

Blue Re-elected Chairman Of Sandhills Trustees

H. Clifton Blue, Aberdeen, was re-elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of Sandhills College at the annual meeting of the Board December 8 on the college campus. Blue has served as chairman of the Board since its first meeting in December 1963.

A well-known editor and publisher, who was a leader in the campaign for a community college in Moore County, Blue was Speaker of the House in the 1963 N.C. General Assembly which created a state-wide system of community colleges and technical institutes. Sandhills was the first comprehensive community college to be authorized and established under the 1963 legislation.

Other officers of the Board who have served since the first meeting and re-elected Monday night were Dr. W.E. Alexander, Robbins, vice chairman, N.L. Hodgkins Sr., Southern Pines, treasurer, and J.C. Roggins, Aberdeen, secretary, Inza Abernathy, Southern Pines, is the assistant secretary.

A highlight of the meeting Monday night was the presentation of the Charter which was issued by the North Carolina Board of Education November 7, 1963, the official

document which authorized the community college. It was presented to the Board by Dr. I.E. Ready, director of the N.C. Department of Community Colleges, Raleigh.

The brief history of Sandhills College was reviewed by the Trustees with special attention to milestones in the rapid growth of the school. During the month of December 1963, the Board held its organizational meeting, later named Dr. Raymond A. Stone the first president and Hayes-Howell Associates, Southern Pines, architect to design the buildings. Dr. Stone assumed office in January 1964.

In November 1964 ground was broken for construction on the 180-acre tract of land given by Mrs. C. Louis Meyer, Pinehurst for a campus site. Classes started in October 1965 in 9 locations in Southern Pines for 394 students, most of them from Moore County. In the fall of 1966 the college moved to its permanent home on Airport Road.

In December of that year the college was formally dedicated and Dr. Stone inaugurated as the first president of Sandhills. Also during the two-day ceremonies the science building

was officially named the Mary Luman Meyer Building in honor of the donor of the college site. Mrs. Meyer has since given 50 additional acres adjacent to the original campus.

Other notable events in the President's annual report were the expansion of the curriculum with the initiation of a two-year associate Degree nursing program in the fall of 1966; the initiation of Associate Degree programs in mental health and landscape gardening in 1967; and the expansion of the department of music in 1968 to provide all essential courses for college transfer students planning to work at four-year institutions for a Bachelor of Music Degree.

Also noted in the resume was the opening of the athletic field on the campus in the fall of 1968, and the completion of the horticulture building for the landscape gardening program in the fall of 1969.

The enrollment figures for each year since Sandhills opened to students in the fall of 1965 reflect a rapid growth. Starting with 384 students in 1965, the 1969 fall term enrollment was 1075 students from 44 counties in North Carolina and from eight other states. The 1969 figures show an increase of 23% over the previous year.

Following the resume of the development of Sandhills the Trustees considered the needs of the college in the future to accommodate the continuing increase in enrollment and expansion of the educational programs. Especially stressed was importance of securing financial support from the 1971 General Assembly and additional funds from the county.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

DECA To Have Christmas Party

On Saturday, December 20, the Distributive Education Club of America, known as DECA will have their annual Christmas party at Hoke County High School. The party will begin at 8:00. Refreshments will be made by the DECA girls; there will be cupcakes, cookies, brownies, potato chips, and drinks.

The party will take place in the D.E. room in the high school which has already been decorated. The room really has the atmosphere of Christmas. Two large candles have been drawn on the door with holly taped all around it. As you enter you can read the "Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year" hanging from the ceiling. The windows are all decorated and there is a large Christmas Tree standing in the corner for the final touch of Christmas.

Buildings To Be Sold At Pope AFB

Nine wood frame buildings, located at Pope Air Force Base near Fayetteville are to be sold and removed from the premises, according to information released by the Savannah District Army Engineers.

A bid opening is scheduled for 2 p.m., Dec. 23, in the office of the Area Real Estate Officer, 109 Ward Street, Cary.

The property to be sold to the highest bidder includes six 2-story airman dorms, each having a floor area of 4,720 sq. ft., a 1-story credit union having a floor area of 1,296 sq. ft., a 1,824-square foot 1-story headquarters building, and an 800-square foot 1-story building used for oil and fuel storage.

The property may be inspected by prospective bidders by contacting the Civil Engineer at Pope AFB.



CLUB MEMBERS -- Members of the Hoke High Chapter of DECA are left to right, first row, Johnny Boyles, Mickey Beasley, Teresa Ivey, Linda Hayes, Gail Ellis, and Coordinator Donald Steed. Second row, Linda Paul, Dickie Lippard, Lewis Dees, Larry Jackson, Phyllis Mooney, Mike Steadman, David Crouch, and Mary Jackson. Third row, Glen Wood, Howard Batton, Judi McNeill, Craig Baker, Bill Lentz, Bobby Smith, Ray Cooker, and Don Wood. Fourth row, Cadett Robinson, Billy Morrison, Joan Stephens, Harold Nixon, Charles Phillips, Paul Grosskopf, Gloria Baker, Kay Rowland, and Lynn Wilson. Displaying the DECA Banner are John Mooney, Melva Ferrell, and Bucky Hendrix.

Local Retail Sales Up 41% In 4 Years

(Special to The News - Journal)

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 - Some indication of the economic growth that has been taking place in Hoke County in recent years comes from the government's new Census of Business.

The survey, which concerns itself primarily with retail business development since 1963, when the previous survey was conducted, shows that there was a 40.8 per cent rise in sales locally in the subsequent four-year period. The progress that was made in this direction exceeded expectation. It was believed that the war in Vietnam, the tensions on the domestic scene, the increase in taxes and the rising cost of living would have caused consumers to cut down appreciably on their spending. Nothing seems to have stopped them, however.

As a result, the sales volume in local retail stores rose \$3,472,000 in the four years. Part of this increase was due, of course, to higher prices for merchandise.

Hoke County's 40.8 per cent rise compared favorably with the rise chalked up in many sections of the nation. In the United States it was 27.0 per cent and in the State of North Carolina, 33.6 per cent.

Related to the local population, the retail sales represented a spending rate of \$3,253 per family. This was well above the figure four years

earlier.

Nearly every phase of retail business participated in this growth as the consumer, encouraged by steady employment, rising wages, a record backlog of savings and pension and social security protection, gave free rein to his spending.

As a consequence, retail stores sold more and better clothing, finer furniture, more cars, household equipment, electrical appliances and food.

The bulk of this consumer demand was supplied through the 99 retail outlets listed in the local area.

The 302 men and women employed in these stores and the size of their payrolls kept pace with the increase in business.

The Census Bureau's figures show payrolls rose in the period to \$968,000 from the former total of \$745,000 per year.

Preliminary figures for 1969 indicate that the American economy is still on its upward course, but at a slower rate of growth than in 1968.

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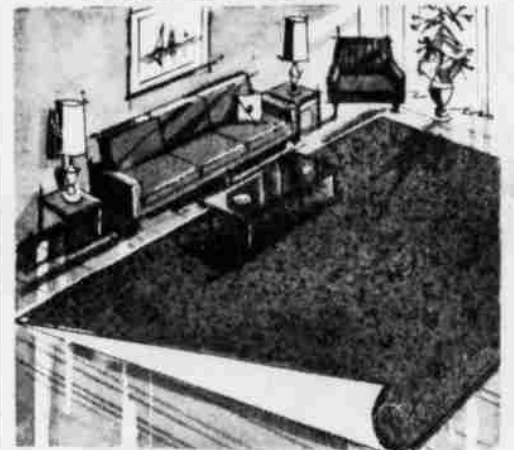
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