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THE PILOT

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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. North Carolina is ahead by ten deaths, this month, over her score for last year's fatal automobile accidents. Where the number of deaths stood at 134 last year, the bloodshed boxscore shows 144 for 1950, with 1,849 injured in place of last year's 1.392

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." Almost every newspaper has carried warnings of the situation.

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. The one bill which might have reduced accidents somewhat, that proposed by Moore County's former state senator, Wilbur H. Currie, was repealed after only a few months' trial. An irresponsible legislature, needled by the protests of voters annoyed by the bungling way in which the provisions of the bill were carried out, allowed itself to be rushed into imprudent action. The bill was good and necessary; properly administered, it would have eliminated many old wrecks and faultily-equipped cars from the highways. The periodic checking of safety aids, which it called for, is an obvious necessity in any safety program.

Here, then, is one thing to do: revive the motor inspection law, rewritten to provide for more efficient administration. Beyond that: more and still more patrolmen and better law enforcement all round. Officials should go on the assumption that where there is an accident someone or something is to blame. Investigation should be prompt and thorough, with everyone treated alike. There are too many cases where people of wealth or prominence are let off.

The rules against drinking and driving, it would appear, should be strengthened. In Sweden, the high fatality rate was sharply reduced when a jail sentence was made mandatory for anyone involved in a traffic accident who could be proved to have taken so much as one drink before starting out.

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.

All these things will help to reduce the number of accidents but probably the thing that would help most will never be done. That is: to Friday, March 17, 1950

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. He knew the poor as well as the rich, he had an equal interest in their problems. His sympathy was quick and warm; his kindly courtesy was never failing.

During his long tenure of office in Carthage, he came to know more than perhaps anyone else about the affairs of his fellow-citizens. Yet never during all those years was there a suggestion of breach of confidence; he was a true guardian of his post of trust.

His duties included acting as judge of the juvenile court and no man could have been found more suited to such a position. His interest in the young offenders was striking. There is not a doubt that, through his kindliness and understanding sympathy, many of those brought before him received their first glimpse of a good way of living and, because of this influence, took the first step along a better road.

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, where he used to live. It was here that all his children were born, in the famous House in the Horseshoe, the historic prerevolutionary house and plantation which was his home for so many years.

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." But beyond this there must be, always, a deep thankfulness to the kind Providence who placed him here among us, to enrich our lives with the benign influence of his kindly presence.

Stand Up And Be Counted

W. Lamont Brown, of Southern Pines, and others of the hundreds of district supervisors of the 1950 U.S. decennial census have taken on one of the most important jobs facing this country today. When the enumerators start out April 1 on the biggest nose-counting operation in history, it is incumbent on each of us to cooperate fully.

The vital statistics this census will reveal can now only be guessed at. It is important that they be arrived at truly and accurately, for no previous decade has wrought such sweeping changes as that of 1941-50. In the normal course of events a decade's changes can be pretty accurately mapped on the basis of what has gone before. Hardly so this time, when the strong tides of the war and postwar eras have caused sweeping population shifts, accompanying an unprecedented population growth.

The current guess is that the normal growth of North Carolina has been interfered with by the pull of industry, which has taken thousands

Grains of Sand

An amazing array of front . This has been a conspicuous pages is greeting customers at Hayes Book shop this week. . . from the beginning. . . If the Their headlines are the kind to "saucer" tale could be pinned on make history and in fact, they did show-offs it could all be easily For these are reproductions, laughed off, but it can't. . . Nor sent out by the New York Times, are they people who ordinarily of papers which recorded some suffer from hallucinations.

Here in the Sandhills, disks of the world-shaking events of this nation's past. have been recently reported by "Awful Event. President Lin- Mrs. P. G. Shearman, of the Midcoln Shot," screams the headline land road, a lady of intelligence, on a paper dated April 15, 1865 character and judgment, who saw "All San Francisco May five or six of them in a row across Burn" is another—date April 19, the skies. . . And also by Bob 1906. . . The Times of February Caviness of Carthage, who saw 16, 1898, tells of "The Maine a "silver-colored object" flying Blown Up"... and, with date Sep- high in the air over the county tember 9, 1909, "Commander seat. . . Bob is a bright young man Peary's Revealing Account of His who has had considerable news-Successful Voyage to the North paper experience as reporter and Pole" with another story on the photographer, and would be more side-"Cook Not Near Pole, Says than ordinarily skeptical. . . We're sure if he said he saw the thing, Peary." he saw it.

