

May Street Recreation Center Will Be Opened For Public Use About Feb. 1

Lewis McNeills Are Selected To Be Resident Supervisors

Things are moving right along toward getting the town's new recreational facilities in full use—the May street recreation center next month, and the municipal lake and park area as soon as needed, it was learned this week from their respective chairmen on the Municipal Recreation Commission.

It is expected that the May Street center will be opened for community use on or about February 1, said the Rev. C. K. Ligon, chairman. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McNeill have been selected from among several applicant couples to have their apartment rent-free in the building, and supervise the activities there. Regular hours are to be arranged for use of the rooms by the teen-age group. Church and civic groups, also private citizens of the town, may hold meetings and social events at the center by making advance arrangements with Mrs. McNeill. This applies also to the outdoor cooking facilities. A nominal charge will be made for utilities and cleaning-up.

Furnishings Wanted
An appeal is being issued for any and all types of furnishings which people may want to give for use at the center. It has some furnishings already, but card tables, straight and folding chairs, settees and sofas and upholstered pieces will be needed.

The grounds and outdoor cooking area have been cleaned off by the town, and minor repairs are now being made to the building, with some renovation. No large redecoration job is being planned as yet.

Road Circles Lake
At the municipal lake on the Midland road, the town has built a road completely around the lake, which is expected to open up much of the woods for public use, and provide one of the prettiest of summertime drives.

Jack S. Younts, chairman of the committee in charge, said that the plans call for the building of an outdoor cooking shelter, more sanding of the swimming area, extension of the swimming beach, and the opening up of parking areas before the swimming season begins.

The lake has recently been stocked with fish supplied by the State under the program of the N. C. Wildlife Service.

ART EXHIBIT

An exhibit of paintings by Jane Carter will be shown at the library art gallery starting Monday.

The paintings have been chosen to show the artist's progress from high school days through various influences to present experiments in the abstract. Mrs. Carter has a studio at the Foxhole.

George Leonard Elected President By Library Group

At the annual meeting of the Southern Pines Library association held Monday at the library, George Leonard was elected president of the association for the coming year.

Mr. Leonard, a leader in Cub Scout work, came here from Auburn, N. Y., several years ago and now heads the firm of Pinedene, Inc.

Other officers elected at Monday's meeting were: first vice president, Miss Laura Kelsey; second vice president, Mrs. James Boyd; secretary, Mrs. C. A. Smith; and treasurer, Mr. C. A. Bowman.

Mrs. R. E. Rhodes was elected a trustee to serve for three years on the board which includes: Clyde Council, the retiring president, Mrs. Reid Healy, retiring first vice president, Arch Coleman, A. C. Dawson, Miss Birdilia Bair, Mrs. Wallace Irwin, Mrs. L. T. Avery, Lamont Brown, the Rev. Charles Covell, Dr. Lee House, retiring vice-president, and J. A. Phillips, former treasurer.

The thanks of the board was unanimously tendered to the retiring secretary, Mrs. James B. Swett, for her long and faithful service to the library association. Also honored in a rising vote of thanks was the outgoing president, Clyde Council, for his many extra-official good deeds tendered the library during his two terms of office. Mr. Phillips was thanked for his work as treasurer during the past year.

Highlight of the librarian's report, read by the secretary program, Arch Coleman, was the gain in circulation during Miss Churchill's time in office. Submitted by (Continued on page 8)

Seven Murders On Weighty Calendar For Criminal Term

Melvin Morrison One Of Three Held For Grand Jury

Seven murder cases are calendared for trial in Moore superior court opening Monday at Carthage, the largest number on any calendar in a good many years, or ever.

One case has already been continued twice, two more have been continued once. The chances of getting to many or all of them in the coming term are considered slim, as 123 cases, some of them quite old, are listed for trial or grand jury action.

In view of the unusually heavy docket, District Solicitor M. G. Boyette has said he may have to ask for a special term to be held in the spring, in an attempt to relieve the load.

