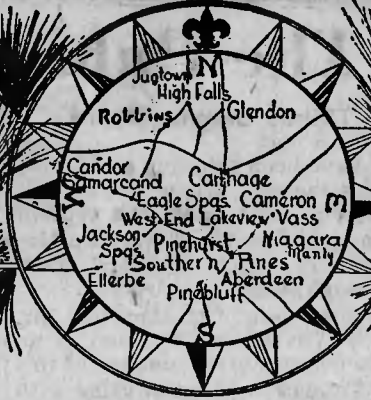


# THE PILOT



ON THE ROYAL FLOAT in the Fourth of July parade at Carthage, the new beauty queen waves to her subjects. She is blonde, blue-eyed Marie Kennedy, 16, of Pinehurst. Seated at her left is Gladys Matthews, runner-up in the beauty contest which was a highlight of the day; at her right, Barbara Myrick, one of the semi-finalists. Both are from Aberdeen. See story on Page 8.

## Sandhill Peach Crop Short But Fruit Sells Well

Although cut heavily in number by the disastrous freeze of April 19, Sandhills peaches of good size and quality are moving to market at favorable prices.

Good peaches this week were bringing around \$2 per bushel to growers when sold in the buyer's container. Beset with rising costs of production, peach growers this year are having to pay 40 cents apiece for baskets, one Sandhills orchard owner said.

The late-ripening Elberta peach predominates in the Sandhills orchards of the West End-Eagle Springs-Candor area. Early ripening varieties, including the new Southland and an early-ripening Elberta, have been selling well, although not many growers have them. Golden Jubilees and Hileys are two early varieties that have been bringing good prices. Georgia Belles are ripening and Elbertas are expected to begin moving next week, with the peak of Elberta shipments reached during the last week of July.

**Freeze Effects Vary**  
Growers estimate that the crop as a whole in the Sandhills is 60 to 75 per cent of normal. The April freeze varied widely in its effects on area orchards, a fact that is strikingly illustrated in reports this week from two well-known West End producers, T. Clyde Auman and J. Hawley Poole.

Mr. Auman, who has mostly Elbertas, said that he has about a normal crop of good quality fruit. Mr. Poole estimates the crop of (Continued on Page 8)

## Posthumous Awards For Gallantry Made To Lt. Dan I. McKeithen, Jr.

### Officer Born In Aberdeen Honored For Korean Actions

A young man who lived in Aberdeen when a small child and who was killed in action in Korea was honored Wednesday in Washington, D. C., by the posthumous presentation of the Silver Star and an oak leaf cluster to the Silver Star for gallantry in battle—the equivalent of two awards of this third highest combat decoration.

Honored was First Lieutenant Dan I. McKeithen, Jr., killed in Korea March 15. Numerous relatives of the young man live in the Sandhills area.

General E. K. Wright, commanding general of the Military District of Columbia, made the presentation to the young man's father, Dan I. McKeithen, of Bethesda, Md., near Washington. Also attending the ceremony, which was held in General Wright's office, were the hero's mother, Mrs. McKeithen, and his sister, Jean McKeithen.

Lieutenant McKeithen, who was graduated from Davidson College, in the class of 1951, spent most of his boyhood in the Tar Heel state, at Aberdeen and Winston-Salem. In 1937 his parents moved to Washington where Mr. McKeithen is a member of the staff of the Home Loan Bank Board. Miss McKeithen is a graduate of the University of North Carolina.

An Army spokesman said that young McKeithen was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership of a patrol assigned to assault enemy positions near Kachil-Li and capture a prisoner for intelligence purposes. The mission was carried out under hostile small arms and mortar fire.

Upon returning to friendly lines, however, Lieutenant McKeithen discovered that one of his men was missing, so he took four volunteers and returned in search of him.

Again encountering enemy forces, McKeithen's party engaged them in an intense fire fight until forced to withdraw when their ammunition grew short. Meanwhile, their encounter had succeeded in diverting the attention of the hostile forces long enough for the missing man to return to his comrades. The encounter took place Nov. 27, 1952, two months after McKeithen had arrived in Korea.

The North Carolina hero earned (Continued on Page 8)

## Tax Rate Set At \$1.35 In Budget Of Moore County

Total Valuation Of Property Runs To \$40,000,000

A tentative Moore County budget approved by the board of commissioners Monday sets the tax rate at \$1.35 per \$100 of property valuation—the same rate as last year.

The budget will lie open for public inspection for 20 days. Formal adoption is expected at the regular meeting of the board Monday, August 3.

Special school taxes will raise the rate in Southern Pines to \$1.83. The 48 extra cents on the Southern Pines rate include 34 cents for the regular school supplement which has been in effect for some time and 14 cents for debt service on bonds issued for the school gymnasium and auditorium.

The new budget, covering the fiscal year July 1, 1953, through June 30, 1954, is based on an estimated property valuation of \$40,000,000. This is a \$3,000,000 increase over last year's estimated valuation.

