

# THE PILOT

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SIXTEEN PAGES

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1956

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PRICE TEN CENTS



**SUNDAY TRAGEDY**—A head-on collision early Sunday morning on US Highway 1 north of Southern Pines took the lives of four persons. Shown here, left to right, are Highway Patrolman E. G. Shomaker of Southern Pines, Patrol-

man H. A. Hight and Patrol Cpl. M. S. Parvin, both of Carthage, W. T. Horton, Sanford funeral director, Moore County Coroner Ralph Steed of Robbins, and Patrolman R. R. Samuels of Aberdeen. (Emerson Humphrey photo)

## Five Persons Killed Within 48 Hours In Moore County Highway Accidents

Five people were killed, four of them in one accident, within a 48-hour period in Moore County over the weekend.

The deaths brought the county's 1956 highway fatality toll to six.

The accident which took four lives occurred about 1:15 a. m. Sunday three miles south of Vass on US Highway 1. Dead are Har-

## Ernest Bruce, 35, First Road Death Of '56 In Moore

Ernest Bruce, 35, of Newport News, Va., became Moore County's first highway fatality of 1956 when he died last Thursday as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident near Robbins January 7.

Bruce, a former resident of Route 2, Carthage, was injured when the 1949 Ford he was driving left the highway on an uphill curve and travelled 360 feet before overturning. According to State Highway Patrolman H. A. Hight, who investigated, Bruce was thrown out, receiving fatal head injuries.

Bruce's car was the only one involved in the accident, which occurred about one and a half miles south of Robbins.

## MAGAZINES WANTED

Mrs. Dorothy Perry, Moore County librarian, asks that persons having used magazines of "not too old" a date leave them at the Southern Pines Library for distribution throughout the county by the bookmobile.

## Vance Derby Joins Pilot's Staff

Vance Derby joined The Pilot's staff this week as assistant news editor.

Thirty years old and a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Journalism, Mr. Derby comes to Southern Pines from Waynesville where he wrote news, sports and features for the Waynesville Mountaineer, a semi-weekly newspaper. Later he founded, edited and published "This Week In North Carolina," a summer season resort magazine, and he has represented The Asheville Citizen as correspondent in several mountain counties, doing news and feature writing.

Mr. Derby's wife, the former Bayra Mitchell and their two daughters—Judy, not quite two years old, and Penny, not quite one year old—are now visiting her family at Woodberry, N. J., but will return to Southern Pines about February 1. The Derbys will live at the Knollwood Apartments.

A native of Tarboro and the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. McNally Derby of that community, (Continued on page 8)



MR. DERBY

## Citizens To Vote Tuesday On Four Bond Proposals

### Projects Discussed At Forum Held By League Women Voters

Southern Pines voters will go to the polls Tuesday to cast ballots for or against four separate bond issues proposed by the town council.

Voting will take place at the fire station on E. New Hampshire Ave., from 6:30 a. m. to 8:30 p. m. Voting machines will not be used.

Any resident within the town's limits who voted in the last municipal election, or has since registered, is eligible to vote Tuesday.

There will be separate voting on each of four proposed bond issues: \$150,000 for water system improvements; \$150,000 for sewerage system improvements; \$100,000 for municipal buildings; fire and police stations, jail, town office and other facilities; and \$50,000 for a West Southern Pines swimming pool.

At an open forum sponsored by the Southern Pines League of Women Voters Monday night in the Civic Club, town officials and professional people invited by the League to participate discussed the bond proposals, stressing the needs that led to the town council's calling the bond election.

Mrs. Graham Culbreth presided as moderator. Speakers, persons questioned and others making comments, included Mayor Pro Tem H. H. Pethick, Mayor Voit Gilmore, Paul Van Camp, engineer who made a survey of the sewerage system; Mrs. Joe Marley, a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee; Clinton Areson, who told of his experience with swimming pools as a morale builder for youth; A. C. Dawson, superintendent of

## SLICK HIGHWAYS CAUSE ACCIDENTS

Slick highways, resulting from an early morning freeze and light snow, caused four school bus accidents on highways in Moore County Tuesday morning but none of the busses was damaged seriously. No children were injured in the mishaps.

Southern Pines police reported a single accident within the town limits, and there was one wreck resulting in an injury on No. 1 highway below Aberdeen.

