



STILL THERE—The dark line along the side of King Road on the Fort Bragg reservation, within two miles of Southern Pines, shows that the PCBs, illegally dumped in 1978, are still there. The state is still negotiating environmental authorities about what to do with them.—(Photo by Glenn M. Sides).

48¢ Tax Rate Hinted Here As County Plans Budget

BY FLORENCE GILKESON
When the Moore County commissioners "back into" the new tax rate for 1979-80, it may be 48 cents on the \$100 property valuation.

This figure was casually dropped during an informal discussion of the county's tax base Monday near the close of a six and a half hour long board meeting.

The board had spent much of the day listening to budget requests from county agencies and institutions.

Sandwiched into the long day were such budget related matters as a separation of the positions of tax supervisor and finance officer and a renewal of the board's support of a \$10 million bond issue as the method to pay for needed school building improvements.

If a tax rate in the neighborhood of 48 cents is adopted, Moore County property owners will be paying more taxes. The present 75-cent rate, in effect for the past eight years, is based on property valued at about \$580 million, but a county-wide property reassessment program is expected to bring about a substantial increase in property valuation. It had been predicted that when the revaluation is complete, the county's total valuation will almost double to more than \$1 billion.

More recently, however, county officials have not expressed much optimism that the \$1 billion figure will be reached.

Commissioner James Craven clung to the belief that it will top \$1 billion and said: "If we don't have \$1 billion, something's wrong."

He was advised that some property did not climb in value as much as expected and that the county's large retirement age population is causing a sizeable reduction in the tax base by requesting a legal discount on their property.

From Finance Officer Estelle Wicker the board learned that \$381,000 is the "uncollected" figure for the current tax year. Mrs. Wicker also estimated that for the new year Moore County should receive about \$598,042 in federal Revenue Sharing funds.

The commissioners argued briefly about the county's tradition of "backing into" a tax

rate—a procedure whereby they set a tax rate, then reduce the budget requests until the budget equals the tax money expected in order to carry that tax rate. It seems likely this procedure will be followed again this year.

Liquor Bill

A bill introduced by Rep. T. Clyde Auman to allow a local option mixed drink referendum in Mineral Springs Township (which includes Pinehurst) passed the State House of Representatives Tuesday afternoon by a vote of 84-20.

The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Auman's bill applies to two townships, the other being McNeill because it specifies that local option would be permitted where ABC stores were established by petition and the two Moore townships are the only two in the state which meet that specification.

Foxfire and Country Club of North Carolina are also included in the provisions for liquor-by-the-drink.

Dr. Owens To Speak At Finals

Dr. Francis L. Owens, prominent Moore County physician, will be the commencement speaker for the spring graduation exercises at Sandhills Community College.

The ceremony will be held at 8 o'clock in the evening of Friday, May 25, in the Fountain Courtyard on the campus.

Some 200 students will be awarded Associate Degrees and diplomas at the ceremony.

Dr. Owens has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the college for many years, and has been a strong supporter of the nursing and allied health programs. He was instrumental in securing a grant from the Frederick Kennedy Foundation in Boston which made possible the Audrey Kennedy Memorial Building at Sandhills College.

The wing of the building that contains the nursing and allied health programs was named for him at the formal dedication program a year ago in April. The spring commencement at (Continued on Page 14-A)

School Bond Issue
A free-wheeling discussion of the school bond question was brief, but most board members expressed favor for a bond issue, rather than the "pay as you go" method preferred by the school board.

Board Chairman Lee Williams quoted State Rep. Clyde Auman and State Sen. Russell Walker as expressing fear a state bond

issue will not pass if and when it is brought to a vote in the next two years. They based their opinion on a predicted recession. A state referendum cannot be held this year because of the time element; it is too late for the legislature to take action this session.

The commissioners informally agreed that the school board should be advised the county "is

not in a position to 'pay as you go' and that it's up to them (the school board) to ask for the referendum."

Craven recommended that "we take whatever action is needed to set the wheels in motion" for a bond referendum.

"Some of these people don't want to wait 10 years for school improvements," said Com-

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Legislators Give Answers On Tax Issue, Pay Raises

In a wide ranging question-and-answer session members of the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce got an up-to-the-minute report on Saturday morning on what the North Carolina Legislature is doing.

Giving their own positions as well as their opinions on legislative issues were Rep. T. Clyde Auman and Senator Charles Vickery.

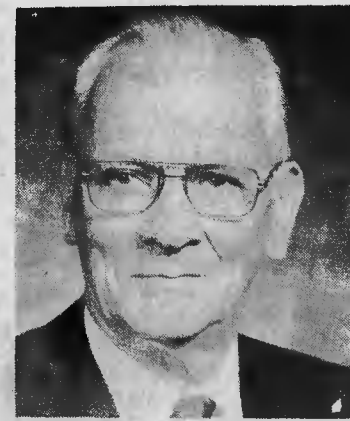
Senator Russell Walker, the other senator from the 16th District which includes Moore County, was unable to be present because of a prior commitment to the Ramp Festival in Waynesville.

