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Long 3-Day Holiday To Be Enjoyed

Most Businesses, Offices To Close Friday To Monday

A long Christmas weekend holiday is in prospect for most residents of Southern Pines and this area. With Christmas Day falling on Friday, most business firms and offices throughout the area will remain closed until Monday.

The Citizens Bank and Trust Company here will remain open from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. Christmas Eve (Thursday) for the convenience of merchants in making deposits. The bank will be closed Friday and Saturday, a schedule to be followed also by other banks in the county.

Banks here and elsewhere will also be closed Friday of next week, New Year's Day.

The post office, probably the busiest place in town this week with incoming and outgoing Christmas mail, will deliver packages on Christmas Eve and all day Christmas, but there will be no regular city mail delivery Christmas Day. Postal employees have been granted a half-day holiday Thursday, but the parcel post window will remain open until 6 p. m. and the office will operate with substitutes and a skeleton staff, said Postmaster Garland Pierce. There will be no distribution of mail to boxes on Christmas Day, but outgoing dispatches will be made as usual—something new this year. Saturday hours at the post office will be 8 a. m. to 1 p. m. Carriers, who made an extra delivery Sunday, expect to make double deliveries Thursday.

The Southern Pines and Moore County libraries will be closed Friday and Saturday, but will be open to 5 o'clock Christmas Eve (Thursday).

As told in detail elsewhere in today's Pilot, the courthouse at Carthage will close at noon, Thursday, until the following Monday.

Southern Pines town offices at town hall will close at noon Thursday, not to reopen until Monday, City Manager Tom E. Cunningham, said. Emergency calls should go to the police department in town hall, which stays open 24 hours per day regardless of holidays, or to the water department on the Carthage highway.

Town employees are receiving a Christmas bonus, Mr. Cunningham said, as authorized by the town council. Salaried employees received their bonus last week. Wage workers will get theirs when they are paid off for the week Thursday.

The Pilot is being printed 24 hours ahead of its usual schedule and the Pilot office will be closed Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Although this week's paper is dated Friday, as usual, a number of stories refer, as in the future, to events that will take place Thursday, possibly confusing a reader who does not bear in mind the early publication date.

Special Christmas services were held Sunday at three local churches—the First Baptist Church, Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Church of Wide Fellowship. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at St. Anthony's Catholic Church and Emmanuel Episcopal Church are announced elsewhere in today's paper.

COURTHOUSE CLOSING

The county courthouse at Carthage will be closed from noon, Thursday, until Monday, for the Christmas holidays. The courthouse will also be closed on Friday of next week, New Year's Day. Records court will be held as usual Monday, December 28. County officers and employees enjoyed an informal Christmas party at the courthouse late Wednesday afternoon.



Work To Begin Dec. 31 On First Unit Of New \$250,000 High School

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Glen Rounds's vigorous dogs, pacing intently toward an important destination, could be symbolic of The Pilot's holiday best wishes going out to our readers. To all of you from everyone at The Pilot—a Merry Christmas!

Women Voters To Make Survey Of Town Government

The League of Women Voters of Southern Pines announces that its first project, a survey of the town government, is now under way. Mrs. C. A. Smith, president of the local unit, says that in accordance with the national policy of the League, this will be a factual survey of areas covered and how the local government operates and will not comment on how the present regime is operating.

C. Of C. Electing Eight Directors In Vote By Mail

Election of eight new directors for the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce is under way by mail, to be completed by Tuesday, January 5, when the board will hold its first meeting of the new year.

Tates Building One-Mile Track On Midland Road

A one-mile flat training track for their horses, now under construction at Starland Stables on Midland Road by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd P. Tate, will probably be completed in about a week, Mr. Tate said Tuesday.

58 Baskets For Needy Prepared

Fifty-eight bushel baskets, full to overflowing with food packages, were to be delivered to needy families in the Southern Pines area by members of the John Boyd Post Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wednesday evening.

Jones To Leave Police Position

Resignation of W. Graham Jones, assistant chief of police, was announced today by Chief C. E. Newton, effective December 28. Jones said in his letter of resignation that he was leaving to take a job that would require fewer hours on duty. It is understood he will go to the Sanford police department which has an eight-hour shift for officers. Local officers have a 12-hour shift.

Alumni - School Basketball Game Set December 30

Date for the High School-Alumni game has been set for Wednesday night, December 30.

