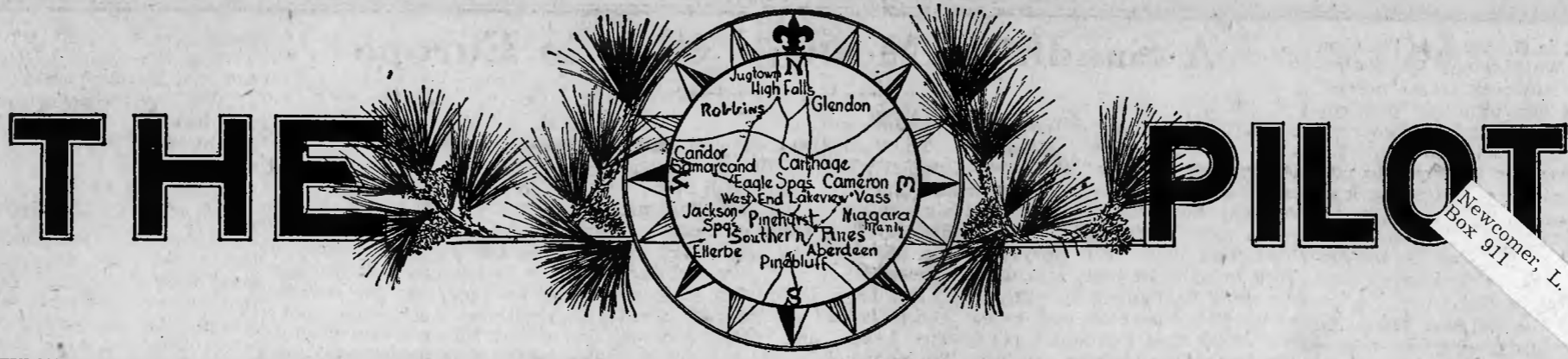


DRIVE SAFELY
FOR A
HAPPY HOLIDAY



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VOL. 30—NO. 32

14 PAGES THIS WEEK

Southern Pines, N. C. Friday, July 1, 1949

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TEN CENTS

Puny Peach Crop Starts To Market From Sandhills

Yield Seen As Only One-Fifth Of Normal

Commercial shipments of peaches started moving out of the Sandhills last week—early specimens of a crop which, it is estimated, will run not more than 20 or 25 per cent of normal.

Normally running about 2,500,000 bushels, the entire Sandhills yield will not amount to more than a million bushels this year, in the opinion of J. Hawley Poole, of West End, owner of extensive orchards in Moore and Hoke counties. Freezing of the buds last February following an abnormally warm spell cut the crop down by about half. In the past few weeks, said Mr. Poole, an unusually heavy "June drop" has lost the growers thousands upon thousands more bushels they had hoped to save.

A representative of the State Department of Agriculture is spending the week in the Sandhills orchard country re-checking for a revised estimate for his department. A previous estimate of 1,600,000 bushels, which was widely published, brought vigorous protests from growers, who said they did not see anything like that in sight.

Prices Are Good

An over-estimate, it is claimed, will have an adverse effect on prices, so that growers will be forced to market their crops at an overall loss. Prices are good so far, said Mr. Poole, "but still far from enough to make up the difference between a normal crop and one this far below."

Jubilees, Hale Havens, Early Rose and Carmen peaches are among the early varieties which have been moving out, and this week the Hiley Belles were just beginning to move. Two weeks should see the fine Georgia Belles on the market, and three weeks the Elbertas, prize of the lot. Peaches remaining after the (Continued on page 8)

Application Made For Local Battery National Guard

The securing of two officers and the signing of an application by officers of the Raeford battalion last week constituted two more steps toward formation of a National Guard unit here.

If they are approved by Adjutant General Van B. Metts and his staff at Raleigh, two more steps will be necessary: (1) approval of the federal command; and (2) enlistment of a minimum of 30 men. After that, the organization will operate as an anti-aircraft battery under command of the Raeford battalion.

Colonel Lamont, battalion commander, and Major Lester, administrative officer, last week signed credentials for a battery commander, Capt. Clifford Carpenter, and a lieutenant, C. S. Patch, Jr. They are on call to visit Raleigh for examination at state headquarters next week. If approved, federal application will then be made.

The battery is being sponsored by the John Boyd post, VFW, and will be open to all men between 18 and 35, veterans and non-veterans. Holding up plans for a while was the difficulty of finding a qualified commanding officer, and this week the boys seemed to feel that they were fortunate in securing Carpenter for this role. A former Army Air Force captain, Carpenter moved to Southern Pines last November. He travels as representative of several northern firms, but is in town on Friday nights and drills will accordingly be more than likely on these nights.

