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OVER THE TOP  
FOR VICTORY  
with  
UNITED STATES WAR  
BONDS-STAMPS

# THE PILOT

MAKE EVERY  
PAY DAY  
WAR  
BOND DAY  
STOP SPENDING—SAVE DOLLARS

VOLUME 28, NO. 9.

Southern Pines, North Carolina, Friday, January 29, 1943.

FIVE CENTS

## Old Thagard's "Pond" May Regain Fishing Fame Under Watson



Top picture shows the huge expanse of water which now is backed up behind one new, steel-plated dam and a repaired old stone dam at Thagard's lake. The lower picture gives an idea of the spillway over the stone dam and also shows some of the leaks which John Warren Watson hopes will soon be plugged up, giving a two or three inch spill over the 40-foot spillway.

### John W. Watson Planning to Develop Lake into Public Fishing Place

Thagard's Pond, which for many years had more than a State-wide reputation as one of the best fishing holes hereabouts, may, within a year or two, recover its bid to fame, lost about 1928 when the dam washed out.

Its future depends upon a tall, gray-haired individual named John Warren Watson, whose name is most widely known in the Sandhills because of "Watson's Lake," as the swimming public nonchalantly named the favorite swimming place, south of Southern Pines.

Sitting in the Pine Room of the Carolina Hotel the other night, Mr. Watson, of Philadelphia and the Sandhills, sketched his plans for making Thagard's again a fine fishing lake. Much of the work is already completed, with the dams repaired and about three to four hundred acres of land under water and a 12-mile shore line.

When the lake is stocked and open to the public, it will be the first time in the history of this famous "pond" that fishing has been its principal industry. In the past, the fishing element has been only incidental to its other work.

### Began as Grist Mill

Thagard's Pond began when a wooden dam and a little mill pond provided the power for running Thagard's grist mill. The father of J. A. Bryant, now superintendent of the Aberdeen and Rockfish railroad, was miller at Thagard's for a number of years. Around the turn of the century, the property was sold to a group which included D. A. McDonald, former clerk of court, and his brother "Mose" McDonald of West End. This outfit put in the rock dam, which still stands and in 1905 I. F. Chandler purchased the property.

Thagard's then became a part of the power system which supplied Southern Pines with its electricity and continued this job for the next two decades or more. Mr. Chandler sold it on August 1, 1920, to the Sandhill Power Company, headed by J. R. McQueen, and this outfit in turn sold to the Carolina Power and Light company in July, 1924. A few years later, the earthen dam washed out and since, Thagard's has been idle.

Both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts used Thagard's for camping trips, summer outings and swimming during early twenties. Fishing was at its height from about 1910 to 1925, and some whoppers used to come out of the lake.

### Repaired Old Dams

When Watson, who is known as "Lock" Watson to Horton Smith, Pinehurst golf pro, because of his love for building lakes and dams, acquired the property of the lake and surroundings, there wasn't much pond or lake there. Two main channels have to be dammed. On one of these is a 200-foot rock dam with a 40-foot spillway. This has stood over a period of years and is still being used, but will require considerable repair to stop up the leaks. Mr. Watson hopes to get a good inch and a half spill over the 40-foot spillway.

Across a point of rocks from this rock dam, there is a concrete dam and then comes what was the old earthen dam which washed out. Here is where the Watson dam-building has accomplished most. Rather than rebuild an earthen dam, which might wash again, Watson had his workers sink into concrete a 17-foot wall of steel plates, five feet wide. These plates—there were 24 of them, covering 120 feet—were interlocked and welded together and imbedded in the cement. Then the earth was thrown on either side of the steel. So, although it still looks like an earthen dam, there is a steel wall 17 feet high and 120-feet long which is holding back the water.

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## Red Cross Planning Combined Roll Call and War Fund Drive

### Branch Chairmen Meet to Prepare Campaign Due to Start March 1

The Moore County Chapter of the American Red Cross this week prepared to launch beginning the first of March the largest fund-raising campaign in the county that the organization has ever attempted. It will be a combined annual Roll Call and War Fund drive. A goal of around \$25,000 for national and local needs will be sought.

L. T. Avery of Southern Pines has accepted the appointment from Ernest L. Ives, chapter chairman, to be in charge of the Roll Call and War Fund Drive and direct the work throughout the county.

Mr. Avery, with Mrs. Mary S. Pegram, Red Cross Field Representative, met Thursday with various branch chairman throughout the county to discuss organizational plans for the drive.

The nations a total of \$120,000,000 the nations a total of \$120,000,000 would be needed to carry on the work of the Red Cross during this wartime.

### Seek Large Contributions

Although plans for conducting the drive are still being formulated, it has already been made clear that the March campaign will not be a drive for \$1,000 memberships but will seek as large a contribution from each individual as possible.