Only three of the county high schools were open Tuesday—Cameron, Vass-Lakeview, and Aberdeen. The Southern Pines schools were open but a decided drop in attendance was noted.

H. Lee Thomas, superintendent of Moore County schools, said attempts were made to contact drivers of the county's school busses (Continued on page 8)

## FACTS ABOUT TOWN'S INDEBTEDNESS

Facts about the Town of Southern Pines' bonded indebtedness as given by town officials at the League of Women Voters' open forum Monday night:

Present bonded indebtedness of the town: \$459,000.  
Total amount on which citizens will vote Tuesday: \$450,000.  
Indebtedness if all issues are approved: \$909,000.  
Bond issues for water system improvements are regarded as self-liquidating, through water charges, and by law are not figured into the legal debt limit of the town.  
If all next week's bond issues are approved, the net debt, without new and old water bonds included, would be \$480,000.  
The town's assessed valuation as of last July 30 was \$6,800,000.  
The legal debt limit (8 per cent of valuation) therefore would be \$549,000—which is \$69,000 above what the town's net debt would be.  
Also: the town is retiring the principal of its bonded indebtedness at the rate of \$38,000 per year and the property valuation is increasing, constantly widening the margin between actual indebtedness and the legal limit.

Sewer bond issues would be self-liquidating through sewer service charges.

It was pointed out that the Southern Pines \$450,000 bond proposal has been approved by the State Local Government Commission whose function is to help keep towns and cities in sound financial condition by disapproving unsound proposals.

Town officials also made clear that the bonds would be issued only as the funds are needed.

No tax increase is envisioned, it was stated, if the bond issue is approved in full—except that a 10 cents per \$100 valuation tax for recreation, voted several years ago, may be levied. But it is "quite possible" that even this will not be needed, officials said.

## LOOKING TOWARD THE BOND ELECTION

### Study Preceded Swimming Pool Proposal

(Fourth and last in a series of explanatory articles about the town bond election to be held January 31.)

A newcomer to Southern Pines or a resident who has not closely followed the deliberations of the town council for the past several months might well be somewhat puzzled by the swimming pool proposal in the town bond election January 31.

Citizens at that time can vote for or against giving the town council authority to issue bonds in the amount of \$50,000 for a swimming pool in West Southern Pines.

The other three bond proposals on which voting will take place—a separate vote for each proposal—are: \$150,000 for water system improvements; \$150,000 for sewer-

age system improvements; and \$100,000 for new municipal buildings. The reasons why these three items are being put before the people have been discussed in three previous articles in The Pilot.

**Change In Attitude**  
Consideration of the swimming pool proposal starts with the realization that, in the past decade, there has been a revolution in the public's attitude toward municipal recreation facilities. State legislation has been enacted that authorizes towns and cities to spend tax money or issue bonds for public recreation facilities. Across the state and over the nation, municipalities are building and operating swimming pools, recreation centers and other facilities and are making available to their young people and other age groups va-

ried recreation programs that, a generation ago, would have been regarded as an outrageous waste of public funds.

This change in attitude reflects the public's realization that a community has a responsibility to its human as well as its material resources. Advocates of municipal recreation programs believe that pleasant and wholesome recreation facilities head off or minimize the idleness, unhappiness and social rebellion—especially in underprivileged areas—that not only lower the standard of community life but may result in criminal actions far more costly to the municipality than are the preventive measures.

**Calls For Imagination**  
Because the question of "need" (Continued on page 8)

## Final Concerted Effort In College Endowment Drive Slated Monday

### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Southern Pines urgently wants the new Presbyterian College to locate here, and

WHEREAS, the Southern Pines College Committee will present the town's brief to the college trustees on February 1, and

WHEREAS, evidence of widespread community support is to be a prime requisite in selection of the college site,

NOW, THEREFORE, let it be known that Monday, January 30, is officially designated as "Bring The College To Southern Pines Day," with all citizens urged to cooperate fully in circulating and signing pledges to evidence the community's wholehearted support of this cause. Every pledge, no matter how small, will mean a better chance for success in this worthy undertaking.

VOIT GILMORE,  
Mayor of Southern Pines.

## Pilot Wins Two First Place Awards In Press Contests

First place awards in two of the newspaper contests conducted by the North Carolina Press Association for the year 1955 were made to The Pilot last week.

