



BEAUTIFICATION — Miss Mildred Womble, a first grade teacher at Vass-Lakeview School, and organizer of the school grounds beautification project, supervises while students water some of the thousands of plantings on the school grounds. The project is

great education for the students, said Miss Womble, and she invites everyone to drive through the school driveway and see the many azaleas, dogwoods and other flowers in bloom now.—(Photo by Liz Huskey).

Once Ugliest Is Now Beautiful

BY LIZ HUSKEY

To see the flowers, shrubs and other plantings along the entrance of Vass-Lakeview School, all in splendid color this spring, nestled amid grassy lawns and forest, it's hard to imagine that it was once "one of the ugliest school yards in the county."

say-die first grade teacher named Mildred Womble got a hold of it. Miss Womble steered the energies of many willing teachers, students, parents and interested citizens in the direction of the beautification project of Vass-Lakeview School. In nine years, they gradually turned hard dirt and eroded grounds around the school into

beautifully-landscaped gardens. With the help of contributions of plantings and some PTA funding and with the input of over 800 man hours each year, the project won them the Beautification Award presented to county schools last year, and they are hoping to win the award again.

In spite of having taken many groups on tours around the school the past three days, Miss Womble insisted on going around once more, pointing out various flowers, and with disbelief at my ignorance, spelling out the names carefully.

At the entranceway in the school driveway, she pointed out the landscaping that they had spent hundreds of hours planning, then, planting. Lined with old railroad ties, and filled with wood shavings, the entrance area boasts 20 new azaleas, donated by a former teacher's son, dogwoods, a Kwansan Cherry tree in full bloom with its pink buds, Foster Holly Number Two, geraniums, marigolds, blue ageratum, red sage, blue rug junipers...

Asked when they began the entrance way landscaping, Miss Womble turned to school secretary Marilyn Gschwind and asked, "What year was it that I almost got fired?" She pointed out a huge pine tree to the left of the circular driveway, and explained that when they decided to pave the driveway, the engineers wanted to have the tree cut down. Miss Womble was delegated to (Continued on Page 15-A)

School Fund Surplus Denied By Supt. Lee

BY FLORENCE GILKESON Stacks of petitions on the communications controversy and a lengthy debate about school financing shared the attention of the economy-minded Moore County Board of Commissioners Tuesday night.

Both items have figured heavily in the board's considerations of methods to save money, not in the next budget, but to find ways to make ends meet before the current fiscal year ends on June 30.

R.E. Lee, superintendent of the county schools, promptly advised the board that "there has been some real misunderstanding about the school surplus," a subject mentioned at the last board meeting on April 6.

"There is not one dollar of surplus in the school fund," Lee said.

Lee informed the board that the school system does have \$282,000 at present in what he described as "working capital," and he argued that the schools need every penny of it to maintain a normal cash flow to pay routine bills. He called this figure, which is about two percent of the system's total budget, "too low, dangerously low."

The superintendent said he would feel more comfortable with a five percent cash flow. "When we write checks, I just want them to be good," he said.

In spite of Lee's insistence that the schools have no money to spare, the county's new finance officer, Kai Nelson, stuck with

his original recommendation that the schools temporarily forego some of the county funds paid monthly, a measure which would enable the county to meet its financial obligations.

Nelson also proposed that in the future the board work out an agreement with the schools whereby such a fund transfer can be made automatically.

Lee pointed out that the schools represent big business with a total budget estimated as high as \$20 million, if all funds, federal, state and local, are included. He pointed to a number of unmet needs, such as six or seven school buildings with leaky roofs. Lee noted that the school system has already had to use most of its current expense

contingency fund just to pay the excess in fuel bills, an account which was underbudgeted for 1980-81.

"If we have surplus money, and I let the roofs go unrepaired, then I ought to be fired. You're saying we're sitting on surplus funds. That would be irresponsible," Lee asserted.

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Tour de Moore Bike Race First Of Two-Day Event

For first time this year, Moore County residents and others coming in from around the state will be able not only to watch some of the best bicycle racers in the country, but race against them as well.

