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**THE CHURCH AT SOUTHERN PINES**

(Bion H. Butler.)  
One day last week a number of persons gathered at a dinner at the Highland Pines Inn at Southern Pines to discuss the new church the Episcopal folks are starting at Southern Pines. It might seem that this church concerns the members of that denomination alone, but it does not. A church is a community affair, or if it is big enough it may become a state or a national or a world-wide matter. The fine old cathedral at Cologne was built for far more than local interest, and anyone who has seen some of the old world cathedrals as at Cologne, Strasburg, Notre Dame, Santa Sofia, at Constantinople, will realize that a church is more than merely a building to shelter a congregation. It is my pleasure to have seen in my day a number of the famous ecclesiastical buildings of the old world, and some of the prominent ones of this country, and in all of my wandering experience nothing has made a more lasting impression.

The Episcopal congregation in Southern Pines is beginning a structure that goes beyond the power of the pocketbook of the congregation. That is conceded at the start, but that has nothing to do with the wisdom of the task they have undertaken. They have sponsored a movement that is a community movement, for they have offered to do the heavy work of providing for this neighborhood one of the most attractive church edifices in rural North Carolina. Their plans are pretentious, which is highly to their credit, and when their work is done they will have given this community a stately edifice that will be worth in a purely secular way many times what the money cost will be.

We all realize that these folks must have financial help. They cannot carry the load themselves, and there is no reason why they should. They are doing a work that is for the common welfare, and while some of us hard-boiled puritans may argue that a church of ordinary type and moderate cost will serve all purposes, that has nothing to do with the case. A wooden barracks might serve Cologne as well as the cathedral. But the underlying sentiment of religion never yet deserved to be fed from the crumbs that are left after everything else has been cared for. We build fine homes, and fine schools, and fine roads and our people are clad in silks and fine raiment, and it is an offensive parsimony and discrimination that would be niggardly with the church, no matter what attitude we may take toward theology and creed.

The Episcopal congregation is taking an advanced step, and leading in the architectural and constructive policy of the community. It is attempting to put on the main street of the village of Southern Pines a group of buildings that will be for an indefinite time a sightly factor in the community development, and the church is justified in asking contributions of substantial size from every one who can afford to aid. This is not merely a question of building a church. It is a matter of building something that will extend a forceful influence in all the future type of architecture in the Sandhills, for we go forward largely as example is set for us. As a church the new structure will be episcopal. As an addition to the Sandhills it

will be a positive community asset. Therefore the community owes to the congregation the broadest support that can be given. This is the first ambitious effort that has been made in Southern Pines to build an outstanding structure of this character. And it is an ambitious project. But it is one that can easily be accomplished, and it is a job the whole population will join in, for this work is going forward, no matter how fast nor how slow, for it is worth all it will cost, no matter from what point it is viewed.

**THE NEED OF WATER**

The shortage of water all over the state during the summer indicates the imperative need of taking a more serious look at the water supply problem, and Vass is fully as much concerned as any other place in the state. For several years the rainfall has been somewhat below normal, and while it is reasonable to presume that in course of time the fall may shift the other way and be big enough for all purposes, one fact must not be ignored, and that is that the level of water in the ground is gradually sinking lower and lower, and that is what governs the supply of water available for use.

Places in Moore county that have not known water shortage in the memory of those living have been without water this summer. Streams that could be counted on in the past have been dry this year. As the water level drops lower in the ground places that were swamps a few years ago are now wholly dry. The reserve of water under the ground has been exhausted by the continued dry years and before we can have the normal water reserve of recent years the ground must be saturated again as was the previous condition. We must have not only a normal rainfall to provide the daily needs for water, but we must have a surplus rainfall to fill the ground to the old levels that we may have a supply for the dry spells.

