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PRICE TEN CENTS

Open House Will Be Feature of Stevenson Visit

Candidate Planning Spend Few Days Here At Home of Sister

If all goes as hoped an Open House will be held to greet Adlai Stevenson when he comes to Moore County, according to plans released this week by Rep. H. Clifton Blue, president of the Moore County Stevenson for President Club.

The meeting of welcome will be held in the school gymnasium at Aberdeen, the evening of Monday, April 16, at 7:30, Mr. Blue said.

Plans for the gathering were drawn up at a meeting of the executive committee of the club held in Aberdeen Tuesday night. A more informal gathering was at first discussed but, as thoughts went back to the tremendous turn-out of Moore County people who came to Carthage to meet the Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1952, it was realized that this would not do.

Said Mr. Blue, "We decided we'd better have it in a place where there was plenty of room so everybody could come."

In accepting this invitation for a social hour with the people of Moore County, those making arrangements for Mr. Stevenson's stay here cautioned as to the possibility of a change of plans. Due to the exigencies of campaigning, it is actually pretty difficult for the candidate to make hard and fast engagements, "and, after all," Mr. Blue stressed, "this is to be an informal visit and we want him to feel at ease. We just hope a lot and do believe he's going to be able to make it."

As of this date, the Stevenson plans call for his arrival on Sunday, April 15, and departure the following Tuesday. He will be staying at Paint Hill Farm, the home of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Ives.

Attending a meeting of the State Highway Commission at Raleigh Thursday last week, Forrest Lockey of Aberdeen, 8th Division commissioner, asked the highway commissioners to keep April 16 free to attend a party for Mr. Stevenson that's being planned at Pine Lake Acres, owned by W. P. Saunders of Southern Pines, State Conservation and Development director. Mr. Lockey's remarks were reported in the Under the Dome column in the Raleigh News and Observer.

Convict Admits He Strangled Robbins Girl Last Summer

The mysterious death of a 16-year old Moore County girl almost nine months ago was solved last week when a convict serving time for highway robbery confessed the slaying to State Bureau of Investigation agents.

Joseph Warren Johnson, Jr., 34, who worked as a filling station attendant in Asheboro, told SBI agents he had been with Isabel Hussey of near Robbins last June and that they had tussled in an abandoned farmhouse near Asheboro. "I suddenly realized I had done a terrible thing," Johnson told the officers, though he maintained he didn't know at the time whether he had killed the girl or not.

Sheriff Charles McDonald of Moore County and his deputies have done extensive investigating in the case before the confession by Johnson Friday about 1 a. m. to SBI agent L. E. Allen from a cell in the Guilford County jail at Greensboro. He had been taken to Greensboro from a prison camp at Marion, where he was serving eight to nine years for highway robbery.

Deputy Neal Cockerman, acting sheriff, said Johnson gave this account of the Hussey slaying: Johnson was driving along a street in Asheboro when he saw a young girl hitch-hiker who was picked up by an elderly man who drove south toward Robbins.

Johnson followed and when the elderly man stopped at a curb market just south of Ulah, Johnson went over and persuaded the girl to drive back to Asheboro with him.

Johnson said the girl, whose (Continued on page 6)



TO BE SEEN ON TOUR—The wide grounds and gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth B. Trousdell on E. Indiana Ave., are one of the seven locations to be visited during the Southern Pines Homes and Gardens Tour Thursday of next week, April 12. In this photo, made during a

previous Spring season, Mr. Trousdell is shown on the bench in the foreground. Beyond the dogwoods and flowering shrubs is the Trousdell home. Dogwood and other Sandhills blossoms are expected to reach their peak of beauty next week. (Photo by V. Nicholson)

Homewood Tour Slated

Homewood Gardens in Knollwood, which will be opened to the public from 2 to 5 p. m. Sunday for the benefit of the Moore County Hospital Auxiliary, have been replanted, redesigned and expanded since last year's disastrous freeze that destroyed many of the flowering shrubs.

Located on Crest Road, just off Midland Road (double road from Southern Pines to Pinehurst), the gardens now occupy more than five acres—over triple the area they covered when they became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Denison K. Bullens who purchased the 11-acre estate about five years ago. More than 4,000 azalea plants which were destroyed in the 1955 freeze have been replaced during the past year.

The Homewood Gardens will also be seen by the public Thursday of next week as one of the seven locations to be visited during the annual Homes and Gardens Tour of the Southern Pines Garden Club. The tour will start at 10 a. m. (See another story in today's Pilot for details).

