

## Work Started On 1st House In Program

A new board was placed across the top rung of the front steps — or rather, what seemed to have been front steps once upon a time, but now were unstable pieces of boards worn away by use. Two shiny nails, one for each end of the board, were driven in with two clean drives each by Councilman Emanuel Douglass.

### Pinecrest Dedication Plan Given

A gala week of activities has been planned for the Pinecrest High School Dedication Week, February 9-15, it was announced this week by Dr. H. David Bruton, chairman of the dedication committee.

Plans call for an Open House to be held February 9-13 at the school. Each department will have student projects on display and citizens are invited to visit the school during the school day. (Continued on Page 15-A)

### Sick Boy Found

A 14-year old diabetic has been the object of a search today by Rescue Units county-wide and Sheriff's officers, in the Derby section near Jackson Springs where he was seen late yesterday after escaping from Cameron Morrison Training School.

The boy needs from three to five shots a day for his condition, and has received no medicine in two days. He was found shortly before noon and returned to school.

DAY  
A HAPPY GROUNDHOG TO YOU ALL !!



OUR SAFEST NATIONAL HOLIDAY

GROUNDHOG DAY — Monday, Feb. 2, is Groundhog Day, and one of the traditions in Southern Pines is for Artist Glen Rounds to give it proper recognition in The Pilot. Here is the 1976 presentation by Rounds—without predictions as to shadows and weather.

## Reading Has No. 1 Priority Hunt Tells Educators Here

Declaring that the "people don't want excuses," Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt told a gathering of educators at the Mid Pines Club here Monday night that "reading has been made the No. 1 priority" in public school education in North Carolina.

More than 100 reading directors and others attended the dinner session which highlighted a two-day conference which ended Tuesday. Hunt was introduced by Supt. A. Craig Phillips of the State Department of Public Instruction who said, "I know of no one with a better grasp of the political process and its positive impact than Jim Hunt."

students in the rest of the South in vocabulary skills, Hunt called for "a total commitment" to the reading effort and declared that both political and professional leadership are needed. He said that if such leadership (Continued On Page 16-A)

## Waitress Has Major Role In Impressing Tourists

BY ANN MYERS AND CRAIG LAMB

To the visiting tourist in Southern Pines, the impression of the town is not made by the bank presidents, city officials or even Chamber of Commerce employees as much as it is made by waitresses in the community. The impressions waitresses in Southern Pines give tourists are varied, judging from the comments of both waitresses and directing tourists to places of interest.

### Disaster Area

Governor Jim Holshouser announced today that Moore County has been declared a disaster area by officials in the Farmers Home Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This means that farmers in Moore County may now be eligible for disaster loans under the provisions of Public Law 94-68. Loan applications will be handled through the county's Farmers Home Administration office. Moore County was declared a disaster area after crops in the county were severely damaged by periods of extended drought and excessive rainfall last year.

### Candidate

Gilbert Lee Boger of Mockeville, Rt. 3, this week announced that he is a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress from the Eighth District. Boger, 48, is a native of David County and a graduate of Mockeville High School. He served three terms in the State House of Representatives until his defeat in 1974. He is a former dairy farmer but now operates a real estate business.

## Helms Quits Job; Title Is Denied

After voting on Thursday to establish the office of county manager in order to retain Bob Helms, the Moore County commissioners met and rescinded the action on Friday afternoon and reluctantly accepted the resignation of Helms as county administrator.

Helms will be leaving on February 29 to accept the position of county manager of Stanly County.

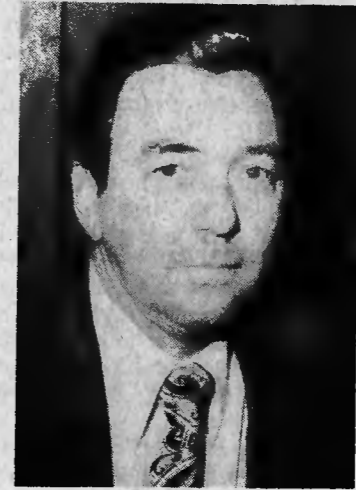
It was a matter of both higher salary and being named county manager, but Helms had indicated he would stay if the county manager position was established for him.

Apparently there was some overnight adverse reaction, especially from some county employees, which made the county commissioners rescind the resolution it had adopted in a brief executive session following a called meeting on Thursday afternoon.

"It's kind of a ticklish situation," Chairman W. S. Taylor said.

Taylor said that the board, in discussion held during another executive session lasting an hour and a half Friday afternoon, decided it could not meet Helms' request. "That would involve a change to the county manager form of government," Taylor said, "and there was reluctance on the part of some of us to make the change."

Taylor did say, however, that "We are going to move in that



Bob Helms

direction," and indicated that such a move might come in the next fiscal year beginning July 1. It was understood that Commissioner Arthur Purvis of High Falls is "definitely against" the county manager form of (Continued on Page 15-A)

### Chamber Meet

The Annual Meeting of the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce will be held tonight (Wednesday) at the Southern Pines Country Club.

