

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.

Maxwell Struthers Burt

Recalling the life and personality of Struthers Burt, who died Saturday, those who knew him are struck by the wonderful clarity with which he is remembered. There is nothing hazy, indefinite, doubtful or uncertain about the picture. In his vigorous physical being, his incisive mind, his caustic or gentle wit, his profound emotional involvement in all existence—from the fate of the nation to the beauty of a flower—he is all there and clear in memory.

We can be thankful that Struthers Burt lives not only in the memory of those who knew him but in his writing, in all of which—whether in the sweet chiming words of his verse, the living characters in his novels or the evocative thinking of his non-fiction—the picture of a definite man, a definable spirit, a whole but marvelously diversified person, is also clear.

That is a mark of greatness: to be remembered as a human being by whom the raw material of existence, in actual living and in creative work, was transformed into something significant and unique.

Struthers Burt shared another mark of greatness: where others might have been satisfied, he pressed on to new ways of life, new ideas, new achievements. Growing up in Philadelphia, a city that has become the symbol of all that is conservative and traditional in the settled and often complacent life of the East, he and his wife, as young people, homesteaded in Wyoming. Last Spring, leaving Southern Pines for the West, gravely ill, he spoke confidently of returning to build a new home here this Fall.

As a young man, he studied and lived abroad and might—had he been a lesser person—have remained an expatriate. Yet he returned to this country to become, over the years, one of America's most eloquent interpreters, proud of the nation's history and accomplishments which, he pointed out, are much greater than little minds would have us think.

For the United States of America Struthers Burt felt an absolute devotion and he had an unswerving faith in the American people. He believed in the American destiny—the "American dream"—he believed in democracy, the ability of the people to govern themselves and guide their future, and as a primary article of this faith, he spoke out, belligerently and cour-

ageously, against those who through fear, greed, weakness or lust for power attempt to pervert this nation and its people into something intolerant, ignoble or un-free.

This community can be proud that a man of this stature chose to spend a large part of his life here—not as a remote observer of the passing scene, but as a good citizen, warmly and genuinely involved in acquaintances, friendships, happenings, civic affairs and the ins and outs of small-town life. On Southern Pines, Struthers Burt brought to bear the same qualities of spirit, the same loyalties, the same scorn, the same freshness and originality of outlook that he turned on the nation as a whole. Through the years he thus exerted an influence on the community that was powerful because it came from an interested participant in the life of the town.

We like to think that Struthers Burt chose Southern Pines for a home because he felt here a quality of living that combined much of the best he had found elsewhere—the stability and decorum of his native city, the vigor and unconventionality of the West, the sensitivity and sophistication of Europe and something of the "melting pot" quality that has produced for the nation as a whole unprecedented personalities and events and which is inseparable from democracy's essence.

Southern Pines, however, cannot and should not claim to be the real home of Struthers Burt. No more can such a claim be made for the Wyoming mountains and valleys nor for the historic narrow streets of Philadelphia.

His home was the nation—the U. S. A. His personality combined all that is best in the national character: directness, outspokenness, loyalty, wit, friendliness, curiosity, adventurousness, yet also, paradoxically: reserve, sensitivity and the guarded dream, the yearning for better things to come, the faith that man can mold his destiny and that he can make it good.

The impact of Struthers Burt's existence—now felt with such amazing conviction by those who mourn his passing—will, we believe, become increasingly understood and appreciated. Personally and in his creative work, he pointed the way for Americans to live meaningful and effective lives.

Delinquency and Rural Communities

Since The Pilot commented two weeks ago on the unusual number of teen-age defendants in Superior Court cases, the nation has been shocked by the New York City "thrill killers" who, according to the district attorney in charge, "committed crimes for pleasure and got a kick out of seeing blood flow."

In contrast to the rampage of brutality indulged in by the four New York youths, juvenile delinquency in Moore County seems a very mild business. For that we can be thankful. The contrast does not lessen the seriousness of crimes committed by youths in this county, but it does indicate that hereabouts young people have not sunk to the depths of depravity uncovered in the New York investigation.

The New York cases tend to minimize our theory that most juvenile delinquency stems from boredom and lack of constructive recreation facilities. The four "thrill killers" are said to come from good, if humble, families and if a young man can't find something worthwhile to occupy his time in New York City, we don't know where in the world he could.

Moore County life is that of small towns and rural areas—a type of environment which is said to be producing an increasing amount of juvenile delinquency. In this environment, boredom and lack of inspiration toward a wholesome life are, we believe, responsible for most of the troubles young folks have with the law.

