

A Weekend In the Life of a Siamese Governor



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New Auditorium Driveway Will Be Traffic Aid

A new driveway now ready for use, encircling the Southern Pines school auditorium, is expected to help greatly in relieving congestion when events are held there and at the gym.

It will mean the building may be entered almost directly from the cars, by those who do not care to walk far, or to climb the auditorium's front steps.

The circular one-way drive has its entrance and exit on East Massachusetts avenue, entering between the auditorium and elementary school, and circling around the auditorium building toward the exit between it and the gym. Drivers may deposit passengers at the side entrances, and then proceed to the parking area. The driveway has a clay surface now, but will be paved in the spring.

Build by town crews, with town equipment, it is part of a considerably larger project with several objectives—facilitation of arrival and departure of crowds attending special events, improvement of the parking area, expansion of the playground space and better drainage of the entire school campus.

A bulldozer has leveled a large section of the rear campus for parking. Cars enter this area by way of New York avenue, and steps will be built down to the driveway. Playground space has also been leveled behind the buildings, and a new playground opened up east of the elementary school, behind the Huntley and Moore homes, on land recently purchased by the school board. The entire area, including the terrace, and driveway embankment, will be planted in bermuda grass.

Grim 1952 Toll Reported By Coroner: 20 Highway Deaths, Seven Murders

Moore county chalked up its grimmest record in history for violent deaths during 1952, according to the annual report of Coroner Ralph G. Steed of Robbins released this week.

The 20 highway fatalities listed in this county of 32,000 undoubtedly placed Moore at the top, or close to it, in percentage among counties of the State.

Seven homicides also constituted a tragic record for a county normally regarded as peaceful and law-abiding.

Of 44 cases requiring the coroner's investigation, 11 were from natural causes. There were three suicides, one death from alcoholism, one by accidental shooting and one listed as of unknown cause.

Postal Receipts Show Slim Gain

Postal receipts for 1952 present a deceptive appearance—they seem to be up about six per cent over 1951, but three per cent is more nearly correct, said Postmaster Garland Pierce.

A good part of the gain—just about half, he estimates—is due to increases in various postal rates which went into effect January 1, 1952.

Total receipts for 1952 were \$61,947.51. For 1951, they were \$58,422.06—a gain of \$3,525.45.

Postal savings showed a stronger gain. From \$111,911 at close of business December 31, 1951, they mounted to \$141,556 at the same time in 1952, for a gain of \$29,645. Peak month for postal savings was August, with \$149,379 on hand.

County Will Buy Equipment For Photo-Recording Special Act Planned For Equalization Of Register Fees

Two actions toward streamlining and modernizing the register of deeds department were taken by the Moore County commissioners in their first meeting of the year, held Monday at Carthage.

They decided to buy photo-recording equipment, to eliminate the tedious copying of instruments by typewriter.

They decided also to have a special act introduced in the General Assembly permitting the raising of fees for the recording of instruments, in line with the current fee schedules of many other counties.

Various types of photo-recording and microfilming equipment have been under study by the commissioners for several months. A presentation of one apparatus was made by a salesman in the fall, and representatives of the Heloid Company of Rochester, N. Y., and of a firm selling Eastman-made equipment made their presentations Monday.

Decision by the commissioners was in favor of the Haloid Company's Rectigraph Daylight-Duplex photo-recorder. Costing about \$6,000, it will be installed in about 30 days in the fireproof vault below the register of deeds' offices. With this equipment, a complete job of photographing any instrument for immediate filing can be accomplished. The cost includes the training of an operator or operators from the office personnel.

While the Eastman equipment cost only \$2,610, the continuing cost after purchase is considerably higher, a determining factor in the commissioners' choice. (Continued on page 5)

Girl Scout Council Institute Planned

An institute on Girl Scout council administration, for all officials and leaders of the Central Carolina area council, will be held at the Southern Pines Country club Tuesday, through arrangements made by the Girl Scout national board.

The Central Carolina area council includes Moore, Lee, Chatham and Harnett counties, with Sanford as headquarters.

For the all-day institute, the Southern Pines city committee will be hostess to Girl Scouters from the four counties, for training sessions and discussion groups to be held from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Mrs. Gretchen Kidd, training advisor on the national staff, will be in charge. Procedure and functions of community boards and committees will be fully explained. Members of these boards and all other adults interested in the Girl Scout movement are asked to attend.

Registration will open at 9 a. m., in charge of a committee headed by Mrs. John Pottle and Angelo Montesanti, Jr., of the local Girl Scout organization.

