

**THE PILOT**

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**MINERS, FOOD AND WAR**

The miner has come a long way in the last thirty years: his wages, his security in the job, his safety in the mine, all these are very different from what they were. But he has not forgotten the terrible conditions of the old times and the desperate fight it took to change them. That fight was waged under John L. Lewis and from it the miner learned two things: First, discipline, striking together, obeying the leaders; second, never to work without a contract.

Today his contract has expired. Let us not forget that while it ran he fulfilled it to the letter. He is offered a raise of 15 per cent. But food, for which a third of his wages go, is up 40 per cent and some of the food he needs for his heavy work he can't get at any price. He is asked to guarantee the government that he will work for about fifty dollars a week. But the government gives him no guarantee what food will cost and in fact has shown no capacity to stop the steady rise in food prices.

To solve this problem, the government has a Secretary of Labor whom nobody trusts, a War Labor Board whose Labor members are politically opposed to the miners' leader, and a price policy that is timid and futile.

It is this situation which is being exploited by Lewis. His economic ignorance prevents his seeing the real nationwide issue at stake, that is: are we going to stabilize prices as the British have done? In fact he has fought every proposal to stabilize prices. Since he does not understand the real problem it is easy for him to give way to his overweening vanity and his savage personal prejudices and to focus his whole being not on helping the miner but on hurting the president.

The strike, if called, could never succeed. Nobody has ever whipped Uncle Sam. It would be an advantage to the country if Lewis came out of the mess discredited not only with our people but also with the miners. It would also be an advantage if the administration came out with an understanding that it was their own feeble policy on the critical food price front that gave Lewis his chance.

**TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE**

How often the expression is heard today: "Be careful! You can't replace it." That warning has been applied to everything from pins to tractors. Never was the American public so waste conscious. Yet, in one vital respect it is still far too careless. That respect is fire. Millions of dollars worth of property and thousands of lives are lost annually by preventable fires.

It is an ironical fact that the man who cares for his car like an only child, will very often not hesitate to leave that car in a garage alive with fire hazards. And the housewife who guards with similar diligence the welfare of the electric range or refrigerator, will blithely disregard the commonest fire hazards such as frayed wiring, trash in the attic, open fireplaces and carelessly strewn matches.

Fire can wipe out a home and every "irreplaceable" object in it in a matter of minutes. Some of those irreplaceable objects may be human lives. Of the 10,000 persons who were burned to death in the United States in 1941, two-thirds perished in homes.

Fire prevention, like charity should start at home and spread in widening circles until each person is doing his utmost to prevent destructive fire anywhere in his community. Fire department officials are only too

**GRAINS OF SAND**

The picket fence fronting Mr. Pope's rose garden on East Broad street is now patriotic in its coat of red, white and blue. Alas, the blue is indigo.

Included in the investments of the North Carolina Teachers and State Employees Retirement Fund is one of \$1,168.21 bonds of Southern Pines. Other municipal bonds purchased for the fund include Greensboro's \$231,379 and Raleigh's \$55,787.

During the passing of many years omnipresent Claude Hayes has had many appellations, some of which gradually became softened as he gave up the company of rude souls frequenting the golf course; but it remained to the sweet young thing who tripped into his emporium and asked for "Mr. Sandhill" to crown him with a new one.

Save for the rolling thunder and driving rain and the crash of a collapsing chair the Southern Pines caucus was a quiet one. Apparently too damp for fireworks. In point of numbers present it somewhat resembled those of former years when fifty or sixty votes was counted a big turnout, and was also reminiscent of the caucus of 1928 when they moved it from the Civic Club to the theatre during the prevalence of rain, wind, thunder and lightning.

On the day you go around with your nose on your chin you are generally right successful in ferreting out the trouble you are looking for.

One of the perennial gloom collectors who enjoys all superlatives that come under a list marked "worst," dolefully relates that this has been the most calamitous year for bees in North Carolina in 20 years and that honey production throughout the state will be only 60 per cent of that of 1942.

Those who are feeling the restriction of sugar rationing and are beginning to get acquainted with a honey - and - black - strap substitute will have a little more sympathy for the energetic but useful bees whose producing capacity was lessened by their scanty food supply of last winter.

If it were possible for John Patrick and John Buchan to look down from their abode on High and glance over the Sandhills of today, they would probably push back their halos and indulge in a little friendly yarn swappin'.

Patrick would see a long and interesting story in the evolution of his pine barrens from an embryo village to the countryside that now teems with tourist and soldier life. The barometer of changing times that would hit farmer Buchan between the eyes would be the headline in a daily paper announcing sweet potatoes selling for \$7.00 a bushel farther north. Seven dollars a bushel for sweet potatoes! Those

of us who knew Uncle John Buchan can imagine his celestial whistle of surprise as he pats his shoe of silver upon a golden floor. The former ruling elder of Bethesda considered sweet potatoes fit only to feed hogs and yankees.

