



Sharon Anderson



Valerie Graham

Fire Deaths

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Community Services Building. Fireman battled the flames for several hours before putting the fire out.

Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Southern Pines where they were active in the life of the church.

In another fire on the Hoffman-West End Road the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralin Matthews burned and was a complete loss.

The Matthews received a smoke detector for Christmas and they both told Joe Adams, the fire marshal, that if it hadn't been for the detector they never would have gotten out of the house in time.

The Hoffman, Aberdeen, Pinehurst and Pinebluff fire departments answered the call, but due to a misunderstanding in the directions and having to back track they were unable to save the home.

Funeral services for Valerie Patricia Graham and Sharon Yvette Anderson will be held today (Wednesday) at 3 p.m. at the Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Southern Pines.

Valerie Graham was employed at the Personnel Department of the Pinehurst Hotel. She attended school in Southern Pines and the University of North Carolina.

Sharon was a student at Southern Pines Middle School and a former student at Wallace O'Neal Day School.

The sisters were members of

Sheriff

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for still other items of equipment, he added. Photographs of the sheriff's department taken the morning that Whipple took office were shown to the commissioners, along with the incomplete inventory materials.

Whipple expressed particular concern about the missing communications equipment. "Someone out there has these radios, and they could feed us information that could lead us into death. One of my deputies could answer a call not knowing whether he's going to be beat or mutilated. It really upsets me," he said.

The new sheriff also complained of frustrations at not being able to get down to work because of the shortage of equipment, the inadequacy of the inventory and the problems involved in attempting to plan a new budget.

It's almost February. In a few months it will be budget time. I don't know what I need, because I don't know what the department has. I would like to see if the county can account for this equipment," he added.

County Administrator Sidney Taylor and Finance Officer Estelle Wicker said that an inventory of fixed assets is taken every two years. Martin Chriscoe, assistant administrator, said that no report of missing equipment had been reported to him.

Asked about the accountability of all radios in Moore County, Sheriff Whipple replied that by law all radios, including those used for fire and rescue units, are accountable to the sheriff.

Commissioner Tony Parker said he had talked with former Sheriff C.G. Wimberly and had been informed that he had assigned this duty (equipment) to Lt. Ritter. Parker noted that federal law requires an accounting of all serial-numbered equipment purchased through LEAA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) grants.

In response to questions from Commissioner James Craven, Whipple said that he had received no help from the previous administration in coordinating the transition. The sheriff said he had talked to Taylor and Chriscoe about the problem and had learned that an inventory of equipment had not been taken since 1966.

"Four years from now I would surely hope a new sheriff would not be confronted with this same problem. If the powers had changed properly, this would not have happened. Appropriate action should be taken to recover this county property as soon as possible, and then he can go about the business of being sheriff," Craven declared.

Whipple indicated that he would prefer not to go the indictment route and would be satisfied if the equipment were returned promptly.

Another problem expressed was the lack of an inventory of confiscated property being held at the sheriff's department and the lack of court orders on disposition of confiscated weapons. Whipple said several firearms apparently had been ordered disposed of by the courts and some have been down there four or five years.

The sheriff was advised to check with the clerk of court to determine the procedures for destroying weapons as ordered by the court.

Williams told Mrs. Wicker to place the sheriff's name on the agenda for the next board meeting when he expects to have the equipment inventory problem resolved.

Sandhills

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floor of the house. They are both gone now, and Sandhills Community College has approval to dispose of the property to benefit the institution.

"The house has possibilities for an original and enterprising person to remodel and redecorate, especially for one who has an interest in historical places," college authorities said. The Hayes family home was built more than a hundred years ago, and is associated with early times in the town.

Mrs. Matchett's father, Claude Hayes, owned a bookstore on Broad Street, and her mother, who was called Dell by friends, founded a style shop known as Mrs. Hayes Dress Shop.

Mrs. Matchett and her husband, president of the Continental Life Insurance Company, still visit Southern Pines and keep in touch with longtime friends here.

Schools

(Continued From Front Page)

project coming up. "There are not enough gate receipts to support the teams, and we must get some help," he stated.

