



PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER — This painting of the new President of the United States is hanging at Bob's Pizza at Skyline. It was painted by the proprietor's wife, Bertha Newcomer.

An Aura Of Good Feeling At Carter's Inauguration

BY VOIT GILMORE
Inauguration week in Washington was some of America at its best. If you weren't there, whatever your political persuasion, you missed a great drama. Even in the Riggs National Bank inaugural parade stands adjacent to the White House, I sensed an aura of good feeling about our land.

more manageable. As numbed viewers sat or stomped feet in the arctic wind through three hours of bands and floats I felt almost wicked being able easily to slip inside to the bank's day-long buffet and its teller windows which had been labeled "drink teller" and were dispensing spirits, not money. There I heard much praise for Carter's gracious opening words about Ford. And I encountered Luther Hodges, Jr., busily pushing his plan to replace Jesse Helms as senator in 1978. All week in Washington was a

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Many From Moore Share Experience

BY SALLY AUMAN
After a memorable trip to the inauguration on Thursday in Washington, it is my opinion that every American should make every effort to attend this event at least once.

The news media gives an excellent coverage, but it is the enthusiasm of the people that gives momentum to the occasion. It is impossible to portray the mass of some 350,000 persons, all happy, even amid cold, overcrowding and weariness.

Phyllis George To MC Hall Of Fame Banquet

Phyllis George will be the mistress of ceremonies when two persons from Southern Pines will be inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame at Charlotte on Feb. 17.



Phyllis George

The North Carolina Congressional delegation rolled out the red carpet for some 2,000 Tar Heels. It began with a Wednesday evening buffet in the Caucus room of the Cannon Building. Senator and Mrs. Robert Morgan hosted a breakfast in the Cannon Building on Thursday and coffee, doughnuts, and cookies were on tap in the

Woman, 39 Reported Missing

Betty Ann Kennedy, of Robbins, Rt. 1, has been reported missing since Jan. 22.

Mrs. Kennedy, who is described as white, age 39, 5 foot, 5 inches tall, weighing 120 pounds with hazel eyes and black hair, was last seen at the Super Dollar Store in Robbins on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. She was reportedly wearing a short length brown leather coat and slacks at the time.

She was reported to have had between \$200 and \$300 with her. She was reported missing by her husband, Charles M. Kennedy, on Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 9 (Continued on Page 13-A)

Deputy Case

Sheriff C. G. Wimberly said this (Wednesday) morning that he has not received a resignation from Deputy Walter Smith. There were reports that Smith, a former undercover agent in a drug investigation, was involved in a mistaken identity search warrant incident.

Not Much Snow -- Enough To Stall Sandhills Region

It wasn't much of a snow--not much more than an inch--but combined with sleet it had a paralyzing effect on the Sandhills late Monday afternoon and night. There was a rash of automobile accidents all over Moore County and during the afternoon and night there were 21 persons treated at Moore Memorial Hospital for accident injuries. There were no serious injuries, however, because of the icy condition. Schools were closed on Tuesday and reopened one hour late today (Wednesday). The schools had been closed on Monday for a teacher work day. Most business places in the Sandhills closed early Monday afternoon when warnings went out about the hazardous driving conditions on the highways.

The State Highway Patrol and the police departments in Southern Pines and Aberdeen were kept busy with accident calls and traffic stalls.

Most of the accidents were from cars sliding into ditches or into other vehicles because of the ice on the streets and highways. At one place near Carthage traffic was blocked for quite awhile because of a five-car pile-up. Another traffic snarl developed on Highway 22 out of Southern Pines late in the afternoon when several cars were involved in an accident.

Derry Walker, public information director, said that most of those brought to Moore Memorial Hospital were treated for minor injuries and released. There were no reports, he said, of major injuries from slips or falls on the ice.

The Southern Pines Fire Department was called to several wrecks to wash down the (Continued on Page 14-A)

Youth Held In Eight Arson Cases After Rash Of Costly Home Fires

Robert L. Stuart, Jr., 18, of Southern Pines, has been arrested in connection with eight cases of arson and unlawful burning after an intensive three week investigation by the Southern Pines Police Dept., the Southern Pines Fire Dept. and SBI agent R. E. Adams of Southern Pines. Stuart, a Pinecrest senior, was charged Sunday with two felony counts of arson and five felony counts of unlawful burning, by the Southern Pines Police Dept., and one count of arson by the Pinehurst Police Dept.

Young Stuart was initially put under a \$4,000 bond, and was out of jail, reportedly staying with his father who had moved to a condominium in Pinehurst, until Tuesday when Superior Court Judge William Z. Wood ordered Stuart's bond revoked and papers to be prepared to have him committed to Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh for 60 days for evaluation.

The fires connected with the charges are the Dec. 21 fire at the Stuart house at 725 Ohio Ave., where damage was reportedly extensive to one room; the Jan. 1 fire at the Edgar B. Smith house at 605 Midland Rd., where the house was nearly destroyed; the Stuart house again on Jan. 6, this time gutting the entire building; and five additional fires started Sunday, Jan. 23, the day of Stuart's arrest.

The fires Sunday included the Susan Talbert house, which had

at one time been owned by Stuart, at 535 E. Delaware Ave., with extensive damage done to the structure; the C. C. McDonald house at 650 E. Ohio Ave., and the McDonald's car, estimated damage to the house \$5,000 with the interior of the car completely destroyed; the Edgar Smith house on Midland Rd., again; and a condominium structure housing several (Continued on Page 14-A)



ARSON CHARGED — This is what remains of the Edgar B. Smith home at 605 Midland Road following a second fire, in which Robert L. Stuart Jr., 18, is charged with arson.—(Photo by Glenn M. Sides).

