

Moore Votes Tuesday On Water Bond Issue

\$700,000 Option Is Taken For Purchase of Weymouth

The College Foundation has granted an option to buy "Weymouth" - the Boyd Estate in Southern Pines - to the Friends of Weymouth, Inc., and The Nature Conservancy for \$700,000. The option runs for one year.

Agreement for the acquisition of the 200-acre property, which,

among other natural assets, contains the last known large stand in North Carolina of virgin long-leaf pine trees, was reached by the Foundation, headed by Dr. R.M. McMillan of Southern Pines; the Friends of Weymouth, headed by Admiral I.J. Galantin, USN Retired, Country Club of North Carolina, and Thomas M.

Massengale, Chapel Hill, and John Payne, Washington, D.C., representing The Nature Conservancy.

According to Dr. Raymond A. Stone, president of Sandhills Community College and secretary of the College Foundation, directors of the Foundation and officials of the college want to see "Weymouth" preserved and used for the enrichment of the entire community. They are willing to sell the estate to the Friends of Weymouth and The Nature Conservancy, which has a North Carolina branch, he said, for a price regarded as being substantially below the current market value, to assure its continuous use and enjoyment by visitors as well as local residents.

Admiral Galantin said that the Friends of Weymouth will shortly announce plans for a public campaign to raise approximately \$1,000,000 to cover the cost of acquiring, renovating

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Moore County voters will go to the polls next Tuesday, March 29, to decide whether a county-wide water system will be established.

A tissue in the special election is a \$12 million bond issue to establish the water system, which is being proposed by the county commissioners after more than ten years of studies.

There are 18,436 persons eligible to vote, although election officials are expecting about a third of those registered to cast ballots on a "Yes" or "No" question.

Polls will be open at the regular polling places from 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Spearheading the campaign for approval of the bond issue has been the "Good Neighbors for Clean Water" organization headed by Norris Hodgkins Jr., of Southern Pines and Harris Blake of Pinehurst.

Endorsements and strong support for the bond issue and water system have come from all of the major municipal governing bodies - Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Pinehurst, Whispering Pines, Robbins and Carthage.

Several organizations also have issued statements of support, among them this week being the Vass Women's Club and the Southern Pines Jaycees. President Gregg Allen of the

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FIRE DESTROYS CHURCH - This is all that was left this week of Bethlehem Church, the oldest Baptist Church in Moore County, after fire swept the sanctuary and educational building early Sunday morning. The only thing left was part of the walls of the educational building. - (Photo by Michael Valen)

Moore Landmark Bethlehem Church Destroyed In Early Sunday Fire

Bethlehem Church, the oldest Baptist church in Moore County, was completely destroyed by fire early Sunday morning.

It was a terrible blow to the 266-member congregation, and all day Sunday there was a steady procession of cars past the rubble which was all that was left of the Moore County landmark.

The loss was estimated at \$250,000, and there was only \$70,000 insurance on the sanctuary and adjoining educational building.

The Rev. Tom Herndon, pastor of the church which was formally organized in 1834, said that the blaze started between 1:30 and 2:30 Sunday morning.

Fire departments from Carthage, Robbins and Seven Lakes answered the call and fought the blaze until they ran out of water, he said.

The flames spread rapidly through the church, which was built of fat pine. It was raining and the wind was blowing, and the heat was intense.

"They might not have saved it anyway, but the water ran out,"

the Rev. Mr. Herndon said.

Nothing was saved. Two members of the church did attempt to save the organ and a piano, but the flames forced them back. There were three pianos in the buildings, as well as some valuable pictures in the church foyer.

As the flames moved from the back, where it was believed to have started from a faulty furnace, the steeple collapsed. The heat was so intense, Herndon said, that it burned a hole in the church bell.

The sanctuary which was destroyed was constructed in 1885-86. The educational building was wood with brick veneer.

Man Held In Gun Slaying

Donald Howard King, 35, of Seagrove, Rt. 2, was shot and killed at a rural home in the High Falls area shortly before midnight Sunday, and Gary Lynn Brady, 23, of Robbins, Rt. 1, was placed in Moore County Jail that same night charged with his murder, according to Sheriff C.G. Wimberly.

Arrested Monday in Moore District Court, on the opening of the current civil term, Brady was denied bond, and preliminary hearing was set for Thursday, March 31.

Wimberly said the investigation by his department showed that the two men, with Jimmy Brady, a cousin of Gary Lynn Brady, after riding around together during the evening in a truck belonging to King, had wound up about 11:30 p.m. at the home of Danny Cheek on Seagrove, Rt. 2, where Jimmy Brady and his sister, Mary Ann Brady, live.

