



WIDE FRONT across which the scattered, erratic prongs of last Thursday's Big Fire burned is shown in this aerial photo taken in late afternoon. View is not positively identified as to location. (Humphrey photo from plane flown by Buck McKenzie)

### Vast Acreage Swept By Fire

(Continued from page 1) County Ranger Travis Wicker, "When it jumped the old Jackson Springs road it got hot (out of control) and we knew we had a monster on our hands."

They had counted on the road to stop or slow the fire but from that point on, there was no stopping it. There were no natural fire-breaks in the path and it skipped over roads and fields as if they weren't there.

Man-made firebreaks soon proved useless—by the time one was done, the fire had leaped far beyond. Call for Help

The call went out for all available help and it came from all Moore County communities—then, as the afternoon went on, from far outside the county. Fort Bragg responded with hundreds of men and much equipment, including huge tanker trucks.

Some local householders, including Mayor E. H. Mills, had been fighting the fire up Pinehurst way and did not know their own town was burning until the fight was far along.

The fire swept east along the long north edge of Pinebluff penetrating a block to the south in most places, but was stopped at that depth from entering the more heavily built-up central and southern areas of the community, preventing a far greater calamity.

When the fire was about five blocks east of No. 1 highway, the wind changed and it swept south across the east end of the town, stopping short of the municipal lake, where the public picnic facilities were unharmed, but roared on, along a wide front, eastward to the Seaboard Air Line Railroad tracks, jumping the tracks also in a few places.

It was this prong of fire that, continuing southeast jumped the wide No. 1 highway parkway again and destroyed the Bliss-Spence horseshoe manufacturing plant at the intersection of No. 1 and the road from Addor. Sanitarium Evacuated

Elmore Smith, near Pinebluff, who, unwarned, got his wife and son out just in time. By the time the firefighters reached Pinebluff, the fire was inside the town.

Fire Chief W. K. Carpenter, Jr. who had sent a truck with several of his volunteers out to fight the fire earlier, sounded the siren about 5 p. m. to warn the people and bring out all available firefighters.

Hot Brands Fall Hundreds of firemen and soldiers filled the streets, where hot brands were dropping, seemingly from nowhere. Inside the town the homes of Sgt. Richard Graham and Cad Benedict (the latter unoccupied) were completely destroyed.

Householders who wished to evacuate were assisted to do so but most elected to stay and help fight the fire. Many just coming in from work leaped directly into the fray.

Working along with the Pinebluff volunteers was their junior department of teenage boys, fully justifying their training.

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With fire threatening the town from the west, the Pinebluff Sanitarium was evacuated as a precautionary measure by the Robbins Rescue Squad and Fort Bragg soldiers. Nineteen patients were taken to the Armory at Southern Pines for the night, where they used beds brought from Fort Bragg, while one bed-patient was taken to Moore Memorial Hospital. The sanitarium is a private mental hospital.

Hospital with facial burns. After 11 p. m. the mopping-up operation was under way in the blitzed village and the Slier City volunteer department arrived, saying they had "a tankful of water and couldn't find any fire." They didn't have to take the tankful home, as the fire was still raging to the South—at the west edge of Addor, where fighters worked many hours in the surrounding woods; in Camp Mackall, where thousands of soldiers were at work all night, and in Drowning Creek swamp. In the village, workers patrolled all night lest fires break out again.

Rain At Last The next day, as Pinebluff picked itself up and surveyed the mess—thankful that no lives were lost and their village had been saved—the fire was reported "contained" to the south, if not entirely controlled. It took a gentle soaking rain, which lasted all Saturday night, to put out the last hot spots and bring an end to the danger.

### Two Girls Serve As 'Pagettes'

Jeanne Butler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Butler of Midland Road, is serving this week as a "pagette" in the General Assembly at Raleigh.

Another Sandhills girl, Jeanne's cousin, Anne McKeithen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jere McKeithen of Aberdeen, served as a pagette there last week.

### Income Tax Deadline At Post Office Noted

Postmaster J. W. Causey reminds the public that for an income tax return to be postmarked, as required, before midnight April 15 (Monday), it will have to be in the local post office not later than 8:45 p. m. Mail deposited after that hour is postmarked as of 7 a. m.

April 15 (Easter Monday), Mr. Causey notes, is not a federal holiday. All post office functions will continue as usual that day.

### CLOSINGS

Some stores and businesses will close for the Easter Monday holiday April 15, along with town and county offices and banks of the area. The post office will not be closed. Moore County Recorder's Court at Carthage will convene Tuesday.