The lowly yam that was dumped over the fence to the porker or hauled to the village nearby for a hand-full of yankees brought anywhere from 25 to 40 cents a bushel.

Today the sweet potato is regarded as one of the important food crops raised on the farm. As a succulent, the chief nutrient is carbohydrate, the principal of which is starch. Canned, evaporated or dried it can be shipped to any point on the globe to help feed a hungry army. For home consumption it is one of the kings of the vegetable world. But if the price goes much higher neither hogs nor yankees can afford the newly crowned monarch. Sitting up in Heaven a pair must be chuckling over some of the reckless escapades we are indulging in here below.

To the plane spotter who sits in lonely vigil on a spring night, we offer the suggestion that he combine star-spotting with his plane spotting. The evening sky between the vernal equinox and the summer solstice holds out a lot of entertainment for those who would give it thought. Just now Venus and Jupiter are bright in the western heaven. In fact, Venus is so brilliant on these moonless nights she is capable of casting a shadow.

The plane that moves so swiftly across the starry sky seems to sweep toward us with amazing speed. Perhaps it is moving a hundred miles an hour. Perhaps much more. Science says Spica is hurling herself at us at more than 32,000 miles an hour, and that each night she is almost 700,000 miles nearer than the night before, yet she is not perceptibly brighter than in the days of Homer.

Simon Newcomb, the illustrious father of our former townswomen, Dr. Anita McGee, might have classed Spica in the "XM" class, excelling our sun 10,000 times in splendor. Regulus has the reputation of drawing nearer by 475,000 miles a day, and outshining the sun one thousand times. More of this gossip would be exposed in plane spotting.

Rassie Wicker of Pinehurst probably knows more about those friendly worlds above us than any other individual in the county and we feel sure he would be glad to introduce us further to Auriga and Capella and Vega and Cygnus and Arcturus, a star that among millions finds no rival, and to a string of others he knows on more intimate terms than we do.

Up in the world of spinning planes and spinning suns, plane spotting and star gazing should go hand in hand. However it is only a suggestion.

**SCHOOL NOTES**

**Fourth Grade**

We fell behind in our stamp sale last month. We try to buy \$100 worth each month. We got only \$66.25 last month, but this month we hope to make up for last month's shortage.

We have a new book case, but we haven't money to paint it. We are growing and selling tomato plants to get the money to paint it. We have almost enough.

Some time ago we gave books to the soldiers at Camp Mackall. Each book had the giver's name written in the book. This week Gene Poe received a nice letter from a soldier out there who is manager of the club room of the 1st and 2nd Battalion. He was saying how much they had enjoyed the books. We are glad we could do something to help.

**Fifth Grade News**

Last week we had a Bond drive to see which grade could get the most bonds. The drive was between the fifth and sixth grades. Week before last the sixth grade won. Last week we won. Our total was \$90.25. Miss Buckner's room totaled \$14.25 and Miss Huntington's totaled \$75.25. This week we started the drive all over again, and we are doing just as well as we did before.

**Fifth and Sixth Grade**

For the Fifth and Sixth Grade rooms, Dr. Richard Patch has just opened an office on the third floor. He has a complete line of first aid materials. Miss Doris Stephenson is nurse.

**Baseball**

The Southern Pines baseball team

glad to point out potential hazards to the uninformed.

Start now to protect your "irreplaceables" against fire. Tomorrow may be too late.

journeyed to Sanford, Friday, April 30. Our team found itself outclassed for the first time this year. Sanford's Perry, Jones, and Joyce (6 foot and 5 inches of pitcher) held our team to five hits. Occasional dust storms, outfield fencibles, and a fast infield made our boys look like barnyard ball-players. A speedy Sanford out hit, out fielded, and out pitched us. Several of our players were convinced the Ump needed glasses, and weren't reluctant in letting him know it! Most impressive player on the field was Sanford's second baseman, Glass, who fielded spectacularly and collected four hits. The final score before I forget (as if I could) was Sanford 15 to 3. We just weren't up to par.

—Davis Erhardt.

**Art Class**

Miss Buckner's room is very proud this week over the announcement that Bob Ferguson's picture was a winner in the State School Art Exhibition held in Chapel Hill this month. The best pictures are now on exhibit at Person Art Gallery, Chapel Hill, and at Woman's College of the University, Greensboro. The entry of pictures from both grammar grades and high school of Southern Pines was sponsored by the High School Art Class.

The chief Judge of the exhibition was Victor D'Amico, of New York, a specialist in children art.

Certificates will be awarded to the winners by the North Carolina Federation of Woman's Clubs.