Branch chairmen who were asked to confer with the Roll Call Chairman and Mrs. Pegram Thursday were Mrs. W. D. Caviness, Aberdeen; Mrs. Quentin Reynolds, Carthage; Mrs. Clyde Kelly, Cameron; Miss Ellen Maurice, Eagle Springs; Mrs. Edgar Brown, Hemp; Howard Jones, Highfalls; Mrs. Herbert Carter, Jackson Springs; Mrs. Charles Warner, Pinebluff; Miss Louise Fordyce, Pinehurst; Mrs. Edith Mudgett, Southern Pines; Mrs. J. H. Poole, West End; and Mrs. H. C. Callahan, vice-chairman, Vass.

Other communities in the county will be organized under these branches to conduct the Roll Call and War Fund drive.

## Hemp Seeks Change in Name to Robbins

### Citizens File Petition Asking to Call Town in Honor of President of Cloth Mills

A petition signed by more than 225 citizens of Hemp was filed Monday of this week in Raleigh, seeking permission to change the name of the town to Robbins.

The petition was filed with the Municipal Board of Control of North Carolina and Secretary of State Thad Eure, the board's secretary, set February 26 at 11 a. m. as time for a hearing on the request. Hemp was first established as a post office in 1900 and was incorporated as a town in 1935, still retaining the name of "Hemp," the derivation of which no one seems to know. Someone suggested a short name, "Hemp," and it stuck.

The name "Robbins" is suggested in honor of Karl Robbins, president of The Pinehurst Cloth Mills, Inc., which operates at Hemp and has been largely responsible for the increased prosperity and growth of the town of upper Moore County. W. P. Saunders, vice-president and general manager of the mill, is mayor of the town.

## WILLIAM F. AMBROSE DEAD; RESIDED HERE

News reached here this week of the death of William Ferguson Ambrose, 69, at his home in West Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, on January 15. Mr. Ambrose was a seasonal resident of Southern Pines for a number of years and was an active member of the local Bird Club. Surviving is a sister, Miss Ethel Ambrose, also numbering many friends in Southern Pines.

## General Bryden Presents Medal for Distinguished Service to Mrs. Wood for Husband

### In Our Service



GEORGE A. WATSON, JR., U. S. N.

Son of George A. Watson of Southern Pines, young Watson attended Southern Pines High School and at times worked with Western Union here. He joined the U. S. Navy in July, 1941 and celebrated his 18th birthday last June. Young Watson was last reported on board the U. S. Destroyer Arnon Ward, which can be named publicly because of a report which came out of the Pacific recently describing how, in the battle of November 13, the Arnon Ward ran between two lines of Japanese battleships, sinking several of the enemy, but escaping under its own power to port. Commander Orville F. Gregor told this stirring tale of the sea battle over the radio.

### Col. Wood Now Reported Prisoner of War; Bryden Flies Here to Give Award

With his wife acting as proxy, Lieut. Col. Stuart Wood, now reportedly a prisoner of the Japanese, was presented with the coveted Distinguished Service Medal by Major General William Bryden, commanding General, Fourth Service Command, in simple ceremonies at Mrs. Wood's home on N. Ashe street last Friday.

Standing by Mrs. Wood's side when she received the medal were her two sons, Stuart, Jr., and Walter. Only a few friends and relatives were present at the presentation.

The citation and award by General Marshall, chief of staff, U. S. Army, was announced late in November, but the actual presentation was not made until Friday when General Bryden flew to Southern Pines from Atlanta to give the medal to Mrs. Wood in person. General Bryden landed at Knollwood Field airport and was accompanied by Captain Edward F. Lundberg, his aide.

### "A Brave Soldier"

Also present for the presentation was Brigadier General Maxwell D. Taylor of the 82nd Airborne Division, stationed at Fort Bragg, a fellow officer of Col. Wood in 1939 when the two were assistant military attaches in Tokyo, Japan. After the medal was presented, General Taylor proposed a toast: "To Lieutenant Colonel Wood—a brave soldier and a distinguished Field Artilleryman."

Col. Wood, a native of Elizabeth City, is a graduate of West Point. He was recovering from an appendectomy in the Philippines at the time of Pearl Harbor and immediately reported for combat duty, serving with troops at Bataan and Corregidor until their fall, when he escaped to Mindanao. No official report of his capture has been received. A Japanese broadcast claimed that he had been captured and was a prisoner on the island of Formosa. It is considered possible that this was Japanese propaganda.

### And Another Soldier

Since moving here, after being with her husband during his service in the Orient, Mrs. Wood has been active in community work, is a member of the Red Cross Motor Corps and has put in much more than her required volunteer time as a Red Cross Nurses Aide at the Moore County Hospital.