Three of the murder defendants are in jail and these will have priority over the others for trial.

Of the whole list, probably the greatest interest attaches to the case involving the murder of Louise Dowd McLaughlin, of Southern Pines. Melvin Morrison is being held in jail for grand jury action on the murder charge, but has steadfastly denied knowledge of the crime, and court attaches say he has shown no signs of changing this attitude. If an indictment is reached, as expected, the case will have to be based on circumstantial evidence. Pains-takingly gathered by the Southern Pines police department, this is expected to weave a tight web about Morrison in connection with what is described as one of the most brutal crimes ever perpetrated in Moore county.

Morrison, 31, lover of the widowed Louise McLaughlin, 25, had threatened her life on numerous occasions and she was known to be fearful of him. Suspicion fastened on him when the young woman disappeared from her home November 7, and mounted as evidence was gathered against him. Her brutally beaten body was found buried in a makeshift grave in the woods near Aberdeen November 18.

Two other murder defendants in Moore county face open-and-shut cases as both gave themselves up to the sheriff, admitting the killings, and the only thing to be determined is the degree of the murder charge. One is Clyde Black, 25, who put two bullets through the head of his wife, Marie Wooten Black, 24, as she was preparing breakfast at their home on Carthage Rt. 3 August 25. The shooting occurred before the eyes of the woman's nine-year-old son.

The other jail case is Harvey McNeill, who blasted Eugene Aikens through the stomach at a cafe on the outskirts of Carthage November 27. McNeill claimed Aikens had threatened him. Witnesses said, however, that not a word passed between the two men in advance of the firing.

Only woman defendant on the murder list is Martha Jane Snuggs, 29, who killed her mother with a shotgun as she was attempting to shoot her brother in a family quarrel in front of the home at Addr. The mother, Sally Covington, 48, rushed between the two just as Martha Jane pulled the trigger. The brother, Elco Covington, was not hurt.

Another case of a bullet reaching the wrong victim is that of the murder of James E. Charles, of Vass, rated by all a fine young man and a promising student at Livingstone college, Salisbury. He was shot at Oakland Park, a Negro amusement center near Lakeview, by a bullet from a German Luger automatic in the hands of Robert L. Alston of Southern Pines, to whom young Charles was a complete stranger. Alston was engaged in a scuffle with a soldier, who he claimed had insulted his wife, when the pistol went off.

Also out on bond, now in Lee County hospital as the result of another shooting, is William McGregor, who killed Shelton Blue with a shotgun last July 4 near Cameron as the result of a running feud. The feud has continued as a family affair and McGregor was recently critically wounded by a pistol shot by Shelton Blue's brother James. (Continued on page 5)

Unique Building Soon To Go



Little Old Building Bows To Progress; Western Union Hunting New Home

Old timers in Southern Pines, resigned to the fact that the little old building next to Patch's must make way for progress, were this week recalling the history of the quaint and unique structure.

The building has been condemned as a firetrap, and will be demolished to make way for an addition to Patch's Department store, under an expansion and modernization program announced last week.

Its present occupant, Western Union, reported this week that its search for a new home has so far been in vain. Several possibilities are being explored for the move to take place by February 1 or sooner, according to E. C. McBroom, district supervisor.

The building was constructed about 1907 by Capt. A. M. Clark using cross-ties from the old

Local Police And Sheriff's Office Linked By Radio

A useful addition to the radio network now covering Moore county for law enforcement is the two-way connection installed this week between the Southern Pines police headquarters and the sheriff's office at Carthage.

Financed with law enforcement funds from the Moore County ABC board, it brings Moore up on a par with some of the best-equipped counties of the state.

Since the two departments are on different frequencies, speakers on each one's frequency have been set up in the other office. Messages come in on one frequency and are answered by a telephone set tuned in on the other. They cannot go directly to the radio-equipped cars via this outlet, but, as each headquarters can transmit to its own cars, communication can be very quickly made.