Patch, active in the VFW and a town commissioner, also served in the Army Air Force during the war.

Establishment of a successful battery here will bring a number of benefits to its members and to the community, it was pointed out, not the least of them being the eventual possibility of the building of an armory here.

Coble Says Work Will Start At Once On Four Worst Danger Spots Of US 1

ROTARY CHIEF



HARRY L. BROWN will be installed as president of the Southern Pines Rotary club at their luncheon meeting at Dante's restaurant today. Don Jensen, outgoing president, will be installed as vice president, Russell Lorenson as secretary and Lloyd T. Clark, Ray McDonald and Harry Fullenwider directors.

Lifeguard On Job At Aberdeen Lake; Activities Begin

Activities at the remodeled and renovated Aberdeen lake got into full swing this week, drawing young people from far and wide as it did in the old days before the dam gave way. With the temporary dam in place, work got under way Tuesday of this week on the permanent dam, as the steel pilings arrived and workmen started driving them into place at once.

Robert Elliott, of Forest City, UNC physical education major who served as life guard in 1947, also in 1948 until the polio quarantine, has been reemployed for the current summer season. His salary has been underwritten by the Sandhills Kiwanis club, with anticipation of contributions from other organizations of the county.

Elliott has been on the job since Sunday. Red Cross swimming classes started at the lake Monday, instructed by Miss Edwina Hallman and Miss Frances Campbell.

Improvements at the lake include a new diving tower, which will soon have two brand-new diving boards, given by the Kiwanians at the cost of \$125; a wading and swimming area for the younger children, marked off by new posts and ropes; and hundreds of tons of fresh clean sand, re-making the beach and furnishing a gentle slope into the water.

A new beach has also been thus provided for the Aberdeen Scout hut on the far shore.

All this is giving the south end of Moore county a recreation spot surpassed by none in the area. Its use is free to all. For this benefit (Continued on page 8)

Movement Started By Local Chamber Has Quick Results

Group Meets At Sanford

The improvement of U. S. Highway 1 will begin immediately, with the elimination, so far as possible, of four "death-traps" along the way, said George S. Coble, of Lexington to representatives of seven towns at a meeting held Wednesday night at Sanford.

At the meeting, initiated by the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce and set at Sanford to suit Mr. Coble's schedule, the new Sixth District Highway commissioner listed immediate improvements as follows:

Elimination of dangerous curves at the Haw River Bridge, Moncure, and Brantley's Curve two and a half miles south of Sanford, and a change in layout of the "crossroads" at Cameron—all of them scenes of numerous accidents and some loss of life.

Widening of the highway in Southern Pines just north of the overpass.

Widening of 14 and a half miles of extra-narrow road in Lee and Chatham counties, and their resurfacing.

Shortening by 14 miles, through elimination of curves, of a much-traveled stretch of road between Asheboro and Fayetteville, and its designation by number as a state highway.

Immediate repairs where they are most needed along the full length of the highway where it traverses the Sixth district.

A survey of all other curves rated as dangerous, with recommendations to be made then by district engineers as to their improvement.

Will Cost \$350,000

The half dozen projects authorized for immediate work, said Mr. Coble, would total somewhere in the neighborhood of \$350,000 in cost.

Whereas no long-range plans for consistent improvement of No. 1 within the state has been made—there hasn't been time since the new Highway Commission was appointed—Mr. Coble said his plans as commissioner certainly call for bringing this important artery up to par, so far as lies within his power.

Following an interview in Moore county on Tuesday of last week, when local Chamber representatives conferred with him briefly at Carthage on the state of No. 1, Mr. Coble said that he had driven the length of the road in his district, to observe its condition closely.

Moves Fast

Representatives of towns and Chambers of Commerce had been invited by the Southern Pines Chamber to a meeting for outlining a plan of action for improving the highway. Attending the meeting, Coble proved to the 40 persons assembled there that he moves fast and decisively, and gave them hope that at last "justice will be done."

Who voted for whom or for what—or against what—doesn't matter now, he said—"We all pay the money and we all get the good. We'll throw away the chips (Continued on page 8)

More Fun For The Kids

All right, kids, here they come—those special activities you've been asking for! Cooking and sewing for the girls—art for boys and girls—a story hour for the youngsters, all with the help of top-grade local volunteer assistants.

Youth Recreation Program Director A. C. Dawson, Jr., said the following will start next Tuesday, to continue till the close of the program August 19:

Tuesdays, 10 a. m., sewing class, at Emmanuel Episcopal church; directors, Mrs. R. S. Parker, Mrs. T. J. Garrett, Mrs. Joe N. Steed, Miss Helen Butler.

