



VOL. 41—NO. 16

EIGHTEEN PAGES

SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1961

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PRICE: 10 CENTS

Police Chief Newton Killed as He Attempts to Serve Warrant

Tributes to Chief Praise His Record

Formal tributes to the late Police Chief C. E. Newton have been adopted by several governmental and civic bodies, and others are expected.

Individual members of the town council have paid informal tribute to Chief Newton and, the morning after his death, Mayor Robert S. Ewing issued a statement for the press, extolling the chief's long and able service to the community and especially his work with young people.

The council's formal resolution of sympathy and respect is expected to be authorized at its regular meeting Tuesday night of next week. Mayor Ewing left town on a business trip Tuesday, after attending Chief Newton's funeral with other members of the town council Monday.

At their regular meeting in Carthage Monday, the county commissioners authorized a memorial resolution for Chief Newton, but it had not been made available for publication by the time The Pilot went to press today.

A tribute to Chief Newton was prepared for publication by the West Southern Pines Civic Club, an organization whose membership includes most of the civic, religious, business and professional leaders of the Negro community. The resolution was presented to The Pilot by Town Councilman Felton Capel and H. A. Wilson, principal of West Southern Pines schools. It reads: "We deeply regret the grave and tragic loss to our community in the death of Chief of Police C. E. Newton.

"A man of integrity, he gave himself to the work to which he was dedicated. He performed the duties of his office with dignity and a splendid spirit of service, giving help to the needy and succor to the distressed.

"In the many years of dedica-

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Change Taken In School Break-In

The Moore County sheriff's department is investigating a break-in at the Cameron school Sunday night, in which various small amounts of cash were taken.

Chief Deputy H. H. Grimm and Deputy R. A. Edwards of Vass, who are investigating, said entry was effected through the breaking of a rear window. A vending machine in a rest room and an ice cream box were broken open, and a small change-box in a primary classroom was rifled.

3-Day, 100-Mile Ride to Start March 16

The Sandhills 100-Mile Ride, sponsored by a new Association of that name, under auspices of the Town of Southern Pines and with support of the Moore County Hounds, will be staged here next week.

With divisions for senior and junior riders, the ride is designed to stimulate greater interest in the breeding and use of good horses and in the pleasure derived from riding horses. Many visitors are expected, most of whom will bring their own horses.

With preliminary inspection of horses on Wednesday, the ride itself will begin Thursday when riders will traverse a 40-mile course laid out in this area, starting at Mileway Farms. There will be a luncheon stop in the course at the Tremont Farms of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Frantz, Sr., off Young's Road, on the Royal-

ton Pines Dairy road. Another 40 miles will be ridden by participants on Friday with the luncheon stop scheduled at the ring of the Carolina hotel in Pinehurst.

Saturday's 20-mile ride will conclude the event.

Most of the course will be in woodland and rural country with signs to point the way to all riders. However, riders can be observed at various road crossings, a schedule of which will appear in The Pilot next week.

The public is invited to watch the riders and to take part in various social events during the three days, but there will be no charge for social events to those not taking part in the ride. These include a party at the Hollywood Hotel Wednesday evening, a party at Mileway Farms Thursday evening and the two lunch-



Charles Edwin Newton
November 9, 1898 — March 3, 1961

COMMUNITY CHAIRMEN

Sandlin Heads Local ARC Campaign

Organization of 34 Moore County communities is under way preparatory to the start of the 1961 Red Cross fund drive next week.

Chairmen have been appointed in all but two of the communities and the list is expected to be completed next week, according to County Campaign Chairman Joseph I. Scott.

R. M. Cushman of Aberdeen and Southern Pines has accepted

the post of industrial chairman.

Joseph E. Sandlin is general chairman for Southern Pines with Gen. R. B. Hill chairman for advance gifts here. Felton Capel is the West Southern Pines chairman.

