

THE PILOT

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RASSIE WICKER AND HIS PLAN

Rassie Wicker asks why if the county commissioners are to locate the line between Hoke and Moore counties they do not follow the plan of the Federal government and survey the line on the basis of the Coast and Geodetic survey and the Geological survey which have made extended surveys through Moore and Hoke and given us positive base lines that tie in with everything in the United States from the oceans across the continent and from the lakes to the gulf.

Elsewhere Mr. Wicker's proposition is expounded. It is so valuable that the county commissioners should lose no time in carrying it out, and if the cost is too big it would pay the landowners within ten miles of the line to contribute a little to have the survey made on the same basis of precision that governs the coast and geological surveys. Another thing the commissioners could do with decided profit would be to add Rassie Wicker to the surveying force that is to do the work for he is an engineer of such high order that he would be valuable to any corps that has precise work to do, and is so well acquainted with Moore county that his aid would be invaluable. He should be asked to aid in checking in the locations by astronomical verification at various points on the lines, and to tie in with the triangulation projects that enabled the Geological survey a few years ago to make positive locations of principal bench marks from Hamlet to Sanford and Carthage and Greensboro, covering the county in all directions.

The government work has provided the basis for the local work, and now when a road is projected along the county line is the time to locate that line with the precision that will permit it to be the basis for all future survey work on the whole east side of the county. Should this be done Moore county from the Seaboard railroad to the county line will be one of the best defined pieces of county work in the United States, for every foot of ground in that boundary will be within two or three miles of a positive bench mark tied in with government accuracy.

One thing that qualifies Mr. Wicker as a help in a matter of this sort is that he has copies of maps and sketches that include all the possible data that would be necessary in a work of establishing and identifying this line. He has the sketches of the vast triangulation system that covers North Carolina from Tennessee to Norfolk, and from Virginia down into South Carolina, with the triangulation points, the distance lines and angles, he has the sketch maps of the triangulation of Moore county, from Greensboro through Sanford and Carthage and the extension to Wilmington, the maps and data of all the triangulation work done around Southern Pines and also data of that work done on the Southern Pines quadrangle reaching out into the Fort Bragg reservation, and the astronomical location with latitude and longitude and elevation of hundreds of government bench marks in Moore, Hoke and the other counties through which the government surveys pass. With his date he can compute within a few minutes the distance from his garden gate in Pinehurst to any astronomical observatory on the globe, for he has the positions of most of

them, and his figures would be accurate to within a few inches. Pinehurst, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, Sanford and Carthage are all tied in on this scheme, Connecticut avenue out to Fayetteville, all the points in the fort, and Mr. Wicker without going out of his office, can give the absolute location of much of the Hoke-Moore county line as indicated by government work, and marked by government monuments. He should be drafted to help in this work.

DR. RAND AND TRIBULATIONS

Possibly Dr. Rand who talked at the Jefferson Inn a couple of weeks ago on the interpretation of prophetic indications in the big Egyptian pyramid will point to recent development as evidences of his correct predictions. France at least is stirring up things in shape to encourage a prophet who has war on his schedule, while the peace pipes in some of the other sections of the globe are badly in need of smoking up if the world is to be safe. The severe winter that swept the North and lapped over into this section for a couple of trips is also another thing that might encourage a prophet of grief if he wants to include such things in his list of tribulations.

Of course Mr. Guggenheimer, and those other lucky fellows who have been accumulating silver bullion at their mines to find silver boosted to a profitable basis for their product will not call this a period of grave tribulation, but we are not all in the Guggenheimer silver mine class. And may be the French outbreak is merely another manifestation of the mercurial temperament of the French people who have to stir up things in Paris every once in a while, possible some of it largely of the opera-bouffe character for the delectation of the visiting Americans who can come home after it is over and entertain their friends with their hair-raising experiences in the barricades.

South America, Cuba, France, the restlessness in Japan, our own little flirtation with a reconstruction of government in some manner, all lends encouragement to Dr. Rand, although an occasional sage reminds the prophet that it is possible to pick up almost any date in history and point out that the waters were troubled at that particular time in some places on the earth. And this is the comforting assurance. Tribulation is a common thing most of the time in at least some places, and by the law of averages it may be possible that now it is no more striking than about any other time if we look the horizon over from one corner of the globe to the other.

PROVIDENCE HELPS AGRICULTURAL RELIEF

Maybe you had not thought about it, but in the past few days you may have noticed the grain fields throughout the country. Under the severe freezing weather they have turned from a brilliant green to a sickly yellow, which indicates that terror of the farmer, winter kill. Nobody knows yet to what extent the winter grains have been killed by the fatal freezing weather, but unless the western states have been freely covered with snow to protect the winter wheat it is likely that later reports will show a serious killing of all winter small grains. Last fall some of the Chicago wheat men were predicting a shortage of wheat for this year. If their predictions were correct, and those wheat men usually know pretty fairly what the prospects are, this added damage to the crop by winter killing, will help to bear out the forecasts they have been making.

