

SUCCEEDS MARK KING

Hubbard Elected New President Of Chamber Of Commerce Tuesday



MR. HUBBARD

Earl Hubbard, assistant cashier of the Citizens Bank and active in various phases of community life, has been elected new president of the Chamber of Commerce succeeding Mark King, Jr.

Hubbard's election came at the Board of Directors' first meeting of the year Tuesday night.

At the same time the directors named James Hartshorne first vice-president, Mrs. Graham Culbreth, second vice-president, L. D. McDonald, treasurer, and Alvin Folley, corresponding secretary. Mrs. S. D. Fobes is to continue in her job as executive secretary.

J. T. Overton, outgoing first vice-president, presided at the meeting in the absence of King, who was out of town on business. Hubbard was also out of town on business but was informed of his election Wednesday.

He said that he was happy to accept and "hoped to offer the leadership for a constructive and dynamic program."

First order of business, he said, is consideration of a program that would take up the slack in the town's economy felt by the closing of several major industries in the area recently. "We have an excellent board of directors who have indicated their desire to put forth great efforts to weld the town's various interests into a common good," he said, "and I am eagerly looking forward to the first meeting to begin arranging a workable and realistic program."

Hubbard is presently serving as treasurer of the Moore County chapter of the American Red Cross, a director of the Rotary Club, neighborhood commissioner for the Boy Scouts, and steward in the First Methodist Church.

George Pottle, who has been serving on a committee to publish a folder describing the town to

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CONCERT TONIGHT

Frederick Sahlmann, outstanding pianist with the music faculty of Elon College, will appear in the opening concert of the Sandhills Music Association's current season tonight at 8:30 p. m. This is Sahlmann's second appearance in the Sandhills. He appeared here two years ago and was instantly acclaimed as one of the best artists the association had presented.

He will present selections by Bach, Brahms, Mozart, Havel, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff.

He has been soloist several times with the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra and is scheduled to appear with the orchestra again this season.

Tickets are available at the door for the concert and season tickets for the remainder of the association's schedule are available at Barnum Realty Company.

Gen. Jenkins Says School To Move Soon As Possible

Expresses His Gratitude For Community Help

Brig. Gen. Daniel W. Jenkins, in announcing this week that the Air Ground School would definitely move to Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, said the association with Southern Pines over the past six years had been one that the Air Force was "proud of and eternally grateful for."

He said that definite confirmation had been received from the Tactical Air Command, of which the Air Ground School is a part, to move as expeditiously as possible. He said no timetable for completion of the move had been set up, but guessed that the middle of February would probably be a good guess.

In the meantime, he said, he couldn't be too lavish in his praise for the people who responded to the crisis the school had gone through.

He listed a number which had offered assistance in the past few days, including Mayor Pro-Tem Harry Pethick of Southern Pines, Garland Pierce at the Post Office, Brig. Gen. Pearson Menoher of the disaster committee of the Red Cross, the John Boyd Post of the VFW, Captain William Wilson of the National Guard, Forrest Lockyer of the A&B Railroad, the Elks Lodge, Holliday's Restaurant, Dante's Restaurant, C. A. McLaughlin of the Belvedere Hotel, the American Legion, the Southland Hotel, R. M. Cushman of Amerotron Corporation, and "many, many individuals too numerous to mention who graciously offered space in their homes for the airmen and officers who were burned out."

He said he was particularly impressed with the police and fire department's efforts and with the way that spectators handled themselves.

"One of the most terrific jobs we had was to meet almost 100 incoming students and process their papers for return trips to their home bases," he said. "We set up a temporary office in the Southland Hotel for that purpose and got the last of the students processed Tuesday. It was a big operation for us to set up on such a short notice and I would like to thank the Southland management for their assistance."

General Jenkins said that the

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Peach Growers To Hold Annual Meet At Pinehurst Mon.

A. Paul Kitchin, Congressman from this district, will be principal speaker at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Mutual Peach Growers Society Monday at the Carolina Hotel in Pinehurst.

W. C. Capel of Candor, president of the society, said that Kitchin will discuss legislation that is beneficial to peach growers, particularly the new crop insurance that has been made available through government efforts.

Registration for the all-day meeting, which is held annually at Pinehurst, will begin at 9:30 in the lobby of the Carolina. Capel will preside over the opening session, which will be followed by a series of conferences and discussion periods by experts in peach research. Four such periods have been set up: "Varieties and Planting Trends," conducted by G. W. Schneider; "Nematode Notes," by H. H. Foster; "Processing," by Ivan Jones, a state conservationist; and a discussion of the advertising program for 1956-57, which will be explained by Page McAulay, Montgomery County peach farmer.

Following lunch C. S. Black, who is in charge of the Sandhills Research Station near Candor, will make a progress report.

Congressman Kitchin's address will be delivered following the annual banquet at 6:30.

Aerial Photo of Highland Pines After Disastrous Fire



AERIAL PHOTO of the burned out Highland Pines Inn was made Sunday morning while the ruins were still smouldering by Pinehurst photographer John G. Hemmer. The largest building behind the ruins is the dormitory where permanent personnel of the Air Ground School were quartered. Other buildings saved were the dispensary, the boiler room (partially obscured by

smoke) and a smaller building that was used as a carpenter shop. Fire officials say that if flames had gotten into the trees at upper left and the wind had been blowing in that direction, many homes might have been lost. As it was, a light wind was blowing in a direction from the upper right of the picture and carried the flames to an open area.

HOPES TO RETAIN SCHOOL DOOMED

Highland Pines Inn Destroyed By Fire; Damages Placed At \$300,000

Air Force salvage teams were still searching the ruins of the disastrous Highland Pines Inn fire this morning in attempts to salvage as much material as they could.

