

PINEBLUFF OFFICIALS

(Continued from page 1)

moved in about June 1, though he said "carpet samples were displayed in the front." In the rear, he said, the owner, named Huffman, had established his family.

Mrs. Donna Spence, wife of the prosecuting witness, and Miss Pauline Sproul corroborated Spence's findings, noting that they had complained about the situation to Mayor Mills without getting any reply. Miss Sproul said she had written a letter to the mayor and all the town commissioners, pointing out that the condition would cause a deterioration in property values, but had had no answer.

Mayor Mills, defending, pointed out that both ladies had attended the June and July board meetings at which the matter had been fully discussed, that Miss Sproul's letter had been read at the July 5 meeting and that she had been present for the discussion, which, he said, constituted a reply, also that at the meeting the board had voted to repeal the ordinance which had stirred considerable criticism over the years, and that notices of a public hearing July 26 had been posted the next day. The day after that, Spence's warrants were served on the town officials, the first instance which can be recalled of a full municipal governing body in this area being haled into court on a criminal charge.

Master Sgt. James M. Craven, whose name had appeared on the warrants as state's witness, was sworn in but was not called to testify.

Asked his motive in bringing the case into court, Spence explained that it was "a punitive action to instill some responsibility" into the officials to make them enforce the ordinance.

Mayor Mills and the carpet company owner were witnesses for the defense, denying any violation of the law, which Huffman said "the Mayor had fully explained to him." Huffman said it was true he had samples in the building and would have taken orders, had anyone wished to place them, to be filled at a similar business he operates in Durham. But he said there had been no business except for a carpet he had picked up, to be cleaned at his place in Durham.

Huffman said it was also true he had placed newspaper ads, as Spence charged, in order to do business but would not be officially in business until he could remodel the building, reconstructing the entire front, and that pending the reconstruction he had received permission to live there with his family temporarily while he negotiated for the purchase of a home. He bought the building about May 15.

He had asked permission to remodel it with a small living apartment in it for a night watchman, since he expected to keep thousands of dollars' worth of carpet there and the place had already been broken into once, with some tools being stolen. However, such remodeling would not take place until after the repeal of the prohibitive clause, he said.

The prosecution was handled

by H. F. Seawell, Carthage attorney, as Solicitor W. Lamont Brown received permission to withdraw "for the first time in my 12 years as solicitor." A former mayor of Pinebluff, he still acts as town attorney and felt himself disqualified to act, he said.

The defense was in the hands of W. D. Sabiston of Carthage.

After testimony by Spence, Mrs. Spence and Miss Sproul the State rested its case, and Sabiston moved vigorously for dismissal on grounds, for which he cited precedent, that there had been no public injury, also that there had been no shred of evidence offered that business had been transacted in the building by the occupant.

Seawell protested the motion on the grounds that the Pinebluff board had constituted itself "a little dictatorship" and "instead of enforcing the law they just say, 'We'll repeal it.'"

Judge Rowe, after taking time to study the zoning law and pertinent statutes, decided against dismissal only because, he said, "Miss Sproul testified that Mayor Mills told her he had given permission for the condition to take place."

Tempers flew a couple of times during the three-hour trial and defense counsel severely rebuked State's Witness Spence for loquacity and failing to stick to the point under cross-examination.

However, later Sabiston recalled Spence to the stand for more cross-examination and allowed him to speak as he wished, which, however, apparently failed to bolster the State's case.

Town Commissioners Davenport and Brock were not called on to testify. Timothy Cleary, the other member of the three-man board, was not involved in the proceedings as he is away taking postgraduate summer work. He is a teacher at Aberdeen High School.

The controversial clause, which prohibits the erection of any new building or structural alterations to an existing building to provide dwelling space along with a business, is part of an ordinance adopted in 1948, drawn up by a zoning commission with the help of the Institute of Government. Mills was a member of the original zoning commission, helping frame the ordinance. He was elected mayor the year after its adoption and has been reelected for every term since. Spence ran against him in 1961 but was defeated.

HUGE LOSS

North Carolina last year suffered a 207 million dollar economic loss from traffic mishaps, according to a special study prepared by the State Department of Motor Vehicles. The immense dollar loss was drained away by hospital and funeral expenses, property damage, lawsuits, insurance claims, loss of income, etc.

Chemists seeking new and better pesticides are isolating and analyzing components of the cotton plant and the bollweevil—enzymes, hormones and other components—that might affect physiology of boll weevil and could be turned against it.

**Want To Beat Heat?
Here's Good Advice**

Whether it's the heat or the humidity or both it's hot this time of year. Last Sunday and Monday, with temperatures in the high 90's, brought more complaints of heat than any days this summer.

Some ideas to help you beat the heat are offered by Today's Health, the magazine of the American Medical Association:

Wear light, loose clothing—the less the better. Stay out of the sun. Eat your regular diet. Don't go overboard on cold cuts, salads, etc. Drink more liquids than usual. Don't take extra salt if you have liver or kidney trouble, or a heart condition.

Take a shower or a dip in the pool once or twice a day. It will help you cool off. Get a lot of rest and sleep. On hot nights, put a mattress on the floor. Sometimes the air is cooler and circulates better there.

Don't work on the lawn or garden during the hottest part of the

day. Work in the early morning or at twilight. Exercise moderately. Don't overdo sports or work.

Too long exposure and too much exercise in the hot sun may produce sunstroke. Prolonged excessive heat, in or out of doors, may produce heat stroke. The symptoms are the same: headache, fever, complaint that things look red. Such strokes can be fatal. Call a physician at once. Loosen clothing and keep the victim as cool as possible until the physician arrives.

Heat prostration also is caused by getting overheated, but instead of a high fever the victim becomes cold and clammy. Prompt medical attention and keeping the patient as warm as possible until a physician arrives are important.

The bowfin, a fish which may be caught in almost any coastal swamp or lake in North Carolina, can live in mud for a short time by breathing through an air bladder.

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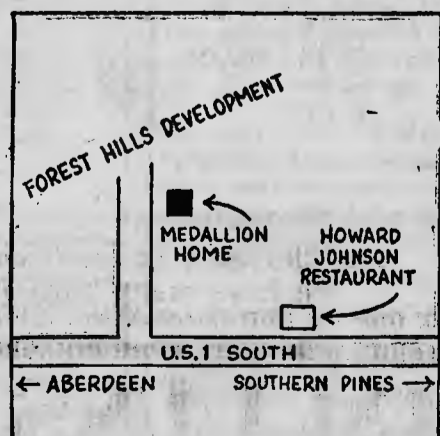
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