Another thing that offers some ground for speculation as to the crops of this state is the effect of the low rainfall of the past year or two. Howard N. Butler, who is a mining engineer and driller of wells all over the state, remarked this week that he has not in a long time seen the level of the underground water as low as it is at the present time. Gradually for some time it has been going lower, and where a few years ago the drill would encounter moist earth almost at the surface the experience now is that in many places the hole is sunk several feet before enough dampness is encountered to indicate any moisture supply for crop roots. As crops grow through the solvency of the

ground water the absence of water within reach of the roots is a grave situation. He says the failure of rainfall and the capillary evaporation of underground water has left the soil for several feet in such a dry condition that in many places unless ample rainfall comes within the next few weeks the outlook for starting young crops is not comforting.

With winter kill and lessening underground moisture content it is possible that the agricultural organizations which are trying to help the farmer by lessening crop yields will have plenty of help from Nature. Maybe we will need help to increase the crop before we are through.

TO VERIFY NOBLESSE OBLIGE

Governor Ehringhaus has shown such breadth of character and accomplishment since taking the executive chair that The Pilot takes the responsibility of offering to him a suggestion that would be in keeping with his pronounced attitude in enforcing the law which called for automobile license tags on January 1. The governor has been criticised for fast driving, and he confesses the act, but without trying the case, points to the fact that the affair was one of inadvertence rather than of an intent to violate the law. This is well enough understood, and overlooked. But the governor has here a chance to proclaim the virtue of the old doctrine of noblesse oblige by putting his foot now on the universal habit of indifference in driving in this state as well as in every other state, and it is likely that if he will point out to his people that fast driving is not only violation of the law, but one of the disastrous influences that climax in the great death list on the roads and the vast army of injured people as well as the source of great financial destruction, he could lead a movement that might bring us all within the law of the state and also of common sense and humanity.

This would be a good time for Governor Ehringhaus to ask the whole people of North Carolina to turn over a new leaf in the ethics of the highway and make the roads safe for democracy and whatever else may travel this way. It is not a sense of lawlessness that incites fast and reckless driving, but that indifference to all law that characterizes practically the whole people all over the United States. There is no way to correct the grave situation in which the country finds itself but to take a decisive stand at correcting it and enlist the whole people to follow the lead. No man can better inaugurate such a movement than a governor who has already shown that his sentiment is for enforcement of law, and no man would have a more appreciative following in such a course than our governor who has already proved his case as being a leader of wholesome law enforcement. An edict from Governor Ehringhaus that he and all who are subject to the laws of North Carolina are to observe the laws of the road will save hundreds of lives of North Carolina people, thousands of hospital bills, thousands of dollars of damages, and will give to its promulgator a regard by the people of the state that would be almost universal. Here is an opportunity that is rarely equalled in its power for the general public good, and if once set in motion it would be imitated all over the United States, with credit to its author, the Governor of North Carolina, for the man who stops the automobile death and injury rate will be a hero of the highest order.

50,000 N. C. COTTON MEN SIGN TO REDUCE ACREAGE

Approximately 1,200,000 acres of North Carolina cotton land have been placed under reduction contracts, it was estimated yesterday.

Charles A. Sheffield of State College, director of the sign-up in North Carolina, reported to Washington Tuesday that some 50,000 growers have signed to date.

At least 10,000 more signatures are expected before the campaign closes on February 15.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license has been issued from the office of the Register of Deeds of Moore county to John Willard and Mary Purvis, both of Glendon.

Grains of Sand

Governor Ehringhaus says he had a fine time in Southern Pines, and it was a good time shared by more than 200 other persons, so the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce goes on the record as a real success.

The CWA payroll in the state last week totalled \$678,398, slightly higher than the previous week. Mrs. O'Berry reports 75,903 at work on projects during the week.

William T. Dowd of Sanford has been appointed United States Marshal for the Central District of North Carolina, which includes the Sandhills.

Culled from the extra edition of The Sandhills Daily News which appeared at the Chamber of Commerce banquet last Friday night:

It is currently rumored that the name of the proposed Dogwood Festival here has been changed to Doggone Festival.

This being North Carolina and North Carolina being what it is today, Southern Pines is borrowing \$42,000 for extension of its water mains.

The rumor is that Frank Buchan was the only one the Chamber of Commerce could get to invite the Governor here. The postmaster is the only merchant in town whose sales require no tax.