The fire, which broke out about 3:30 Sunday morning and completely demolished the main structure of the famous inn, has been termed the worst in the town's history. It's not likely that the hotel will be rebuilt and, though there has been no definite announcement from the management, the possibility of establishing another similar facility on the site is dim.

Charles Stitzer, owner of the hotel, was in Southern Pines Tuesday conferring with insurance adjusters and with members of the Air Ground School staff. He declined to give any definite damage estimate (the figure has ranged upwards to \$300,000) and said he "did not have time to think of the future."

Erig. Gen. Daniel W. Jenkins, school commandant, said this morning that orders to move the school to Keesler Air Force Base had been confirmed and that the move would be done as soon as was possible. He estimated that it would take probably two to three weeks to complete the task.

General Jenkins is operating from temporary offices set up in the dispensary, one of several buildings that were saved when the fire swept through the hotel structure. He has declined with thanks "dozens of offers" from various individuals and groups to make available space for the temporary operation.

A rain Tuesday put out all but one small spot of the still smouldering embers. Harold B. Fowler, chief of the Southern Pines Volunteer Fire Department, said it was his belief that the fire originated in the attic "probably from defective wiring." He added that when he reached the scene "things looked pretty bad. We put a great deal of our effort into keeping the blaze from spreading."

A wind that blew lightly dur-

Hotel Had Been At Center Of Town's Life 45 Years

The Highland Pines Inn is no more. It is gone and, according to one oldtimer, who saw it built and saw it burn, so is a way of life.

During its 45-year existence, the Inn was closely enmeshed with the life of Southern Pines. It started as a community effort and, at the time it burned, the community was involved in a mighty effort to keep it alive and functioning as an integral part of the economic life of Southern Pines.

Back in 1912 a group of citizens had decided that a first class hotel was needed in the area to replace the burned out Piney Woods Inn. Instrumental in organizing the company to raise funds for the new project were Dr. W. C. Mudgett, D. G. Stutz, Dr. E. W. Bush, Cephus T. Patch, Dr. W. P. Swett, Dr. R. E. Wiley, the Boyd family and others, including the Seaboard railroad. They sold stock in the new company and commis-

sioned Aymar Embury II of New York City to design a suitable building. It must, they told him, be something special—it had to be good enough to continue to attract the growing winter trade of tourists from the North that was the life of the town.

James Boyd, grandfather of the late James Boyd, owner of The Pilot, donated the land and the timber for the building as his part of the community enterprise. The new company secured Andrew I. Creamer and Millard H. Turner, who had built up a good hotel reputation in the north, as managers of the hotel and it was opened with a full house in December, 1912.

Mr. Creamer operated it until 1930, when he was succeeded in the active operation by Mr. Turner.

Under the Creamer-Turner management, the hotel enjoyed great success, year after year. It

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Construction Of Armory To Start

The local share of the cost of construction for a new National Guard armory on Morganton Road has been forwarded to Gen. John H. Manning, adjutant general of the National Guard in North Carolina, as the final step before initial construction of the building begins, it was announced this morning by Capt. William Wilson, local Guard commander.

Wilson said that construction will probably be started in about three weeks by P. E. Ingle Company of Burlington, general contractors. Cost of the new armory is about \$125,000.

The local share, which has been made available through appropriations by the county commissioners and the Southern Pines Town Council, amounts to about 10 per cent of the total cost.

Wilson said he anticipated the building would be completed in "about six to eight months."

Court Of Honor Set Monday Night

Scouts of Moore District will hold a Court of Honor Monday night at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church, it was announced this morning by Frank McNeill, advancements chairman.

The court will begin at 7:30. McNeill said the ceremony will be the biggest one of the scout year, with awards going to the outstanding cub packs, scout troops and explorer posts.

The annual Storey Cup award, presented to the outstanding scout in the county, will be given at the court, he pointed out, as well as two other awards: the District Chairman's Cup and the District Commissioner's Cup, both to be awarded for the second time.

All parents and friends are invited to attend.

Hyde, Others Acquire News

The Moore County News, weekly newspaper published in Carthage, has been purchased by a group headed by Nelson C. Hyde, veteran Sandhill publisher and editor, it was announced this morning by John Beasley, who has published the paper for the past 31 years.

The new group will assume publication February 1.

Hyde, present editor of The Pinehurst Outlook, was joined in the purchase by a group that includes W. D. Sabiston, Jr., Carthage attorney, Robert S. Ewing, of Southern Pines, former official with the Amerotron Corporation, and George H. Leonard, Jr., of Resort Realty Company in Southern Pines. It is reported that a number of others have joined the group in acquiring ownership.

Under the new set-up it was announced that Hyde would determine the editorial and news policy of the paper. The others, Beasley said, are interested "only in developing the area served by the paper."

Hyde first came to Moore County in 1927. He purchased The Pilot, then published by the late Stacy Brewer in Vass, in September of 1928. The paper was later moved to Aberdeen and then to Southern Pines where Hyde sold it in 1941 to the late James Boyd.

He took a position first on a Syracuse paper and then on the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, covering the White House during the war years. In 1951 he returned to the Sandhills and assumed the editorship of The Outlook.

He said he would continue his association with The Outlook and that no major changes were contemplated.

Politically, Hyde describes himself as a Democrat, though The Outlook supported President Eisenhower in the last two elections. Ewing is chairman of the Moore County Republican organization and was co-chairman of the Citizens For Eisenhower campaign in the county in the past election.



GUTTED ROOF of the Highland Pines Inn is shown about 30 minutes after the fire was discovered. This picture, made by Valerie Nichol-

son, was taken from the parking area just in front of the hotel at the height of the blaze.