

THE PILOT

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BAD ROADS TO BADLANDS

South of the Potomac river are the badlands of traffic safety, so called by Rear Admiral Percy W. Foote, retired, who was formerly commissioner of Pennsylvania Motor police. The further south one goes the worse the lands. North Carolina is 42d in the list of states so far as safe driving is concerned.

There is no point in becoming indignant over such a statement, says the Charlotte Observer. It is made by a native of North Carolina and is not Yankee propaganda. We should be the first to admit it. All that is necessary to prove it is to read the papers day by day, especially on Mondays. There are the facts about the carnage, the dead and injured, the maimed and the crippled.

It is not a question of safe highways; we have them. The car wrecks occur on the broad, well-paved roads. What is the trouble? Are we simply silly, half-witted when we get behind the wheel of a car, disregarding every safety rule and throwing to the winds the rules of courtesy and consideration for others?

It is no enviable distinction, being 42d among 48 states in the matter of highway safety. No state has too good a record and we are near the bottom. Only six others keep us from being the bottom.

Many people roundly denounce "Tobacco Road" as a libel on the South. What about Murder Road and Suicide Road and Accident Road, leading to the Badlands?

ANOTHER MAN, ANOTHER GARDEN

"And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed." Ever since that first garden of long ago, gardens have been approved by the people in general. Following along the lines history has laid down for us we find another man in a garden, by the name of Ernest Morell. Last week a garden pilgrimage came into the Sandhills and the visitor from without and the resident from within enjoyed the Spring festival of flowers that surrounded them.

The pilgrimage was not complete without a trip to the H. H. Beckwith garden. A few years ago the same sandy ridge grew a fine crop of wire-grass and broom sage, scraggy oaks and a few pines. Nature practices a wonderfully rigid economy and usually does not allow land to remain idle or bare very long at a time. However, she was covering her investment. Then along came Morell, another one of those plant wizards who understands how to collaborate with the inorganic empires. The sandy ridge was transformed into a delightful and enchanting garden. Imported mature trees, flowering shrubs of all kinds form a dense wall about the estate, masses of azaleas, blooming perennials, flowering bulbs, vines and evergreens and artificial pools with a carpet of heavy green grass all unite to make the garden one of the most beautiful to be found in the Carolinas or any other state.

Behind the spectacular display of Nature is the master engineer, Morell, the gardener with constructive conception who never does a job of meaningless planting, whose imagination visualizes harmony and the fundamental elements in landscape. Another side of his genius is the happiness and peace

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DEFENSE PRODUCTS
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BECAUSE WOOD IS SCARCE, FIRES ARE OFTEN BUILT OF WHALEBONE ON THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, OFF ALASKA

Grains of Sand

Sparking of visiting small folks, George Herveys, of Geneva, N. Y., sent a message to friends in Southern Pines two weeks ago today, saying, "We can't take Winter any longer." So they arrived for a week with two youngsters. Snow was left in the yard at home. As they traveled southward, piece by piece, galoshes, heavy coats and winter apparel was shucked off. They landed in the warm wave that swept the country and experienced the direct passage of winter into mid-summer. Flowers they could pick, sand they could play in. New experiences teemed about them. The small boy of the outfit, saw his first deer on an evening's excursion a few miles from the village. "What do deers eat," the puzzled child asked as his mother put him to bed. The mother named over food items she thought might be found on the deer's supper table. The little boy was skeptical. "They must eat something more than that. They must eat lightning bugs to make their eyes shine at night the way they do."

An artist with a deft hand does some unusual things in the way of window trimming for the joint Hayes stores that attract many a passer-by. Not long ago an armful of garden books lay scattered over the floor window of the book store with pots of blooming flowers inter-

of mind imparted to many a local gardener because he stood by and encouraged the novice. All of the county gardens are not of the show type. Some were merely a couple of longleaf pines draped in their purple mantles of wisteria, flanked by a dogwood tree.

Fortunately, area and boundary lines and rarity of plants have nothing to do with satisfaction found in a garden. Tin cans have been known to be as inspiring as the most pretentious plots ever cultivated. A lot of us who have been encouraged to dig in the soil and plant a garden will lift our song with Solomon's who sang, "Awake, O North wind; and come, thou South; blow upon my garden," all because the Lord God put another man whom he had formed into another garden.

—H.K.B.

spersed. Flower arrangements out of the ordinary with an effective choice of apparel frequently adorn the windows of the dress shop as only an artist could conceive.

At the end of 1940, Moore county had 4,450 automobiles and 1,080 trucks and trailers, a ratio of 6.96 inhabitants per auto. The county ranks 28th in the state in this ratio. Guilford had a car for every 4.36 inhabitants, ranking first, while Yancey, with a ratio of 34.06 ranked last.

With a check for two dollars for a subscription came this note to The Pilot:

"This is the best two dollar purchase I make in this here town annually. The most for my money." Thanks, say we.

A lot of argument has been brought forth in the selection of a State flower. The dogwood was finally decided upon, so the dogwood it is. The choice should be a satisfactory one to all, as the dogwood has many attributes, and is a tree that is never unattractive, regardless of season. In the Fall when hedgerows are brilliant reds, it is prominent in the Autumn scene. The scarlet berries that stand out later on bare branches are still another pleasant feature. Architecturally, the tree is built for show-off purposes, with its tendency to flat limbs set at oblique angles to the trunk, the downward droop adding grace and lightness that few trees have.

Common to the entire state from coastal regions to the mountains, the dogwood is not a stranger to anyone. As a State flower, it has been a sound choice.

Probably no more ardent horse lover ever followed steeplechase, track, hound or bridle path than little Cornelia Kane of western Pennsylvania, who spent several weeks in the Sandhills recently. The small girl's admiration for the horse made a toy horse a bed-fellow at night. She dreamed horses. She never missed a horse show, or event where

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horse were the actors. Her parting remark that classed her among the most vehement of emotional equine enthusiasts came when she said, "I like horses so much I wouldn't mind looking like a horse."

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