While we do not mean to be smug about it, we cannot conceive of any young people in Moore County—even among the various rough groups who have deservedly earned the "hood-

lum" designation—deliberately beating, torturing and killing persons whom they did not know and had no grudge against. There is a good deal of violence among young men in various parts of the county, but it is predominantly not violence for its own sake. We have seen many a young defendant on the witness stand during court sessions, but none has exhibited the sickening sophistication and moral perversion of the New York youth who described one night's activities of torture and murder as his "supreme adventure."

Rural delinquency in Moore County, a large part of which appears to originate in the Robbins area, offers a problem that is not nearly so unsolvable, it seems to us, as the teen-age gang battles, beatings and other delinquencies of the big cities.

We don't know the answer to the Moore County problem, but we can't help but feel that there is an answer which can be found by the sincere efforts of all good citizens who have the county's welfare at heart.

If the homes of some of these young people offer no help, the schools and churches provide two avenues for exerting an influence on their development. Over the nation, it has been shown that residents of rural communities can do wonders in raising the standards of living and the quality of life in their neighborhoods once they set out to do so. Home Demonstration Clubs, 4-H and FFA youth programs and such organizations can work wonders in a rural community when they put their shoulders to the wheel.

More Youth Needed In YDC

The new president of the Moore County Young Democrats, Voit Gilmore, was barking up the right tree when he urged, just after his election at a Carthage rally last week, that every effort be made to interest young men and women in the 18-30 age group in the organization and its activities.

Out of some 200 persons attending the rally, a show of hands at the request of the president, disclosed less than two dozen in the 18-30 group.

The responsibility for this situation lies less with the young people themselves than it does with the older group who, after up to 20 years of enthusiastic membership in YDC, remain young in spirit and continue as the working core of the organization, but are likely to forget that each year, in all the communities of the county, young folks are coming along who might, if urged and invited, become valuable members of YDC.

It took a depression and the subsequent vigorous early years of the Roosevelt era to make the YDC the inspiring force it was in the lives of young people and in the political life of the nation. Young people of the present day probably do not recognize in political activity as much excitement and urgency as young men and women found in politics in those days. Yet the YDC remains a vital and influential force in the State and nation. Only a few days ago, Adlai Stevenson said that the work of young Democrats through YDC is of "enormous value" to the party and called on them to help weld a strong party organization.

Our suggestion is that Mr. Gilmore set up a special project in the Moore County YDC, headed by several members in the 18-30 group, with representation in each community of the county, devoted solely to drawing younger Democrats into the organization.



LOOK WHO'S HERE — Governor William B. Umstead seems more than a little interested as North Carolina's Betty Jo Ring of Lexington, who will represent the state for Miss America honors next month, urges Tar Heels to SLOW DOWN AND LIVE. The drive against fast driving was kicked off in May by the governor and will close with an all-out effort by the State Highway Patrol to save lives over the Labor Day weekend.

SEGREGATION DECISION BACKGROUND

Free Schools Relatively New In History Of N. C. Education

"A Report To The Governor of North Carolina," a 206-page mimeographed study of last May's Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation by race in the public schools of the nation, was prepared and issued recently by the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Because of wide interest in the court decision and the able job of fact-finding and research embodied in the report, The Pilot is bringing readers portions of the document.

In the first of these reprinted portions, published last week, a short history of the Negro in North Carolina was given, along with pertinent facts about population distribution of Negroes in the state and in the United States today.

Continuing the first section of the report, which is called "The Background of the Court's Decision," a brief summary is given of white and Negro schooling in North Carolina from 1665 to 1865:

For White Children

Private schooling for white children had its beginnings in laws authorizing county courts to bind out destitute white orphan boys and girls as apprentices, with the requirement that their masters teach them to read and write; supplemented by the teaching of missionaries and traveling preachers of religious denominations; followed by scattered schools and academies.

Public schooling for white children had its beginnings in acts of the General Assembly: in 1764 authorizing the "Society for Promoting a Public School in New Bern," giving it state aid to pay for the schooling of ten poor children annually and to supplement the salary of the teacher; in 1825 creating the Literary Fund for common schools with dividends arising from bank stock owned by the state, and miscellaneous revenues; in 1839 dividing the "counties of the state into school districts," and calling upon the people in each district to vote on a tax to yield one dollar for every two dollars furnished by the Literary Fund.