Luther Hodges Jr., of North Carolina National Bank in Charlotte, will be the banquet speaker.

A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m., with the dinner following at 7:30.

## Economy Recovery Is Seen

"A slow but steady recovery" which is going on now is the way Dr. Kenneth Howard, budget officer for the State of North Carolina, summarized the economic outlook in a talk here last week to the Kiwanis Club.

"We went in faster and we are going to come out of the recession faster," Howard declared, although he said he would need another three to four weeks to be completely confident in respect to state revenues.

One of the things which Howard said was unusual about North Carolina is that the people are not spending at the same rate as the rest of the country and this has accounted for less revenue from sales tax than anticipated.

Savings accounts are rising, however, he said, and he does expect retail sales to start rising at a faster rate.

Dr. Howard, who was a member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill prior to his appointment as budget officer in July of 1973, was firm in saying that the State will not end up this fiscal year with a budget deficit. (Continued On Page 16-A)

### Sales Tax

Sales tax collections, one of the best economic indicators in the state, continued to run high in Moore County in December. Secretary J. Howard Coble of the State Department of Revenue reported this week that the one percent sales tax for Moore County amounted to \$85,259.41 in December.

One percent collections in neighboring counties for the month were as follows: Hoke, \$18,297.33; Lee, \$80,863.90; Montgomery, \$28,137.16; Richmond, \$84,928.48.

## 9th Grade Status Kept In Board's Split Vote

The Moore County Board of Education Tuesday night received a comprehensive report from a Citizens Committee which has been studying organizational problems of the Area III schools for the past three months, then decided in a split vote to leave the pattern of the schools just as it is, for now.

This means that the ninth grades will remain in the middle schools instead of being returned

to Pinecrest High School, probably for the next year and maybe longer.

They were moved from Pinecrest to the Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen middle schools about three and a half years ago, at a time when Pinecrest was overcrowded and beset with disciplinary and learning problems. (The West End school remained K-8.) (Continued On Page 14-A)

## Pilot Receives State Top Award For News Coverage During 1975

The Pilot has been awarded first place in News Coverage among North Carolina weekly newspapers for 1975.

Presentation of the top award was made Thursday night at the annual Press Institute of the North Carolina Press

Association in Chapel Hill.

Governor James Holshouser presented the plaque for first place to Sam Ragan, editor and publisher, and Marjorie Ragan, associate editor.

In selecting The Pilot for first place, the judges had this

comment: "Overall, The Pilot best fulfills the criteria set forth in this category.

"Its news content exhibits a high degree of professionalism. Its reporting is detailed backed (Continued On Page 16-A)

## House In The Horseshoe Drama Set For Production Next July

BY MILDRED ALLEN  
Joe Simmons, playwright for "The House in the Horseshoe," the outdoor drama now completed on paper and approved by the Moore County Historical Society for production in July, has discovered the unique historical qualities of Moore County, the story of a people thrown into the throes of difficult

times together and often in conflict. "The play has two sides," Simmons said while in town over the weekend meeting with committees, "It is a battle of the minds of two men, who are very much alike and who are battling each other. Both are cold and calculating men. This is counterpointed by Temperance

Alston time and again when she enters the picture and intimates that both men are out of line, fighting each other and getting people killed, that human beings simply aren't meant to be that way." Simmons has the idea that if women could have been outspoken as they are today, (Continued On Page 16-A)



OUTDOOR DRAMA PLANS — Playwright Joe Simmons, Mrs. Ernest Ives and Duane Sedden are shown above discussing plans for "The House in the Horseshoe," Moore County's outdoor drama scheduled for a six week run beginning July 7.

## THE PILOT LIGHT

SANFORD—Terry Sanford is not bitter about his decision to take himself out of the presidential race, but he does feel he did not get the support from fellow North Carolinians which he had expected.

He is grateful, however, for those who did support his efforts, and singled out Sam Poole of Southern Pines for the work he did in his campaign.

"If I had ten people like Sam Poole working for me I would be on top right now," he said.

Sanford, always a realist in politics, talked casually and amiably with friends following a Press Institute dinner at Duke University on Friday night. It was obvious that once the decision to withdraw was made he was ready to go on to other

things. He planned to be in his office Monday to resume duties as president of Duke University, but in the near future he will be taking a few days off for relaxation, and among the things he is looking forward to is some golf in the Sandhills.

CARTER—The first reaction among newspaper editors and publishers at Chapel Hill and Durham when the news came of Sanford's withdrawal was that former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter would benefit most among the candidates in the north Carolina primary. "Carter will pick up most of the Sanford votes," was the declaration of one editor.

Over the weekend, however, a (Continued on Page 15-A)



AWARD TO THE PILOT — Governor James Holshouser (left) presents plaque for first place in News Coverage to Marjorie Ragan, associate editor, and Sam Ragan, editor and publisher of The Pilot.