

THE PILOT

Southern Pines

North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

More Answers Are Needed

The letter of the Moore County commissioners to The Pilot regarding the article recently published on the County Home, though it answered none of the questions raised, did indirectly touch on a point worth examination.

In connection with the position taken: that the County Home must remain in operation because there is no other place in the county for mentally afflicted Negroes, the letter says: "A few years ago a boarding home for colored people was opened in West Southern Pines, but after a great deal of publicity and investigation it was closed."

This reference is to the fact that this so-called nursing home was closed by the state Department of Public Welfare after an investigation by The Pilot, made at the suggestion of local physicians, had revealed conditions of shocking neglect. It developed that the specifications under which the home had been licensed had not been carried out and it was operating illegally. This state of things came about only because inspections of the place had not been made frequently enough to disclose the true state of affairs.

There is, admittedly, always the chance of abuse when the care of the sick is a profitable business. The successful and humane operation of privately-run hospitals and nursing homes depends on two factors: the honesty and decency of the people in charge and a system of regular, thorough inspections carried out by the public agency that is responsible for the establishment of the homes. It is, however, unfortunately a fact that both the state and the county welfare departments are so understaffed that the necessary frequent inspections cannot

always be made.

That is, they could not be made, perhaps, always by the professional staff, but in a wide-awake community there would seem to be no reason to let such a consideration stand in the way of a desirable goal. It should certainly be entirely possible for the citizen-staffed Moore County welfare board to organize an inspection committee of public-spirited people who would gladly lend their help in such a worthy cause. The Moore County Hospital's board of directors has just such a committee of inspection, operating for years with entire success.

This danger of abuse of power is one to which the commissioners might well have drawn attention in the state's suggestion to turn the County Home into a privately-operated nursing home.

But, it must be pointed out that, as things stand now, that danger is an immediate fact. It is, of course, true that those who are in charge of the Home are not supposed to profit from its operation, but there is no regular thorough system of inspection made of the place. The county commissioners are not well-informed as to its condition, the number of people there or their state of health. Nor is there any careful check made of finances.

That, at least, must be the assumption. For if the commissioners were familiar with the place, we believe things would be different. As to its cost, surely a board that is noted for its economical attitude in money matters would have found some way of taking care of a few people at less exorbitant cost to the taxpayers. Not to mention taking better care of them.

For The Glory Of France

U. P. DISPATCH

A hard-core band of 2,000 Foreign Legionnaires chose to go down fighting for the glory of France in a suicidal attack on the Communist captors of Dien Bien Phu.

The French High Command at Hanoi said the Legionnaires under the command of Col. Andre Lalande at outpost "Isabelle" preferred a fight to the end than to surrender.

A Communist Radio Peking broadcast heard in Tokyo said the conquerors of Dien Bien Phu had "annihilated" the Legionnaires hours after the main fortress had fallen.

The fall of Dien Bien Phu hit hard. To people everywhere it must have brought a profound sense of loss and failure. For whether or not there is agreement on the policy, or lack of it, which was followed by this country and the others, even by France herself, there is the shock of realization that, once again, brave men had to die for the mistakes of others.

As in the Charge of the Light Brigade:

"Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do and die."

And they did, and they died.

But as we shudder at the loss, as we try, perhaps, to shut our minds to the thought that even

now another Death March of Bataan is in progress in the jungles of Indo-China, as the exhausted and hopeless troops are herded towards their Chinese prisons with the wretched wounded left desolate, our own hurt is little in comparison with that of France. That is what we must remember.

This is, for France the end of more than eight years of fruitless battling in the jungle, of ghastly losses wherein the flower of French manhood was sacrificed. If France was uncertain and confused before, we may expect to see things worse, as the full force of this national humiliation is felt. France may turn more strongly against those who were responsible, the Soviets and Chinese, who found, in the corruption and "colonialism" of Indo-China, a ready-made for their Communist mill, but human nature being what it is, it is more likely that, in her grief and hurt pride, France will turn angrily against the ally who gave her strong cause to think that help was at hand and then, at the last moment, pulled back from danger. If that happens, we will, let us hope, understand and make allowances for a brave nation for which this humiliation and defeat is one more in the series that started with the German occupation.