Her father, W. W. Sutton of Fayetteville, and other relatives were present for the presentation Friday. They were Miss L. D. Sutton, Mrs. Charles Rankin, Miss Kate Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Sutton, Miss Lura Wheeler, Gregg Sutton and daughter, Mary; and Miss Anna Sutton. Four of Mrs. Wood's brothers are in the armed services.

Also attending were Col. and Mrs. Richard Opie of Fort Bragg, and from Southern Pines, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Ives, the Rev. and Mrs. F. Craighill Brown, Mrs. V. L. James and daughter, Milby; and Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Thompson, Jr.

### Of Great Value

The citation of General Marshall, previously announced and published, said, in part, of Col. Wood: "As assistant to the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, he rendered invaluable service throughout the campaign. Through his knowledge of the Japanese language, his effective questioning of prisoners of war, and his keen analysis of captured documents and material, he assembled data for a comprehensive and accurate determination of the constitution of the enemy forces in the theatre, which was of great value in the conduct of operations."

## BEASLEY IS RE-OPENING GENERAL STORE IN VASS

R. P. Beasley, who on account of the war closed his store in Vass a few months ago after operating successfully for many years, is reopening Saturday, with a complete new stock of dry goods, notions and shoes. He has remodeled and repainted his building and has everything in ship-shape for the opening.

## Photography Plays Major Part in War

### Kiwanians Learn Use of Film on All Fronts from Lt. Burlingame, U. S. Navy

The science and art of photography is playing a vital part in World War II on the home front, the industrial front and the fighting front, the Sandhills Kiwanis Club learned at their meeting Wednesday from a talk made by Lt. (jg.) Wescott Burlingame, U. S. Navy.

Lt. Burlingame, who has just completed intensive training in photography with the U. S. Navy, was employed by Eastman Kodak Company before entering the service and is now being assigned to cover war action at the front with the camera.

On the home front, pictures are serving a morale purpose through motion pictures, snapshots of soldiers and families, and news picture and news interpretation, the speaker said. Throughout industry, pictures, motion and still, have become almost invaluable in identification of workers, crime detection, training of workers, analysis of materials and the manufactured article, presenting safety measures, and in studying operation of machinery, the speaker said.

As a military weapon, the camera renders service in reconnaissance, airphotos of enemy territory showing without doubt changes in terrain and effects of bombardment. The motion picture in the Army is also being used in training, for assembling of apparatus and for analysis of engagements. This country is making a

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## Local Negroes Get 30 Years in Killing

### Christmas Eve Stabbing Results in Long Sentences for Youths from Here

A. C. Vester Oats, 17, who fatally stabbed Ernest King, 17, on Christmas eve at Broadway's Beer Garden, Negro recreation center in West Southern Pines, and Willie Ivey, who provided the hunting knife with which the crime was committed and allegedly urged Oats on by saying, "There he is; go get him," were sentenced in Superior Court late last week to serve from 29 to 30 years at State's Prison for a second degree murder.

According to the evidence, Oats and King had an argument during the Christmas evening, after which Oats and Ivey went to the latter's home and procured a knife and gun, Ivey giving the knife to Oats, and himself concealing the gun. They returned to the beer garden, where Oats stabbed King twice, once in the back and once in the chest. Oats tendered a plea of guilty of second degree murder, and Ivey was found guilty of the same charge.

Gladys Minter McKinnon, Negro woman of Aberdeen who has a long court record, and her nephew, Henry Kendrick, were found guilty of murder in the second degree in the death of Frank Merritt but the jury recommended mercy. They were given State Prison sentences of from 18 to 20 years. Both defendants gave notice of appeal and appearance bond was fixed at \$5,000 each and appeal bond at \$100. Neither had arranged bond Tuesday. The shooting followed a fight in which Gladys and several others were involved.

In a murder case, in which Earl Phillips was charged with killing Joe Carlyle, was continued.

Floyd Currie pleaded nolo contendere and was adjudged guilty of forcible trespass in one case and assault on a female, his wife, in the other.

The Court found that Currie had violated the terms of a judgment in a case tried in January, 1942, and ordered the 18 months sentence imposed at that time put into effect. For assaulting his wife, he was given 12 months in jail to work on the roads, this to begin at the expiration of the first sentence, and for trespassing, he drew a 2-year sentence, suspended upon condition that the defendant be of good behavior for five years after the end of the other sentences, not molest his wife in any

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## AIR RAID WARNINGS

Changes in Air Raid Warning signals for the public will become effective February 17, according to information received by John M. Howarth, Citizens Defense Corps Commander, late this week. By next week, siren warnings in conformance with General Hugh A. Drum's orders will be planned. Howarth said, and full instructions concerning air raid warnings will be made public. Howarth said that a "surprise blackout" coming without advance notice, was expected at any time, and said that until February 17, the former air raid signals will be used—a long, rising and falling, sound of the siren for the blackout and a sustained blast of the siren for the all clear.