

Council Seeks Grant For New Water Plans

Woman's Death Mystery, Although Accident Ruled

The long-delayed SBI laboratory reports on the autopsy and other evidence in the death of Miss Nova Frances Richardson, 49, on July 22, at her home in Jackson Springs were received Monday by the medical examiner and coroner in Moore County, but added little to what had been already known.

Based on the autopsy report and opinion of a state medical examiner, and a report authenticating a note found in the house as in the handwriting of the deceased, Coroner A. B. Parker gave his opinion that there had been a suicide attempt, but that had not been responsible for her death.

He concurred in the finding that the death had been due to carbon monoxide poisoning, from the fire which had burned in two rooms and filled the whole house with smoke before it was detected by neighbors. However, Parker said there was no evidence Miss Richardson was in any way to blame for the setting of the fire, that the local investigation and SBI had turned up no way to determine its origin, and he believed it had been due to

The Southern Pines Town Council in special meeting Thursday morning attacked the town's water problems head-on, taking a three-pronged approach toward a practical solution, hoped to be financed in large part by an FHA grant.

Les Hall, the town's consulting engineer, had raced a deadline the week before to file a pre-application at the FHA office at Raleigh, and the council met another deadline Thursday with its official commitment to paying \$172,500, its approximately 51 percent share of the \$344,900 grant, made available under the Drought Emergency Act.

Deadlines were imminent, the whole process speeded up because of the nature of the legislation which had zipped its way through Congress, designed to offer help as rapidly as possible to communities suffering under the impact of the summer's heat and drought.

W. B. Hill, Moore County FHA supervisor, had gone to Raleigh with Hall, and both were at the special meeting, with forms to be filled out, marking some 59 steps to be taken in a series of deadlines, through the final target date of November 15. While Hill acted as guide



IN OPERATION DEC. 1 — This is one view of the giant processing plant near Ador for the Moore County regional sewer system which is scheduled to go into operation on Dec. 1. The waste disposal treatment plant will serve Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen. —(Photo by Glenn M. Sides)

Armed, Masked Men Rob Women At Home

Two armed men wearing ski masks held up two women in a home near Vass Saturday and stole \$5,032 in cash and valuables, Moore County Sheriff Wimberly reported Monday.

Ruby Durbin Parker, 44, of Rt. 2, Vass and a visitor, Marsha Talent, were in Mrs. Parker's home at 9:30 Saturday night when two young white males kicked the door open, held a knife and a gun on them, tied their feet, legs and arms with heat duct tape and put tape over their mouths and then robbed them,

the sheriff said. From Mrs. Parker they stole \$450 in cash, 10 diamond rings worth \$4,337, \$125 in war bonds and \$120 in travelers checks, he said. Also, they stole \$1.75 from Ms. Talent, which was not included in the \$5,032 total, he said. Ms. Parker said the robbers called her by name but she did not know them, Wimberly said. The two women got loose after the men left and called the sheriff from a neighbor's phone. The had to walk to the neighbor's

Her outgoing nature, (Continued on Page 12-A)

Special Reading Grant Awarded Moore Schools

News of a \$66,008 federal grant for a Reading Improvement Project, funded for one year but renewable from year to year, has been awarded to the Moore County Schools against heavy competition, according to information received by the county board of education in regular meeting Monday night.

Charles McKinley, then director of the ESAA program (since discontinued) had started work last February on the application, despite advance warning that only 25 such grants were to be made in the entire nation.

Mrs. Lorna Livengood, director of instruction (K-3) and reading (K-12) said that she and

With so much emphasis now being placed on Early Childhood Education programs, Mrs. Livengood said they decided to try for something for the middle schools, where they felt the competition might not be so keen.