Southern Pines has one radio-equipped car, while, under the Carthage controls, the cars of Sheriff C. J. McDonald and his deputies, also the ABC cars, are covered.

Installation of facilities has also been started at the sheriff's office for direct communication with the State Highway Patrol tower at Wadesboro.

Besides being useful in county law enforcement and the apprehension of law violators of all types, the radio set-up is a vital link in the civil defense program of the State.

Citizens Bank Board Relected

Directors of the Citizens Bank and Trust company of Southern Pines were reelected at the annual stockholders meeting, held at the bank Tuesday. They are John C. Barron, A. L. Burney, Howard F. Burns, N. L. Hodgkins, John M. Howarth and George W. Potte.

In a brief organization meeting after the main meeting, the directors reelected their officers as follows: N. L. Hodgkins, president; C. H. Bowman, vice president and cashier; Norris L. Hodgkins, Jr., vice president; Ethel S. Jones, assistant cashier and secretary.

Town Places Order For New Fire Truck With Fog Equipment

City Limits

People who are for the proposed extension of the city limits in a southerly direction, as well as those who are against it, are asked to attend the public meeting on the matter at 8 o'clock tonight (Friday) at Weaver auditorium, said Mayor C. N. Page.

He said the town board is hoping that enough people will appear to constitute a representative group, large enough to express the will of the people. "A handful of people" will hardly be able to do this, he said, especially if all represent just one side.

Rep. H. Clifton Blue will be present to hear the discussion. He has been asked to introduce a bill in the General Assembly permitting the extension.

Mayor Page said all persons interested are urged to come, and may ask any questions they desire at that time.

A description of the proposed area, as drawn up by the town attorneys was published in last week's Pilot. In the news story, an error was inadvertently made in defining part of the boundary as US Highway 1 instead of as the railroad right of way.

The description, with correction, follows:

The area includes the section south of Indiana Avenue extension to Bethesda road; along Bethesda road to Hill road, thence west toward, and cutting across, the Country Club section to the west boundary of the railroad right of way; thence along the west boundary of the railroad right of way south for a half mile, or to a point one mile south of the city limits; thence west along Pinehurst road, thence to High Road and north to Morganton road, thence to the beginning point.

Included are the Golfcrest subdivision, the Southern Pines Country club and part of the golf course, and Pinedene.

No part of Knollwood, Manly or Weymouth Heights north of Indiana avenue is included.

Phillips Bonded For Grand Jury In Child's Death

Joe Atlas Phillips, young Vass married man, whose car struck and fatally injured an eight-year-old girl December 30, was ordered held for grand jury action by a coroner's jury sitting at Carthage Wednesday night. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Patrolman C. G. Wimberly was the only witness to testify concerning the accident, which occurred on US Highway 1 at Lakeview near the child's home as she and her sister were waiting for a school bus.

Evidence given by the patrolman indicated that Phillips had been driving at a speed in excess of that allowed by law, and thus was unable to stop his car in time when he saw the child run out into the highway.

Coroner Ralph G. Steed presided at the inquest, his third within one week, during which verdicts were rendered in two highway fatalities and one case of murder.

Mrs. Sugg To Be New Librarian

Mrs. Richard L. Sugg has accepted the position of Southern Pines librarian, it was announced this week by Mrs. Dorothy Avery, head of the Moore County library service.

Mrs. Sugg will replace Miss Amy Churchill, librarian for the past four years, who resigned from her position last month.

Mrs. Sugg is a trained librarian, having majored in this service during her college years at William and Mary, from which she graduated in 1937. At that time she came to Southern Pines as librarian in the public school, a position she held until her marriage in 1939. She plans to start her new job February 1 and will spend some time in the intervening weeks familiarizing herself with the library.

Southern Pines voters, who last November voted for a bond issue of \$20,000 for a new fire truck, have a pleasant surprise coming—a fine new American LaFrance truck, most modern of its kind, with high-pressure fog equipment, strictly according to specifications of the volunteer fire department.