The Governor accepted the invitation to speak here because this is the only town in the state where no one was arrested after January 1st for wearing 1933 license plates.

The Albemarle police say a driver ought to be able to control any car that has a good governor.

LOCAL POULTRYMEN AT CODE MEETING IN RALEIGH

Nine regional meetings to discuss the new code of fair competition with poultry breeders and hatchers are being held at as many places this week by C. F. Parrish and C. J. Maupin, extension poultrymen at State College. Local committeemen are to be elected to aid in seeing that the code is complied with and they will cooperate with Mrs. F. B. Bunch, Statesville, named state chairman at a meeting in Greensboro January 22, in administering the code.

All persons engaged in the custom hatching of chicks or who offer more than 500 chicks for sale annually will be compelled to operate under the code and it is important that these, or others interested, attend one of the meetings.

Moore county poultrymen attended the meeting held at the courthouse in Raleigh at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning.

DR. DWIGHT CURRIE WINS PROMOTION IN BALTIMORE

Dr. Dwight N. Currie, youngest son of Mrs. J. L. Currie of Carthage, has recently been appointed surgical resident of the South Baltimore General Hospital in Baltimore, the appointment to go into effect on July 1.

Dr. Currie graduated in medicine from the University of Maryland in 1932, took the Maryland State Board examination immediately, and is at present assistant surgical resident of the above-named hospital.

WARREN-HEWITT

Mrs. Elizabeth Hewitt announces the marriage of her daughter, Emma Christian, to Paul Warren of Southern Pines, the ceremony taking place in Bennettsville, S. C. The young couple are making their home with the bride's mother for the present.

Correspondence

CORPORATIONS

Editor, The Pilot:

Your editorial this week about Corporations ought to bring you some comment. You either don't understand the situation in North Carolina in regard to corporations or else you understand it, alas, too well. It is common knowledge in these parts that corporations have named Governors of this State three or four years before their election. Corporations have made it a rule for many years to control the Legislatures in North Carolina, as near as they possibly could, and in the past few years they have come pretty close to it. This is easily discernable by reading and studying some of the legislation that has been put over on the people. They spend thousands of dollars every year in lobbying activities in Raleigh. The Legislature of 1931 provided that no official of a bank could be indicted for stealing depositors' money unless such indictment were recommended by Gurney P. Hood, or whoever might be Commissioner of Banks, and then it would be the duty of the Governor to proceed to tell the Solicitor of the District what to do. Although we spend thousands of dollars to pay Examiners in the Banking Department, in the instant case of the Bank of Vass it became necessary for the depositors to pay out of their own pocket, auditors, in order that a true condition of this institution might be ascertained and bill of indictment placed with the Grand Jury, if necessary. Who do you think made this legislation possible, corporations or the individuals in ordinary run of citizens in this state?

As to taxation, it is true that corporations pay large taxes in this state, however, compared with the taxes paid by the farmer and the man of the middle class life, their percentage is less. It often takes everything a farmer can produce on his land to pay his taxes. Corporations are responsible for the Work-

men's Compensation Act in North Carolina, whereby insurance companies have realized six million dollars in profits in one year. Premiums for this insurance is taken off the laborer's pay roll. It is common knowledge that we pay an exorbitant rate for electricity in this state. It has been ascertained that without raising the rate of electricity, the power companies and the tobacco interests could operate the public schools in North Carolina. I do not wish to assume the attitude that corporations ought to be "soaked" or put out of business, because in truth and in fact they are an asset to the state, but, if given an opportunity, capital will grind the face of labor with the greed of power. As long as corporations in this state try to control our Legislature, as long as they continue to spend thousands of dollars in lobbying activities around Raleigh, you will continue to hear abuse and political agitation. In many instances, I think, justly and rightly so. People in this state are taxed to the breaking point. They cannot get any relief until there is a fundamental change. When a small group of men in Raleigh can dictate to a convict guard or a highway patrolman or some other employee of the state how he shall vote, we cannot reach that point of good legislation and control which you so ardently urge in your editorial. The press of the state, generally, has not been fair to the taxpayers and land owners. True conditions have not been published. Behind practically every move in North Carolina, from a legislative standpoint, is the working hidden hand of special interests, generally represented through large corporations with familiar names. You either do not know the conditions in North Carolina, or else you know them too well. "First cast out the beam of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote of thy brother's eye."

—H. F. SEAWELL, JR.
Carthage, Feb. 10, 1934.

Highland Pines Inn and Cottages

(WEYMOUTH HEIGHTS) SOUTHERN PINES
SEASON DECEMBER TO MAY

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