Gilmore On Awards Committee

Voit Gilmore, Southern Pines businessman and civic leader, has been named by Governor James B. Hunt Jr. to serve on a five-member citizens' committee to nominate persons for the annual North Carolina Awards. He will be in charge of Public Service Awards. Others on the committee are Mrs. James H. Semans of Durham, chairman; Mrs. William A.V. Cecil of Asheville, Arts; Dr. Guy Owen of Raleigh, Literature, and Dr. Louise Nixon Sutton of Elizabeth City, Science.

The application, submitted to the "Right to Read" program of the U. S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was funded for eight classes, four in the Southern Pines Middle School and four in the Aberdeen Middle School. Preparation is now under way for classwork to begin about the middle of October in one fifth grade class one sixth, one seventh and one eighth in each school. (Continued on Page 12-A)

The committee will make recommendations to the Governor and to Sara W. Hodgkins, secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Blue Festival

Congressman Bill Hefner is expected to attend the Malcolm Blue Historical Society's fourth annual Traditional Crafts and Skills Festival at the Blue Farm near Aberdeen on Friday. A roast pig plate supper, with music and dancing, will begin at 5 p.m.

The Festival will be held from 5 to 11 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, with a variety of events scheduled.

Sewer System To Start Up Dec. 1; Bid Opening On New Line Thursday

The \$17 million Moore County regional sewer system is scheduled to go into operation on Dec. 1.

A bid opening will be held in Carthage on Thursday at 2 p.m. for the construction of an interceptor sewer line to serve south Southern Pines, including recently annexed areas off Indiana Avenue Extension.

This interceptor line which will tie in with the main sewer line near Aberdeen is expected to cost in the neighborhood of three-quarter million dollars, Lynch said.

Following the bid opening the Moore County commissioners will visit the waste treatment plant near Ador where the process of operations will be explained.

Parker Lynch of the county administrator's office said this week that the principal task now is getting the electronic equipment synchronized. Construction work is in its final stages, and unless there are some unforeseen hitches the giant waste treatment plant will be ready by Dec. 1 to start receiving waste from three Sandhills communities.

They are Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen. Lynch said that when the plant, described as looking like a small city by one observer, will begin receiving waste from the present Southern Pines treatment plant off U.S. 1 and

NC 2, from two points in Pinehurst, and the Town of Aberdeen. The clubhouse at the Country Club of North Carolina will also be tied into the system, although residences at CNCN will not be a part of the system at this time.

It is expected that work on the interceptor line in south Southern Pines will get under way soon and will be completed within a year.

Travel Ads Funds Cut Despite Good Response

Advertising funds for the Par Travel Council of the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce have been cut to \$20,000, half of what Par received from Moore County in the 1976-77 fiscal year, according to Mrs. Betsy Lindau, Director and Secretary of Par Travel Council.

Mrs. Lindau said the council expects to have \$5,000 in matching funds from the state soon for promotion. Last year Par advertised the Sandhills as a vacation resort in the New York Times, the Montreal Star, the Toronto Star, Southern Living, Travel and Leisure, Golf Magazine, Golf Digest, and Golf World. Mrs. Lindau said with the funds allotted for the 1977-78 fiscal year, (Continued on Page 12-A)

"The \$20,000 is just not enough for national advertising," Mrs. Lindau said. "We intend to ask the county commissioners for more later in the year."

School Enrollment Rise Means Two New Teachers

The 9,647 pupils attending Moore County Schools on the 10th day after opening—90 more than on the same day last year—netted the schools two more teachers, Associate Supt. C. E. Powers told the county board of education Monday night.

Robbins. Actually, Grant's employment was due to a half-teacher gain at both Elise and Robbins Elementary—adding up to one full-time teacher for a combination fourth-fifth grade.

The board approved contracts with the two teachers gained through the increased ADM (average daily membership) allotment—Adria L. Cooper at West End school, and Alexander Grant at Elise Middle, in

Ms. Cooper also has a new combination grade, a second-third grade at West End, where new families moving in to the Seven Lakes—West End area have already pushed the school, new last year, just about beyond (Continued on Page 12-A)

Crossing Signals Help Is Requested By Town

The Town of Southern Pines is waiting to hear from the State Department of Transportation and the Seaboard Coastline Railroad to see what help it can get in installing signals at downtown crossings.