What's more, it will cost about \$2,700 less than had been estimated.

The town board in regular session Wednesday night contracted with a representative of the LaFrance company at Elmira, N. Y., for the truck selected by the fire department after a considerable survey.

Assistant Fire Chief Harold Fowler gave details of the vehicle and equipment. Resident Fireman Frank H. Kaylor was present to back him up.

The truck is one with a 750-gallon pumper, 40-foot three-section extension, 300-gallon water tank, 215-hp engine, 220-foot wheel base, with high pressure pump capable of pumping 60 gallons a minute, high pressure hose and fog nozzle.

This truck differs from the "quad combination" truck recommended by state authorities for this size town. However, the differences will not affect the fire rating.

The "quad," it seems, is distinguished mainly by an assortment of ladder types to reach into buildings higher than any Southern Pines has. The 40-foot extension ladder, and others already owned, will do the work here, they said. Other features of the truck make it better adapted to service in this community than the "quad," they declared.

The truck they chose has a cab, for a better ladder mounting, and better protection of the driver in cold weather. It is, of course, a handsome bright red. The cost is \$17,254.80, including certain extra items of equipment the firemen thought important for efficiency. It is deliverable within 150 days.

If the new fire station is not ready by then, it can go into the old one—just barely, the firemen ascertained after a trip back to the station to measure the exit doors. It will have a clearance all round of only about five to seven inches. Or, if the town is readying the new station by then, the truck can be held until wanted.

Town May Cede Millen Park In Swap For Lots

Mrs. Janet Millen Moody made a formal proposition to the town board Wednesday night in regard to the disposition of Millen Park.

Mrs. Moody's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Millen, gave the five-and-a-half-acre wooded tract to the town in November 1929, on certain conditions. One of the conditions was that if the others were not fulfilled, it would be given back.

None of the conditions have been fulfilled, Mrs. Moody pointed out through her counsel, Leland McKeithen, and now she wants it back.

To expedite the delivery, she said she is willing to make a swap, ceding to the town lots which she owns on the west side of the park area, beginning at Hale street, and following along the course of a proposed road as shown on official maps of the section.

This area, she said, she hoped would not be put to commercial uses but kept as a natural boundary, especially if the proposed road is opened.

The conditions on which Mr. and Mrs. Millen gave the park, the original grounds of the old Piney Woods hotel, were that (1) the old Stratford road should be kept open and maintained as a public road; (2) the town maintain surface drainage and keep the stream in proper condition; (3) the town maintain the property as a public park for the exclusive benefit of members of the white race; and (4) in the event (Continued on Page 5)

One Killed, Many Injured In 24-Hour Period Of Fog And Rain On Highways

Four accidents on foggy, rainy highways in Moore county, with-

LITTLE INQUEST

A coroner's jury sitting at Aberdeen Monday night freed Marvin L. Moore, 22, of Fort Bragg on failing to find culpable negligence on his part in the death of Johnny Little of West Southern Pines.

Moore was the driver of the car which struck and fatally injured Little as he was helping to push a car off US Highway 1 after it had given out of gas, early last Saturday morning.

Little was one of a party of seven Negroes who had been riding about during the evening. Three were pushing the car off the highway, and four were inside, when the accident occurred.

Two eye-witnesses, drivers of cars which had passed about that time, testified to the jury that the Negroes' car had had no lights, and was entirely on the highway. Evidence from some of the Negroes themselves was "so confused and conflicting that it was impossible to find out just what had occurred," said Coroner Ralph G. Steed. At least two of the party, it came out, including the man who was killed, had been drinking.

Testimony also varied concerning weather conditions, though the general agreement was that fog and rain had made visibility poor. Evidence of the State Highway Patrol indicated excessive speed, in view of these conditions, on the part of the car which struck Little. This, too, was inconclusive and Moore claimed not to have been exceeding the speed limit.