### Witnesses Will Meet April 18-21 At Local Armory

The Southern Pines West Unit congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses are busy preparing to be hosts for a three-day convention which will be held April 19-21 in Southern Pines.

### THANKS VOICED BY DISTRICT FORESTER

J. A. Pippin of Rockingham, district forester, issued the following statement of appreciation this week: "The N. C. Division of Forestry, on behalf of Moore County Forest Ranger Travis Wicker, would like to take this means to thank all persons and organizations who assisted in any manner on the suppression of the forest fires that burned in Moore County on Thursday and Friday of last week. It will be impossible to thank each person or organization individually, as there were so many persons working on the suppression of these fires."

### United Telephone Loses 300 Feet Of Cable In Fire

United Telephone Co. lost some 300 feet of a main cable last Friday morning, when it was burned by the big fire still blazing through "contained," in the Camp Mackall area. Circuits to Hamlet, Laurinburg and Charlotte were affected.

Numerous circuits were knocked out, causing considerable inconvenience in this area, though a number of calls were routed through Raleigh. Repairs were completed Friday night.

The Pinebluff Telephone Co. lost its cable to Hoffman when it burned through south of town early Thursday evening, and Hoffman was without phone service until Friday night. A good many drops (lines into homes) in Pinebluff, Hoffman and the area toward Roseland were lost or damaged, and the crews are still working on these, also on new installations for families forced to move because of loss or damage to their homes.

The Sandhill Telephone Co. at Aberdeen lost a pole and several drops in the Country Acres section on the road from Pinebluff to N. C. Route 5, but repairs were completed by Saturday night.

### Council Approves 2 Bond Projects

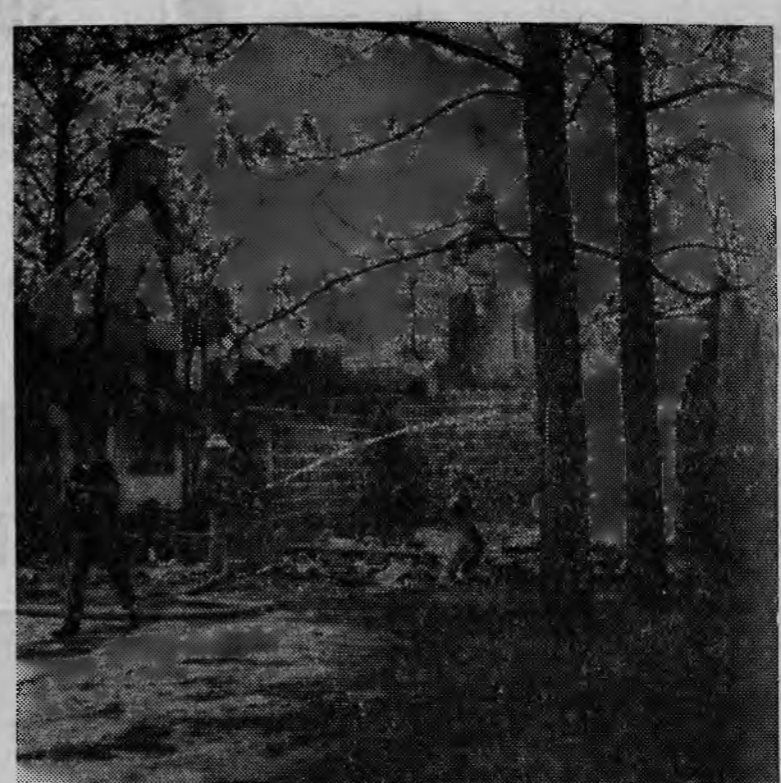
The town council, meeting Tuesday night, approved plans for two local bond issue projects—the \$35,000 West Southern Pines swimming pool and the \$25,000 addition and remodeling program at the public library.

The actions authorized the architects—Hayes-Howell & Associates for the pool and Edmund J. Austin for the library—to advertise for bids.

The bond issues were approved in an election last fall.