By 1860, one or two-room schoolhouses in 3,700 districts were accessible to most of the people.

For Negro Children

Negro children followed in belated fashion the pattern of schooling for white children. By the 1800's some of the masters were teaching the more apt of their slaves to read and write and figure.

This teaching was furthered in Sunday Schools and churches. It was cut down but not cut out by the law of 1830 making it a misdemeanor to teach a slave to read and write. None of the public schools started under the law of 1839 was open to Negroes—slave or free.

In 1865 a meeting of Negro leaders in Raleigh petitioned the Constitutional Convention "for education for our children, that they may be made useful in all the relations of life." In 1866 the General Assembly required the masters of Negro orphan apprentices to teach them to read and write.

Private schools for Negroes followed in the wake of the Union armies: by 1869 two hundred twenty-four teachers representing northern religious and benevolent societies were teaching eleven thousand Negro children in one hundred fifty schools; and four hundred or more teachers representing the Freedmen's Bureau were teaching twenty thousand Negro children in more than four hundred schools.

Tax supported schools for Negro children were around the corner, but they were not in sight. **Public Schools Abandoned**

Seven days before the meeting of the General Assembly in 1868 the newly elected Governor of North Carolina wrote to a friend and advisor: "I am greatly at a loss on some of the graver matters which I shall be expected to discuss in my message and shall be much obliged to you for any suggestions from you on these or other matters. First—the Negro question. . . I have no confidence that the condition of our negroes will be elevated by emancipation—but in our present condition I fear we shall have a Freedman's Bureau and military rule over us, if we make discrimination—as admittance in Common Schools. I mean if we educate the negroes in like manner—and your school fund being reduced to nothing and our people impoverished, I

Grains of Sand

Judge Francis O. Clarkson of Charlotte, who recently presided at his first term of Superior Court in Moore County, revealed while he was in Carthage that he is a direct descendant of Alfred Moore, eminent jurist of Brunswick County and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, for whom Moore County was named.

Judge Moore was born May 1, 1775 and died October 15, 1810. Moore County was created and organized in 1784.

In 1790, Alfred Moore was elected attorney general; in 1798 he became a judge of the Superior Court; and in 1799 he was appointed an associated justice of the U. S. Supreme Court—the first, we are told, from North Carolina, although we do not

vouch for this statement.

Judge Clarkson established most cordial relations with the press during the recent court term, calling one reporter to the bench during a lull in proceedings and with a straight face, to the consternation of the reporter until the judge's beatific smile relieved the situation, said that he would have to hold the reporter in contempt of court—for not volunteering a personal introduction sooner.

The judge presided in a quiet but firm manner that brought approval from attorneys and spectators alike. While pronouncing rather stiff sentences in some cases, he nevertheless showed leniency and mercy where it appeared to be in order.

The Public Speaking

Letter to Mayor Clark

To the Editor:
I am enclosing an open letter, the fourth of a series, to the Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Mr. Mayor:
The writer was not only puzzled, but amazed and flabbergasted, too, at the outcome of the Golfcrest fiasco. Then I fully realized the same old gang was doing business at the same old stand, in the same old way, manifesting incompetence, favoritism and what have you. In view of the Golfcrest inadequate handling it appears quite clear "no change of policy" was made by our present council, in fact the council "has had no policy," other than above mentioned, "for several years."

What do "Taxpayers" in their letter to The Pilot, August 6th, 1954, say? I quote: "There was no definite contract existing between the town and Mr. Newland Phillips."

You, Mr. Mayor, were "strangely silent" and sat back very "complacent" when the sum of \$2,433.59 was literally taken out of the taxpayers' pockets.

"Other Taxpayers" in their letter to The Pilot August 20th, 1954, agree with this. In plain words, due to lack of leadership on your part in this particular instance, the taxpayers were taken for a ride to the tune of \$2,433.59—another "dead Horse deal!"

May I add that I fully believe, constructively speaking, that our town needs a new mayor now, one who will lead us competently, ethically, legally and sincerely, with favoritism towards none and justice to all. In view of this, you should resign immediately.

A. R. McDANIEL

Southern Pines

Letter to Mayor Clark

To the Editor:
The following is an open letter to the Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines.

Mr. Mayor:
Surely, when you were elected Mayor, you were aware of the elderly unemployed here, and yet no works projects such as basket weaving, clay modeling, finger painting, etc. have been provided. Now see what's happened. Since you have obviously failed in this instance, you should resign.