City Limits Extension Proposed

The town board is planning steps toward extension of the city limits in the south and southeast, and is asking all interested persons, whether favorably or unfavorably inclined, to attend a public hearing next Friday at 8 p. m. at Weaver auditorium.

A bill has been drawn up setting the boundaries of the area proposed to be taken into the corporate limits. Rep. H. Clifton Blue has been asked to introduce this bill as a special act in the current term of the General Assembly. He will meet with the citizens at the public hearing to ascertain their sentiments in the matter. It is understood that if he finds the preponderance of sentiment to be for the extension, he will submit the bill.

The year 1953 is starting off in a similarly tragic vein. By the time it was three days old Coroner Steed had been called out twice. Score as of last Saturday night: one murder, one highway fatality.

C OF C ELECTION

Annual meeting of the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce, with election of officers, will be held at the Southern Pines elementary school library at 8 p. m. Monday.

All members are asked to attend, said H. A. McAllister, president, as important matters are to be discussed and decisions made.

OUR TOWN READS!

The annual meeting of the Southern Pines Library association will be held next Monday afternoon at five o'clock. It was announced by the President, Clyde Council. At this meeting, for all members, trustees and officers will be elected to serve for the coming year.

Breaking the record of Mr. Gallup's poll is no new affair, but it appears that Southern Pines has now assumed that role. Last week the poll stated citizens of the U.S. read fewer books than those of any other nation, but this town may reply with an: "Is that so?" The report of the retiring librarian, Miss Churchill, shows that circulation of books has doubled in the four years that she has been here. Miss Churchill's report is one of those to be heard at the meeting on Monday.

Dibb Robbery Suspect Arrested In Greensboro

A warrant has been sent from Carthage to Greensboro for a man, arrested there for armed robbery, who is believed to have been the one who broke into and robbed Col. John Dibb's home here December 16.

The SBI notified Sheriff C. J. McDonald Tuesday that checks belonging to Colonel Dibb had been found on one Frank J. Norwood, apprehended at Greensboro the day before.

Though the warrant was sent at once, the sheriff said it looked as though it might be a long time before local authorities will be able to get hold of Norwood, if ever. He was found to be a parole jumper, with 10 years on a prison sentence in another state yet to be served. On top of that is the new armed robbery offense.

According to meager details telephoned to the sheriff's office at Carthage, Norwood pretended to be in the market for a new car, and got a salesman to drive him out on a country road. There he pulled a gun on the salesman, and robbed him.

He is said to be 36 years old, with a criminal record dating back to 1932. He is originally from Virginia.

Colonel Dibb's home at South Ridge street and Morganton road was entered and ransacked in the daytime, shortly after Colonel and Mrs. Dibb had left for Lynchburg, Va., where he runs a business. Stolen were silver, clothing, golf clubs and numerous other items. The colonel offered a reward for information leading to the recovery of the missing possessions, and the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves.

The Dibb home is just outside the Southern Pines city limits so the case has been handled by the sheriff's department, with A. F. Dees, deputy for this area, in charge.

It was not known this week whether any of the stolen items have been located, or if there is someone eligible to receive the reward. Law enforcement officers performing their regular duties are not considered eligible for rewards.

Expansion, Complete Modernization Plans For Patch's Revealed

Patch's Department store, Southern Pines' oldest business establishment, is to be greatly enlarged and completely modernized within the next few months, according to plans announced Thursday by Charles S. Patch, president of the owner corporation.

The expansion as detailed by Earle B. Owens, secretary-treasurer of the corporation and general manager of the store, will give Southern Pines one of the finest shopping centers in the area, with facilities equalling those of many of the State's famous stores in larger cities.

Decline Seen In Building Permits Total For 1952

Building permits issued during 1952 showed a sharp decline from the total of the previous year, it was learned from Everette V. Walker, city building inspector. The total for 1952 was \$296,855. That for 1951 was \$470,910—a difference of \$174,055.

Part of the difference is due to the \$100,000 contract issued in 1951 for the educational annex of the Church of Wide Fellowship. No permit of comparable size was issued in 1952, in which the largest for a single unit was for a \$13,000 dwelling. (One permit was issued for \$50,000 but it was for five dwellings.)

Also, while residential building kept up last year at a steady pace, business construction practically came to a full stop. No business building or expansion of any size is listed.

Permits for new residential construction (not all of which have been used) numbered 40 for 47 dwelling units, at a total estimated cost of \$241,990. Of this, 16 permits were in West Southern Pines and their total cost \$19,340. Total white, \$222,650, for 31 homes.