**LAND OF PEAKS**

North Carolina's mountains lift 125 peaks more than 5000 feet into the sky, 43 more than 6000 feet, and one, Mt. Mitchell, higher than any other in eastern United States.

**THE Public Speaking**

(Editor's Note: A letter addressed to Mr. Hugh Dave MacWhirr came to this office, so we opened it and are printing it in this column in order that it may reach him as soon as possible. Mr. Hugh Dave is busy with his crop and probably will not get to town this week, but we know he'll read THE PILOT. And Mr. Hugh Dave, you needn't bother to thank us for this favor; we're glad to accommodate you. Ed.)

Dear Mr. Hugh Dave:

I doubt if a man of your wisdom ever put much stock in resolutions. And as a matter of fact, I never knew many to be kept. But Army life is no ordinary experience, and it makes most men that I have talked to resolve to do things a bit different and appreciate many things more when they get back to civilian life. And it wouldn't surprise me a bit if some of these resolutions were kept.

I know, for instance, that in civilian life I was too busy and troubled about too many things. And I didn't give your words the thoughtful perusal that I should have. And I wouldn't have had time to in the Army if I weren't a convalescent with spare time, which is a commodity not usually found in Army routine when we're at war.

But yesterday my mother came down and brought me your words and views all set down between red covers. And I have read them, Mr. Hugh Dave, with great interest and, I believe, some appreciation. I hope you keep on making visits to The Pilot and running into the staff and giving expression to your ideas. We need more such independence.

And Army life would give you plenty of food for your fertile mind. This morning I was in quite a bull session. In college I found that religion and women were favorite topics. And Mr. Hugh Dave, these hold their own in Army session, but fur-loughs run a strong third. It all makes a fellow know more about his country and his fellow Americans. In our group this morning was a Jewish boy, three Catholics, and a Presbyterian. You can guess who the Presbyterian was. And one of the Catholic boys showed me a strange thing in the Book of Revelation. I'll show it to you when I get home. For I want to meet you; probably our mutual friend, Mr. Boyd, will introduce us.

I'll be looking forward to more of your views. Give my best to The Pilot folks when you see them, and I'll try to pay my subscription when I get home. I don't know whether it's paid or not, but the chances are that it isn't.

Respectfully,

—LELAND McKEITHEN.

Fort Bragg, N. C.,  
April 30, 1943.

**NIAGARA**

Mrs. Louis Williford and small son, Jesse, visited relatives near Vass last week and attended the commencement exercises at Vass-Lakeview School.

Oscar Seward left Monday for his home in Wilton, Me., after being here several weeks.

Rev. J. L. Foster of Elon College preached at Niagara Church Sunday.

Ben C. Morgan of New River spent the week-end here with his family.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Newton and son, who have had rooms with Miss Nettie Williams for the past few months, have gone to Greensboro.

Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Henry spent the week-end in Petersburg, Va., with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Garvin of Wilmington spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Cameron. The Garvins were enroute to Florida.

Miss Gladys Snipes was a Raleigh visitor Monday.

B. F. Hudson of Savannah, Ga., is visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Frank.

Mrs. Mollie Ballard of Jonesboro is visiting Mrs. A. E. Monroe.

Quite a number of our people attended the dedication of Camp Mackall Saturday.

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- Calif. Lettuce Sweet and Juicy hd. 10c
- Oranges, 10 lb 65c
- Large Juicy New Texas Lemons, doz. 23c
- Onions, 4 lbs. 33c

**Snowdrift** 1-lb Jar 24c 3-lb Jar 67c

**Pillsbury's Best Flour Plain, 12-lb Bag 73c**

**Campbell's Tomato Soup No. 1 3 cans 28c**

- POINT FREE PEAS, 1-lb Cello 10c
- POINT FREE MOTT'S Apple Juice 20-oz Glass 13c
- VIRGINIA MAID Peanut Butter 1-lb Jar 28c
- DELICIOUS CEREAL Grape-Nuts Flakes 7-oz Pkg 10c
- NABISCO SHREDDED Wheat 2 Pkgs 25c
- Spotless Bleach, qt. 10c
- IMPROVED CUBE STARCH Staleys 3 7-oz Pkgs 13c
- COLONIAL Grape Juice Quart Bottle 31c
- Pender's Best Self-Rising FLOUR, 12-lb. Bag 73c
- 24-lb. bag \$1.41
- HEALTH CLUB Baking Powder 10-oz can 10c

**Minute Man Soup Mix**  
Rice (Broth with Rice) 1 3/4-oz Pkg 9c  
Noodle Mix 2 1/2-oz Pkg 9c  
Vegetable Mix 3 1 1/4-oz Pks 25c

**Ivory Flakes** Med Pkg 10c Lge Pkg 25c  
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