Mr. and Mrs. Bullens have arranged a well-marked tour through the gardens which takes the stroller through a sequence (Continued on page 8)

Rotary Basketball Banquet Set For Tonight At School

The annual Rotary basketball banquet, honoring members of the girls' and boys' basketball squads at Southern Pines High School, will be held tonight (Thursday) at 7 p. m. in the school cafeteria. The Pilot erroneously announced the date last week as Saturday.

About 160 people, including the squads, members of the Rotary, Rotary Anns, guests, school officials, and parents of team members are expected to attend. A. C. Dawson, superintendent of the Southern Pines school system, will be featured speaker.

Awards and letters to members of both squads will be made at the banquet. Coach W. A. Leonard will present the letters.

Gold basketballs presented by the school will be awarded to the most improved boy and girl. And the Veterans of Foreign Wars will present a cup to a member from each squad who was named Most Valuable Player.

Col. Paul Kinnison is in charge of arrangements for the banquet. His committee consists of Holly Sisk, Harry Chatfield and Carl Holt.

Rotary officials said today that the banquet would take the place of the regular meeting Friday.

Homes And Gardens To Be On View In Annual Tour Thursday of Next Week

The annual Southern Pines Homes and Gardens Tour, to be held next Thursday, April 12, will include two new gardens of rare beauty, along with four which have been shown on previous tours and are again included, by popular demand.

The new inclusions are the famous Homewood Gardens on Crest Road and the estate of the late Mrs. J. H. Andrews, on Connecticut Avenue Extension. At the Andrews estate, the house as well as the garden will be opened to viewers, by special permission of the heirs.

The tour, sponsored by the

SCHOOL-OPEN HOUSE SET FOR APRIL 13

An open house to permit public inspection of the new Southern Pines High School building will be held from 7:30 to 9 p. m., Friday, April 13, it was announced today. Miss Polly Miller, faculty advisor to the student council, and members of the council will be in charge of the event and are working out details.



JAMES HUMPHREY Humphrey Gets Big Grid Honor

James Humphrey, wingback on the Southern Pines High School football team and an All-State selection the past two years, has been selected as an All-American prep football player by a nationally circulated magazine. The Pilot was notified today.

Humphrey, 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Humphrey, is a senior and has played on the local team three years. Coach Irie Leonard has called (Continued on page 8)

Only Seven Have Filed For Primary

Rep. H. Clifton Blue of Aberdeen said today that he had also filed and would seek renomination to the post he has held for five consecutive sessions.

With a filing deadline of little more than a week from now—Friday, April 13—the present Board of County Commissioners have no opposition for re-nomination, subject to the May Democratic primary.

The board members, who filed as a group Tuesday, had been expected to file by most political observers. The same observers said they knew of no organized opposition.

The board is composed of Chairman Gordon M. Cameron, James Pleasants, John M. Currie, Tom R. Monroe, and L. R. Reynolds. S. C. Riddle, chairman of the county board of elections, said Thursday that no one else has filed for any of the county jobs that will be up for election this year with the exception of the Board of Commissioners and Judge J. Vance Rowe and Solicitor W. Lamont Brown, who filed earlier last week to retain their positions in Recorder's Court.

BENEFIT CHICKEN FRY

A benefit fried chicken supper will be held at the Southern Pines Country Club Wednesday for the local campaign of the Society for Crippled Children and Adults—one of a series of events planned by Mrs. W. P. Davis, Southern Pines chairman for the drive.

Air-Ground Operations School To Renew Lease Here To June 1, 1957

Community Enthusiasm Expressed

Rep. Charles B. Deane was informed Monday by the Air Force that the Air-Ground Operations School will be continued in Southern Pines at least until June 1, 1957.

This is a reversal of an earlier decision to transfer the training center to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss. In fact, plans for the impending move were ready to be announced on February 20, when Deane, upon learning of the proposal, registered a vigorous protest to such action. As a result of his opposition, the plans were held in abeyance.

Monday's announcement made it clear that the school is to continue to operate at Southern Pines for the next 14 months and negotiations are now underway to extend the Air Force's lease on the Highland Pines Inn where the school is housed. The present lease expires June 30.

In announcing plans to renew the lease, Air Force officials said the 11-month extension would provide ample time for a comprehensive study to determine whether the Air-Ground School should be continued after June 1, 1957, and if so where it can best be located.

In reporting the continuation of the Air-Ground School at its present location, Mr. Deane said: "My assistance has been sought by scores of citizens and leaders in the Southern Pines community to prevail upon the Air Force to keep the Air Ground School operating in that community. It is an ideal location for this Air Force operation and in addition, means so much to the life and growth of Southern Pines and the surrounding territory. I am very pleased to report the action of the Air Force in continuing this important operation in its present location at least until June 1, 1957." Monday's announcement was (Continued on page 8)

Campbell Taking Course In England

W. D. Campbell of Southern Pines, chairman of camping activities for the national council of the Boy Scouts of America, flew to England Tuesday to take the Wood Badge course at the International Training Center for Scouters at Gilwell Park. He is expected back in the United States April 16.

