nor is machinery for its enforcement provided.

Will this be done under the new levy? This county is largely agricultural. Will the farmers allow the children to remain in school eight months when now they are attending only three-fourths of the time for six months. Is there not prevailing an opinion among both the farmers and the school authorities that the child's labor on the farm is absolutely necessary during certain periods of the year which conflict with the school terms. It is impossible to legislate, and enforce that legislation, beyond public opinion. Then why tax one to provide something which will not be accepted. Personally I am in favor of every child attending school nine months each year but my wishes do not control the situation.

The records in the office of the County Auditor show there is a bonded and floating indebtedness as listed below:

Aberdeen, \$131,000; Cameron, \$66,000; Carthage, \$75,000; Eureka, \$32,725; Jackson Springs, \$3,375; Mineral Springs, \$75,000; Southern Pines, \$66,000; Vass, \$50,000; Moore County, \$75,000; State loan to county, \$105,690. Total \$679,790.

I have been told that under the new levy the county would assume this indebtedness, meet the payment of the bonds and interest on the bonds and issue new bonds to take care of the floating indebtedness. If this information is correct, is it fair for me, a citizen of Aberdeen, to vote for the tax-payer in Hemp to assume a part of this \$131,000 which has been

(Continued on Page 8)

WANTS SQUARE DEAL FOR CHILD OF 'STICKS'

A Reply to Supt. Allen's Article In Sandhill Citizen

To the Editor:

Under the head, "School Facts and Figures," Supt. Allen, Southern Pines, presents what are called facts but in the last analysis his statements are misleading.

First of all Mr. Allen gets only an avision of Southern Pines, he can't see beyond the boundary lines of his district. He cannot bring himself to the point where the County Board has to look at the interests of a whole county as well as Southern Pines. He reminds us of the good old deacon who prayed thus: "Good Lord, bless me, my wife and my son John, us three and no more."

In the second place he makes statements that are misleading relative to the distribution of county school funds. He says that if this measure carries that distribution of county school funds by the board of education will be on the basis of "per capita pupil attendance." If Mr. Allen will give himself the trouble to consult the school law, he will find that the law requires that the Board of Education must take into consideration the needs of a school and the grade of work to be done in making distribution of all school funds and make the distribution to schools on the basis of the salary schedule of teachers. This means that Southern Pines would become a standard school and share alike with other schools of its class. This would be equitable and just and no community, if its citizens are fair minded would demand more.

The intention of this proposition is to give Moore County a uniform, just and equitable system of schools, and there is no other system which the board can use that is just and equitable. Without casting any reflection upon any public official, the present system of distribution of school funds, is unjust to the last degree, and Mr. Allen implies so much in his statements. Southern Pines along with some other schools are getting school funds that justly, rightfully, and equitably belong to the whole county. Let us see how this happens? The law gives Southern Pines the privilege of levying a special tax, and from this source Southern Pines the

(Continued on Page 8)

PINEHURST REALTY GETTING IN ACTION

Removal of Old Warehouses Bring New Development

The removal of the old warehouses at Pinehurst and of the railroad station has permitted a new real estate development in the section of the village where those buildings stood, and on the ground between the old railroad and the new location of the tracks, and this territory has been platted, planted and prepared for market. Its excellent location made it desirable as soon as the plan was announced and already the lot sales in that section have been many. In a general way real estate activities in Pinehurst have been much more active to date than at any time in the last six years. Sales are being made every day and the best selling season has not yet been reached.

In the new development, made possible by the moving of the old station, five lots have recently been sold. John W. Watson has bought the lot directly in back of his mother's property, having in mind building there at some later date. J. H. Andrews has purchased two lots adjoining his property and states that he has purchased them "for residential purposes." George T. Dunlap has bought a lot and a half connecting with his property and has indicated that he hopes to build on one of these lots. C. M. Rudel of Canada has purchased a very attractive lot located near where the old Pinehurst Warehouse building stood and is making plans to build next winter. This is the highest priced residential lot that Pinehurst has even sold, though sales by private parties in Pinehurst have made considerably in excess of this. It is interesting to note that the sale of this acre of land was made at four-fifths of the price originally paid for the 5000 acres which is now Pinehurst. It is also interesting to note that the majority of these sales, in this new section were made to old Pinehurst residents and that all of them are planning to erect houses on them at some time. Certainly no one is in better position to appreciate the value of Pinehurst real estate than those who have owned property and lived there for some time.

The Catholic church has purchased a lot adjoining their property and has in mind putting a Rectory on this.

Mrs. Frederick A. Parkhurst has purchased a lot on Linden Road and is making plans to build this summer.

William Wilson has purchased a lot on Midland Road and will build this summer.

The other sales have just been reported but definite announcement cannot yet be made. Both of these sales are for improved property aggregating \$70,000, and one of them was made to a devotee of Bellair, Florida, while three inches of snow was on the ground. One real estate party in Pinehurst has reported sales for this season to date of nearly \$114,000. There can be no question but what Pinehurst is on the verge of a substantial development. There are also to date a large number of negotiations for purchases which will soon be closed.

JACKSON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The juniors and seniors of the high school gave their operetta under the direction of Miss Ella Walton, entitled Love Dreams of Japan, on the night of March 12. Miss Juanita Britton took the part of the heroine and Neill McDuffie took the part of the hero, both played their parts in a talented way. The minor parts were played by Miss Walter Frye, Messrs. Raymond Seawell, Boswell Bethune, Fred Frye, Claude Smith, and Grady Thomas. The chorus consisted of Japanese girls, American boys and girls, who rendered their songs beautifully. The programme lasting about

two hours was presented to an appreciative audience.