The fifth paper, of May 16, 1919, Some day, we hope, we'll get tells of the first non-stop transatlantic flight, made by Alcock a convincing explanation of the and Brown (dja think it was Lind- flying saucers. . . Something more than "optical illusion." berg? You're wrong!) The stories themselves, samples

Bemoaning the fact of having of journalism at its most dramatic been hard-up this winter, one of heights, are well worth the readng. . . They carry no bylines, and those rare souls-God bless them! ---who can see something funny in we wondered if the graphic story of San Francisco's fire was that almost anything, has this to say: written by Will Irwin, brother of Southern Pines' Wallace Irwin door all winter—she had a litter Will, who later became one of pups on our doormat."

of the country's great journalists In the Mailbag: from Casper, Wy. (as also did Wallace) first estab-lished himself as a rising young very regularly and I look forward reporter by his account of the to it every Monday. We have had San Francisco fire. a mild winter and a lovely one-

just enough snow to make it in-The Sandhills Woman's Ex- teresting. Imagine from all I hear, change will have another rum- it's a good bit colder there right mage sale, second of the season, now than it is here. Hope the Friday and Saturday, March 31 peaches and lovely flowers won't and April 1, and no April Foolin' be hurt.

-they want all your contribu-tions of things for sale, clothing, much I enjoyed the Resort edihousehold goods and so on. tion and how glad I was of the Among clothing items especially pictures it contained that I could wanted are shoes in the larger show my friends here. I think sizes. Mrs. George A. Smith, who this year's edition was one of the is staying at the Carolina hotel, is nicest we have ever had.' Thank you, Lois H. Haines. . directing this sale, which is expected to get wanted goods to peo- Those words mean a lot to us, ple who need them, provide a and we appreciate your kindness profit for the benefit of the Ex- in writing them. But we'd like to change—and help you get rid of all those excess items you'll be ing to, to think our weather might wanting to pass on. Call Mrs. be colder than Wyoming (well, of Smith, or take the things right on course, there WERE those three or four freezing nights, but we'll

just skip them!) Governor Scott drinks his cof-It makes us very happy, to get fee black, it was observed by compliments on our Resort edi-Madeline Prim, who was seated tion each year till it's time to get near him at the luncheon meetout a new one. . . And all year ing of the N. C. Credit Women's association directors, held Sunday copies. at the Alamance hotel at Burling-

over.

ton. . . Requested by some of the "If our new gym never did anygirls, who did take cream, to thing else, it would justify itself 'chase the cow" over their way, in bringing together such groups the Chief Executive grinned and as that at the county basketball admitted, "I'm a lot better at tournament," was the opinion of shooting the bull."

He made the gals a nice speech, expressed last week. "It was splen-nd so did our Madeline, who as did to see people from all over

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cut down on the speed of motors.

How willingly, during the war, did we all stick to the speed limit of 40 miles an hour. Driving was delightful and it is unlikely that the nation's efficiency was reduced by this extra time spent on the roads or any individual's affairs seriously hampered. But, in peace time, to install governors in cars to control their speed would be termed interference with personal liberty; it would be politically impossible. Yet it is probably the only sure way to eliminate a good part of the road accidents.

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. We may and we must try to reduce their frequency, but they will continue to take their toll of lives.

Montgomery Memorial Hospital

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, on a beautiful hilltop site near Troy, completely furnished and equipped. Now for the first time Montgomery citizens may have modern hospital service within the borders of their own county. They may well feel proud of their Montgomery Memorial hospital, and also of the long history of endeavor which has brought it into being.

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-and that is sacrifice in the truest sense, made for the sake of others, many of them yet unborn.

The Montgomery Herald fittingly commemorated the great occasion of the hospital's opening with an impressive 52-page special edition, filled with a wealth of interesting details about the hospital. In the salutes to those individuals and organizations who have worked together to get the hospital built, we discern a story of splendid cooperation and a spirit of true selflessness.

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. Yet we know of no other channel of human effort which so richly rewards those who work together in its behalf.

of families to western and northern centers. These displaced Tarheels, with those of other states, may cause a shift of political weight from east to west. It appears our State may lose a congressman, and redistricting is going to cause some stresses and strains. However, once we had only seven congressmen, instead of 12.

