

Local VFW Post Will Welcome 1,500 State Encampment Here Next Week

Pageant, Parade, Distinguished Guests in Four-Day Program

John Boyd Post, VFW, is preparing for the biggest of its life to date—the Annual State VFW Encampment, to be held here next Thursday through Sunday with the local post as host.

Eventful days are being planned for the veterans and auxiliary members from more than 100 North Carolina posts. A crowd between 1,500 and 2,000 at its expected here.

Hollywood hotel, closed mid-May for the summer, will reopen to serve as quarters for the encampment. Visitors are expected to overflow all local hotels and guest accommodations.

A crowd of that size presents problems and the hosts are trying all available facilities in holding of the business, and entertainment events. Entertainment will take place at the remodeled post home on New York avenue. The auditorium will be the site of business sessions Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights, also of the state beauty contest and at 3 p.m. Friday a memorial service will be held at the auditorium at 9 a.m., Saturday.

The banquet Saturday evening at both the school cafeteria and the post. Besides the VFW auxiliary, invited guests will be Cedric Foster, noted MBS commentator, who will be banquet speaker Saturday night. Maj. Gen. Ira T. Wyche, retired, who will present the U. S. Senator Willis Smith, U. S. Senator William B. Adair and Lieutenant Governor (Pat) Taylor of the State of North Carolina. These have tentatively scheduled to attend the morning business sessions which will speak on day is not yet definite.

Department commander E. D. of Jacksonville will preside over the business sessions. Closing item of the encampment will be the election of new officers.

Pageant beauty pageant and con-day afternoon will present a number of beauty and talent, in addition to the title of State Queen. She will be the Carolina entry in the national marbles tournament.

The marbles tournament will schoolboy champions, and that many local posts, each other for the state on the municipal tennis Saturday. The winner will win, with adult companion, L. M., as North Carolina's entry in the national marbles tournament June 1.

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Judge Rules Town Has No Authority To Grant Permit

Leroy Lee Appeals From Decision In Mandamus Hearing

The Southern Pines town board has no legal authority to issue a permit for construction on a public alley shown on the town map, Superior Court Judge J. H. Clement ruled Wednesday in a mandamus hearing at Carthage.

He denied the right of Leroy Lee, Carthage owner of a variety store chain, to force the town to grant him such a permit.

Judge Clement made it plain that he appreciated the seriousness of the hearing, and the vital matters at stake concerning titles, property values, etc., in Southern Pines' confused "alley problem."

However, "I must find for the Town," he said, "for Southern Pines would never be able again to keep a single alley open. You're just waking up over there—should have waked up 50 years ago."

Appeal Is Taken

Spence and Boyette of Carthage, attorneys for Lee, gave notice that they would take exception to several points of Judge Clement's ruling in order to carry the matter to the State Supreme court.

The hearing was presented by attorneys for each side in the form of briefs and affidavits. The Town of Southern Pines, whose mayor, commissioners and building inspector, Everett V. Walker, were defendants, was represented by the firm of Pollock and Fulenwider.

W. A. Leland McKeithen, Pinehurst attorney, assisted for the plaintiff.

The hearing started with a concise summing up by Judge Clement of the whole situation, as gathered from briefs deposited with him earlier. The attorneys made one or two minor corrections. Plaintiff's attorneys presented affidavits signed by R. F. Tarlton, Howard F. Burns, H. A. Lewis, A. S. Ruggles, John S. Ruggles, Frank Welch, E. V. Perkinson, Hiram Westbrook, R. L. Chandler, Mrs. P. P. McCain, S. B. Richardson, Everett V. Walker and others concerning the history of Southern Pines, its streets and (Continued on Page 8)

Tennis Champions Will Defend Titles On Local Courts

A bunch of champions will be on hand to defend their titles when the third annual Moore County Closed Tennis tournament opens Wednesday at 2 p.m. on the Southern Pines municipal courts.

It looks as though they will have plenty of competition during the four and a half days of play, ending with finals played Saturday and Sunday afternoon and evening.

Defending champs are Angelo Montesanti, Jr., men's singles; Audrey West Brown, women's singles; Page Choate and Malcolm Clark, men's doubles, and the sister-and-brother mixed doubles team, Audrey West Brown and Harry Lee Brown, Jr.

Considerable work has been done on the courts and all that is needed now to make them tops is a couple of days of rain, said Harry Lee Brown, Jr., tournament chairman of the sponsoring Sandhills Tennis association.

Scheduled events, in which trophies will be awarded to winners and runners-up, will be men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles. Prizes will be awarded winners in an additional event, a consolation round in the singles division.

Entry blanks have been mailed to all of last year's participants, and may be obtained by interested persons from Harry Lee Brown, Jr., Box 745, Southern Pines. The blanks and entry fees must be returned by Tuesday. Those entering the tournament will be notified of the time of their first match by phone or mail. Matches will be scheduled in the afternoons and evenings during all five days.