Mr. Campbell, who is a former Oconeechee Council and South-eastern Regional Boy Scout chairman, is one of the first Scouters from the United States to be invited to take the course. The local man spent Easter with his family here.

Religious Emphasis Week Scheduled

Plans for the annual Youth Religious Emphasis Week, under the general sponsorship of several churches in Southern Pines, were announced today.

The Rev. Joe Flora, director of education at the First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, will be the leader of the program, which begins Sunday and lasts through next Thursday.

The general theme for the week is "Youth Can Be Christian NOW." Rev. Flora will use the Book of James for the basis of his presentations.

General chairman of the meeting is Roger Gibbs, director of music at the Church of Wide Fellowship. Miss Patti Hobbs is general hostess.

Other committee members include James Humphrey, program chairman; John Ray, publicity chairman; James McDonald, treasurer; and Mrs. Leon Seymour, dinner committee.

The first meeting will be held at 6 p. m. Sunday at the Church of Wide Fellowship. All young people's groups in the county have been invited.

Individual conferences have been scheduled for Monday



CONTROVERSIAL TREES—Members of the Southern Pines Garden Club this week conferred with officials of Colonial Stores, Inc., asking that these giant magnolias, flanking a large pink dogwood tree, not be removed at the site of the new Colonial Stores supermarket now under construction on the corner of N. E. Broad St. and Connecticut Ave. The trees stand in a portion of the lot slated to be cleared for a parking area. Final decision of the officials as to the trees' fate was not known today. See editorial, page 2. (Pilot Photo)

3-Year-Old Boy Fatally Injured When Hit By Truck

A three-year-old boy, Bobby Haskins Coe of Washington, D. C., became Moore County's eighth highway fatality of 1956 when he darted in front of a small truck on a highway near Carthage and was killed instantly about 11:45 Wednesday morning.

The young boy who was visiting his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Coe of Route 2, Carthage, was struck by the truck driven by Floyd Mac Leonard, a piano salesman of Lexington.

According to State Highway Patrolmen C. G. Wimberly and H. A. Hight, who investigated, Bobby and his grandmother had been visiting across the highway at a neighbor's. Bobby crossed the highway without his grandmother and was standing near a mailbox.

Mrs. Coe told the officers she saw the truck coming and called to the child to stay where he was (Continued on page 8)

Young Mother Killed In Auto Wreck Saturday

Mrs. Rosa Mae Assad, 23, of Laurinburg, who was injured in an automobile accident on the Laurinburg road in Hoke County at 2 a. m. last Saturday, died later that morning at Moore County Hospital.

Funeral services were held at 3 p. m. Monday at Piney Woods, Baptist Church near Vass, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, pastor, assisted by the Rev. Cleve Simmons. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Southern Pines.

The accident occurred when the car driven by her husband, James, went out of control and overturned, throwing Mrs. Assad to the highway. Assad told the investigating patrolman he thought he went to sleep at the wheel.

Assad and an infant son, Rafe (Continued on page 8)

Council To Meet Tuesday; Zoning Hearing Slated

Regular meeting of the Southern Pines town council will be held Tuesday at 8 p. m. in town hall.

Scheduled for the meeting is a public hearing on changes in the zoning ordinance, including a proposed change that would increase the required living area space of new homes built in "Residence I" district from 1,200 to 2,000 square feet.

"Residence I" district includes Knollwood and an area east of Ridge St. and south of Delaware Ave.

POWER TO BE OFF IN LOCAL AREAS

Electric power will be off between 2 and 5 p. m. Sunday on Bennett St., south of Illinois Ave., to U.S. Highway 1 and along Highway 1 south to Westbrook's store and service station, also in Pinedene and Longview and on Pee Dee Rd. Ward Hill, local manager for the Carolina Power and Light Co., said this interruption is necessary in order that company crews can relocate a 12,000-volt feeder line along Highway 1 at the junction of the new bypass and the highway.

"We regret interrupting electric service to you and will do everything we can to restore power in the shortest possible time," Mr. Hill said.



THE REV. JOE FLORA

through Thursday from 1:15 p. m. to 4 p. m. A general meeting will be held Monday and Tuesday nights at 7 o'clock.

A covered dish dinner meeting at 6:30 will precede the general meeting Wednesday night. The conference will end Thursday (Continued on page 8)