Actual property valuations usually run above the estimates.

The tax levy is expected to bring in \$538,797, as compared to an estimate of \$498,855 last year.

Of the total tax levy of \$538,797 in the new budget, \$53,881 is estimated as uncollectible, including commissions on collections and taxpayers' discounts, making the actual amount expected from taxes \$484,916.

However, revenue from sources other than the tax levy—principally ABC store profits and fines and forfeitures from recorders court—is estimated at \$587,451. This is \$83,617 less than last year's estimate of \$671,068 for revenue from these sources.

(Continued on page 4)

## Bike Riders Will Get Tape, Advice In Elks Program

In the interest of safety for bicycle riders, the Southern Pines Elks Lodge next week will launch a project designed to acquaint youngsters of the community with traffic regulations and other information that may help them stay out of accidents.

All boys and girls who ride bikes are invited to come to the Foxhole behind Parkway Cleaners on Pennsylvania avenue, between 2 and 4 p. m. Wednesday of next week, July 15.

If enough interest is shown in the program, the Elks plan to continue the safety sessions for the next couple of Wednesday afternoons, in order that all bike riders may have an opportunity to take part.

**To Get Fender Tape**

A strip of red reflective tape will be given each bike rider going to the Foxhole, to be placed on the rear fender as a safety precaution for night riding, it was explained today by Broadus Smith, chairman of the committee for social and community welfare of the Elks Lodge. In addition, each boy or girl will be asked to sign a pledge to obey traffic regulations and observe safety rules.

The committee chairman emphasized that the Elks are not giving the reflective tape as a substitute for legally required bicycle lights, but only as an additional safety measure. The same sort of tape is now applied to the rear bumpers of many automobiles.

The town recreation program and its director, Irie Leonard, are cooperating with the bike safety project, Smith said.

Other members of the Elks committee in charge are L. T. Hall and Joe Montesanti, Jr. Former Mayor Chan Page was influential in adoption of the program by the lodge.

While plans for police participation in the safety project had not been worked out this week, Smith said he hoped that an officer could be present to help explain traffic regulations to the youngsters.



T. E. CUNNINGHAM —Photo Hardee

## Cunningham Accepts City Manager Position, Will Take Over August 3

T. E. Cunningham made definite acceptance, by wire to Mayor L. T. Clark last Friday, of the job of Southern Pines' first city manager. He will assume his new duties Monday, August 3.

Mr. Cunningham has resigned his present position, giving a month's notice, as principal officer of budget and finance in the office of the city manager at Richmond, Va. He spent Saturday

here studying the town set-up with the assistance of Howard F. Burns, former town clerk and treasurer, and inspecting some of the municipal facilities. Since he was also hunting a home, there was not time to see everything but he expressed himself as delighted with what he saw, and with the new position.

He was chosen from a list of 110 applicants, which were screened down to a field of 25 or 30, then narrowed down to four.

The salary of \$6,000 per year which will be paid the new city manager represents no increase over what Mr. Cunningham is making now. However, he said he wants to get back to his native state of North Carolina, and so does his wife, the former Marion Goodrich of Sanford. They have two children, Tommy Junior, aged three, and Tamara Jean, six months old.

Mr. Burns, who has served as acting manager since adoption of the council-manager form in May, with Mrs. Burns left Southern Pines Wednesday for their new home at Lake Wales, Fla. He has accepted the position of city manager at Lake Wales effective July 15.

Appropriation of school building funds is made by the county commissioners. Only that portion allotted to the county school system is administered by the county school board.

**Cameroon Auditorium**

First action in continuing the school building program of the county system with the new funds was to let a general contract to the Holt Construction company of Graham to build an auditorium at Cameroon school at a cost of \$74,823.91. This amount will not complete the building, but an additional \$9,276 is expected to come out of the following year's budget.

Contracts for \$112,788.90 were let for the construction of a physical education building at Robbins.

The general contract went to T. E. Saunders of Troy. A total of some \$46,958 was omitted from the Robbins building until another (Continued on page 8)

## Rotary Club To Install Officers

New officers of the Southern Pines Rotary club will be installed at the club's regular luncheon meeting today (Friday) at the Village Inn.

Rev. Charles V. Covell will take over the office of president from Russell Lorenson who, according to Rotary custom, becomes the new vice-president. Johnnie A. Hall is the new secretary and treasurer.

The new officers were elected in February. They will serve for the coming year.

## Town's Tribute Precedes Burns To Florida Post

### Good Sendoff Given Longtime Town Employee

Howard F. Burns, town clerk and treasurer of Southern Pines for 27 and a half years, left Wednesday morning with Mrs. Burns for their new home at Lake Wales, Fla., where he will become city manager July 15.

He was preceded there by a letter to the mayor and town council of Lake Wales, informing them of this community's high regard for him and appreciation of his long service.

Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock, he was visited by a special committee appointed by Mayor L. T. Clark, to thank him for his good work here and bid him godspeed.

The committee, composed of Former Mayor C. N. Page and Councilmen Voit Gilmore and W. E. Blue, presented him with a purse made up by private subscription among his well-wishers, also a copy of a letter which was on its way to Lake Wales.

The letter follows:

Honorable Mayor  
Honorable Members of City Council  
Lake Wales, Florida

Gentlemen: By special resolution of the Town Council of Southern Pines, the undersigned special committee was created to extend to Mr. Howard F. Burns the best good wishes of our town as he begins his career in Lake Wales and at the same time to convey to your honorable council the sentiments of our fellow townspeople regarding Mr. Burns.

Over his many years of faithful service here, Mr. Burns has formed many firm and lasting friendships. He has given his utmost to our community and the stamp of his work is on our town institutions for all time to come.

We salute him for his many contributions to the welfare and happiness of Southern Pines and we bid him Godspeed in his work in Lake Wales.

Our local newspaper, the "Pilot," has mirrored the sentiments of our townspeople in connection with Mr. Burns' departure for Lake Wales. We would like to quote a portion of its editorial dated July 3:

The employment of Howard F. Burns, former town clerk and acting city manager, as city manager of Lake Wales, Florida, is a vindication, if he needed any, of his own capabilities and worth.

Southern Pines has used these capabilities to good advantage for 27 years, and, as Mr. Burns learned city management through his operations here, the town grew and progressed—thanks, in large measure, to his diligent efforts on many fronts.

Kept here by his love of Southern Pines despite numerous other good jobs offered (Continued on Page 8)

## Wild Ponies From N. C. Outer Banks Now In Sandhills

Four Sandhills residents—Howard Butler and son, Dan, Dr. C. C. McLean and J. T. Overton took part July 4 in one of the famous "pony penning" on North Carolina's "outer banks," bringing four of the little animals home with them as curiosities and—if the beasts allow themselves to become civilized—as pet riding ponies.

Three of the animals are now at the Overton farm near Bethesda road. The fourth was taken by a business associate of Mr. Butler in Sanford. All four were transported to the Sandhills by pickup truck after purchase from their owners following the round-up on one of the outer banks islands near Drum's Inlet.

The Sandhills visitors took part in the penning which took all day. They stayed at Harker's Island and went to the ponies' island by boat.

## Paintings, Lithographs By Mrs. Kent In First Summer Art Exhibit Here

Southern Pines, noted for its spring series of art exhibits, will have its first summer one starting Monday, and continuing for a month, at the library gallery.

Tempera paintings and lithographs by Whitney Thoenen Kent will be shown, according to an announcement by Jane Carter, exhibit chairman for the coming season.

The drawings and lithographs, done in imaginative and individual style, are illustrations for a children's book about Afghanistan, done from sketches made by Mrs. Kent while with her husband, Col. E. F. Kent, on a tour of duty there. Heroine of the story is the little daughter of a nomad family, who receives a pair of red shoes with turned-up green toes. They lead her into many adventures in the Afghan land.

Mrs. Kent recently took over the instructorship of the art group of the Fort Bragg Officers Wives club, previously taught by Emily Forrest and Jane Carter of South-

ern Pines. Her husband is Judge Advocate of the XVIII Airborne Corps and they live on the post.

She is an accomplished artist with a wealth of first-rate training and experience. She studied art at the Corcoran School while a student in Washington, D. C., then at George Washington university and Pratt Institute. She taught art in Wisconsin and at George Washington U. and had her own school at Evanston, Ill. She worked as commercial artist on the Washington Times Herald.

She has exhibited at the Georgetown Galleries, Georgetown, D. C., and in several mid-western cities. One of her paintings was selected, along with 58 other outstanding artists, in the third annual exhibit of Women Painters of America at Wichita, Kansas. She was married to Colonel Kent in 1946 and shortly thereafter journeyed with him to far-off Afghanistan, to remain for two years. There she received much fresh inspiration for her brush and crayon, vividly shown in the forthcoming display.

## Explorer Scouts Crossing Nation To Big Jamboree

Six Moore county Explorer Scouts have been traveling across the continent during the past week with a large group of other Scouts from Oconeechee Council, en route to the National Explorer Scout camp at Philmont, N. M., and the National Scout Jamboree at Santa Ana, Calif.

Making the trip from this county are: Jimmie McDonald and John Chappell of Southern Pines; Bobby Barrett, Charles Garrison and Charles Swaringen of Pinehurst; and Garland Key of Robbins.

The boys left Raleigh on a chartered bus July 1, planning a number of stopovers at points of interest. After visiting the New Mexico camp they will attend the National Jamboree July 17-26.

Bill McLaurin, Moore district chairman of Scouting and activities, and a Robbins Scoutmaster, is making the trip with the Moore county boys.