Jimmy Brady, who had been driving the truck, said he left it in the yard with the two other men inside, and went into the house.

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Only the half crumbled walls of the building remained on Monday, and the area was roped off to keep people away from possible danger.

Bethlehem Baptist Church is located on county road 1261 near the intersection with county road 1243, between four and five miles west of Carthage. Its membership comes from a wide area.

Immediate plans have been

made to rebuild the church, and a committee has been elected to decide "where we will worship," the Rev. Mr. Herndon said. On this coming Sunday the worship service will be held at the Fire Station at Seven Lakes from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and a decision for future meetings will be made at that time.

The Rev. Mr. Herndon said

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Workshop On Downtown Is Set Here Saturday

First results of a survey and study of downtown Southern Pines by two faculty members of the N.C. State University School of Design will be presented at a workshop March 26.

The first of three community workshops will be held Saturday at 8-10 a.m. in the Town Hall, with the exhibit of a model of downtown as it exists on view until 4 p.m. in the town

courtroom, to select major planning issues from citizens.

Peter Batchelor, AIA-AIP, and Spurgeon Cameron, AIP, former resident, are being assisted in the study by teams of students from the Environmental Design Program at NCSU.

Batchelor and Cameron are interviewing downtown merchants and residents today

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Baptist Head To Speak In Moore This Weekend

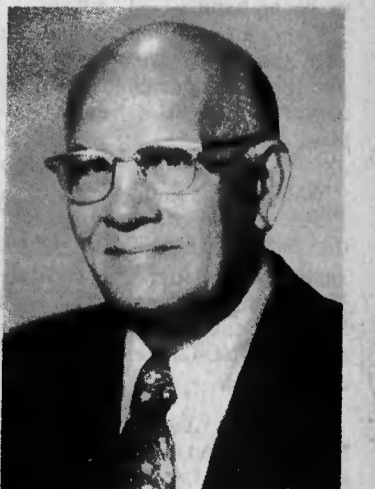
Dr. James L. Sullivan, President of the 12-million member Southern Baptist Convention, will be the special pulpit guest March 27 at 11 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Carthage.

On Saturday, Dr. Sullivan will be the guest of honor and special speaker at a dinner at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Southern Pines.

Prior to his retirement and election as the top officer of the world-wide Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Sullivan served 20 years as President of the Sunday School Board of the SBC. The Sunday School Board is a multi-faceted institution responsible for church literature, Broadman Press, Ridgecrest and Glorietta conference centers, Baptist Book Stores, and other ministries.

Dr. Sullivan has been quoted in the news media rather

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Dr. James L. Sullivan

Bus Station Move Denied By State

A petition by the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce for a new location of the bus station serving the section has been denied by the State Utilities Commission after the hearing commissioner concluded that the Aberdeen site is "sufficient and adequate for the needs of the Sandhills area."

The order will be made final on April 6 unless exceptions are made by the Chamber and further hearings are determined to be needed on the basis of the exceptions.

J. Ward Purrington was the hearing commissioner and his report was sent to the Chamber and others in the area this week.

The report follows a public hearing in Raleigh on January 5 at which time the commissioner refused to hear requests for "improved bus service" and limited the hearing to the issue of a more centrally located bus station.

Seven alternative sites had been proposed by the Chamber, but none were accepted by

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April 1 Is Music Time For Picquet Festival

Preparations are continuing this week on the annual Picquet Music Festival to be held April 1 at 8 p.m. in the Pinecrest gymnasium.

The event is sponsored each spring by the Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills, since its beginning in 1946 on the initiation of Charles W. Picquet.

First on the program this year will be the presentation of the Junior Builder's Cup, presented each year by the Kiwanis Club to the high school senior in the Moore County Schools who has

proven himself or herself to be the most outstanding student in the county.

The music program this year centers around the Walt Disney song "It's a Small World." Ten selections from different countries are planned by various choral and band groups from the Moore County Schools.

The Pinecrest Stage Band will begin the performance with the overture of "It's a Small World." The String Ensemble will then do a Hungarian number entitled

Electronics Firm Plans New Plant In Park Here

An industry, new to the Sandhills, was introduced to leaders of the area and members of the press at a reception Friday evening in the Member's Club of the Pinehurst Country Club.

It was announced that Projects Unlimited, a 20 year old company out of Dayton, Ohio, will locate an offshot of their industry in the Sandhills Industrial Park on Highway 5 between Aberdeen and Pinehurst.

The company specializes in the custom design and construction

of electronic and electromechanical systems, cables and molded parts, audio indicators and systems and also offer a standard line of solid state audio indicators, miniature flashers, panel-mounted alarms, and test instruments, with commercial and industrial as well as military customers.

