

# THE PILOT

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## TRAVERSITIES AGAINST NATURE

October, the first fall month is about as near ideal as anything on the entire calendar schedule, but in October and November we witness one of the greatest travesties against Nature. We human beings, very often creatures of destruction, will soon be responsible for dozens of smoke screens rising over our village as we set fire to the leaves. October usually brings a long spell of serene weather. We have recovered from the excessive heat of summer and the days are delightfully tempered. The trees are undergoing a chemical change and turning varied hues. It's a great month. Then comes the tragedy. As soon as the leaves begin to drift downwards they are immediately raked into a pile and a match is applied. Ten thousand smokes will arise from as many leaf piles, as North Carolina sets out to destroy plant food by the ton all over the state.

That the leaf falls to the ground is not an accidental affair. Nature so arranged it that all summer long it has been busy collecting carbon and hydrogen under the influence of sunshine. And now the empty cells at the base of the stem have fulfilled their mission and the leaf is separated from the branch, but not before a proportion of starchy matter has been salvaged and stored in the bark for future use.

In the brown leaves we look on with so much annoyance, is that mysterious thing called protoplasm. In the dead material is that organic matter so necessary to plant life known as humus. If left alone the plant would manufacture its own living material but man year after year interrupts one of the greatest plans in creation and year by year the soil grows more impoverished and exhausted. Some farmers go as far as to say a ton of leaves is worth a ton of manure. We burn one and buy the other. Disposing of a heavy crop of leaves on a town lot might present a problem to some. A trench through the garden anywhere would accommodate a surprising amount. Decomposition takes place quickly and next year a dark streak through your garden would be your reward. Humus holds sandy ground together in the loam we are so useful of and preserves moisture.

If the gardener could be persuaded to think twice before he strikes the next match we would see less of the tragic smoke piles. Burn your leaves and burn up your garden next summer should be a slogan we all ought to familiarize ourselves with.

H. K. B.

## "WHAT IS THE IDEA"

Senator Robert R. Reynolds has finally given the world North Carolina's verdict upon the embargo.

And there is not the slightest doubt that what he told the world is the exact reverse of the opinions of three out of four inhabitants of the state.

This of itself might be a virtue. Edmund Burke has been famous for telling his angry constituents that he was elected by them as a pillar of the British constitution and not as a weathercock on the top of an edifice. And Henry Page used to change his opinions when he found they were popular on the theory that a majority of his neighbors could not be right.

have been four schools of oratory.

No. 1 is the Catchword, the Nifty Slogan School. This congregation needs no principles, reasons or ideas. It conceives that any proposition under the sun can be fed and will be swallowed by an eager public if it is only labelled a charm to "keep us out of war." Whether in fact the package of whetstone tends to keep us out or get us in, or has no conceivable relation to the subject does not worry this calloped contingent. The volume of and rapidity of repetition of one sacred screed is supposed to throw the switch.

No. 2 is the Pro-English School. For obvious reasons it is unanimous for repeal.

No. 3 is the Pro-Hitler or Perfidious Albion Brigade. It considers the embargo equal to the gospels.

The fourth school consists of those who believe the only criterion of human action is a moral sanction.

These people argue whether it is right or wrong to lift the embargo on arms.

Senator Bob exemplifies the nifty and the neo-moral schools.

He is against selling arms and ammunition to the allies because, as he says, "I am against taking any chances that might involve us in another war."

This is the use of the magic rigmarole. No matter what position one had taken he could (and doubtless would) have megaphoned the same formula.

His second reason is that "I am for a neutrality that will be of benefit to the United States of America regardless of the effect that such neutrality may have on any other nation in the world."

This is a stand which involves some questionable assumptions. It assumes that an embargo is of benefit to the United States. It also assumes that an attitude of pure selfishness and a total disregard for other people is praiseworthy and helpful.

It is at this point that the Senator enters the moral phase of the discussion and mounts the pulpit to clarify the conscience of the people.

The statement that we know nothing and care less about anyone's interest but our own is very popular with the filibusters and is supposed to be a knock-out.

Nevertheless it is suggested that it is dramatically opposed to the doctrine of the brotherhood of man, the Sermon on the Mount and any good neighbor conception. Moreover it is contrary to generally accepted ideas of how to make friends and influence people or even how to sell a carton of chewing gum or how to keep from being bitten by a dog.

The climax was also typical of the high moral plane and sensitive conscience school.

"I will not" he says "be a party to placing instruments of death in the hands of anyone for the purpose of killing his fellow men, be they combatants or non-combatants."

This has the noble ring of a new revelation or an eleventh commandment.