NEW OFFICER — Joe F. Davis, Jr., has been employed as patrolman with the Southern Pines Police Department, replacing William H. Jackson, Jr., who resigned. A veteran of 20 years of Army service which included action in Europe and Korea, Davis retired from the Army last October. He is married to the former Edith Stephenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson, formerly of Southern Pines, now of Charlotte. The Davises, who live on N. Ridge St., have a 15-year-old son. The new officer is a Mason and Episcopalian. He was employed by Proctor-Silcox before joining the Police Department. (Pilot photo)



DESTROYED was this unoccupied house in Pinebluff, owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. Benedict of Southern Pines, formerly their home for seven years. Photo was made day after fire as Pinebluff firemen wet down the still-hot rubble and prepared to knock down the standing hollow-tile walls as a safety measure. (V. Nicholson photo)

### Big Fire Sidelights

There was little panic. "It was wonderful how cool people remained in the face of danger," said District Forester J. A. Pippin. "Most of them kept their heads and did what had to be done."

Proved once again, the old truism: when you have just a few minutes' warning of fire, you save the silliest things. One woman left home with a box containing six pairs of gloves. Another saved her white parakeet, in her hands—no cage. Walter (Bill) Davenport of Pinebluff, evacuating with his wife, Barbara, threw sport coat, two pairs of pants and two shirts into a suitcase. No underwear, shaving things or tooth paste. No manuscripts, books or mementoes of his life as magazine editor and author.

Resulting from the fire: at least one premature infant. The young mother-to-be had to flee with her small son, with the fire so close they had to jump out of the car and run across a plowed field, then catching a ride in a truck. Details of the incident were not learned.

Mrs. Madeline Charles, Pinebluff town clerk, had brought home the town books to take to a board meeting that night (which, needles to say, didn't occur. As fire jumped US Highway 1 right in front of the Charles house, she searched wildly for a safe place to stash the books. She stuffed them into the deepfreeze, then ran off to fight the fire, then in their front yard, with husband Harry and two guests from New York.

Said one Pinebluff citizen sadly, "It's terrible when your neighbor comes begging for help, saying 'My house is afire,' and you can't go because you have to stay and guard your own."

Busy all Thursday evening were three teen-age youngsters whose own home had just been burned—the daughter and two sons of Sgt. and Mrs. Dick Graham. Michael Ann, 14, served at the Red Cross food stand, and DeLee, 17, and Rickey, 16, worked with the firefighters at their neighbors' homes. Rickey, a member of the Pinebluff junior department, worked side by side with Chief Carpenter and his crew.

Other young workers included Chief Carpenter's own children, Cathy, 13, at the Red Cross food stand, till past midnight, and Billy, Jr., 11, assisting the firemen. "They wanted to help and I let them stay up even though they are so young," their mother said. "After all, this is their town."

Several families, including the Dick Grahams, are grieving over lost pets—animals which couldn't be found when they had to leave, and which weren't seen again. That there weren't more in Pinebluff is due largely to the service of an unidentified woman from out of town in a red Corvair, who carefully drove about the fire-riddled streets gathering up the dogs. When she saw people looking for dogs she'd stop, and chances were she had them. Other bereft owners watched for her, so as to hunt among her passengers and find their own. When the danger was past, she turned the dogs loose, and they made their way back home. Her name was never learned.

"I want to say 'thank you' to those wonderful men who saved my house, and don't even know who they yare," said Mrs. Margaret Dunn of Country Acres. "They told me it was time to leave and I did, taking nothing. When I came back, I could see where the house had caught afire at least twice, maybe three times."

In the midst of the confusion as fire raged through the Roseland community, Mrs. Rittie Lucas was missing. Her daughter Mrs. Zilphia Evans, whose home shared the same yard with her mother, ran everywhere looking and calling for her. Others took time out from their firefighting to look too. Mrs. Evans' home was afire. Mrs. Lucas' home was threatened but she couldn't be found. The worst of it was everyone knew Mrs. Lucas had a bad back and couldn't run very far, if indeed she could get out of the house at all. When the worst of the fire was over, Mrs. Lucas showed up in a truck which then drove away, and no one yet knows the name of the young man who drove it.

One man grabbed up a box filled with his wife's best china and carried it out the door, dropped it and broke it all. The house was saved. Nothing gone, but the china.

One Pinebluff lady took another, who was not well, from her home in her car. Seeking a safe place to park, she stopped in front of the Methodist church. Though fire could be seen not far away, it seemed a comparatively quiet spot and the first lady took out her cigarettes. Lighting up, she turned to her friend and asked thoughtfully, "This smoke bother you?" This was one time both managed a big laugh.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Fitzpatrick of Pinebluff wrote to The Pilot to express her thanks to the volunteers who saved her home on Baltimore Ave. in Pinebluff.