For ourselves and the others on our side, the fall of the French fortress should bring a time for soul-searching.

The Lag In Civil Defense

Communities that have a well organized Civil Defense program have found it to be of inestimable value in the case of a peacetime emergency. In last year's wave of tornadoes that hit several sections of the nation where tornadoes are extremely rare, Civil Defense organizations enabled rescue operations to get started effectively long before they might have without a well prepared directing agency.

This and other functions of the Defense program in Southern Pines will be in the minds of county and local CD leaders as they appear tonight (Friday) in Weaver Auditorium in an effort to set up here as complete an organization as possible.

Under the direction of General A. V. Arnold, Moore County was one of the first in the state to set up a fully organized Civil Defense pro-

gram. General Arnold and the county CD warden, General Roger M. Wicks, have been going over the county speaking on behalf of the program and attempting to wake people up to the potentialities and the urgency of Civil Defense. All who have heard them have been impressed, but activity—understandably in peacetime—has lagged. Southern Pines, home of two CD officials, is said to be lagging badly in development of its CD activities.

Moore County is fortunate in having available leadership of the quality provided by General Arnold, General Wicks and others who are working at the county level to help towns get their Civil Defense programs set up properly. We trust that citizens of Southern Pines will now step forward with enthusiastic activity worthy of such leadership.

Last Week Was Music Week

We are a week behind in hailing Music Week, but as a result of that editorial dilatoriness, we can now do it in style. For, Saturday night, the Young Musicians concert was held in Pinehurst, and if that isn't the best possible way of celebrating Music Week, we'd like to hear of a better one.

On that evening was given a program that included one pupil from the classes of most of the music teachers of the county. What's more, at the end of the program five former pupils of local teachers, who are now majoring in University music, played their pieces and made their bows. They played to an audience that had watched and heard them come along up the scale, so to speak, of musical learning and achievement, as each one appeared in this yearly young people's concert.

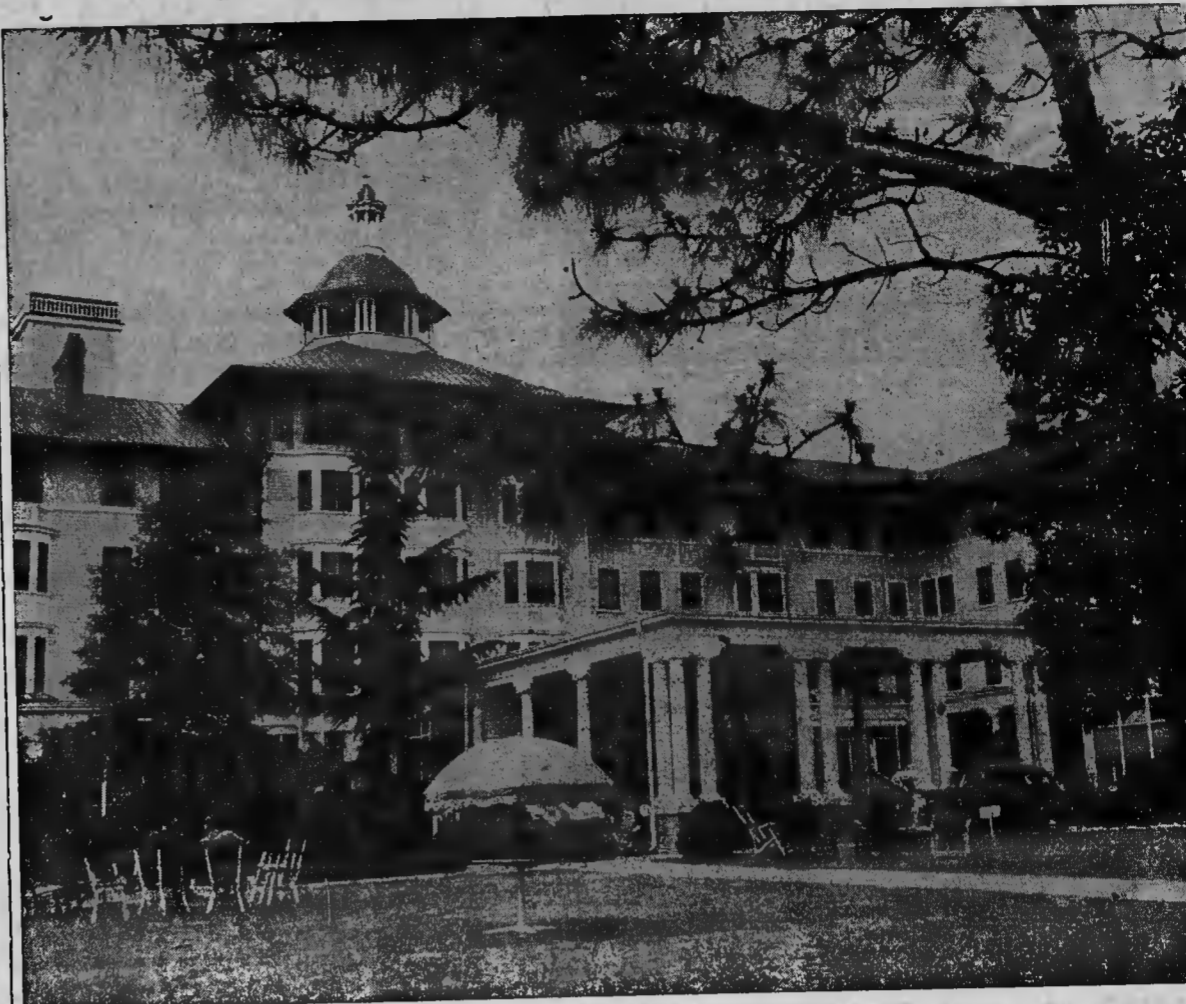
This innovation, introduced by the Sandhills Music Association, of young people, beginning small and growing bigger, playing for the gathering of county people, is surely one of the

