

SLOW DOWN AND
LIVE! HELP STOP
HIGHWAY DEATHS

THE PILOT

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EIGHTEEN PAGES

SOUTHERN PINES, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1955

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PRICE TEN CENTS

Shoplifter Ring Believed Smashed By Moore Arrests

Group Filches Goods Worth \$170 At Vass Store; All In Jail

A bold and clever ring of shoplifters—replete with aliases, slick methods and a leader boasting the colorful nickname "Black Diamond"—has been broken up with the arrest in Moore County of three Negro men and three Negro women. All are held under heavy bonds in the jail at Carthage.

Extensive and wide-ranging in its operations, the ring had been disposing of stolen property in Durham "for months," according to Detective Captain W. E. Gates of that city's police department who came to Carthage after apprehension of the gang Saturday. Clothing believed to have been stolen by the group had been disposed of in Durham pawn shops, stripped of all identifying marks, but police there who had the gang under surveillance had before been unable to obtain proof of their illegal activities.

So familiar were Durham officers with the men and women arrested in Moore County that, from false names given here by those arrested, their true identity was established a few minutes after a call to Durham by the sheriff's department.

Five of the six were arrested Saturday by Highway Patrolman E. A. Hight when caught red-handed with \$170 worth of clothing lifted less than an hour previously from the ladies' dress shop of Mrs. Bertie Stewart at Vass. In their car also were found 17 men's suits later identified as taken from Belk's and possibly other Sanford stores, adding a new set of charges the gang has to face in Lee County, as well as those for which they were arrested.

(Continued on page 12)

Tennis Tourney Finals May Be Delayed By Rain

Thursday will be a big night—weather permitting—in the Moore County Closed Tennis Championships, which have been proceeding slowly on account of rain.

Showers Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night have delayed the schedule but there are still hopes that the finals can be held Friday night. Some of them may have to go over until Saturday, said Harry Lee Brown, Jr., tournament chairman.

Entries included 16 for men's singles (including two girls), 16 for women's singles, eight men's doubles teams and eight mixed doubles teams. There were no entries in women's doubles.

This is the seventh annual Moore County Closed tournament, sponsored each June since 1949 by the Sandhill Tennis association.

As of this morning, only one finalist had emerged—Kenneth Tew, who defeated Harry Lee Brown, Jr., 6-2, 1-6, 6-1, and will meet the winner of a match between...

ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS

June 16 Games			
USAFAGOS 15, Col. Furn. 3			
Holiday's 22, Jokers 11			
June 21 Games			
Jokers 17, CP&L 5			
Laymen 21, Lions 9			
STANDINGS			
Team	W.	L.	
USAF Air-Ground School	2	0	
N.C. Catholic Laymen	2	0	
Holiday's Chicks	1	0	
Hill Top Jokers	1	1	
Colonial Furniture	0	1	
Carolina Power & Light	0	2	
So. Pines Lions Club	0	2	

COMING GAMES			
Tonight, June 23			
7:30—Holiday's vs USAFAGOS			
9:30—Col. Furn. vs. Lions			
Tuesday, June 28			
7:30—USAFAGOS vs Jokers			
9:30—Holiday's vs CP&L			



AT ARMORY SITE—Major Gen. Claude Bowers, commanding general of North Carolina's 30th Infantry Division, is shown (center, with glasses) conferring with National Guard officers and local officials at the proposed site for the Southern Pines armory. With General Bowers, from left to right, are Major Paul Dickson, tank battalion S-3; Captain William Staton and Captain Roger Hall, of the division staff; Lt. Col. Clarence Shimer, division administrative officer; Lt. Col. William Lamont, battalion commander, General Bowers, Mayor Voit Gilmore of South-

Armory Fund Request Rejected

Hopes for a new armory for the local National Guard tank company were upset by the announcement today the Moore County Board of Commissioners is unable to grant the request for local matching funds. Capt. W. J. Wilson, local unit commander, said he had received word from the county commissioners that while they were all very much interested in the proposed armory, they had been unable to find the money to insure the construction of the new building. The commissioners met at Carthage Wednesday in a special budget session.

Local National Guard officers had asked for \$7,500, in accordance with the armory appropriation bill enacted by the General Assembly. After the original request was submitted, it was found that the State Armory Commission would require a total of \$10,000 as the local contribution to the \$100,000 project.

(Gordon Cameron, chairman of the county commissioners, explained that the lateness of the request, coupled with an unusual large school construction budget already tentatively approved, had made it necessary to turn down the armory project. Mr. Cameron told the local Guard officers that although it was not possible to appropriate any funds for armory construction this year, each of the commissioners had expressed his enthusiasm for the project, and felt that a request for funds would certainly be considered favorably next year.