Transportation, asking for help. In his letter to H. P. Harris of the Seaboard Coastline, Collins said: "During the past week two accidents have occurred on the Seaboard Coastline Railroad at its intersection with Illinois Avenue and New York Avenue. As a result, interest has arisen again in having crossing signals placed at these intersections. My purpose in writing is to determine what the railroad's policy is concerning the installation of signals at intersections with public roads. Someone indicated (Continued on Page 12-A)

Drug Problem No Worse Moore Sheriff Asserts

The drug problem in Moore County is "no worse than it has been," Sheriff C.G. Wimberly said this week.

"This was just a middle distribution point," he said.

His comment came after officers last week had raided a rural home near Vass on Carthage, Rt. 3, and seized a pound of cocaine, with a street value of \$35,000.

Four persons were arrested in connection with the raid on the house and are now awaiting trial in federal district court.

In the sheriff's opinion this cocaine cache was not designed for distribution in Moore County but for other areas, possibly Guilford County.

Most of the drug arrests in Moore County in recent months have been in connection with marijuana growing and possession, Sheriff Wimberly said.

There have been "no real problems" with drugs, the Guilford County. (Continued on Page 12-A)

New Mobile Home Village To Be Built By Gilmore

First phase construction of a million-dollar mobile home village in Southern Pines will begin this fall.

Landscaping and engineering plans for the first 50 units of the major development were approved at the September 13 meeting of the Southern Pines Town Council. Construction of roads, underground utilities and residential sites will require six

months. To be called Windsong, the extensive village is a project of Storey Corporation which operates Town & Country Shopping Center.

The 85-acre tract to be occupied by Windsong is part of a tree farm owned by Voit Gilmore between Morganton Road and Midland Road at the western (Continued on Page 12-A)

Officers Oppose Making Pot Legal

What would happen if marijuana were decriminalized? Most Moore County law enforcers feel it would encourage the use of the weed and lead to harder drugs, a poll taken by The Pilot indicates.

President Jimmy Carter has cited figures which show that more than 45 million Americans have experimented with marijuana and 11 million are regular users.

In view of its widespread use and the ineffectiveness of laws to discourage its use, Carter said, "I believe it is time" to implement the five-year-old recommendation of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse that possession of small amounts of the weed be decriminalized.

"We had it in the schools several times last year, even the elementary grades. And it's getting worse."