This game, played annually during the Christmas holidays, continues a tradition started back in the '20's with the college basketball set mangling with the High School basketball players. The games are intense, at times bitter, and withal some of the best basketball of the year will be played this coming Wednesday night. Fans and spectators know that and turn out in droves. So do the parents of participants involved, and so do the college and younger set. And so do party planners who have long since learned not to plan a party the night of the "Game" if they wish their party to be a success.

This year's game looks to be the best from the basketball fans' viewpoint in years. The Alumni boys' line-up will be the most formidable in years, Superintendent Dawson, in keeping with the tradition of having a faculty manager for the Alumni team, has stars in depth for every position.

Assisted by Alumni Captain Gary Mattocks, Dawson will have no headaches from finding a starting team or a finishing one for that matter.

Coach Dub Leonard for the High School teams hasn't the problem of stars running out of his ears. On the other hand the High School boys' and girls' teams will have the advantage of better teamwork and coordination. After a slow start and loss to Red Springs High, the Blue Knights have improved in every game, but still are an unknown quantity. In years past the Alumni game has been the proving ground for the

Tax List Takers Are Appointed

List takers for Moore county, to head the annual task of listing taxes during the month of January, have been appointed by the county commissioners for each of the townships as follows: Carthage, Mrs. R. W. Pleasants; Bensalem, Mrs. Nina C. Monroe; Sheffield, W. A. McLeod; Rittler, A. L. Poe; Deep River, James M. Campbell; Greenwood, J. A. Shaw; McNeill, Mrs. D. J. Blue; Sandhill, Mrs. Adelaide Schnell; Mineral Springs, Edwin B. Black.

Council Enacts Sewer Service Charge Affecting All Users Of Town System

A major step toward streamlining Southern Pines' antiquated tax structure, in accord with approved practices aimed at municipal solvency, was effected by an ordinance passed Tuesday afternoon adding sewer service charges to water bills.

The charge will be equal to half the water bill for in-town users with sewer service and the full amount of the water bill for out-of-town users of the sewer system.

It will in effect transfer the cost of operating the sewage system to those using this facility, in proportion to their use—a load hitherto borne mostly by ad valorem taxes collected within the city limits.

It will pave the way for a proposed reduction in property taxes of slightly less than 20 per cent. City Manager Tom E. Cunningham told the town council, holding their special meeting at the City Hall, that he plans to recommend a reduction of 40 cents per \$100 valuation, bringing the rate down from \$2.20 to \$1.80, when he presents his budget to the council in May.

The new service charge goes into effect January 1, 1954, appearing first on water bills to be sent out April 1 for the first quarter.

Mr. Wicker 'Only Mildly Interested'

R. E. Wicker of Pinehurst said this week he is "only mildly interested" in the assertion of Ernest Parsons of Troy that the plantation where Flora and Allan Macdonald lived, in what is now Montgomery County, some three and a half miles from where Parsons says it really was.

"If anyone can change the location according to the type of evidence we used, let's move it," Mr. Wicker said. "But I am only mildly interested in another story about Flora Macdonald, without documentary evidence."

Flora Macdonald Home Discovery Disputed

R. E. Wicker of Pinehurst said this week he is "only mildly interested" in the assertion of Ernest Parsons of Troy that the plantation where Flora and Allan Macdonald lived, in what is now Montgomery County, some three and a half miles from where Parsons says it really was.

Following announcement of this discovery, which was first published in The Pilot three weeks ago, Mr. Parsons stated at Troy, in a news item widely circulated throughout the state, that the homeste Mr. Wicker and his group were seeking is not where they say it is, but is about five miles north of Pekin crossroads on Macdonald Creek which empties into Cheek's Creek one mile to the west.

Mr. Parsons said that his great-grandfather was born there in the Flora Macdonald house. He said he would be glad to act as a guide to show the Wicker group the exact spot.

Mr. Wicker made it clear this week, when questioned by The Pilot, that he does not want to get into a controversy about the Flora Macdonald home site.

"We have collected evidence from all over the state to support our choice of the site we found," he said, "and I think we have it all. We've searched every possible source."

The Pinehurst historian revealed something of the extent of that search when he related how he first became interested in the Flora Macdonald home site in 1915 when he went with Ralph Page to Richmond County where W. R. Coppedge, superintendent of schools at that time, had collected affidavits from old people placing the site on Mountain Creek in Richmond County, supporting the contention of the lawyer, James

Mr. Parsons said that his great-grandfather was born there in the Flora Macdonald house. He said he would be glad to act as a guide to show the Wicker group the exact spot.