PILOT EDITOR OVERSEAS

Letter From The Netherlands

(Mrs. James Boyd, editor of The Pilot, recently flew to the Netherlands. Her impressions of the nation and some interesting experiences there are related in the following letter.)

Holland looks just like Holland. That's the first thing you think. As you fly in over the flat fields, there are the straight canals crossing the land in every direction, cutting it into squares and oblongs, as the hedgerows do the gentle English countryside and the highways do our own wide spaces.

And, when, later, you drive down the straight roads, there are the dark red-brown villages, their gabled houses clustered on the skyline, with, here and there, the windmills lazily turning.

Holland seems at least half water when you fly over it. Our Convar made the crossing from England in an hour and twenty minutes. Most of it above a heavy layer of clouds so that we didn't even know when we were over the Channel. I had hoped to get a glimpse of the Norfolk country side that Tom Howerton and I have often talked about. He was there during the war and that's where I went three years ago. And I'd hoped perhaps to see Dunkirk and the tragic beaches of that coast; though, actually I think our flight was too far North for that. But we saw nothing at all until we started down through the clouds. When we came out, there was that flat green land, all crisscrossed and dotted with water, with the sea running in, in long estuaries and bays, the whole thing seeming almost under water already. And so dangerously vulnerable.

We came in over Amsterdam. The town looked like one of those paper cut-out toy towns, all so neat and trim and everything

Council Appoints 7-Member Group To Launch Promotion For College

Tentative Offer Boyd Land Told

The town council concluded an informal conference on town planning Wednesday afternoon, held in connection with a proposed public works program, with the appointment of a "nucleus" committee to initiate the community effort in the Presbyterian College merger.

Information that the Synod will in July receive a recommendation to consolidate three educational institutions, and seek a new site for the four-year co-educational college which would result, has stirred much interest and a desire for action to induce the college to locate here. Nominations for the committee were made from lists prepared by Voit Gilmore and other councilmen, also from the floor. The list grew rather large until a suggestion of Councilman Walter E. Blue was unanimously approved that only seven persons be named at first, to form a small working group which can be expanded later as the need is seen.

Burney Chairman
A. L. Burney was appointed chairman, with Voit Gilmore, W. E. Blue, Harry K. Smyth, W. L. A. Blue, and other councilmen.

MAYOR TO SPEAK

Mayor Voit Gilmore will discuss "all that is known up to date" on the Presbyterian College merger proposal in a broadcast from Radio Station WEEB at 6 p. m. tomorrow (Friday). The mayor said today that he had been receiving so many requests for information and that there is apparently so much confusion about the proposal that he would go on the air to discuss all the facts of the situation as now known.

Mr. Gibbs will also be in active charge of the church during the absence of the minister, who will be away during the months of July and August.

Mr. Gibbs graduated from Elon College in 1952, receiving an A.B. degree and a first-class High School certificate as teacher in the public schools. Beginning in the Fall, Mr. Gibbs will be a member of the faculty of the Southern Pines Schools. Throughout his college career, and since his graduation, Mr. Gibbs has been the popular baritone soloist of the Elon College choir, appearing throughout the Southern Convention in many church and college programs.

Mrs. Gibbs was formerly Miss Betty Crafton, of Danville, Va., and is a graduate of Averett College of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have two children, Hugh Allen, five, and Margie Bess, two. They will reside at 155 East Massachusetts Avenue.

Women's Softball Teams Organizing

Practice sessions for women softball players began this week, with the ladies scheduled to work out on the elementary school playground daily, except Saturday and Sunday, at 5:30 p.m.

Launched as another activity in the municipal summer recreation program, the ladies' softball project looks toward setting up two or more local teams.

Teams may be sponsored by several women's civic or club organizations. What the teams will be called, when the first game will be played and other details were undecided as practice began this week.

Interested girls and women are asked to call Mrs. Ike Woodell, 2-4623, who is organizing the new activity.

No Meeting Yet Called For 15-Man Moore Schools Study Commission

W. D. Sabiston, temporary chairman of a Public School Study Commission named last week by the Moore County board of education to investigate the problem of integration of white and Negro pupils in schools of the Moore County system, said today that he had not yet called a meeting of the commission.

The 15-man group, which includes four Negroes, will make recommendations as to how the problem should be approached in Moore County. It will study only schools of the county system. The white and Negro schools of the Southern Pines and Pinehurst districts are not included in the

M. C. McDonald, 43, Instantly Killed In Truck Accident

Moses Currie McDonald, Jr., 43, of West End, a leading landowner, merchant and industrialist of the Sandhills, was killed Monday morning when his truck, driven by a Negro employe, left the road and overturned about two miles from West End on the new Carthage Road.

