

THE PILOT

Published Each Friday by THE PILOT, INCORPORATED Southern Pines, North Carolina 1941—JAMES BOYD, Publisher—1944 KATHARINE BOYD Editor VALERIE NICHOLSON Asst. Editor DAN S. RAY General Manager C. G. COUNCIL Advertising

Subscription Rates: One Year \$3.00 6 Months \$1.50 3 Months 75c

Entered at the Postoffice at Southern Pines, N. C., as second class mail matter

Member National Editorial Association and N. C. Press Association

The Bloodshed Boxscore Grows

North Carolina is ahead! But this is no cheering matter. This score that our state has made to date is not something to be proud of: rather it is a matter for the deepest regret.

Here is a situation that calls for more than talk or editorials. There has been a surfeit of both. State Highway Patrol Commander Tolar is the last of many officials to admit that the record is "very alarming."

The state has increased the number of patrolmen in the highway service, but, except for that, its handling of the problem has been negative, not to say actually retrogressive.

Here, then, is one thing to do: revive the motor inspection law, rewritten to provide for more efficient administration.

The rules against drinking and driving, it would appear, should be strengthened.

All these things will help to reduce the number of accidents but probably the thing that would help most will never be done.

How willingly, during the war, did we all stick to the speed limit of 40 miles an hour.

Safety programs, such as that being carried on here, which make the public safety conscious and teach driving to the younger generation, are of value.

For until our people attain a degree of maturity and good sense which they clearly do not now possess, accidents with high-powered cars are almost certain to happen.

Our sincere congratulations go to our neighbor county, Montgomery, on the realization of the long-cherished dream of a county hospital.

Appropriate ceremonies Sunday, March 4, marked the opening of the \$480,000 40-bed structure of handsomely functional design.

For no hospital comes easily into existence. Even when state and federal funds are available for part of the cost, as they were here, it is a tremendous job entailing great labor and sacrifice.

The Montgomery Herald fittingly commemorated the great occasion of the hospital's opening with an impressive 52-page special edition.

Nor is their job done, for a hospital as it serves and grows continues to require the full support and cooperative endeavors of those whom it serves.

Pressure is the only way a democratic government knows how to operate. When are we going to learn to use our privileges—or pressures—only for the greatest good for the greatest number?

Those "flying saucers" still have us mystified, especially since the accounts of them almost invariably come in from unimpeachable sources.

Those words of the late President Lincoln, "The only way we can preserve our liberties is by practicing self-restraint," are as timely as ever.

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John Willcox

If anyone had gone out through the county, last week, along the streets of the towns or out among the farmers and countryfolks and asked for the names of the two or three men who best represented the finest of Moore County citizens, it is a certainty that on every list would have been the name of John Willcox.

This man, who died Sunday, who served the county for so many years as Clerk of the Superior Court, was truly beloved. His friends were legion and they represented every walk of life.

During his long tenure of office in Carthage, he came to know more than perhaps anyone else about the affairs of his fellow-citizens.

His duties included acting as judge of the juvenile court and no man could have been found more suited to such a position.

One of Mr. Willcox's chief interests was Moore County. . . perhaps it was his greatest interest. He knew its history and gloried in it; he knew and loved its countryside, the rolling farmlands and pine forests and the wild country along Deep River.

There is grief in Moore County today, but there is also a profound sense of gratitude. There is sorrow for the loss of one who will be sorely missed by those with whom he worked and by the countless numbers who called him "friend."

The Sandhills Woman's Exchange will have another rummage sale, second of the season, Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1, and on April Foolin'—they want all your contributions of things for sale, clothing, household goods and so on.

Governor Scott drinks his coffee black, it was observed by Madeline Prim, who was seated near him at the luncheon meeting of the N. C. Credit Women's association directors.

The Chamber of Commerce is to be congratulated on its recently-issued folder for visitors. It is attractively designed and printed, and contains a wealth of information for travelers.

It is regrettable that no mention is made of the library. That attractive building, with its comfortable reading room, and large selection of current magazines, and the Memorial wing, with its historical treasures, are points of interest for many visitors.

Authorities in the library field consider this one of the finest small libraries in the state, and bring many guests to view it. It is an asset of which the town may well be proud.

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Grains of Sand

An amazing array of front pages is greeting customers at Hayes Book shop this week. . . Their headlines are the kind to make history and in fact, they did. . . For these are reproductions, sent out by the New York Times, of papers which recorded some of the world-shaking events of this nation's past.

"Awful Event. President Lincoln Shot," screams the headline on a paper dated April 15, 1865. . . "All San Francisco May Burn" is another—date April 19, 1906. . . The Times of February 16, 1898, tells of "The Maine Blown Up". . . and, with date September 9, 1909, "Commander Peary's Revealing Account of His Successful Voyage to the North Pole" with another story on the side—"Cook Not Near Pole, Says Peary."

The fifth paper, of May 16, 1919, tells of the first non-stop transatlantic flight, made by Alcock and Brown (dja think it was Lindbergh? You're wrong!)

The stories themselves, samples of journalism at its most dramatic heights, are well worth the reading. . . They carry no bylines, and we wondered if the graphic story of San Francisco's fire was that written by Will Irwin, brother of Southern Pines' Wallace Irwin. . . Will, who later became one of the country's great journalists (as also did Wallace) first established himself as a rising young reporter by his account of the San Francisco fire.

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Citizens Anonymous

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