Mrs. James Boyd, editor, received from Gov. Luther H. Hodges at Chapel Hill last Thursday evening engraved plaques and scrolls signifying first place in the editorial page and features divisions of the contests for weekly newspapers of the state.

In the contests, first, second and third place awards were made for editorial page, features, news and photography, based on a representative selection of four papers in each category published from January through September of 1955.

### MEETING TONIGHT

The Moore County Historical Association, with visitors invited, will meet at the Southern Pines Library tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock to hear W. C. Capel of Candor speak on the peach industry, past and present, and S. B. Richardson, member of the town council and former mayor, talk about the early history of Southern Pines.

## \$25,000 Damage Action Against Moore Hospital, Two Doctors Is Non-Suited

A directed verdict of non-suit was handed down by Judge Frank M. Armstrong in Moore County Superior Court about 2:30 this (Thursday) afternoon, abruptly ending trial of a \$25,000 damage suit against Moore County Hospital and two of its staff physicians, Dr. C. R. Monroe and Dr. H. A. Peck.

Plaintiff in the case which was non-suited—that is, thrown out of court—was Mrs. Janet Bliss of Southern Pines. A jury heard testimony in the case Wednesday afternoon and this morning.

Mrs. Bliss testified that in August, 1953, she was painfully burned by x-rays prior to an operation for kidney stone. She alleged that the x-ray machine was operated under the supervision of Dr. Peck, preparatory to the surgical operation by Dr. Monroe. She was admitted to the hospital at the request of Dr. R. F. Mobbs, then practicing medicine in Aberdeen

## 'My Brother Adlai' To Be Published

Monday will be the nation-wide publication day for "My Brother Adlai," a volume about her brother, Adlai Stevenson, written by Elizabeth Stevenson (Mrs. Ernest L.) Ives of Southern Pines. Collaborating with Mrs. Ives in preparation of the book was Miss Hildegarde Dolson of New York City.

Published by William Morrow & Company, "My Brother Adlai" had its inspiration, said Mrs. Ives this week, in a vast accumulation of family records and letters as well as her own diaries, but might never have been written if two North Carolinians, the late William T. Polk of Greensboro and J. E. Rhine of Duke University had not heard her speak and sent a publisher's representative to see her.

She was advised to "just sit down and write"—which she did at the old Stevenson home in Bloomington, Ill., in the summer of 1954. The manuscript was finished, but not yet tailored into book form, late that year.

The writing, said Mrs. Ives, was a chore and a great emotional strain. Her concentration brought back floods of memories that were added to existing records and letters to produce the amazingly detailed and affectionate record of the entire life, to date, of the man who is a candidate for the 1956 Democratic Presidential nomination this year and was defeated for the Presidency by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952.

(Continued on page 8)

## Canvassers Will Cover Entire Town

Monday will be "C-Day" in Southern Pines—the day when a last concerted effort will be made for the College, to make sure that everyone had a chance to help.

Ten o'clock Monday morning will be the hour when 40 or more canvassers, each with a specific area to cover, will go out to each house and business place to secure the pledges of those who have not yet pledged in the effort to secure the consolidated Presbyterian College for Southern Pines.

Radio Station WEEB will cooperate from start to finish, sounding the signal for the opening of the round-up, providing reports throughout the day as to its progress, and furnishing the headquarters for the drive.

Brig. Gen. Pearson Menoher will be there as campaign chief. Also on duty will be Mrs. Nancy Marley and a group of women to take calls from persons who wish to pledge or to increase the pledges they have already made.

Cars will be dispatched to secure their pledges anywhere in town, or, for that matter, General Menoher said, for sizeable pledges within the county.

(Continued on Page 5)

## TO UNITE IN PRAYER

Presbyterian churches of the county will unite in prayer at their services Sunday morning "for the guidance of the trustees of the consolidated college in making their decision."

Each minister will ask the prayers of his congregation, not in favor of this or any particular locality, but only that divine wisdom guide the board in making a choice which will last for many years.

In announcing this act of special prayer, Chairman A. L. Burney of the Moore County College Committee said also that members of the committee had met with an excellent reception in seeking the support of towns in neighboring counties, within a day-student radius. Several have responded by assuring the group that Southern Pines would be their choice of a site, and that town officials will so write the trustees.



MRS. IVES . . . with new book