Coming on the heels of the sixth annual Tour De Moore bicycle race, to be held Saturday, April 25, will be a day full of bike races for all ages Sunday, April 26.

Topping off the Sunday races will be a 30-mile race, in which most of the same national-caliber racers will compete. The race offers those more serious bicycle-racing locals who are licensed Senior I and II an opportunity to pit themselves against the best.

Also featured Sunday will be an 18-mile race for women, a 15-mile loop for Senior III and IV licensed cyclists, and various shorter bike races for children of

all ages, including a 100-yard tricycle race for children five and under. There is no entry fee for these races and ribbons will be provided for all the winners.

It will be family day in the Southern Pines park all weekend, as the festive occasion brings in hundreds from around the county.

This year's Tour De Moore will be the Southern area selection race for the National Sports Festival in Syracuse, N.Y. in August and the top three winners will automatically receive places on the Southern team.

The top racing magazine in the country, Velo News, has called

the Moore County event the best road race in the United States, because it is so well organized and managed.

That organization is provided by a fleet of more than 250 volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of the Pines, Carolina Galvanizing Corporation, the E-Z Riders Motorcycle Club, Southern Pines police and rescue squad and the N.C. Highway Patrol.

The chairman of the races this year is Bruce Cunningham, a Southern Pines attorney who has worked with the festival for six

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Moore Democrats Meet At Carthage Saturday

Moore County Democrats will meet in county convention in the courthouse at Carthage Saturday at 1 p.m.

New officers will be elected and installed. Phillip Jackson of Southern Pines has announced that he will not be seeking reelection as chairman, and the only announced candidate for the office is James Van Camp, a Southern Pines attorney.

Jackson said that he expects a good attendance, and he urged

all Democrats to attend the convention and participate in the party business. "This is an important meeting and I hope all precincts in Moore County will be represented," he said.

Precinct meetings have been held earlier, with new precinct officers elected. The new precinct officers will be announced at Saturday's convention.

It is expected that several resolutions will be offered for (Continued on Page 15-A)

Poultry Is Mainstay In Moore; Boone Farm Provides Example

BY FLORENCE GILKESON

Four days old, they form a soft yellow design in the chicken house on the Hugh Boone farm.

Today the downy baby chickens are the picture of gentle innocence. In seven weeks they will be broilers on the market in stores and fast food restaurants.

Boone, who has raised chickens

since childhood, admits that he sometimes becomes attached to a chick, because it's hard not to like them. But after all, this is his livelihood, and he can't afford to keep them as pets.

"Yes, you have some pets. Every now and then there is one that'll follow you the whole length of the house, just seems sort of at-

tached to you," Boone said in an informal interview at his farm in the Bensalem community. The occasion marks local observance of April as Poultry Month.

It takes skill and loving care to raise the chicks, but the job is fulltime, seven days a week, day and night, all year long. And the (Continued on Page 16-A)

Whispering Pines Nears Goal Of Club Ownership

The Country Club of Whispering Pines, Inc., the new corporation formed to administer the community property of the resort, is a mere 51 subscribers short of its 375-member goal.

Early this week the corporation acknowledged 324 subscribers, at \$5000 apiece, for the purchase of the property, which includes the three golf courses, villas, Terrace Room restaurant, administration building, swimming pools and all other recreation areas.

Rodger Mueller, who is handling public relations for the Whispering Pines arrangements, said the new corporation's board is confident of securing the 51 additional subscribers needed to purchase the property.

Such an act is needed to free the resort property from court actions pending because of bankruptcy proceedings, to clear the title and insure the type of operation and ownership clearly desired by the residents of Whispering Pines.

In spite of the optimistic outlook, the community is not over the legal hump. The court extension granted to Lowell Newmyer, owner of the corporation which purchased the

bankrupt Whispering Pines, Inc. last fall, expires on May 13, and a decision about the disposition of (Continued on Page 16-A)

Ms. Monroe Spelling Champion

Cindy Monroe, eighth grader at Pinehurst Middle School, spelled "exhilarate" correctly, then tossed off "facilitator" to become the winner of the Moore County Spelling Bee, held Wednesday morning at the Moore County Schools Administrative Building.