pleasanteest things that has come about in this section. We are unaware that anything of the sort is done, in just this way, anywhere else in the state, and we submit that Moore County has a reason to be extra proud and delighted with the whole affair.

That the idea has turned into a real success is evidenced in the marked improvement in the performances given and in the choice of music. The programs started out by being inordinately long, and slightly on the trivial side. Saturday night everyone played well and the choice of composers ranged through the gamut of classical music: from Bach to Brahms, to Chopin, to Boccharini, Liszt, Debussy.

The success of this event assures it a place, we feel, on the yearly calendar for Moore County. As such it ranks well in its own right, for musical production and taste, while as an event of educational and cultural value, bringing richness into the lives of many, it stands almost at the top of such local activities.

Spring Is Convention Time In Pinehurst



PINEHURST'S FAMOUS CAROLINA HOTEL turns from golfers to conventions as spring comes around. Bankers, realtors, auto dealers, druggists, "the butcher, the baker, the candlestick-maker" all convene successively in the big, comfortable hostelry, to exchange ideas and have a good time. Last week the Carolina was

full to bursting with the doctors of the State and their wives. They rigged up a tent, big as the Big Top, where the history of state medicine was displayed in a variety of interesting exhibits. This week and next, the bankers and dentists take over in their yearly conventions.

Grains of Sand

Thank You, Suh, Mr. Seawell

If there is one man who knows a good GRAIN when he sees one, and has contributed a golden share of humor for the jollification of his fellowmen, it is Moore County's Chub Seawell. The Pilot's Grains keeper is proud and grateful for the assist, printed below, from the typewriter of one of North Carolina's wittiest citizens.

"Gone with the Wind... Look Homeward Angel... or something like that"

Solomon said one day when he was feeling pretty good "of writin' books there ain't no end."

Will Rogers was criticized one day for using ain't and he replied by saying that a lot of folks that ain't sayin' ain't, ain't eatin'.

Solomon must have looked ahead, and he saw our present day, because it takes our modern writers four hundred pages to say what Solomon said in one verse. The more unimportant a matter is, the more copies we make of the proceedings, and if it gets to be outrageously unimportant we put it on the television.