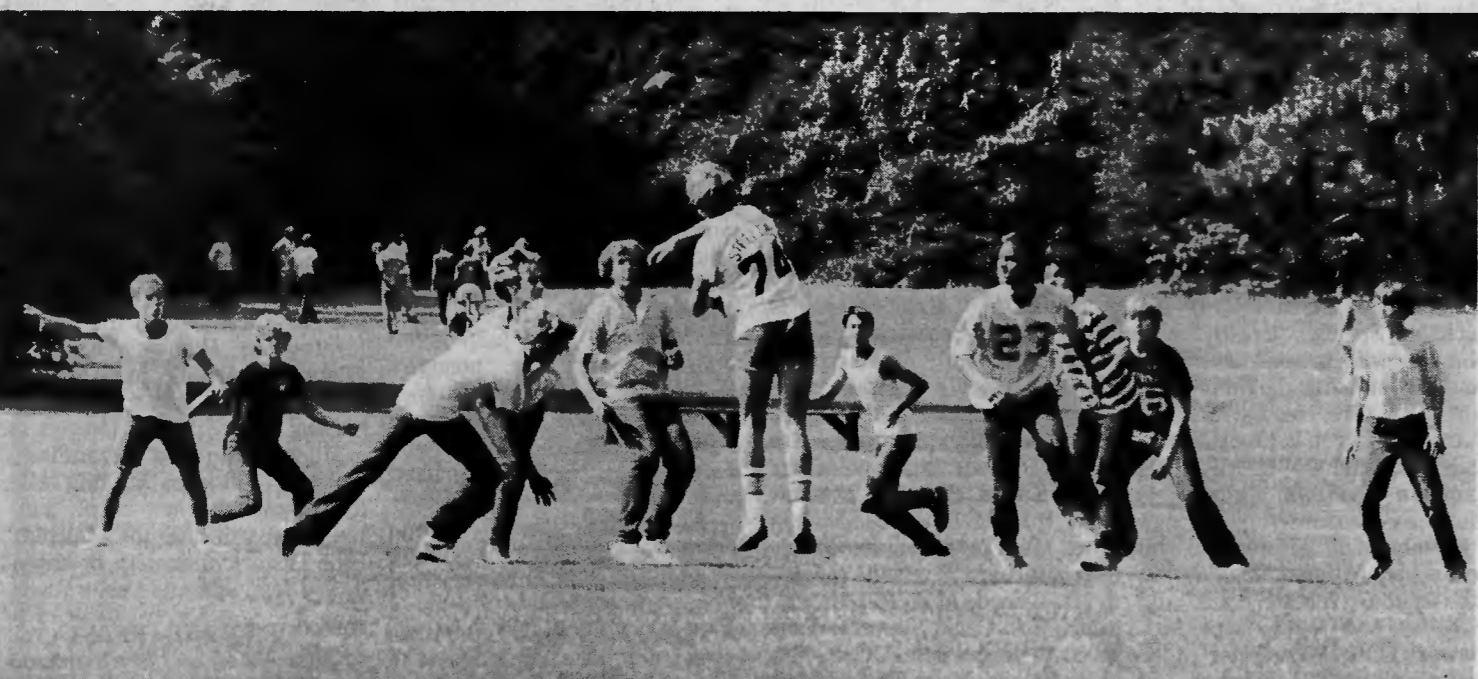
"That's about like giving a kid a fifth of liquor and saying don't get drunk," was the reaction of Chief Earl Seawell of the Southern Pines Police. "I'm definitely against it. I've been dealing with kids and drugs for years and I don't think anybody in his right mind would legalize it. "No one ever takes some liquor

or pot and thinks he's going to become addicted. They start off on marijuana and then go to the hard stuff like heroin. I'd rather anything than have a kid addicted to drugs," Seawell said. Vass Police Chief James Grissom felt strongly about it, too. "I'm 100 percent agin' marijuana. I think everybody that uses it should be prosecuted. If you legalize it more of them will use it."

He said it is a problem even in the elementary schools.

Chief James Wise of Pinehurst had mixed feelings about legalizing small amounts of marijuana.

"It's kind of hard to make a decision about how you feel. It's illegal and we enforce the law, but in courts it seems like they just give them a slap on the wrist; they do very little to offenders. "I know we had prohibition and (Continued on Page 12-A)



SUNDAY FOOTBALL — The Campbell House football grounds was the scene of this spirited play at (Photo by Glenn M. Sides).



SMITH--State Senator MacNeill Smith brought his campaign for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate to Moore County this past week and seemed to like the response he received.

Bruton, chairman of the State Board of Education, and among those attending were Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Stone; Bob and Wanda Hunt, of Pinehurst; Ed Causey, chairman of the Moore County Democratic Executive Committee; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sadler of Whispering Pines; Wiley Purvis of High Falls; Jack Reid, John Sledge and Emanuel Douglass of Southern Pines; Linda McFadyen and Mildred Carpenter of Pinebluff; Watts Auman of West End; and others.

Smith spoke to the Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills about some of the issues in government today and later visited in Aberdeen, Southern Pines and Carthage. A reception and dinner was held for him at the Sheraton Motor Inn on Wednesday night and more than 50 persons turned out to meet him.

The meeting had been arranged by Dr. H. David (Continued on Page 12-A)