The firm hopes to start limited production in one of the existing buildings at the Sandhills Industrial Park by the first of May.

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INDOOR SANDPILE - Mrs. Susan Riley plays with the children in the beautiful Carthage Kindergarten building. Mrs. Riley is one of the two teachers at this well-equipped kindergarten.

Council Plans Hearing On Changes In Sign Law

The Southern Pines Town Council in special meeting Tuesday night approved for public hearing April 12 a series of about 30 amendments to the Town's sign ordinance, comprising however, only two major changes; heard administrative policy formulated on goals and procedures in the personnel area, aimed at the most effective service to the citizens, along with fairness and non-discrimination; and authorized the manager to pursue certain opportunities in state or federal funding which might result in special benefits to the town.

The sign ordinance, adopted in July 1975, provided originally that signs rated as non-conforming under its terms would have just one year from enactment for amortization of the owner's investment before having to be taken down, with the council, however, having the power to extend the time in some hardship cases.

Extensions were granted on request, some for as long as four years, making five in all after enactment, until finally, on recommendation of the planning board, it was decided to allow a full five years for all the non-conforming signs. Since the recommendation was made at the November 1975 meeting of the Planning Board, this gave until November 11, 1980, for all to

be brought into compliance, or be eliminated.

No Final Date

A major change slated now for public hearing at the council's April meeting would allow the signs to continue in non-conforming status, without any terminal date, subject to the same type of controls as non-conforming buildings and businesses under the town zoning ordinance - no changes in use or message, no structural alteration, no relocation, no re-establishment once the sign has been discontinued, and others along those lines.

The other major change has to do with the size of ground signs in the business areas, of which one-

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THE PILOT LIGHT

GET-TOGETHER-There were disclaimers of any politics being discussed but there were several state and local politicians on hand for a get-together at Ed Causey's cabin near Lakeview on Saturday night.

Among those were Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green, State Senators Russell Walker, Charles Vickery and Willis Whichard, and Rep. T. Clyde Auman of Moore County. Causey is chairman of the Moore County Democratic Executive Committee. Some Republicans, including E. Earl Hubbard of Southern Pines and Harris Blake of Pinehurst, were present, however.

One of the sub rosa subjects being talked about in Moore County is the liquor-by-the-drink

bill, which is expected to be introduced in the General Assembly by the Mecklenburg legislative delegation when they think it is timely. Those attending the gathering at the Causey cabin were quiet about whether this subject was talked about Saturday night.

DEMOCRATS-A full meeting of the Moore County Democratic Executive Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the courthouse at Carthage. The main purpose of the meeting, according to Chairman Ed Causey, is to make recommendations of three names for appointment to the county Board of Elections. The recommendations will go to the

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Tour Of Schools Proves To Be Eye-Opener

BY PATSY TUCKER

Where are Dick, Jane and Sally? These three characters that lived in the homes of so many generations of children have gone the way of the dark halls and brown and yellow walls that used to dominate the public schools.

No longer does a child in elementary school sit in one seat all day long, only to squirm through the bigger part of the day. He wanders from one area to another; uses materials that just a few generations past he would never have dreamed of

using. He has individual attention unheard of ten years ago.

My eyes have been opened to public school education. They have been opened to teachers who really care about the children they are in charge of for a large part of that child's life.

They have been opened to administrators who appear to eat, sleep and breathe educating our young, from Kindergarten through grade twelve.

The vision I was shown was a result of interviews and guided tours through some of Moore County's elementary schools in

an effort to find the results of and an understanding of the overall reading program beginning in Kindergarten through the State Primary Reading Project.

I was not only thoroughly impressed with the entire school system and their approach to education I was over-awed by the attractive, very well-equipped rooms, the teachers, and what possibly is the best test, the children. Nowhere was there a Johnny with a scowl on his face. There was no squirming, no picking at one another; no faces blank from boredom or teachers

with furrowed brows.

I kept asking and kept asking everywhere I went. Why? What's happened since my oldest was a first, second or third grader? I had seen changes, of course, but had not kept up as closely as I should have for say ten years. That ten years has proven to have covered more ground than I thought possible.

Then why? Complete redecoration of halls and classrooms with bright walls and bright carpeting immediately creates an atmosphere that is welcoming and pleasing to the

children. Equipment is unsurpassed. Each room is equipped with headphones for individual study of certain subjects; television sets for special programs; books and learning games; stoves and sinks and refrigerators in a number of the rooms; learning areas with groups of chairs rather than the thought of rows of chairs and desks. Attractive wall decorations in all cases show the creativity of the teacher - not only her own but those creations done by the children.

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