Of course some folks must have copies of everything, and the usual number of copies now is seven. The United Nations must have a copy, Eleanor Roosevelt must have a copy, and if you don't furnish Senator McCarthy with a copy, you're accused of being subversive.

When I get a letter nowadays with several extra copies I just throw it in the trash basket because I know it must be some very unimportant matter. When anything important happens we don't bother to take that down at all. It comes under what is known as "off the record."

Nobody knows what Churchill said to Roosevelt when they met on the high seas in the North Atlantic. Nobody knows what Stalin said to Churchill or Roosevelt at Yalta. Nobody knows what General Marshall said to the Chinese General at Cairo. Even a copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence cannot be located, if one was ever made.

Under these circumstances, Congress should call a joint session. All of the McCarthy-Stevens matters should be loaded on trucks and carried five miles below Mount Vernon and dumped into the Potomac River at high tide so it would be certain to be carried out to sea.

I am convinced that this is the proper procedure in this matter due to the inconsequentiality, the extreme pusillanimosity and the infinitesimality of whatever decision might ultimately be reached by the Committee, which in itself is very doubtful.

It's Duller Dullest

If you see something flying through the sky, and it looks like Halley's Comet, it is NOT Halley's Comet, it is just John "Frosty" Dulles and 350 stenographers on the way to another Conference.

H. F. SEAWELL, JR.

A. D. 1954

Hold Those Books!

Mrs. Margaret York's efforts to get some good photographs of the West Southern Pines Library project, to use in Finer Carolina publicity ran up against an unexpected stumbling-block.

She wanted to have one of those effective "before" and "after" cuts: one taken of the almost empty shelves and the other of the first batch of new books that came in. Trouble was: the children took the new books out before the photographer could get up there. They just couldn't wait!

So, when another batch of gay, shiny, bright-covered volumes came in, MPs, (so to speak) were stationed to hold everything until Photographer V. Nicholson got there.

The PILOT
Published Every Friday by
THE PILOT, Incorporated
Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor
C. Benedict News Editor
Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr.
C. G. Council Advertising
Mary Scott Newton Business
Bessie Cameron Smith Society

Composing Room
Lochamy McLean, Dixie B. Ray,
Michael Valen, Jasper Swearingen

Subscription Rates:
One Year \$4.6 mos. \$2; 3 mos. \$1

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

Member National Editorial Assn. and N. C. Press Assn.

THE MCCARTHY-ARMY INVESTIGATION

Editors Comment On Hearings The Senate's Responsibility

By LOUIS GRAVES
(In The Chapel Hill Weekly)

In an editorial in the issue of April 2, entitled "The Senate Is Responsible for the Harm that McCarthy Does," I said: "There has never been a time since McCarthy began his disgusting behavior when the Senate could not have stopped it. The Senate has power to change the membership of committees. It has power to enforce rules about how investigations shall be conducted. Yet it allows McCarthy to go ahead and do as he pleases. When the time came for a vote on whether McCarthy should have the money he wanted, to carry on his investigations, the Senate voted almost unanimously to give it to him. The Democrats supinely joined the Republicans in voting for the requested appropriation."

I am glad to see that some eminent persons are now expressing the same opinion. It is a pity they did not do so earlier for they might have exerted influence to prevent such evil performances as have been taking place lately.

For example, there is Senator John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, who says, "In view of what has happened I believe it would have been better to have withheld funds from the investigating subcommittee until there had been assurances of safeguards for witnesses."

Cooper was one of the 85 Senators who voted to give the McCarthy subcommittee the funds it asked for. Of the 86 Senators present when the vote was taken on the question of granting the funds, only one—Fulbright of Arkansas—voted no. His colleague, McClellan, who is now lined up against McCarthy, voted for the appropriation.

"The statement by Senator Cooper of Kentucky," says the Chatham News, "lends emphasis to a widely-held opinion that the Senate must develop ground rules under which its subcommittees can operate—that irresponsibility cannot be curbed, either through Presidential decree or through the groundswelling process of public opinion."

"In voting to continue the appropriation for the McCarthy subcommittee the Senate gave tacit approval to the manner in which

it operates. "If Senator Cooper's new views are shared by enough Senators, there can be in the Senate an effective reversal of the almost unanimous approval that was given in the appropriations vote."