EMPLOYED

Southern Pines

Letter To Mayor Clark

Here is an open letter to Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines:
Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor, Southern Pines, N. C.
Dear Mr. Clark:

It is recorded in history and a matter of record that a dog is man's best friend and that a good "watch dog" is a valuable asset to almost any American home but

think the Common School system had better be discouraged, for a time, and thus avoid the question as to educating negroes. . . or shall I pass over this whole negro matter, putting it on the ground that an able commission having it in charge, by order of the General Assembly and Convention, it would be obtrusive for me to present my views."

In his message to the General Assembly the Governor stated: "Whatever may be our pecuniary distresses, our youth must be educated. We must sustain our institutions of learning."

But the following session of the General Assembly: (1) abolished the offices of "Superintendent of Common Schools for the State" and "Treasurer of the Literary Fund," (2) took away state aid, (3) made the levy of local taxes for common schools discretionary with county officials, (4) authorized county officials to apply any taxes they might decide to levy to the aid of subscription schools, (5) authorized local school committees to be taught in the common schoolhouses by teachers qualified to teach in the common schools.

Thus the General Assembly closed the doors of the common schools which had survived the stresses and strains of civil war. It succumbed to the fear of poverty, the fear of taxes, and above all, to the fear of mixed schools for white and Negro children.

University Abandoned

The University of North Carolina was conceived in the Constitution of 1776, chartered by the General Assembly of 1789, opened its doors in January, 1795, greeted its first student in February, 1795, grew to nearly four hundred students by 1860, dwindled to a handful by 1865, closed its doors in the aftermath of civil war and the tolls of reconstruction in 1871. It succumbed to the fears of poverty, taxes, political manipulation—from which the Negro question was not wholly absent.

some of these Southern Pines dogs have gotten their wires crossed and started watching the wrong people.

Now personally I come home quite late at night, especially on week ends, and some of our good canine citizens that are most friendly during the days have seen fit to "ride herd" on me after midnight and will invariably bark and wake up most of the neighbors when I try to slip in without making any noise.

Now Mr. Clark, when you took office as mayor you promised to look after the health, welfare, and happiness of the people of this beautiful little town and I do not think it is asking too much when I humbly request that you either get these friendly animals to watching the right people or resign as mayor.

A TAXPAYER

Southern Pines

Letter to Mayor Clark

An open letter to Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines:

Dear Mr. Mayor:
There has been an unusually large number of gnats in our town this summer. At the same time, there has been a sharp rise in the price of an oily liquid termed "Insect Repellent." Is it possible that there is some connection between the two?

Local politics provides the clue. My investigation shows that your administration is exercising no control whatsoever over the gnats. Now, SOMEONE must be reaping huge profits from the sale of the oily liquid. Is it not bad enough that we have to fight gnats, without also having to combat civic corruption? I demand that you resign. GNAT-GNUTTY.

Southern Pines

Letter to Mayor Clark

To the Editor:
The following is an open letter to the Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines!

Mr. Mayor:
Surely, as Mayor of Southern Pines, you should have realized your responsibility, and used the authority of your office to obtain increased transportation facilities, including railroad, bus and highway, to the end that disgruntled residents would have ample facilities for departing in any direction, including horizontally. Failing in this community need, you should resign.

SATISFIED

Southern Pines

Letter to Mayor Clark

An open letter to His Honor, L. T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines, is enclosed:

Dear Mr. Mayor,
It is a remarkable thing to me that in a town this size there are so few really smart people. How you manage to go along fooling thousands of people, I don't see. The poor dopes like the town, like the mayor, think the town government is doing a good job.

The trouble is, they are busy people, with a good many things to do, and they don't have time to look into things, the way I do. It is a lucky thing for them that I am here to point out all the things that are wrong. The trouble is, I point and point and point—and, well, I, er, point—and—Goodbye. DISGUSTED.

Southern Pines

Asks C. of C. Resign

To the Editor:
The following is an open letter to the officers of the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce:

Dear Sirs:
Whereas, in an open letter to the Pilot, Mayor Clark has been asked to resign because of the recent inclement weather conditions in Southern Pines, and;

Whereas it is common knowledge that weather conditions are the sole responsibility, not of the Mayor's Office, but of the Chamber of Commerce;

Therefore, with this total lack of leadership manifested by you, it is believed that you should resign in a body, and do it now.

PRESUMPTUOUS.

Southern Pines

The PILOT

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