But this principle would not only forbid the sale, but the manufacture of any deadly weapon. It would not only forbid their sale to burglars but to policemen. It would deny their use to innocent victims of any attempt to murder—even if it was advertised in advance. It would certainly limit the equipment of the marines to paddles and the wardens of the jails to switches.

Of course there do exist iron-hearted pacifists ready to face persecution rather than hurt a soul under any circumstances. And there are holy men in India that wouldn't use a toothpick to save themselves or anyone else from the fangs of a cobra.

If Senator Bob has become a Brahmin or a genuine conscientious objector, his fortitude, if not his political insight, is entitled to respect.

But if not, what is the idea behind this procession of beatific words?

R. W. P.

## AUTUMN IN THE SANDHILLS

Bright October month of the "Leaf Fall Moon," favorite of Autumn, glows in a pageant of natural beauty for the dwell-

er in the Sandhills. Day by day the sun shines bright in its sap-

phire dome, whispering breezes waft the dying leaves of sycamore, sassafras and oak in a scurry of gold, green, scarlet and sere browns.

Through the soft haze, blue tinted by the pines, the sunlight casts pied shadows, and daily limns changing hues in the foliage, green and amber are the sycamores, scarlet and orange the dogwoods, russet cardinal and green the oaks, cardinal and magenta the persimmons, gold and green the poplars and ruddy wine the sourwoods. Bought in their settings of green the red berries of the dogwoods, the scarlet cones of the magnolias and the profusion of the cardinal berries of the hollies with their hint of holiday cheer.

A royal month in a pleasant land to dwell, as so many of our cottagers realize as year by year they return ever earlier from their summer homes to enjoy not only natures happy mood but all the sports permitted by a delectable climate, the golf course vying with the field and woodland trails of horsemen and gunner.

The first light frosts of autumn changing the green clad needles to brilliant scarlet is the signal for the turn of the tide southward for our seasonal guests, and early flew the remembrance this year for their influx began a full month ago, and inquiries for houses, apartments and reservations for the full season have kept pace with the rentals reported by the agencies during this period, indicating not only a good season, but a long one for the Sandhills.

—C. M.

## THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CITIZENSHIP

Governor Clyde R. Hoey urges the people of North Carolina to cooperate fully in observing this week as Better Parenthood Week. In a letter addressed to George J. Hecht, publisher of "Parents' Magazine" and chairman of the Better Parenthood Week Committee, Governor Hoey said:

"The week from October 23rd to 29th has been designated throughout the nation as Better Parenthood Week. I call upon the people of North Carolina to give due observance to this period in furthering the purpose and aims of Parenthood Week.

I regard the home as the basic factor in our civilization and responsibility for good citizenship rests upon the parents. Children must be taught obedience and control during the early period of their lives. They can be definitely spoiled before they reach six years of age if they are not taught discipline and made to realize they must recognize authority.

These early days are the most important and frequently more than just persuasion and admonitions — a good switching properly and wisely administered goes a long way toward impressing upon the child's mind the necessity of obeying parents. Corrections of this kind in childhood frequently save the child punishment in penal and correctional institutions later in life. This modern day makes a great mistake in seeking to abolish the rod altogether. There are so many children who require just that, and parents who fail to control their children in a reasonable and sensible way are inviting for them serious chastisement from the society of which they will later become a part."

The United States Children's Bureau is cooperating with the Better Parenthood Week Committee and Katharine Lenroot, Chief of the Bureau in endorsing this national project writes that: "It seems to me this is an excellent time to call to the attention of the country in this special way the opportunities open to parents for more adequate facilities for the care and protection of children, through the cooperation of many different groups and organizations. The job of parenthood is concerned not only with providing the best possible conditions in the child's own home, but also reaches out into the community, the State, and the Nation."

The purpose of Better Parenthood Week, as stated by Mr. Hecht, is fourfold: (1) To

## GRAINS OF SAND

Charlotte Hilton Green for her book of the year, "Trees of the South," has been notified that she is eligible for the Mayflower cup award and is one of the 35 resident authors of North Carolina in the preliminary list. Mrs. Green while a resident of Raleigh is known in the Sandhills and is the sister of Aleah Hilton of Pinchurst.

The Pilot in its weekly travels gets around over a lot of territory, and into some curious places. Not long ago it picked up a bouquet for itself in a distant northern state. The Pilot went to Sunday school. Not that it is an unusual thing to find The Pilot around the church, it has been sealed in more than one supporting cornerstone. But we heard the story in this manner. A friend wrote to a Southern Pines resident their impressions of an editorial of a recent issue. In fact they thought there was so much worth while in the article, it was worth a tryout on the Sunday school class.

