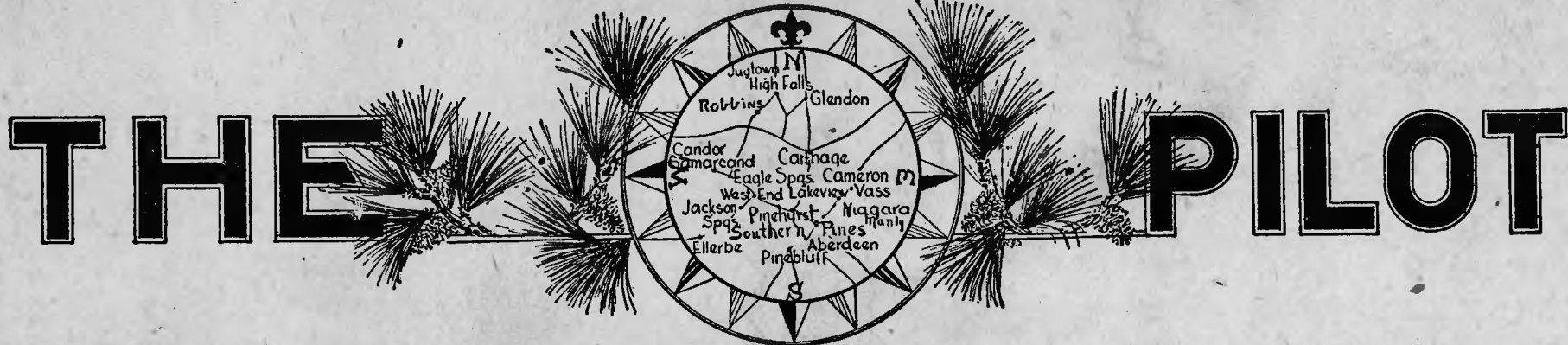


Merry Christmas



VOL. 36—NO. 5

TWENTY PAGES

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1954

TWENTY PAGES

PRICE—TEN CENTS

Survey For By-Pass Is Completed

Map of Route To Be Posted Soon In Moore Courthouse

Surveys for the No. 1 highway by-pass here have been completed and a map showing the exact route of the new highway will be posted at the court house in Carthage in a few days, Eighth Division Highway Commissioner Forrest Lockey of Aberdeen said this week.

Required by law, posting of the map means that any objections to the route must be made to the Highway Commission within 30 days from the time the map is put on public display.

Owners of local property adjoining the route have all been notified and it is understood that some adjustments in the route have been made after discussions between highway officials and property owners. The map to be posted at Carthage, it is understood, represents an adjusted route and it is unlikely that protests will be made, judging from information reaching The Pilot.

While not commenting on this aspect of the matter, Commissioner Lockey said that highway officials think the route is most satisfactory from an engineering point of view. He expressed confidence that the change would be of great benefit to Southern Pines and the entire Sandhills area, because the travelling public seeks out and uses well engineered modern highways in which municipal bottlenecks have been eliminated.

The by-pass project is, part of a long-range improvement program for No. 1 highway throughout the state.

As previously noted in The Pilot, the by-pass route, roughly described, leaves the present No. 1 highway, on the north, between Manly and "Skyline" and will cross Midland Road under an overpass, with cloverleaf intersection, near the former city limits, before annexation of Knollwood—the intersection also involving access to the "cutoff road" from Midland Road to Manly.

Along McDeed's Creek

The by-pass runs southward roughly along the course of McDeed's Creek which is the stream that divides East and West Southern Pines. Pennsylvania Ave. will cross the by-pass on an overpass with access also given here by a cloverleaf intersection. Continuing southward, the route follows Saylor St., which is now only partially opened up in the south end of town, passing west of Memorial Field near the W. E. Hughes residence and thence southward east of and close to Mount Hope Cemetery, to intersect with the present No. 1 again just north of the Fairway and Charlton Court motor courts. The route will require removal of the old Sugg residence near the point of intersection.

(Continued on Page 8)

CHRISTMAS BEAUTY

Once again, as every year at this time, the Library Gallery celebrates the coming of Christmas with a special exhibit.

On the walls of the little room, decorated with the lovely greenery of the Sandhills, are hung reproductions of great works of art telling the Christmas message.

There are Della Robbia plaques, statuettes of the Virgin, one of these in wood, elaborately carved and painted, the work of Mexican craftsmen. The creche, with its representation of the Holy Family, the kings and the shepherds and overhead and all around, the little brightly dressed angels, came from Czechoslovakia.