The breakfast meeting at the Sheraton Inn was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and was attended by more than 75 persons. Chamber President Harris Blake opened the meeting and W. Lamont Brown presided.

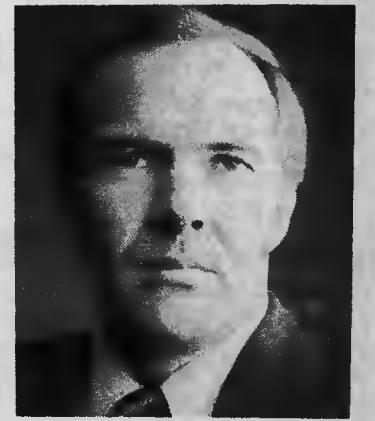
Auman and Vickery spoke briefly on the legislative outlook and then Brown opened the session to questions.

Auman said that a study commission whose creation he sponsored last year had recommended repeal of the intangibles tax but that local government lobbying groups are fighting a repeal measure. He said "we may get the tax off bank deposits."

He pointed out that Moore County gets \$600,000 a year from the intangibles tax, but he thinks that would more than be made up with people moving here if the intangibles tax is repealed and with a consequent increase in the ad valorem tax base. "The intangibles tax is counter-productive and I think North Carolina is very short-sighted in keeping it," he said. Senator Vickery agreed with



Rep. T. Clyde Auman



Sen. Charles Vickery

rep. Auman and declared, "In the long run all local governments would benefit from repeal." He said he and Senator Walker have sponsored a bill to

repeal the tax for persons over 65 years of age, and he still has hopes for passage of that bill. Both Auman and Vickery said (Continued on Page 14-A)

Repeal Of Survivor Tax Seen As Helping State

BY BILL NOBLITT
Legislative leaders are intent on getting North Carolina off a military retirement blacklist which may be hurting the state.

This is one of four states which collect an inheritance tax on benefits paid to the survivors of a retired military person who dies. And while the tax produces less than a quarter of a million each

year, it could easily be keeping many times that much money from being generated through other tax channels such as sales taxes, income taxes, etc.

Actually, military retirees are "big business" in North Carolina because of the major installations (Ft. Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Elizabeth City, Gold-

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Post Office Not Taking Small Sized Envelopes

The U.S. Post Office has set July 15 as a target date for enforcing a new regulation on the size envelopes that may be sent through the nation's mail.

Robert E. Peele, Southern Pines Postmaster, said "After July 15, envelopes and cards measuring less than 3 1/2 inches high or 5 inches long will be returned to the sender if mailed."

The regulations also prohibit flimsy cards. In the future they must be at least seven-thousandths of an inch thick. An official postal card, for instance, has a thickness of nine-thousandths of an inch.

Undersized pieces and flimsy cards are being banned because (Continued on Page 12-A)



SPEARHEAD FOUND—This Indian artifact was found about 18 inches beneath the surface when workers from Gulley's Garden Center were planting trees in the Country Club of North Carolina area. It was found and claimed by gardener Henry Wicker. Pete Gulley called it "the prettiest I ever saw" and Mark Liddell, collector, said it was the largest he had ever seen. Liddell identified it as a Savannah River type, dating around 1500 B.C. The picture shows its size as compared with a pack of matches.

Longer Terms, Extra Tax On Council's Next Agenda

The Southern Pines Town Council took little action at its monthly meeting Tuesday night, where citizen input was minimal. Instead, the Council spent much of the meeting planning public hearings for future sessions, both in the form of June's Council meeting and other, called sessions.

Public hearings on staggered terms for the Town Council's

members, as well as the 1979-1980 budget and a new proposed tax district headline the items for discussion at the next regular session.

As the hearing for staggered terms was proposed, Council member Hope Brogden said "I think we ought to point out if we elect to have staggered terms it would be for four-year terms or else we'd have elections every

year."

John May, chairman of the Downtown Revitalization Committee, presented the Council with formal recommendation of a commercial tax district, the product of an outline he drew for them at a called meeting in April.

At the earlier date, May said "This is the most equitable way of having the district that is getting the most advantage (of revitalization) to provide a portion of the funds."

He elaborated to the Mayor and Council that "...the tax district may be established for the purpose of implementing downtown revitalization projects. The tax district is allowed through the statutes of North Carolina.

"Obviously, one of the key (Continued on Page 12-A)

New Ag Building Talked By County

Is a new agriculture building in the future for Moore County?

The Moore County Board of Commissioners gave ample hint of this Monday when they put an Extension request for new draperies "on the back burner" until a building decision is made.

Commissioners gave no details other than to hint that a new structure in the Hillcrest area is being considered. The county already owns property there.

If the proposal is carried out, plans apparently call for moving

the crowded health department next door into the building presently occupied by the Agriculture Extension Service and related agriculture agencies.