Anna Dillon, Southern Pines Middle School sixth grader, had missed "exhilarate" which, under rules that came into effect only when two contestants remained, then went to Cindy. If she had missed it too, the match would have continued with both students staying in. As it was, Cindy correctly spelled the missed word, and then another to win the match, a \$20 check and (Continued on Page 15-A)

Injured

Dana Clark, a student at Pinecrest High School, and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Clark, is in the Robins intensive care unit at Moore Memorial Hospital for treatment and observation following a car wreck in Anson County Tuesday night.

The driver, 18-year-old Albert Hammill of 200 Golf Crest Lane, Southern Pines was also injured. John Frank Caudle, 44, of Wadesboro was the driver of the second vehicle, and was killed in the head-on collision on Highway 74 West.

Grover Eugene Harris was sentenced Tuesday to not less than 15 nor more than 20 years in prison for the Sept. 18 slaying of Earl C. Stutts.

The 22-year old defendant entered a guilty plea to the charge of second degree murder Tuesday morning when a criminal term of Moore County Superior Court was convened in Carthage.

Judge William H. Helms of Monroe ordered that Harris be allowed to serve the sentence concurrently with any other sentences he is serving. He also gave Harris credit for time spent in jail awaiting trial, which means that about six months may

be deducted from his overall sentence.

Harris was charged with murdering the 64-year old Stutts by cramming dirt and small stones into his mouth. The body was found later on the same day in a church cemetery in Carthage.

Dr. Alfred Siegel, medical examiner, determined that death was caused by suffocation. The body also contained two stab wounds in the lower abdominal section, which were not considered serious enough to have caused death.

Investigators reported that the body was nude except for one (Continued on Page 16-A)

Budget And What's Being Cut Main Issues In Hefner Queries

BY PATSY TUCKER Congressman Bill Hefner, the only North Carolina Democrat on the House Budget Committee, met with interested Moore County citizens on Thursday evening at the Town Hall.

After a brief address, Hefner answered questions from the group of almost 100 people whose

main concern appeared to be budget and how it affected them or their businesses personally.

In his opening talk he stressed the fact that "the people in this country should cooperate and work closely together on the things that should be done. It's in everybody's best interest. It takes everybody working

together to get the country straight." He went on to say, "I intend to do what I think is right. We are not a second rate country and I have great hopes for this country. Incidentally," he added, "the people of Moore County write more letters than those of any other counties. I want to

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THOUSANDS OF CHICKS — Pauline Boone fills a water fountain in the chicken house, where 17,500 biddies were delivered early last week. About 70,000 chickens, in all stages of development, are being raised on the Boone farm most times of the year.—(Photo by Florence Gilkeson)

THE PILOT LIGHT

GOVERNOR—On Monday night at 7 o'clock Governor Jim Hunt will make a statewide presentation on public television (Channel 4) of his recommendations for revenues to bolster the ailing highway fund.

There has been speculation that the Governor will propose a two-cent additional gasoline tax, plus additional taxes on beer, wine and liquor. Also expected is a recommendation that support of the State Highway Patrol be transferred from the highway to the general fund, which would mean an extra \$45 million available for highway maintenance.

Governor Hunt also is proposing a tightening of highway spending, saying instead of "Cadillac highways" the state

has to go to "Chevette" roads. A special blue ribbon committee has reported that \$200 million will be needed to bolster highway funds in order to continue minimum maintenance of roads.

LEGISLATURE—State Senators Russell Walker and Charles Vickery from this district met the deadline for the introduction of local legislation from Moore County by filing a "Moore County act without provisions" bill on April 2.

The bill was sent to the Committee on Rules where local legislation which may be requested can be attached if the need arises.

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HEFNER HERE — Congressman Bill Hefner is shown speaking to a group at the Town Hall about present issues. In the background are Town Manager Mildred McDonald and Mayor Hope Brogden.—(Photo by Patsy Tucker).