McDonald was going to the county seat to his business, the McDonald Brothers Supply Co., with his employe, Malcolm Lewis, 31, at the wheel. Lewis told officers that an approaching car forced him from the road on the right. He swerved then to the left, and lost control of the vehicle which overturned on the left side of the road. The driver was thrown clear of the truck as it overturned and it fell on McDonald, who was believed instantly killed.

Constable Oscar Bailey of West End, one of the first persons to reach the scene of the wreck, said that he felt for McDonald's pulse and found none, when he arrived at the scene.

Bystanders lifted the truck to allow the body to be removed from beneath the vehicle. According to a widely circulated account of the wreck, the body was removed only after parts of the truck had been cut with a torch, but this was not true.

Lewis, examined at Moore County Hospital, was found to have suffered only bruises. Charged with careless and reckless driving causing an accident resulting in death, he was placed in Moore County jail Monday in default of \$500 bond.

In a hearing before Judge J. Vance Rowe in Moore County Recorders Court Tuesday, no probable cause was found on the charges and Lewis was freed.

Official investigation for the accident report was made by Highway Patrolman C. G. Wimberly of Aberdeen and Coroner Ralph G. Steed of Robbins.

Funeral services for McDonald were held Tuesday at West End Presbyterian Church, conducted by the pastor, the Rev. H. L. Yancey, Jr., with burial following in the family plot in West End cemetery.

He was born on the McDonald homestead near West End January 20, 1912, the son of M. C. McDonald and Lillie Currie McDonald, descendants of Scottish pioneer families. He was graduated from Jackson Springs High School and, in 1931, from Davidson College.

He and his brother, Allen, carried on the mercantile business founded at West End by their

Collins Takes First Round Tourney Match

Playing in the championship flight of the Carolinas Amateur golf tournament at Charlotte Wednesday, James Collins of Southern Pines defeated Billy Womack of Charlotte 7 and 5, in his first round match. The win was the second most decisive recorded in the flight Wednesday. The 17-year-old local golfer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Collins.

Jack Carter Wins Club Championship

Two Carters fought it out for the Southern Pines Country Club golf championship, recently completed. Jack Carter beat Joe Carter, 1-up, in an 18-hole match. Flight winners were announced this week as follows by Roy Grinnell, pro at the club:

- First flight — Chick Holliday defeated R. N. Page, 4 and 3.
- Second — H. G. Crissman defeated Tom Grant, 4 and 2.
- Third — C. N. Page defeated Harry Pethick, 2-up.
- Fourth — Dave Ginsburg defeated C. Townshend, 2 and 1.
- Fifth — W. P. Saunders defeated M. Johnson, 2-up.



MR. GIBBS
Allen R. Gibbs Associated With S. Pines Church

Allen Roger Gibbs, formerly field secretary and assistant director of admissions of Elon College, will be in charge of the choir and Church School of the Church of Wide Fellowship, beginning July 1, it was announced this week by Dr. W. C. Timmons, pastor.

Mr. Gibbs will also be in active charge of the church during the absence of the minister, who will be away during the months of July and August.

Mr. Gibbs graduated from Elon College in 1952, receiving an A.B. degree and a first-class High School certificate as teacher in the public schools. Beginning in the Fall, Mr. Gibbs will be a member of the faculty of the Southern Pines Schools. Throughout his college career, and since his graduation, Mr. Gibbs has been the popular baritone soloist of the Elon College choir, appearing throughout the Southern Convention in many church and college programs.

Mrs. Gibbs was formerly Miss Betty Crafton, of Danville, Va., and is a graduate of Averett College of that city. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have two children, Hugh Allen, five, and Margie Bess, two. They will reside at 155 East Massachusetts Avenue.

Pastor Plans Vacation

On July 2, Dr. and Mrs. Timmons will leave for their vacation.

Lightning

Two sharp cracks of lightning scared Southern Pines citizens out of their wits and set fire to a television set in the Belvedere hotel, climaxing a brief electrical storm about 1:30 p.m. today.

The console television was in the first-floor apartment of Arthur C. Reed, hotel proprietor. It was plugged in but not turned on. After the lightning flash it spouted smoke, and the interior of the console was found to be on fire. Reed dragged it to the terrace where, when the fire truck arrived, the flames were quickly smothered in foam.

The lightning knocked Radio Station WEEB off the air for about 15 minutes.

Other damage, if any, occasioned by the bolts was not immediately known to The Pilot.