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS NIGHT, as depicted above in a lighted panoramic display, is drawing many visitors each night to the town park. The scene, showing the Wise Men journeying to Bethlehem by the light of the Christmas Star, is the work of Capt. John C. Tullett of the USAF Air-Ground Operations School, who painted and erected it for the Chamber of Commerce. The lifesize figures are on five panels

set in depth, for a vivid 3-dimensional effect. They cover an area approximately 38 feet wide by 32 feet deep, framed by palm trees 20 feet tall. The panorama is part of the Chamber's project of more beautiful Christmas lighting of the town this year. Mrs. Jean Edson was chairman of the project for the Chamber and also for the "Finer Carolina" program.

(Photo by V. Nicholson)

Private, Public Decorations Add To Holiday Scene

More festively decorated downtown than in many a Christmas, Southern Pines is also showing the holiday spirit in numerous displays on side streets and in residential areas.

A journey around town after dark is rewarded by many sights of beauty and charm, showing that many persons have taken an interest in Christmas decorations.

Without attempting to make a complete list, The Pilot has noted: Downtown: the traditional Christmas lighting on Broad Street, supplemented by many small trees put out by the merchants, also by the giant Christmas tree at Pennsylvania Avenue and Broad illuminated by the Southern Pines Garden Club.

The Scriptural scene of Wise Men guided toward Bethlehem by a Star, painted for the Chamber of Commerce by Capt. John C. Tullett of the Air-Ground School and erected on the town park.

West Southern Pines' first community tree, a living tree with many lights on The Point at the end of West Pennsylvania Ave.

(Continued on Page 8)

ELKS PARTY

As The Pilot went to press Wednesday afternoon, the Southern Pines Elks lodge was holding its 9th annual Christmas party for children, with all youngsters in this area invited, at the Country Club. A tree, Santa Claus and gifts for all are features of the entertainment.

A special treasure among treasures of this Christmas celebration at the Gallery is an old Italian painting lent by Miss Polly Dix of East Massachusetts Avenue. Charming, framed in dull gilt, the canvas has the shadowed beauty of the old masters.

The Christmas exhibit, not really an exhibit, is an expression of the meaning of this anniversary and its significance to man down through the ages. It will remain in place through the holidays, a quiet place, in the midst of the town yet apart from the busy streets, a place where peace lingers, and beauty glows, as the Christmas Rose bloomed in Bethlehem, "when halfspent was the night."

BIDS OPENED

Bids were to be opened Wednesday afternoon by the Southern Pines school district trustees on the "Phase B" portion of Southern Pines High School and also on an elementary school unit at West Southern Pines, to contain four classrooms as the first unit of a larger new elementary school building there. In connection with this structure, bids were asked on a heating plant that will serve the entire completed new elementary school.

The completed Phase A High School building, which is now in use, was the first portion of a structure expected to cost in all about \$250,000. Heating plant for the entire building has already been installed in the Phase A part, the total cost of which was \$126,644.

The Phase B structure is planned to run 191 feet parallel to May St., adjoining the Phase A unit on the north. Both buildings have a modified Colonial design and are of brick construction.

Leslie N. Boney of Wilmington is the architect.

Masonic Groups Elect Officers, Set Supper Meet

The four Masonic bodies of the area which have their headquarters at the Southern Pines Masonic Temple are in the midst of their annual round of elections and installation of officers for 1955-56.

Installed Monday night were officers of Southern Pines Lodge No. 484, AF & AM, who were elected December 6. These were: Alden G. Bower, master; James I. Lawson, Jr., senior warden; C. Robert McCormac, junior warden; Ralph L. Chandler, treasurer; L. L. Woolley, secretary; L. D. Jones, senior deacon; Edwin L. Finch, Vass Route 2, junior deacon; John A. McRae, Vass, and Edgar B. McDonald, stewards.

A large supper meeting is being planned by all four bodies for Monday evening, January 10, when other officers will be installed as follows (all of Southern Pines unless otherwise noted):

Southern Pines Chapter No. 61, (Continued on Page 8)

Hospital Fund Application Is Well Received

'No Adverse Action' By Commission, But Checking Necessary

In its meeting at Raleigh Friday the N. C. Medical Care Commission "took no adverse action" on Moore County Hospital's application for state-federal hospital improvement funds that would provide about two-thirds the cost of a \$300,000 proposed construction and alteration program at the hospital.

The words quoted were those of a Commission member with whom he had talked on the telephone, said Thomas R. Howerton, hospital administrator. He was expecting a letter with more details that had not arrived Wednesday morning.

Also mentioned in the telephone conversation, said the administrator, was the fact that a few technicalities in the Moore County Hospital proposal have to be taken up with the U. S. Public Health Service in Washington, D. C., where final approval of the allocation would be made.

Howerton said he was encouraged by the report and is optimistic on final approval.

The application was made after a gift of \$50,000 by Mr. and Mrs. H. Arnold Jackson of Pinehurst which, it is hoped, will be matched with \$50,000 in funds solicited in a general drive that is already beginning, thus providing approximately a third of the needed total amount.