Speakers At Commencement Events



DR. E. M. POTEAT



P. J. WEAVER

Baccalaureate Service Sunday Night, Graduation Tuesday For Class of '55

FOREST FIRE

A large forest fire was reported raging Thursday afternoon in the area between the Seaboard main line and the old Raleigh road, some five miles north of town. Forest Service men were on the job, said to have started when a work crew built a fire near the railroad and lost control of it.

An observer estimated the extent of the fire as about a mile in length, heading east. Smoke hung thick over a wide area.

Drought Nears Critical Point On Moore Farms

A drought of some weeks' standing is reaching the disaster stage for crops of this area, according to reports from the rural sections this week.

Another week without a good hard rain will bring a showdown, in the opinion of several agricultural workers talked to at Carthage this week. Scattered showers here and there have helped little or none at all. "What we need," one farmer said, "is a good old-fashioned gully-washer."

Reports of possible rainstorms building up for this weekend are bringing some hope to the desperate growers. Many are re-setting their tobacco plants. In the clay country the cotton—a larger crop this year than usual, to meet defense needs—is being kept alive through extra cultivation, but in the sand country the wind lifts the dry sand to cut the tender young plants "worse than boll weevils." Continuing cool nights (Continued on Page 5)

Two Smart Girls



They are smart, and pretty, too—Carol Humphrey, left, valedictorian of the Class of 1951, and Dorothy Swisher, salutatorian. Both have maintained averages well above 90 throughout four years at the Southern Pines High school.

Both girls are outstanding in various fields and have won numerous honors during their high school days. Both will be seen in leading roles in the senior play, "Dear Ruth," at the auditorium Monday evening.

Highland Pines Inn Leased For Year As Air-Ground School

Estimated 10,000 Officers Will Take Short Courses There Starting June 18

The Highland Pines Inn, Southern Pines' largest hotel, has been leased for a year to the Air Force.

The building will be used to house the staff and provide quarters for the U. S. Air Force Air-Ground Operations school, which is to be moved here from its present location at Pope AFB, Fort Bragg. Colonel Samuel T. Moore, who has been commandant of the school at Fort Bragg, will transfer his headquarters shortly to Southern Pines, to be on hand when the first class arrives.

The school is expected to open June 18.

Jack Ruggles Passes Exams For Naval Academy

John S. Ruggles, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles of North Ridge street, was notified Monday that he had passed examinations taken April 21 for admission to the U. S. Naval academy at Annapolis, Md.

He will enter the Academy in June, following a leave spent at home, beginning next Tuesday. Jack entered the U. S. Navy last September. In October, during his period of basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Center, Illinois, he was accepted for admission into the Naval Academy Preparatory school at Newport, R. I., on appointment by Rep. C. B. Deane, member of Congress from the Eighth district of North Carolina.

Entering the preparatory school a month after the regular term started, he joined a special class which caught up with the others in time to take the scheduled exams. Studying a half-dozen intensive courses covering the whole field of high school work, he passed with an average grade of 2.98. Passing is 2.50 and maximum is 1.

Jack went to five different schools before graduating in June 1949 at Southern Pines High school, where he spent his junior and senior years. (Continued on Page 5)

Maneuvers Slated In August; Press Headquarters Here

Operation Southern Pine, (without the final S), postponed from the original date in June, is due to start August 10th, according to latest Air Force releases.

As in Operation Swarmer, the last air force maneuvers here, headquarters will be located in the Hollywood Hotel, which will re-open for that period. Mrs. Fitzgerald, formerly of the Pinehurst Country Club, and recently business manager at the Pinehurst Convalescent Home, will be in charge. The hotel will be the headquarters for the press as well as staff officers of the operation.

Main purpose of the coming war games will be to test out methods of cooperation between ground and air forces. It is expected that at least two National Guard divisions will take part, with the air units, with the probability of more troops being added as the maneuvers progress.

With the need for close support of infantry by low-flying aircraft clearly demonstrated by the fighting in Korea, this phase of warfare is expected to figure prominently in the summer training, the "aggressor forces" will be strafed from the air.

Troops expected to take part include the 28th and 43rd National Guard divisions, units of the 82nd Airborne, 3rd Armored Cavalry, and 278th Regimental Combat Team. At least eight fighter-bomber squadrons will be involved, as well as six squadrons of troop carriers and eight light bomber and reconnaissance squadrons, supplied by the Air Force Tactical Command.

The maneuvers are slated to be under the command of Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge, Third Army Commander, a former commanding officer at Fort Bragg.

June Draft Call Only Five Men; Local Lad Leaving

John O'Callaghan, of Southern Pines, is one of the group of only five young Moore County men who will leave Carthage for Fayetteville Monday morning, June 11, for Army induction.

Four of the group, including young O'Callaghan, will go as volunteers, who asked to be sent for induction now rather than await a later call. The others are George Wilburn, McNeill, Eagle Springs; Walter Glenn Rambeau, Vass, and Gilbert Jurney Shaver, Carthage Rt. 3.

The only draftee, and only Negro, in the group will be Jesse James Hockaday, of Aberdeen. All have passed their physical and mental exams.

For the second successive month, there is no call for men to take preinduction examinations, according to Mrs. Harry W. Davis, of Carthage, selective service clerk.