From the Linden Road area came the story of a couple of men who had been surrounded by fire while in a truck carrying barrels of water to other firefighters. They doused themselves and the surrounding areas with water, got under the truck and the fire passed through, leaving them and the truck unharmed.

### STONEBROOK

(Continued from page 1) are all reserved, but general admission is unlimited. Race fans can look forward to a colorful program of pre-race entertainment, featuring the 82nd Airborne Division band and color guard, a mule race, exhibition of trotters and pacers from the Pinehurst track and a "pole bending" race to test skill in riding around obstacles. Master Sgt. Gerald L. Mitchell of Fort Bragg, and his wife, will be guests of honor. He is currently designated "Trooper of the Year" of the 82nd.

Many members of the N. C. General Assembly, with their wives, are expected to be guests of Sen. W. P. Saunders of Southern Pines and Speaker of the House H. Clifton Blue of Aberdeen. Net proceeds of the race meeting are divided annually between Moore Memorial and St. Joseph's Hospitals. Inquiries on any phase of the races should be directed to the race office, telephone Southern Pines 695-1381. Donald D. Kennedy is chairman of the executive committee of the Stonebrook Hunt Racing Association.

### Funeral Held For George Patteson, Retired Executive

George P. Patteson, 69, of 343 Crestview Road, died Tuesday at N. C. Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill. He was a retired executive of the General Electric Co., who moved here with his wife in 1957. Funeral services were held this (Thursday) afternoon at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, conducted by the rector, the Rev. Martin Caldwell, with burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Patteson moved to Southern Pines from Schenectady, N. Y., where he had retired two years previously from his position as manager of marketing administration in the Large Motor and Generating Department of General Electric. He had been with the firm for 40 years.

A native of Richmond, Va., Mr. Patteson was a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He was a member of Emmanuel Church, in which he had served as vestryman and junior warden. He was a member of the Sandhills Kiwanis Club and of the local Men's Garden Club.

Surviving are his wife, the former Mrs. Margaret F. Steven of Schenectady, N. Y.; one son, George P. Patteson, Jr., of Schenectady; one daughter, Mrs. M. E. Wright, of Richmond, Va.; one stepson, Harry M. Steven of Schenectady, and nine grandchildren.

### 'Bell, Book and Candle' Is Next At Playhouse

"Bell, Book and Candle," a sophisticated comedy about a glamorous present-day witch who loses her magical powers when she falls in love, will be the next to last attraction at the Pinehurst Playhouse, where it will be presented for seven performances beginning Tuesday evening April 16.

Lovely Holly Hill will be seen as "Gillian," John Hallow as "Shep," Margaret Braidwood as Gillian's aunt and Evan Thompson as a rascally brother witch. "Dial M for Murder" will be at the Playhouse through Sunday night, April 14.

### County Library To Close Friday

The Moore County Library will be closed Friday, April 19, in order that the library staff may participate in an in-service training workshop for the personnel of the Sandhill Regional Library. The one-day workshop, to be held in the Rockingham-Richmond County Library at Rockingham, will be directed by Miss Frances Gish, library consultant from the North Carolina State Library and Miss Hollis Haney, director of the Sandhill Regional Library. Personnel from the Regional Library (comprised of the Montgomery and Moore County Libraries and the Rockingham-Richmond County Library) will discuss the book collection and service to readers.

### TRAFFIC DANGER

The State Highway Patrol warns of danger on the highways during the long Easter weekend—from 6 p.m. Friday to midnight, Monday. All troopers will be out in force, checking highways with speed watches, radar cars and other means, it was stated.

### Sunrise Services Scheduled In Area

Sunrise services to be conducted Easter morning in the Southern Pines area include: Community Sunrise Service, 6 a. m. at the Country Club, sponsored by young people of Southern Pines and Pinehurst. Vass Presbyterian Church, 6 a. m., the Rev. David Moe to speak, different ministers to take part. Thagard's Lake, Whispering Pines—6:30 a. m. Participants, Yates - Thagard Baptist, Eureka and Lakeview Presbyterian Churches. West Southern Pines, 5:30 a. m., at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church. At Old Bethesda Cemetery, near Aberdeen, at 6 a. m.

### EASTER NIGHT MUSIC

A concert of Easter music by the choir of the First Baptist Church will be given at 7:30 p. m. Sunday (Easter evening) in the sanctuary of the church, with the organist, Mrs. T. E. Moore, acting as director. The public is invited.