When the excessive rains will come is problematical. But it is foolish to sit by and wait for such a period. It may come soon, and it may not come for a long time. Normal rainfall next year will not mean a surplus of water under the surface, but merely the amount on the surface, for we must collect underground water to offset that which has exhausted itself during the succession of short rainfall. It is this situation that Vass, along with many other places, must face. Two means of relief present themselves. These are deep wells, and the accumulation of water from the Sandhill springs and streams on the west side of the river. The east side is so hopelessly in the slate belt that it cannot be depended on for a supply from springs and streams.

The bed rock at Vass should be found within a reasonable distance from the surface. It shows up in the stream bed at Crane's creek, and down the stream it is found in abundance. That would indicate that at Vass the rock is not so far down as to be hard to reach. The probability is that wells drilled to the rock would provide wholesome and sufficient supply of water. It is not positively certain, for the hard rocks below the sand sometimes are deceptive, but they afford the only recourse except the Sandhill springs and streams, which so far have never failed if sufficient scope of country is taken. The difficulty with the springs is that a possibility exists there of the necessity for a filter plant, which is somewhat expensive for a small place like Vass. But this thing has to be faced before very long, and the longer it is put off the more grave the situation becomes, and the more pressing. The job is a big one, however we may look at it, but it is none the less an absolute necessity now or soon. It cannot be evaded, and every day it is put off is a day of possible

disaster, to say nothing of the inconvenience of being without water and sewers. Vass needs to consider this matter seriously and right away.

**MOORE COUNTY'S SANDHILL RIDGES**

(Continued from page 1)

along the high ground. Naturally the highlands are chosen by persons looking for desirable building spots, for a picturesque outlook appeals to the vast majority of people and the ridge ground is more varied in its surface and surroundings. The outlook from the new golf course now being created at Knollwood is one of the finest in the Sandhills, and when that development begins it is natural to expect a fine group of homes in the vicinity. The rim of the hill around Midpines golf course is another interesting location, and there will be a favored section of the Sandhills.

**SOME SAFETY THOUGHTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

(Continued from page 1)

Better caution "Dad" and "Brother" to be careful with cigar and cigarette stubs too.

Do not allow trees to remain inside of building after the holidays. The tree ignites readily when leaves and branches are dry. A large number of fires occur in January from this cause.

Do not use decorations near open gas jets or too near lights of any kind.

Examine the wiring which leads to lights used for decorative purposes. See to it that it is safe.

Let the home, church, school or store be warm but look out for over heated stoves and pipes.

Farmers who adopt the system of better balanced farming advocated by the School of Agriculture at State College will reduce their cotton acreage by thirty percent.

Local curb markets give a satisfactory medium for disposing of surplus truck crops and foodstuffs grown on the farm.

Two local cooperative farm associations in Pamlico County have sold products amounting to \$104,700 with a saving of over \$12,000 above local prices, reports County Agent R. W. Galphin.

One hundred hens on each farm in the State will provide home conveniences and comforts desired by every housewife.

This is one year that dairymen can afford to buy and feed plenty of cottonseed meal, advises John A. Arey, dairy extension specialist.

The production of late truck crops for sale in Florida and other far-southern states will interest many growers in North Carolina next year.

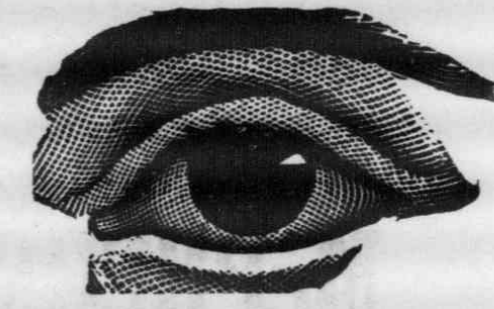
Pecan trees will pay taxes in addition to making the farm homestead more attractive, say horticultural workers.

Farmers feeding hogs in Clay county find that under the extension plan the animals are gaining more rapidly than they expected.

AT W. F. Cheers, Inc., Jewelers, Sanford, N. C., you will find a large and varied line of holiday goods to select from.

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**M. L. MATTHEWS, M. D.** Practice limited to the eye, ear, nose and the throat.

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