Extension Chairman Talmadge S. Baker, who is leaving later this month to accept a similar position in Randolph County, said the idea "sounds great." He noted that there is a need to place all agriculture agencies in the same facility and to have a larger (Continued on Page 13-A)

County Faces No Costs For Industrial Bonds

BY FLORENCE GILKESON

The \$7.5 million in revenue bonds authorized for ARO Corporation, Moore County's newest industry, will not cost the county anything at all, according to the people responsible for carrying out varying phases of the project.

Even if the corporation were to go bankrupt—which isn't likely because of safeguards built into state law—the loss would be that of the corporation, the financial institutions and the investors and not Moore County.

What it will do, however, will be to add \$7.5 million to the

county's tax base as soon as the project is complete. Taxes will be payable to the county as soon as ARO becomes operative here as a producer of pneumatic tools.

"Nothing from the county is pledged as security," explains John M. May, county attorney. May assisted the Moore County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority with legal work involved in securing approval for the industrial revenue bonds from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Approval was announced April

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Liquor Sales Over \$3 Million

Sales at Moore County Alcoholic Beverage Control stores exceeded \$3 million over the past 12 months, the County Board of Commissioners was advised at its May meeting Monday.

L.J. Hinson, manager of the Moore County ABC Board, reported that the 12-month sales totalled \$3,070,408.47, of which \$1,134,478.47 represents "liquor by the drink" sales. Hinson said that from the total \$533,589.10 in 2 1/2 percent and four percent sales taxes was paid to the State Department of Revenue and approximately \$1,320,275.64 in taxes was paid to the federal government.

Hinson added that the five cent per bottle tax was remitted to the Moore County Board of Commissioners; this amounted to \$28,097.10. The commissioners likewise received a check for \$14,496.25 as their portion of the \$10 a gallon mixed beverage tax. The State Department of Human (Continued on Page 14-A)

Firemen's Day

Final arrangements are now under way for a Firemen's parade to be held Saturday, May 19, beginning at 11 a.m. in Southern Pines. The parade is sponsored by the Sandhills Firefighters Association.

"We would like to extend a personal invitation to all to see the parade," a spokesman said.

Fire apparatus from across the eastern part of the state will be included in the parade. "Old Betsy," Southern Pines' oldest fire truck, circa 1925, will be shown in the parade.

Following the parade, competition and events will be held at the Fire Department off Morganton Road. One of the highlights will be a foam demonstration.

Students: 'There's Nothing To Do'

BY PATSY TUCKER AND JENNIFER CALDWELL

May is here and in full force. Afterward comes the steaming hot weather which is perfect for a few select things: swimming or sitting in the air-conditioning. No one can do either all day, and the ones who have the most time on their hands are pre-teens and early teen-agers, who have more cause than ever in summer to make the age-old complaint: "There's nothing to do."

That was the stock answer when two Pilot reporters spent some time at Pinecrest High School last week and asked students what they planned to do this summer and what they do in their spare time now (the school



Hess



King



Creed



LeGrande



Miley



McMillan

year) for fun. Following are some of their responses.

Bill Hess: "I'll either help my dad, he builds houses, or go over to my girlfriend's."

Robert King: "Work at the Elks Club."

Tommy Smith: "Nothing." Cheri Creed: "It's either working or working in the garden or raising puppies." She

said at night she goes to the Crash Landing or Crackers in Rockingham.

Becky Barner: "I play basketball, tennis. I like to ride bikes, I read occasionally, go to the movies, McDonalds or Pizza Hut."

Miss Barner, a sophomore, said she would probably work in the Pinecrest office during the summer.

Susan Richardson: "There's a big shortage of things to do in Southern Pines. There ought to be some place where we could go dancing. There's really no place to hang around. They run you away from the park."

She mentioned she meets her friends at McDonalds, and plans to go to Camp Monroe and work at (Continued on Page 14-A)

THE PILOT LIGHT

DEMOCRATS—Moore County Democrats will meet in convention at the courthouse in Carthage on Saturday, May 19, at 2 p.m.

Chairman J. Ed Causey said new officers will be elected, and he urged all Democrats in the county to attend.

ELECTIONS—It appears that the Moore County Board of Elections will have to divide Pinehurst precinct into two now that the county commissioners have changed the township boundary lines to place residents of the Country Club of North Carolina in the Pinehurst area.

Pinehurst already is the largest precinct in the county, with 2,182 registered voters, and there has been talk for some

time that it is too big.

Moore County's total registration as of April 30 is 20,399, of which 12,601 are Democrats and 6,932 are Republicans. There is one member of the Libertarian party and 865 listed as unaffiliated.

HIGHWAYS—A public meeting where citizens can present their highway needs and priorities will be held for Division Eight of the State Board of Transportation at Southern Pines Town Hall on Wednesday, June 6, at 2 p.m.

Counties in Division Eight are Moore, Chatham, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Randolph, Richmond and Scotland.

The first of the public (Continued on Page 12-A)