In Southern Pines, the signs of growth are everywhere, in the need for a new water plant, the enlargement of the business district, the growth of the schools, the churches and all the organizations. Yet this burgeoning of population has gone on largely outside the city limits. With no extension of these limits, and the impossibility of much growth within them, we predict the census will not show us as much bigger than 1940's 3,225. Too bad.

There will be other changes. Cook's Cross Roads, as it was called in the last census, will show up under its name of today-Kannapolis. Some small towns will be shown to have shriveled up as cities have fattened upon them. Legislation on agriculture, industry, old age, marriage and divorce, education and housing will depend on figures produced by the 1950 census.

Without accurate statistics, our government is working "by God and by guess." When the time comes, each man, woman and child should stand up and be counted. If you can't be anything else, you can be an accurate statis-

Unprecedented Action in Winnetka

Even as we join in the editorial applause for the mayor of Winnetka, Ill., who wrote the government thanks for approving a \$316,000 post office but please to save their money, we are wondering how many of those who applaud are sufficiently approving to go and do likewise.

There are plenty of questions for people to ask themselves when they sound out for economy in government, and yet fail to let up even one little bit on the pressures which cause it. For our government is truly a government of, by and for the people, sensitive to their wishes and to their pressuring touch, with the strongest pressures getting the most results. There is hardly any citizen now who does not know how to start pressing, or has not participated in one or many pressure movements.

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? And when are we going to learn not to talk one thing and do another?

secretary of the Sandhills Mer- the county enjoying themselves chants association was present to together here, and it's a sight we extend a gracious invitation to the too seldom see. "The games, too, were excellent

Credit Women to hold their annual convention here in May. They're coming, along with the clean-looking young people—and N. C. Merchants association, their such fine sportsmanship! It was big-brother organization. . . And an inspiration to watch them." you can look out for a bunch of The same thing is going on this lively, up-to-the-minute business- week, with the All-State Girls' women. . . Women who are hand- tournament, in which the basketling big jobs every day in busi- ball - playing lassies of 16 high nesses all over the state, and do- schools all over the state are proving they can carry the show on ing it well.

"Detroit Tigers will train two their baseball farm teams in their own and make a fine thing of it. There's some mighty good of their baseball farm teams in the Sandhills." notes the State Ad-the Sandhills." notes the State Ad-at the gym this week, and our advertising Bureau in its memo to vice to you, if you haven't been, travel and resort interests all over is to get right on over there tothe states. "They are Jamestown, night.

The eyes of the whole state are N. Y., and Butler, Pa. . . The two teams will bring about 50 play-ers in April. This is the result of on the semi-finals tonight and the finals tomorrow night, so don't let Chamber of Commerce activity, and it's not only good for South-The tournament The tournament has brought

ern Pirres hotels, etc., but will mean exhibition games and added following of parents and fans from all the participant towns, to Judge J. Vance Rowe officiated cheer their favorites on. Many at the swearing-in ceremony of of them are seeing Southern Pines the Aberdeen High school's first for the first time-and we hope Student Council, on the inaugura- every one will come again.

tion of the honor system there the other day. . . And in so doing inducted into office his own son, Arthur, who had been elected president.

attraction for visitors."

Other officers are Iris Matthews, secretary; Sue Swaringen, recording secretary, and Nancy Averitt. treasurer. . . Each high To The Pilot: school grade has a representative on the Council.

Judge Rowe made them a little ly-issued folder for visitors. It is talk on democracy in government, and offhand we can't think of a better example than a high school tion for travelers. Student Council, nor one better devised to give us good government leaders in the future. And we'll keep an eye out for fortable reading room, and large young Arthur Rowe, who made a selection of current magazines; good start by being born a Rowe and the Memorial wing, with its and is improving his position on historical treasures, and everhis own.

Those "flying saucers" still Authorities in the library field have us mystified, especially since consider this one of the finest the accounts of them almost inva- small libraries in the state, and riably come in from unimpeach- bring many guests to view it. It able sources, people whose last is an asset of which the town may thought would be to make up a well be proud. Yours sincerely, tale for startlement or attention. CITIZEN ANONYMOUS. tale for startlement or attention.



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