Mrs. John Monroe, the club's President, announced to the board that they have a Blue Grass Festival and Barbecue coming up soon and hope to raise some money to apply to the debt, but that it would not come anywhere near covering it.

Harris Blake added that "somebody is responsible for this debt. That local effort just can't do it. This is not fair to Mr. McMillian (the schools principal)."

Responding to the group, Mrs. Lou Frye, chairman of the Board said, "It tears our hearts that we aren't providing what the children need in the athletic program." She explained that the board leaves the request with the County Commissioners for funds for each year.

She promised they would do everything they could.

This was immediately followed by requests from the North Moore Athletic Boosters Club, represented by Noah Key, its president. They requested funds for a softball field for the girls and a practice field for football.

Key explained that they have four or five acres that could easily be developed for this use and that the timber could be sold to help defray the costs. He also named a number of other items that needed attention at the school, including bleachers for the visiting teams, enlarging the field house, lights for the baseball field and the tennis court and repaving the track.

Other topics taken up at the meeting included the request of George Griffin to change the graduation date from June 12 to June 8 as June 8 was on Friday. R.E. Lee, Superintendent of the Moore County Schools, endorsed the recommendation and it was voted to change the date.

Board member Jack Reed made a motion to accept the present auditors, John C. Muse and Company, but John Sledge criticized the method used to select the auditors stating that it was not done according to the laws of the school system.

The board did vote to keep the auditors who have served the schools for a number of years. Wanda Hunt presented a report from the Long Range Planning Committee, explaining that her committee, which includes Jack Reed and Vernon Davis and two County Commissioners, Arthur Purvis and James Craven, had toured ten schools since the last meeting to see if their requests for improvements were well-founded.

She reported that they did find the needed improvements in each case, the one main request being for air conditioning in rooms that had none. She gave a detailed report on their findings in each school.

Karl Stuart of E.J. Austin Associates presented the plans for the addition to the West End School. The board accepted the plan with the additional request that a safer driveway and improved parking be attended to.

The final business of the meeting was a discussion on the way schools and bus drivers are contacted during inclement weather. Lee explained that it was almost a split-second decision whether to hold classes or just to delay them. If one school closes, all of them close, but if it's just a delay it's up to the individual principal to make the decision. He explained that they use the sheriff's office and highway maintenance crews to keep them informed.

Bus Hit

No one was injured and damage was minor in an accident involving a school bus Tuesday morning. The bus was enroute to Sandhills Farm Life School.

Trooper J.T. Covington of the State Highway Patrol reported that the bus stopped on Rural Paved Road 1833 to pick up passengers and a man backed out of his driveway and struck the bus.



Fire Chief Pete Rapatas of Southern Pines

Firemen

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"Public response to our free home inspections is not so hot," said Chief Rapatas.

As soon as somebody dies in smoke or fire, people will call for home inspections and smoke detectors. "This lasts a week or two, and then fades out," Chief Rapatas says. "We had to pay for ourselves."

There seems to be one drawback to the new location. "Since we moved," explained the chief, "our response time is not so good because the volunteers live on the other side of town from the new fire department."

There is a group system now in operation. It's a pilot program to help with the response time. Three groups are involved: The first group consists of paid men and volunteers who leave directly for the fire.

The second group comes to the station and gets on another truck which also goes to the fire. A third group stands by for instructions. This system is operational from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m.

There are six fire engines in the department, one of which is a 1925 model, affectionately called, "Old Betsy." Each fire truck has a medical box. A pickup truck is used for both fire and rescue.

All ten paid men are EMT's (emergency medical technicians) and certified in CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). Two paid men are CPR instructors. "We're helping the general public," says the chief. "We answer all rescue calls."

An "adult burn bag" is one piece of equipment used to help burned victims. There are eleven air-packs available for firemen going into smoke-filled buildings.

CP&L Expansion

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property, over half of which is already zoned Industrial Light. About 17 acres remaining in the tract is zoned R-20 Residential, and this is the property CP&L wants rezoned.

The acreage presently zoned for light industrial usage faces the highway and is adjacent to property occupied by a trucking terminal and a construction company. It is across the road from Sandhills Industrial Park.