Other community chairmen named so far are:

Aberdeen, the Rev. Brooks Patton, Walter H. DeLong and the Rev. U. S. Leverette, co-chairmen; Addor, Mrs. Henry Addor; Bensalem, Mrs. Harold Blue; Big Oak, Mrs. Connie Cole; Cameron, Mrs. Pete Phillips; Carthage, to be appointed; Clay Road Farms, C. L. Ragsdale; Eagle Springs, Mrs. Margie Lewis; Eureka, Mrs. Glenn Horne.

Eastwood, Mrs. W. E. Black, Fred Vest, co-chairmen; Glandon, Mrs. Haskill, Mrs. Thomas; Highfalls, Mrs. Jack Upchurch, Miss Ann Inman; Hillcrest, Miss Grace Tillman; Jackson Hamlet, Mrs. Brice Murchison; Jackson Springs, Mrs. John Patterson; Knollwood, Wilfred Weldon; (Continued on page 8)

Contracts Not Let This Week For Ag Building

Contracts for the proposed Moore County Agricultural Building and library were not let, as had been planned, by the county commissioners at their regular meeting in Carthage Monday because of money problems and the lack of time for full discussion of them.

Low bids among those which were opened February 9 came to less than the \$230,000 originally allotted for the building, the commissioners were told by W. C. Howell, of the Southern Pines architectural firm Hayes, Howell & Associates.

However, with only about \$130,000 in reserve toward the building, planning further appropriation to be made during the next fiscal year, the commissioners were advised by County Attorney M. G. Boyette that it might be best to wait until the full amount was on hand before starting on the building. Some of the commissioners indicated they might seek some new bids.

Willie Gray, Who Fired Gun, Also Killed

Police Chief Charles Edwin Newton, 62, was instantly killed at 9:20 last Friday night by a shotgun blast fired at a range of a few feet by Willie Gray, 46-year-old Negro, in a house occupied by Gray in the 600 block of W. Massachusetts Ave. Gray was later fatally shot by officers.

Chief Newton and three other officers—Sgt. Earl Seawell, and Patrolmen Charles Wilson and O. C. Eridges—had gone to the house with a warrant for Gray, who is known as "Eagle Eye" and has a police record going back to 1944, charging assault on a female.

The warrant was sworn out by Gray's daughter, Mrs. Carrie Lee Campbell, 20, who lives nearby and who charged that her father had assaulted her when she went to the house to clean it up, earlier that evening. The house is owned by Mrs. Edna Evans who has been staying in New York City but returned to Southern Pines this week to look after her property which was badly shot up in an exchange of gunfire between Gray and police. Gray had occupied the house since last July.

Chief Newton, not on duty but at the police station, volunteered to accompany the officers when they went to serve the warrant and arrest Gray. After conviction and a year's sentence to the roads, on a larceny charge in 1959, Gray is said to have sworn that he would never be arrested again or be killed resisting. He had given two local officers a hard fight when they arrested him on that charge in 1959.

As related later by officers who

J. M. Pleasants Suffers Attack

James M. Pleasants of Southern Pines, a member of the board of county commissioners, was stricken with an attack Tuesday morning and rushed to Moore Memorial Hospital, where he continues seriously ill.

So far as could be learned today, no definite diagnosis was reached pending further tests to be made when he is able to take them, but it was believed not to be a heart attack, but possibly a perforated ulcer.

"Jimmy" was downtown in a barber's chair, getting ready to have his hair cut, when he suffered the attack, about 10:30 a. m. A doctor and ambulance were summoned.

He has served on the county commission about 10 years, and three years ago was president of the N. C. Association of County Commissioners. He is in the insurance business.

Mrs. Pleasants said this morning that his condition remains about the same, although the results of various tests had not been learned.

Pinehurst Boy Wins Morehead Scholarship

Albert Lee Sneed, Jr., a senior at Christ School, Arden, is among the 25 North Carolina winners of the Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina.

Winners were announced Tuesday. John Motley Morehead, founder of the scholarship fund, personally presented the awards.

Sneed, son of Brig. Gen. and Mrs. A. L. Sneed of Pinehurst, is a member of the Forensic League and the Dramatics Club at Christ School.