And another Kentuckian, Former Vice-President of the United States Alben W. Barkley, has also waked up to the responsibility of the Senate in the matter of investigations. In the course of his long service in the Senate it never occurred to him to make any move toward improving the procedure, but now he writes in the Saturday Evening Post:

"It is true that some unsavory characters, who were, and are, unquestionably enemies of this country and who should be rooted from public life, have been exposed through the inquisitorial type of congressional investigations. At the same time, it is a serious matter when the innocent can be made to suffer along with the guilty, without what we have always cherished as 'due process of law.' It is deplorable when individuals, and even whole classes or groups of people, religious, educational or economic, are condemned by such procedures, often without the opportunity of defending themselves."

"I suppose it is natural in times of hysteria or fear for these injustices to be expected. But it is surely not in harmony with our process of government, which provides legitimate methods of dealing with violations of law or breaches of public trust, for any official group to blast the reputation of innocent men or worthy institutions by procedures which would not be tolerated in any court of law."

"Out of it all has grown what seems to be an urgent and obvious need for a congressional code of procedure, defining the areas in which investigating committees can move and establishing rules for the protection of witnesses. Both Houses of Congress have the power to correct abuses by any of their committees. They owe a responsibility to the public to do so. I think that public confidence in our great legislative institution would be enhanced and wholesomely so, if Congress itself would enact a sensible code of procedure to achieve these aims."

The Public Speaking

'Unwarranted Accusation'
To the Editor:

It is difficult for this reader of The Pilot to believe that anyone who carefully studied the account of conditions at the County Home did not consider it a most just and moderate statement of well-authenticated facts. It was therefore startling to learn from Mr. Cameron's letter that the article was considered by the commissioners "most unjust, unfair and unkind to Mr. and Mrs. Barber who manage the home," though it is understood that at least one of the commissioners had not read

the entire article. There is also the claim that as Mrs. Barber grew up in the Home she was "trained to be kind."

This statement, it seems to me, should not have been made without some authentic and factual rebuttal of the evidence brought to light by an investigation, courageous and public-spirited, of actual conditions.

There should be further investigations, some more substantial evidence as to the "kindness" of management. Until then, the up-in-the-air accusation of injustice, unfairness and unkindness made by the commissioners of the

Washington's Nauseating Spectacle

(From The Smithfield Herald)

While the United States has been closer to embroilment in another war than many of us think, the nation and the world has been served the nauseating spectacle of the Army-McCarthy investigation in Washington.

The Kansas City Star expresses well the feeling we have toward this new "mess in Washington." The Star says that the Senate has "gone investigation crazy," that "the public is fed up." It is certainly time the public was fed up.

The issue underlying the Army-McCarthy probe is not whether the Army should or should not be rid of subversives. The evidence is clear that the Army has been doing a creditable job in protecting itself against Communist infiltration. The evidence is also clear that Senator McCarthy "horned in" on the Army's Fort Monmouth investigation in one of his characteristic maneuvers for building himself up in the eyes of the public.

The Army-McCarthy probe simply shows the extent to which the American people and their leaders have allowed an unscrupulous United States Senator to go in destroying public confidence in leaders of government, in agencies of government including the department of military defense, and in democracy itself.

Senator McCarthy himself is the principal culprit in this tragedy of errors. The Senate, which has voted funds to continue the McCarthy assaults on democracy, is next in line for blame. And every American, from the top leaders of government down, who has either given full support to McCarthy or condoned McCarthyism in the false belief that the Senator from Wisconsin was "doing some good," for the Republican party if not for genuine anti-Communism, must share responsibility for the degrading spectacle in Washington.

Other nations understandably are wondering if a nation which has tolerated Senator McCarthy so long is qualified to lead the international fight to preserve democracy against the inroads of Communism. And it is not very reassuring to us in America, frankly, to think that the fate of the United States in the current international crisis is in the hands of an administration which in the name of Republican unity has for so long tried to do business with McCarthy.

Pilot article seems to an unprejudiced observer, entirely unwarranted.

Sincerely,
KATHARINE NEULIN BURT