Water Vote Hearing Is Called

The Moore County commissioners, in a brief called meeting Tuesday morning, set a public hearing for Tuesday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m., on holding a bond referendum on the proposed county-wide water system.

The vote, tentatively set for March 29, would provide for a \$12-million bond issue, to finance construction of Phase 1 of a long-range plan developed by engineers over the past several years, designed to meet the county's water needs to the year 2000.

The board's action followed a report by D. Parker Lynch, county public works director, that the Local Government Commission had approved their application so far, recommending the March 29 voting date as the earliest feasible.

The commissioners, who published on January 5 their "Notice of Intent" to file followed up Tuesday with adoption of two resolutions required by the Local Government Commission.

Phase 1 calls for construction of a water filtration plant on Drowning Creek, with lines laid to serve Pinebluff, Aberdeen, Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Whispering Pines; also lines laid along nearby highways from the Robbins filtration plant, and in the Vass-Lakeview area, from (Continued on Page 14-A)

Chamber Is Told Zoning Only Answer For Moore

"There is no word in local politics more disliked than the word 'zoning.' However, that is the only procedure left to you if you are going to maintain the character of the county."

With those words, James E. Harrington Jr., a former Pinehurst resident and now a Raleigh businessman after serving four years in the administration of ex-Gov. James E. Holshouser, made a point to a Southern Pines audience Tuesday night in explaining why

a comprehensive plan is needed for the future development of Moore County so that the Sandhills will not become a less desirable place to live.

Speaking to about 200 persons at the annual dinner meeting of the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce, Harrington said Moore County already had most of the qualities of good living that other communities were looking for now. But, he warned, unless a comprehensive plan to guide and (Continued on Page 13-A)

Meet Set By Council To Make Future Plans

A meeting of the Southern Pines Retail Council to discuss plans for the future has been called for 8 a.m. Friday in the Council Room of Town Hall by Chairman Joann Duffield. Spurgeon Cameron and Peter Batchelor of N. C. State University, who have proposed a downtown study with recommendations to the Town Council, will be at the meeting to discuss their proposal.

In calling the meeting, Mrs. Duffield said: "We've just come through a very interesting business year. We have been coming out of a business recession, faced

competition from a new regional mall, increased parking problems, a community study program called RUDAT, proposals from the Town Council based on the Wilbur Smith Traffic and Parking Study, talk of a new shopping center at Pinehurst, and rumors of at least two others, etc.

"The time has come for the downtown business community to come together and talk about what we want to do, what we think should be done and to find out the thinking of our Town Council as to possible steps that can be taken to improve our (Continued on Page 14-A)

Miss Linder Is Finalist For Morehead Award

Loretta Kay Linder of Southern Pines, a senior at Pinecrest High School, is one of the finalists for a Morehead Scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the daughter of Mrs. Ines G. Linder of 230 N. Ashe St., and Leroy O. Linder of Carthage. Miss Linder was one of six nominees for the highly regarded Morehead Award from District III.

The announcement was made by Mebane Pritchett, executive director of the John Motley Morehead Foundation. Selection of finalists is made on the basis of academic achievement and potential evidence of leadership and service, character and physical vigor. The finalists were selected from 23 nominees picked earlier by county committees from 12 counties in District III. Interviews were conducted by the District Selection Committee in Elizabethtown on Tuesday, Jan. 18. District III is composed of (Continued on Page 14-A)

School Plans Aired At All-Day Meeting

Slick and icy roads in all areas of Moore County on Tuesday didn't deter the Moore County people interested in the long-range improvement of the county school system.

The group--numbering up to 50 persons at times--met all day at the administration building of the school system near Carthage

to discuss the needs of all 19 schools in all areas of improving the quality of instruction to the students.

All members of the school board were present at the morning session, as were three of the five county commissioners. Also present were advisory (Continued on Page 14-A)

\$3 Million Shopping Center, Housing Complex Announced

Plans for a \$2 million shopping center on US 15-501 across from Pinecrest High School and an adjoining \$1 million condominium complex were announced this week by Shirley Manning.

Mrs. Manning, who has been engaged in real estate development in Southern Pines

for the past several years, said that she has purchased a 40-acre tract on US 15-501 and Morganton Road which is not now zoned.

She plans, however, to present her plans and proposal to the Moore County Planning Board "as a courtesy" this (Wednesday) afternoon at 3 o'clock. "I will seek their blessing," she

It will be a "controlled type" shopping center of from 10 to 12 acres, Mrs. Manning said, with 100,000 square feet of shopping space, which will also include an enclosed mall. The townhouse type condominiums, 20 in all, will (Continued on Page 14-A)



FENCE A TARGET — This fence along the property of Dr. and Mrs. Anthony G. Hucks-Folliss on East Connecticut Avenue has been a special target for automobiles failing to make the curve at DunCraig Manor, where the sign at right was erected. Mrs. Hucks-Folliss said their fence has been knocked down five times in the past three months, the latest this past Friday night.

THE PILOT LIGHT

HUNT--Governor Jim Hunt has a campaign commitment to tighten up the administration of state government and he already has told department heads to show some results by some time in March. This could mean a reduction in personnel for several departments, but if the usual procedures are followed this will come about by general attrition--resignations and retirements--with the jobs being left unfilled whenever possible. Some employees will be laid off, however. During the campaign Governor Hunt talked about making state government "leaner and more efficient," and

he wants to see some headway made along this line.

AUMAN--Rep. T. Clyde Auman came back from the Carter inauguration in Washington last Friday and entered Moore Memorial Hospital Saturday morning. At the time he was running a fever, and on Monday it was not known how long he would be away from the General Assembly because of the illness.

COURTS--A bill has been introduced in the Legislature which would require all cases to be brought to trial in the courts (Continued on Page 13-A)