LEAVING CHURCH—The body of Police Chief C. E. Newton leaves Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church after funeral services Monday, borne by local police officers, who

were pallbearers, and funeral home personnel. Fellow law enforcement officers line up in files between which the casket passes. (V. Nicholson photo).

FELLOW OFFICERS PAY LAST RESPECTS

Hundreds Attend Funeral For Chief

The high esteem in which this community's slain chief of police, Charles Edwin Newton, was held here and throughout the state was symbolized by the estimated 700 or more persons who attended his funeral at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church Monday afternoon.

Only a small portion of the crowd could be accommodated in the church itself. Others listened to the service brought to them outside on a public address system. More than half of the seats in the church were taken by family and relatives, town officials, a school delegation and members of the Moore County Law Enforcement Officers' Association which includes all law enforcement officers in the county, judges, solicitors, justices of

the peace, court officials and others engaged in some aspect of law enforcement work. All members of this association were designated as honorary pallbearers.

Active pallbearers were the six officers in the police department, all of whom had received most if not all of their training in police work under Chief Newton and revered him as chief, advisor

and friend. They are: Sgt. E. S. Seawell, Sgt. L. D. Beck and Patrolmen C. A. Wilson, O. C. Eridges, A. J. Benner and G. L. Wright.

Many officers were present from other police and sheriff's departments around the state, as well as representatives of FBI, SBI, State Highway Patrol, Al-

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Town's Last Four Chiefs of Police Died of Violence

Police Chief C. E. Newton was the fourth successive Southern Pines Police Chief to die under circumstances of violence. Three of them, including Chief Newton, were murdered.

Chief Joseph C. Kelly was shot by a motorist he stopped for speeding March 20, 1929, and died the following morning in a Fayetteville Hospital.

Chief Benjamin H. Beasley was shot and killed October 21, 1931, while he was driving an automobile near Durham, by a man whom he had befriended and drove to Virginia to try to get a murder charge against the man dismissed.

Chief J. A. Gargis dropped dead of a heart attack on Christmas Day, 1939, after a violent struggle with an apparently mentally deranged transient whom the chief had put in jail.

It was in January, 1940, that Chief Newton, who had then been a member of the police force since 1931, was appointed chief.

Further details of these former deaths and the circumstances surrounding them will be recalled in a forthcoming story in The Pilot.

Seawell Placed In Charge, Until Appointment Made

Sgt. Earl S. Seawell, as senior officer, was placed in charge of the police department temporarily following Chief Newton's death, by order of Louis Scheipers, Jr., town manager.

Several applications for the vacant post have been received by the manager. All these, as well as officers now in the department are being considered, he said.

Under the council-manager form of government, Mr. Scheipers has the hire-and-fire duty. Sgt. Seawell, 33 years old, was born in Rockingham, formerly lived in Aberdeen, and married an Aberdeen girl, the former Nancy Averett. They have three children. He is a veteran of military service and formerly ran the Sandwich Shop in Aberdeen.

He joined the Southern Pines department May 1, 1959. He received all his police training from Chief Newton.

Program On High School Will Be Given For PTA

Students and parents of students in grades 8 through 11 are urged to attend the regular meeting of the East Southern Pines Parent-Teacher Association, to be held Monday at 8 p. m. in Weaver Auditorium.

Max Rush, PTA president, said that the program will deal with requirements for high school graduation and for registration in the high school grades.

Parents of 8th graders and the students themselves, who will enter high school this fall, are especially urged to attend.

The program will be presented by Supt. Luther Adams, High School Principal Glenn Cox and Don Moore of the faculty.

Among topics under discussion will be the newly authorized ruling that high school graduation here will require two more units than heretofore—a requirement that goes into effect with the class entering high school this year. Study habits and other important factors will be discussed.

Aim of the program is to give parents and students a clear understanding of the high school program, Mr. Rush said.

Camellias On Display At Town Library

Fifty varieties of camellias are on display this week at the Southern Pines Library, where they will be through Friday.

These near-perfect flowers, ranging from pure white to brilliant scarlet, are a portion of the 200 varieties grown by Harry Vale in his Young's Road conservatory, and exhibited by him each year at the Library.