Dawson Confers With Governor

A. C. Dawson, local school superintendent, with A. B. Gibson of Laurinburg and Charles McCrary of Asheboro, had a 40-minute conference with Gov. Luther H. Hodges at Raleigh Tuesday. They discussed the United Forces for Education legislative program to be put before the 1955 General Assembly, Supt. Dawson said.

The local man and Gibson, Laurinburg school superintendent, are co-chairmen of the legislative committee of the North Carolina Education Association. McCrary is state chairman of the United Forces for Education, an organization composed of a number of state-wide civic, farm and women's groups.

Community Preparing For Two-Day Holiday

Post Office Holiday Mail Reaches Peak

ALUMNI GAME

The Christmas vacation basketball games between Southern Pines school and alumni players—which have been run off for the past 25 years or more—will take place at the school gymnasium Thursday night of next week, December 30. There will be both boys' and girls' contests.

Supt. A. C. Dawson is again expected to coach the alumni players, while W. A. Leonard, regular basketball mentor, will direct his boys' and girls' teams.

Game time will be 7:30 p.m. Further details will appear in next week's Pilot.

80 Baskets For Needy Prepared, Setting Record

Setting a record of local Christmas giving to the needy, 80 bushel baskets of food and gifts were packed and ready at the post office of John Boyd Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, for delivery to families of this area Thursday evening.

While the baskets contained largely food items, there were many with toys for families with children, said Fred Hall, chairman of the Christmas basket program for the sponsoring VFW.

Delivery will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, a day earlier than the baskets have been distributed in previous years. Warrant Officer Lennox Forsyth of the local National Guard unit is supplying two trucks, with drivers, to help in the distribution.

Also assisting are members of a newly formed Negro VFW post in West Southern Pines who met with the John Boyd post committee Tuesday night and offered full cooperation. Their assistance in locating families to get baskets in West Southern Pines will be invaluable, Hall said.

Best response ever received was given with food gifts collected in barrels placed in grocery stores, the chairman stated.

Over 300 cans of food and other items were received from the "White Christmas" program at Southern Pines Schools last Friday. Gifts brought to school by elementary and high school students were turned over to the VFW for distribution in the baskets.

Also contributing to and assisting with the program, said Hall, were the BPO Does and the Junior Woman's Club.

Hall expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the post, for all contributions and assistance of whatever nature. He added that cash contributions, to help defray the cost of the expanded program this year, are still welcome.

N. L. Hodgkins Is Reported Improved

The condition of Norris L. Hodgkins, president of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company, was reported much improved Wednesday, by his son, Norris L. Hodgkins, Jr.

Mr. Hodgkins has been a patient at Moore County Hospital since Friday morning when he was taken from his home to the hospital by ambulance after suffering a heart attack, according to information from his son.

PRIVATE FUNERAL

Private graveside funeral services for Heman Gifford, 75, former Pinehurst winter resident who died Sunday at Millbrook, N. Y., were conducted Wednesday afternoon, it was learned by The Pilot after an obituary appearing on page 20 had been written. Funeral plans were not known here when the obituary was written.

Christmas in Southern Pines and this area will find most persons enjoying a two-day holiday Saturday and Sunday.

Businesses and offices in Southern Pines will close Saturday but most will reopen Monday.

The Citizens Bank and Trust Co. will be closed Saturday and also Monday. The bank will be open from 7:30 to 8:30 Friday night, Christmas Eve, to receive deposits from merchants.

The post office, which has handled a record volume of Christmas mail, will operate on normal schedule Thursday and Friday. Windows will be closed on Christmas Day and mail will not be distributed to boxes. There will be no city delivery except that Christmas packages, perishables and special delivery mail will be delivered to homes by truck until 5 p. m. Outgoing mail will be dispatched as usual. The post office will be open as usual on Monday.

The Southern Pines Library will be closed Christmas Day and also on Monday. It will be open to 5 p. m. Friday.

The town office will close at noon Friday, said City Manager Tom E. Cunningham, and all town employees except police and necessary maintenance personnel will have Friday afternoon off. The town office will be open as usual on Monday.

Church Services

Christmas Eve church services will be held at the First Baptist Church at 8 p. m. and at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, at 11:30 p. m. and mass will be sung at St. Anthony's Catholic Church at midnight.

Christmas Day services include Holy Communion at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 8 a. m. and 11 a. m., the latter service preceded by a special ante-Communion service in which the junior choir will take part. At St. Anthony's Catholic church mass will be held at 8, 9, 10 and 11 a. m.

The courthouse in Carthage will close at noon, Friday, and will remain closed until Tuesday morning. There will be no session of recorders court Monday; the next session of the court is scheduled for Friday, December 31.

Record Volume

Postmaster Garland Pierce said that more than 20,000 pieces of mail and 1,000 packages were dispatched at the post office on Monday of this week alone. December cancellations are running 16,000 ahead of this time last year.