Better English week was observed in the high school last week. The teachers of each grade devoted ten minutes each day to discussing better English. A record was kept of the grammatical errors made during the week. At the end of the week, those who had murdered the King's English on the King's highway were arrested. They were tried before a jury and a judge in the regular manner. They were found guilty, but were pardoned on the condition that they would not commit the offense again. The school took lots of interest in the trial, and it is believed that they will make them take more care with their English in the future.

The high school collected funds last week for the Near East Relief. Cards were given to the pupils to be filled with dimes. The pupil getting the most money was John Robert McInnis, who collected \$1.65. The juniors collected more than any other grade, \$2.95. The total collected by the school was \$10.65.

The high school and grammar grades have a contest each month, known as the triangle contest. The rooms are graded each week and the rooms having the highest grades in average attendance, neatness of the rooms, and number on the honor roll, for a month gets a half day holiday. The eleventh grade has the honor of getting the holiday for the last three months. The fifth grade gets the

(Continued on Page 8)

J. R. M'QUEEN MAKES STATEMENT

Says All Questions Will Be Freely and Frankly Answered Before Special Election

All the readers of our county papers have noticed the Special election ordered for the purpose of voting a county wide tax for schools. This election was ordered by the Board of County Commissioners at the request of the Board of Education, accompanying a petition from a number of qualified voters in the county.

The expressed intention of the Board of Education in requesting the Commissioners to call the election was to give the people in the county full and accurate information in reference to the condition of the schools for the county, and also the effort the success of this election would have on the schools.

The board of education is supposed to act for all the school children in the county, and we think fully realizes that their opinion about the schools does not necessarily agree with a great many others in the county, but the fact that they occupy this position it seems to us should make the thoughtful people in the county give this question serious consideration in the matter. It is a long time being and not reach a decision too quickly fore election day, and every one can rest assured that no effort will be made to put anything over on anybody, and all questions will be fully and frankly answered.

Because of sickness in the office force we have not been able to give the figures as rapidly as we intended, but as stated above, there is abundant time yet.

J. R. McQUEEN

MASONIC NOTICE

The Central Carolina Scottish Rite Club of Sanford, N. C., will observe the beautiful, impressive and ancient ceremonies of Maunday Thursday on April 1st, 1926 at 8 o'clock p. m. in the Masonic Temple, at Sanford. All members of Eastern Star, all Master Masons, including both York and Scottish Rite are cordially invited.

Brother C. B. Newcomb, 33 degree, of Wilmington, will deliver the address on this occasion. He needs no introduction to the Masons of this section.

All Knights Rose Croix are especially urged to be present to fulfill

SELLING TRACTORS IN CAR LOAD LOTS

Pinehurst Warehouses Bring Big Shipment From Chicago

The Pinehurst Warehouses staked an interesting sensation a few days ago when they brought out of Chicago four train loads of tractors, each car bearing a sign saying the car was loaded with International Tractor for the Pinehurst Warehouses at Pinehurst, N. C. And the sensation was not lessened when two of those cars were dispatched with the seal unbroken to two individual customers, each of these customers taking the full car load.

One load, of six tractors, went to Jesse Page up at Eagle Springs, and the other to D. M. Buchanan (at Mars-ton, for the Farm Development company. Both these buyers are big orchard men, and they are farming on an extensive and intensive scale, and have found that they cannot carry on with the old methods of farming and orchard operation, and that they cannot handle their big orchards with one or two tractors. So they have bought at one throw a full car of tractors for each farm, a thing so far as The Pilot is aware, unknown in farm practice in North Carolina, if not in the South.

A dozen years ago a tractor was looked on in this part of the county as a doubtful experiment. Then an occasional steam tractor was trying to hook itself up to some farm work on big places, but with doubtful success. The gasoline engine finally jumped into the field, and after a few years of effort and much failure the tractor has become a common machine in farm practice, and practically every

(Continued on page 6)

TEACHERS MEET AT PINEHURST

The Elementary Teachers of Moore county met at Pinehurst, Saturday, March 13. Although there was a heavy snow storm, the following were present:

Supt. A. B. Cameron, Prof. W. P. Morton, Prof. Hutcheson, P. H. Stephenson, Misses Meta Leiles, Loula Loving, Minnie Muse, Mrs. Fannie Shields, Miss Bozella McCallum, Jeanette MacRae, Maimie Arnold, Mrs. Bertha Freeman, Annie McFadyen, Flossie McLean, Misses Harris, Mary McLeod, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Myrtle McCaskill, Minerva Thompson, Annie Clegg, Wiles Endine Meadows, Strawdie Hare.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Miss Meta Liles.

Prof. W. P. Morton conducted the devotional exercise. Mr. Morton made interesting and helpful suggestions on chapel exercises in school.

The president, Misses Minnie Muse and Rozelle McCallum appointed a program committee for the April meeting.

The following program was then carried out. The lessons were indeed model lessons in every respect.

Model lesson in English, second grade, taught by Miss Meta Liles.

Model lesson in Arithmetic, fifth grade, taught by Mrs. Bertha Freeman.

Model lesson in Arithmetic, fourth grade, taught by Miss Rozella McCallum.

Address: Commencement exercises by Supt. A. B. Cameron.

Supervised play with two groups of boys, by R. E. Stephenson.

After all these good things, more good things were in store. A most delightful and bountiful lunch was served to all. Miss Jeannette MacRae speaking for the association, expressed their appreciation to the Pinehurst teachers and people for their expersive and warm reception.

one of the highest obligations they owe to the sacred order.

B. E. STANFIELD, President.

J. W. MARKS, Secretary.