New business construction amounted to \$8,250. Of the 10 permits issued, only two were for construction on the east side, for a small office building and a warehouse.

Permits for alterations and additions, residential, totaled \$26,412; business, \$11,102; miscellaneous, \$8,601.

In connection with the residential construction, it is pertinent to note information from Howard F. Burns, town clerk and treasurer, that new water connections made by the town came to about 200. This was about the same as the year before, he said.

Korean Veteran Is First Highway Fatality of 1953

The new year was only three days old when Moore county chalked up its first fatal highway accident of the year.

A young Korean war veteran, Peter J. Reeder, Jr., of Steeds Rt. 1, was killed Saturday when the car in which he was riding left a dirt road near Robbins, overturned and smashed into a tree.

Injured were two other young men of the vicinity, Wilbert Moore and J. C. Davis. They were taken to Moore County hospital, where Moore remained as a patient, with a broken leg and face cuts, and Davis was given emergency treatment for cuts and bruises.

Driver of the car, Walter Lewis Scott, 23, also of Steeds Rt. 1, and also a veteran of the Korean war, was indicted for driving while drunk, and careless and reckless driving. He will be given a hearing in recorder's court at Carthage Monday, January 26, according to Patrolman J. L. Lowrimore.

Funeral services for Peter J. Reeder were held Monday afternoon at Needham Grove Christian church near Robbins, conducted by the Rev. Martin Fogleman, with burial in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Reeder, Steeds Rt. 1; three sisters, Mrs. Albert Ritter and Mrs. Quinton Lambert of Robbins Rt. 2, and Mrs. Carl Hussey of Seagrove Rt. 1; and five brothers, William, of Central Falls; Hoover, of Greensboro; John, of Steeds Rt. 1; Airman 1C Yancey L. of Lawson AFB, Georgia; and Pvt. Theron Reeder, of Fort Campbell, Ky.

A two-story addition is to be built with 45-foot frontage on New Hampshire avenue, where the Western Union office is now located. Main entrance of the store will be changed from Broad street to New Hampshire avenue. An elevator is to be installed, new departments added, the entire store building renovated and—final touch of luxury—air-conditioned throughout.

The old awnings will be taken down immediately, to be replaced by a modern marquee.

The plans have been on the drawing-board for some time, to be carried out at an indefinite future time. Condemnation this week of the ancient little frame building next door on New Hampshire, also owned by Patch's, and occupied by the Western Union office for the past 25 years, brought a decision to go ahead at once.

The Western Union building is reported in serious need of repair. City Building Inspector Everette Walker has ordered that it be repaired within 30 days, as in its present state it constitutes a fire hazard. He cannot, however, give a permit for repairs on any frame building within the fire district. This means that the little building, one of the oldest in town, has to go.

A "Condemned" sign was tacked on it Wednesday, and notice served by the inspector to the Western Union and to the owners. Asked to Vacate

In view of the situation Western Union has been asked by its landlord to vacate within seven days, or by February 1, at latest, so that demolition can get under way.

Plans for the construction are expected to be completed, and the actual building to commence, within 30 to 60 days. Remodeling of the second floor of the present store building is already under way as part of the long-range plan. Work will be rushed along in expectation of a grand opening of the new Patch's in the fall.

Newcomer From Vermont The business had its inception as a general merchandise store at a date lost in the mists of local history. In 1897 a half interest in the store, then known as Tarbell's was purchased by C. T. Patch, a newcomer from Vermont, and the name became Tarbell and Patch.

Since that time the name of Patch has never been missing from the store's designation, as Mr. Patch took on successive partners, which he successively bought out. From Tarbell & Patch it became Patch and Brother (the late James M.) then Patch and Williams, Patch and Richardson and finally just Patch's. Recent incorporation has given it the official name of Patch's Department Store, Inc.

Family Interests First the father, then after his death, his son, have headed the business. A daughter, Mrs. Anna Patch Blue, is vice-president of the corporation and active in management of the store. Charles S. Patch, Jr., is associated with his father in a separate business, Patch's Tog Shop, a men's apparel and sporting goods shop which was started in 1922. Though in the same building, it is operated independently from the department store, and just where it fits into the new plans has not been revealed.

During its 57-year history in the Patch family, the store has grown steadily in range of service and in the good will of a wide area. The present building was constructed about 1910 and, with the move from the old wooden building, standing about where Leroy Lee's is now (it later burned down), the business changed from an old-fashioned "general store" to a department store, very modern for its time. The forthcoming development will be its first physical expansion since that time.