A truck is working until 10 or 11 p. m. nightly delivering Christmas packages. As the activity at post office windows slackened off this week, clerks were pressed into service as city delivery carriers, to help distribute the tremendous volume of incoming mail.

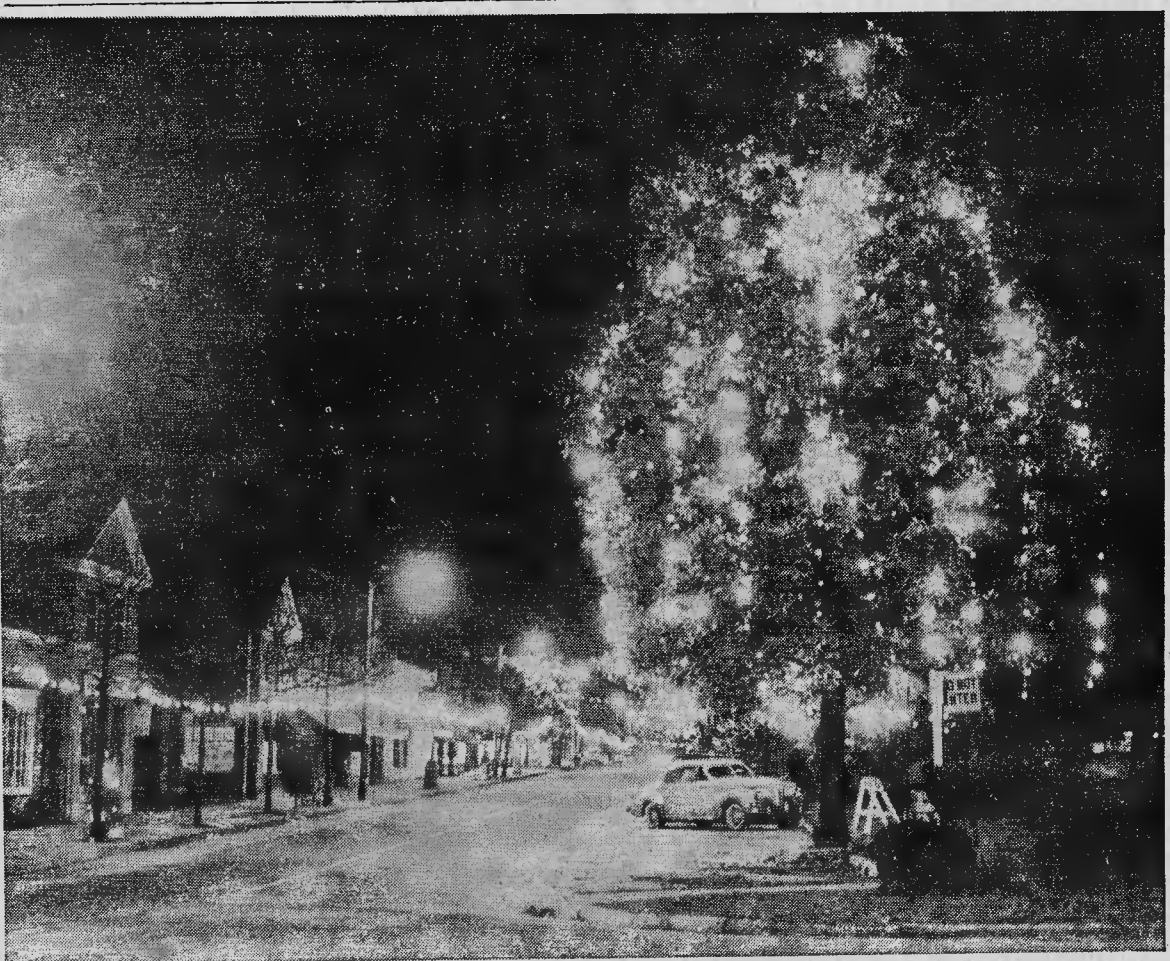
No extra help was authorized for the post office this year.

CAROLERS

Young people and youth groups from all the churches in Southern Pines will meet at the Baptist Church at 7 p. m. Thursday night, December 23, and go out in groups to sing carols.

All who are interested in having these young people sing to them, are asked to place a candle in a window as a sign and they will be glad to stop at those homes where candles are displayed.

After the caroling, they will reassemble at the Church of Wide Fellowship, where they will be served hot chocolate.



HOLIDAY SCENE—A large magnolia lighted by the Southern Pines Garden Club at the corner of Broad St. and Pennsylvania Ave., dominates the colorful Christmas decorations in downtown Southern Pines. Lights strung by the

Chamber of Commerce, with the town cooperating in payment of the electric bill, as well as the small curbside trees that were placed in flagpole holders along Broad St., can be seen at the left.

(Photo by Humphrey)