As the letter was written after the affair was over no harmful results followed The Pilot's unintentional sermon.

Since the World's Fair opened last April, 29,000 North Carolinians registered at the Tarheel building, according to a report two weeks ago. When the final count is taken at the close of the year and the figures have mounted still higher, it will

make fathers and mothers more aware of the importance of using the best possible methods in the care and training of their children, and to acquaint them with the many sources of help and information available to them in handling their family problems; (2) To promote more cooperative understanding between parents and teachers and between the school and the community at large; (3) To lend active support to all community efforts for better schools, child health, recreational facilities, vocational guidance and the prevention of delinquency; (4) To encourage the formation of groups for the study and discussion of child rearing problems.

mean that a large proportion of people from every section of the State have had a pleasant summer vacation.

Two old-timers who claim long residence to the village met on the street in front of the former Leavitt property now being demolished and mourned the loss of the old landmark. A man comes along with hammer and saw and puts up a new building. And this is progress. Another generation follows with hammer and wrecking bar and tears down our antiquated structures and the old-timers mourn the price of progress. The former telephone exchange is the last of the old buildings in the square to yield to rebirth. Before many months the empty gap in the business block will be filled in, and we of today will forget the old outline as the modern one merges into the new contour. The pair resurrected the picture of the block in their earliest memory. They saw a gross plot on the corner where Hart's drug store now stands and a path cut through to the Lacey block on Pennsylvania avenue. They dug up a hotel, the Pine Tree Tavern, somewhere along the line, and a little white store with a porch across the front, known as the Wells jewelry store and they brought the old bank building up from Bennett street and located it on the corner of the Patch block. They did some more sleight of hand work. We couldn't follow it dogwood is known far and wide for the old-timers feelings as they parted after a debauch in nostalgic revelry.

It isn't every tree that becomes a showy spectacle twice a year. The dogwood is known far and wide for its loveliness in the spring and when fall arrives its capacity for inspiring admiration has not lessened in the slightest degree. At any season of the year, as both trees and shrub, the dogwood is still the same striking object, never outclassed by other dwellers of the woods. Its habit of producing flowers and leaves in flat branching arrangement not only gives it a delicacy of outline but shows off the snowy blossoms and foliage to greatest advantage. Now in the autumn sunshine they stand

## FINED FOR SHOOTING ON COUNTRY CLUB GROUNDS

For shooting on the grounds of the Southern Pines Country Club Russell Mills landed in a peck of trouble last week. He had been warned, authorities state, once before, the grounds being posted against hunting. When he repeated the offense, he was arrested by Chief of Police Gargis and taken before Magistrate Bailey who fined him \$5.00 and the costs.

Later it was discovered that he was also hunting without a license, and for this he was fined five more dollars and the costs and given a suspended sentence. It cost him \$21.80 in all.

in the hedgerows, on the hillsides and in the bottom lands, brilliant in their vivid coloring and crimson berries.

The dogwood tree, favorite denizen of the forest, surely must have been a preferred child of old Mother Nature.

Mecklenburg county boasts of a low tax rate of 88 cents for 1938 and says out of 100 counties only 18 have a lower rate than Mecklenburg. Four counties had rates of over \$2 or over, with 71 listed between \$1 and \$2, with only 25 counties with ratings below the dollar mark. Moore county for 1938 had a rate of 89 cents and for the year of 1939 has reduced the price one cent, showing Moore county in a right favorable comparison in regard to other sections of the state.

For those who might be interested in events that transpire in the heaven, an eclipse of the moon is scheduled for Friday night, October 27. The eclipse is the only one scheduled for this year that will be visible in the United States and while it lacks .8 of one per cent being total, or according to the astronomer, a fraction under the purity of a well known brand of soap, it will not touch the beauty of a total eclipse.

The first noticeable sign will appear about 11:54 p. m., eastern standard time when the northeastern edge of the moon touches the earth's shadow. The climax will come at 1:36 and will end as the last contact with the shadow is made at 3:18. As its doubtful if many will remain in the audience until the show is over here in the Sandhills, the small percentage dropped out of the earth's shadow won't have any disappointing effect on the sleepy observed.

# Southern Pines Country Club Announces

the Opening of the  
**Grass Greens**  
on the Number 1 Course  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th**  
Daily Rates—\$2.00  
Also  
Attractive Seasonal and  
Weekly Rates  
Try your game on these  
new greens

Now Open  
**The Grill**  
under the Management of  
Mrs. A. E. Murphy of  
The Avalon, Virginia Beach  
for  
Teas and Dinners  
For Reservations Telephone  
Southern Pines 5551

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