Wednesdays, 10 a. m. art class, at high school; directors, Mrs. Maxwell Forrest, Mrs. Francis de Costa, Miss Danila Frassinetti.

Thursdays, 10 a. m., cooking class, Church of Wide Fellowship; directors, Mrs. W. F. Hollister, Mrs. R. E. Rhodes, Mrs. John Beasley, Mrs. John Ponzer, Mrs. J. M. Pleasants, Mrs. L. D. McDonald, Miss Birdilia Bair.

Mondays, 10 a. m., story hour, Elementary School library; Mrs. Elizabeth Shearon, school librarian, and Miss Pauline Miller, of the high school faculty.

In the meantime the regular program of sports—tennis, baseball, softball, pingpong, horseshoes, etc., will continue daily, Monday through Friday, 10 a. m. to 12 noon and 2 to 5 p. m., under Mr. Dawson's direction. Swimming sessions are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons—buses leave the High School Club building at 2:30. Teen-age social events are held Friday nights. MORE ABOUT RECREATION ON PAGE 5

Big July 4 Celebration At Carthage Will Carry On Traditions Set In Past

JULY FOURTH

That truly American holiday, July 4, will be observed to the full in this vicinity, with the closing of town and county offices, banks, and business houses in general.

In Southern Pines, stores will break with tradition in one respect—while observing the full Monday closing, they will also observe the regular half-holiday the following Wednesday, for a real rest for all their employees. Post office windows will be open on Monday until 10 a. m. only.

With the county courthouse locked up tight, county commissioners will hold their July meeting Tuesday. Records court is scheduled for today (Friday) and Saturday instead of next Monday and Tuesday.

A general exodus toward beaches and lakes is expected over the long week end, with swimming, fishing and picnicking in high favor. And of course on Monday all roads will be leading to Carthage for the big Moore County July Fourth festival, an all-day event.

Noted Speakers

In the good old days before the war, a "noon speaking" was a big event of the program, with some figure of statewide note delivering a patriotic address. In 1939 this was Wilkins P. Horton, of Pittsboro, then lieutenant-governor; in 1940, W. Kerr Scott, then commissioner of agriculture, who has gone on since to an even bigger job; in 1941 it was a son of Carthage, John Lang, state NYA administrator, now secretary to Congressman C. B. Deane.

We have no record of the subjects of Horton's and Scott's addresses. Lang, speaking at the (Continued on page 5)

Negro Fisherman Drowns In River

Moore County's third death by drowning this summer occurred last Saturday afternoon, when Ed Simon Norris, Negro, fell into Little River while fishing from the bank.

Norris with several friends had gone to the fishing spot, near Ray's Bridge below Thagards pond, and they separated. When his friends started looking for him about 6 o'clock he was not to be found.

Sheriff C. J. McDonald was notified and went to the scene, to aid in the search, which continued all night. About daylight the body of Norris was found in shallow water not far from the spot; where he was last seen.

Norris, a tenant farmer on Sam Riddle's farm near Carthage, was known to be afflicted with fits of an epileptic character. It was believed he fell into the water during a seizure. Coroner Hugh P. Kelly rendered a verdict of accidental death.

County Gets New DDT-Sprayer For Rural Area Use

Moore county now owns two DDT-spray machines, following the purchase last week of a second one and a second-hand truck on which to mount it.

It will be used exclusively in the rural areas, going from home to home and farm to farm and spraying homes, outbuildings and every likely breeding-place for insects and bacteria. Manned by a county crew, it started off this week in Ritters township and will cover the county, township by township, from north to south.

The other machine, with Carl Klabbatz at the helm, is being used in the municipalities. It has finished in Southern Pines and Carthage, and yesterday moved on to Pinehurst.

The division of malaria control of the state health department, impressed with the work being done here, has given 500 gallons of 25 per cent DDT solution (to be thinned to five per cent) for use in the sprayers. While several counties own one sprayer, Russell Mills, Moore-Hoke health district sanitarian, says he does not know of another one that has two.

One object of the spray machine has been the possible elimination of polio. No one is sure as yet what affects polio and what doesn't—yet there has been no polio reported in the county so far this year. Last year, by July 1, there had been 27 cases, and 15 new ones broke out the following week.

Bond Vote Planned For Water Plant Expansion

COMMANDER



COL. W. P. FISHER

Col. W. P. Fisher Made Commander Of Carswell Base

Announcement that Col. William P. Fisher, of Southern Pines, has been made commanding officer of the great Carswell Air Force base at Fort Worth, Texas, came as no surprise to his friends here, who have watched his distinguished career and mounting honors for the past 14 years with pride.

For the past year he has been on the faculty of the Air War college at Maxwell field, Montgomery, Ala.