If the property is rezoned, the utility plans to purchase the land, now owned by several persons and entities and managed as a package by an out of town legal firm.

Dorsett explains that CP&L needs the land to spread out from its present cramped quarters. The move does not represent expansion so much as an effort to accommodate the company's normal growth needs, he adds.

The present 4.2-acre site simply is not large enough. The firm has added a trailer to accommodate overflow offices and has rented downtown office space, and parking space is running out, according to Dorsett.

"We don't pollute, and we won't be manufacturing anything there," Dorsett said in defense of the rezoning request. "We feel that we would be good neighbors."

Plans call for construction of a warehouse facility later this year as the first step in the 10-year plan, provided, of course, the land is rezoned and purchased. The 1979 capital investment would amount to an estimated \$900,000, and by 1980 the figure would climb another \$400,000 to \$600,000. An additional \$3 million would be spent by 1988, the projected completion year.

Dorsett says that an office building would be added later, along with facilities to accommodate mechanics, engineers, clerks, and the

Pilot Awards

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advertising are presented on the basis of layout, design, impact and originality.

Sam Ragan, editor, won first place in editorials for an editorial on the statewide competency tests in the public schools.

The North Carolina Press Institute opens Thursday afternoon and will continue through Saturday at noon. On Friday night the members of the Press Association will be the guests of Duke University at a dinner. On Friday at noon they will be the guests at a luncheon given by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Ski Report

APPALACHIAN (Blowing Rock, 295-7828) -- Base of 32-40 inches. Powder primary surface with packed powder secondary surface. Four of eight slopes open. Six to eight inches of new machine made snow.

SKI BEECH (Banner Elk, 387-2271) -- Base of 15 to 60 inches. Packed powder surface. Six of 12 slopes open. Some new machine made snow.

CATALOOCHEE (Moggie Valley, 926-0285) -- Base of 15 to 35 inches. Powder surface. Four of six slopes open. Five inches of new machine made snow.

HOUND EARS (Boone, 963-4321) -- Base of 25 to 50 inches. Powder surface. Two of two slopes open.

MILL RIDGE (Banner Elk, 963-4500) -- Base of 15 to 30 inches. Powder surface. Four of five slopes open. Some new machine made snow.

SAPPHIRE VALLEY (Cashiers, 743-3441) -- Base of 5 to 55 inches. Packed powder surface. Two of three slopes open. Five inches of new machine made snow.

SEVEN DEVILS (Foscoe, 963-4061) -- Base of 15 to 40 inches. Packed powder surface. Four of five slopes open. Four inches of new machine made snow.

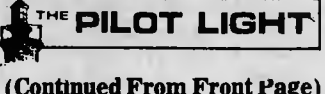
SUGAR MOUNTAIN (Banner Elk, 898-4251) -- Base of 10 to 70 inches. Powder surface. Nine of 12 slopes open.

WOLF LAUREL (Mars Hill, 689-4111) -- Base of 12 to 60 inches. Packed powder surface. Three of 9 slopes open.

OVER-GATLINBURG (Gatlinburg, Tenn., 615-436-5423) -- Base of 2 to 24 inches. Ice surface. Four of 5 slopes open.

SKY VALLEY (Dillard, Ga., 404-746-5301) -- Base of 10 to 48 inches. Packed powder surface. Three of 3 slopes open. Some new machine made snow.

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Governor has called for in his budget message. But on the whole the ranks of state employees are not expected to increase but by a small margin.

Governor Hunt also is committed to a tax relief program and is also insisting on a tax rebate if there are surplus funds.

SCHOOLS—Moore County is being allotted \$20,878 from the \$3.3 million in state funds which Governor Hunt promised for continued remedial instruction under the competency testing program.

Announcement of the allocation was made after the results of the competency tests were made public, and Moore can spend its funds by employing one or more teachers or teacher aides.

The allocation is based on a formula which calls for \$118 per student who almost passed either the reading or math portion of the test. A school unit gets \$117 for each student who was a moderate failure, and for each student who did poorly on the tests a school system will receive \$236.

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