In his new post Colonel Fisher is commander of the Seventh Bomb wing, which is based at Carswell. Formal review of planes and men was held in his honor when he took over recently.

He is the son of Mrs. Elinor S. Fisher, of Southern Pines, and the Rev. P. W. Fisher of Sanford. Born at Atlanta in 1911, he was 12 years old when the family moved here. He graduated from the Southern Pines High school, then from State college, Raleigh, where he was awarded a degree in mechanical engineering in 1934.

Following graduation he entered the Army as a flying cadet, graduated from the Advanced Flying school at Kelly field, Texas, and was appointed a second lieutenant in the Regular Army Air corps October 1, 1936. To Hawaii

His first assignment (1935-40) was at Mitchell field, Long Island, where he served in the First Bomb squadron of the Ninth Bomb group and Group headquarters as combat crew pilot, group bombardier, assistant group navigation officer and instructor in the group navigator school. In (Continued on page 5)

High School Club Terrace, Grounds Are Improved

Some alterations are going on at the High School Club building on East Pennsylvania avenue, to extend its facilities as a recreation center for the town's teen agers.

The terrace porch has been extended across the front the full length of the building, with brick underpinning and covering of cement. This adds the space of an extra room for dancing, games or just relaxing when the weather is right.

A cinderblock retaining wall has been built along the side of the front yard, all the way to the open space at the front occupied by the Masons' roque court. This has been filled with earth, which will be leveled off and used as additional play space. In the fall, winter grass will be planted, said A. C. Dawson, Jr., coach and recreation director, under whose supervision the work is being done.

The improvements are a practical work project of a vocational class of Negro GI students of the West Southern Pines High school, who are taking a course in masonry and construction.

Consumption Now Close To Capacity; \$275,000 Required

The town board in special session at noon Tuesday authorized a bond issue of \$275,000 for doubling the capacity of the Southern Pines water plant and a wide extension of its facilities, subject to the approval of the voters in a special election.

The bond issue must be certified by New York bond attorneys before it is presented to a vote, on a date which they will set.

The election will probably be held before the end of the summer.

The board's decision followed 16 months of study of the local water situation, after it was found consumption of water here was approaching capacity. During the past year, a water engineer, L. E. Wooten of Raleigh, has been engaged in making a survey and the bond issue is based on plans he has submitted to the board.

Obsolete Equipment

The present plant was built in 1924, based on presumption of normal growth over a 20-year period. This period has now been exceeded by five years. Originally having a pumping capacity of 1,000,000 gallons a day, it is doubtful if the plant, much of whose equipment is now old, some obsolete, could now pump at that rate, said Mayor C. N. Page.

The plant, which formerly pumped 10 hours a day or less, is now hard at work from 18 to 23 hours a day, he revealed, pumping an average of some 650,000 gallons, which rises to 800,000 gallons or more in peak times. "I don't want to be alarming," the mayor said, "but this is far too close to capacity for comfort and, in case of a dry spell, we would be at the mercy of fate."

If by chance an industry should attempt to locate here, it could not under present circumstances be assured of city water, it was learned. Even without industry, normal growth of the town would force the expansion.

Consistent Growth

Howard F. Burns, water superintendent, said that in the past year connections have been made for about 100 new homes, and lines laid to developments where homes are to be built. The increase in consumption has been consistently noted and has not this year, as was usual in the past, been noticeably reduced in the summer. For every home whose residents go north for the summer, apparently there is another whose water consumption doubles in hot weather.

The \$275,000 to be realized from the bond issue, if approved, will be used for (1) doubling the capacity of the present water plant; (2) replacing worn-out pumps with new equipment; (3) replacing the obsolete 225,000-hp Sterling engine with a diesel unit; (4) laying of a new line parallel to the old from the filter plant to Knollwood, branching off at Knollwood to go through West Southern Pines to South Broad street; (5) laying of new line (Continued on page 5)

OPEN ALL YEAR

There was a time when everything closed up in Southern Pines in the summer—but that's not so any more. Except for the closing of the Mid Pines and its golf course, and of Highland Pines Inn, everything is open in midsummer as it was in mid-season.

The Pine Needles clubhouse and golf course are staying open in charge of Russ Birch, with Davis Worsham as assistant manager. Roy Grinnell, Birch's partner in the Pine Needles operation, is in Little Compton, R. I., where he manages Sakonnet Golf course during the summer.

The Southern Pines Country club and golf course are open under the direction of Jimmy Overton, of Sanford.

The Belvedere hotel, Jefferson Inn, Southland and Park View hotels are open for business as usual, and most of the guest houses are also staying open on a year-round basis.