

"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.

Vigilance Required At County Homes

In its efforts to help improve conditions at the Moore County Home and to save money for the taxpayers of the county, The Pilot is aware that simply changing from the old-style "poorhouse" home to a licensed boarding home will not solve all problems of such a charitable or semi-charitable institution.

Governor Umstead recently expressed doubt that the increasing number of boarding homes in the state are being properly inspected. It seems that state law now requires inspection only twice a year. That is not often enough.

Constant vigilance by state and county officials and, we would add, interested individuals, is a necessity in connection with any public institution of this type. The people for whom the establishment is set up are almost always without the power or ability to make their own complaints. It was through the interest of a private individual that unsatisfactory conditions at the Moore County Home were brought to light.

The recent discharge of the superintendent of the Lee County Home, for alleged misconduct with a mentally retarded young woman placed there under his care, illustrates the kind of danger that is more likely to be found in the

old system than with boarding homes.

The Lee County home has had wide publicity as a shining example of the best in old-style county homes where the management and inmates were compared to a happy family. While we do not doubt that this in many ways has been true, the recent incident shows how dependent the system is on trustworthy personnel. It might be added that at the Lee institution, the superintendent's wife, who had been co-superintendent, is continuing to operate the place in a presumably satisfactory manner.

Information from the county commissioners indicates they are making a sincere study of the Moore County Home problem and are not too far from a solution. They have studied the operation of other old-style county homes and also boarding homes and are reported nearing a decision in the Moore County situation.

The Lee County incident and Governor Umstead's doubts about the condition of nursing homes should serve as guideposts to the Moore officials in choosing their management for whatever plan is set up in this county. A wise first choice and vigilance in inspection thereafter will be needed for success in the home in the future, whatever system of operation is set up.

Cold Figures Tell A Success Story

From a \$20,000 accumulated deficit to a \$28,000 accumulated surplus in one year is a remarkable achievement in a town the size of Southern Pines. Such is the story told in cold figures by the audit of the town's books for the fiscal year ended June 30.

In the matter of expenditures and revenue for the fiscal year, the town administration also shows up amazingly well. Both in the general fund and in the water fund, revenue exceeded expenditures by about \$14,000, whereas expenditures had exceeded revenues in the preceding year by about \$5,500 in the general fund and \$1,200 in the water fund.

Throughout this first year of council-manager government in Southern Pines the council has initiated several measures which have been described as "designed to put the town on a more business-like basis." Such were equalization of water rates, the sewer service charge, the fire service charge for out of town residents and other new policies, not to mention such efficiencies and money-savers as competitive bidding, quantity buying and improved office procedures.

Now, looking at the audit, we know what the council and City Manager Tom Cunningham were talking about when they used those words

"more business-like basis." These methods have paid off in a manner of which any business could be proud—wiping out a deficit of long standing and returning a handsome excess of revenue over expenditures for the year's operations.

The city manager's capable administration of the town's affairs, guided by policies directed by the council, is well shown in the audit of the 1953-'54 fiscal year. And the remarkable reversal of the town's position from the red to the black was achieved not by reducing, but by increasing and improving, services rendered by the town to its citizens.

Not only that, but the tax rate for the current fiscal year was cut from \$2.20 to \$1.75. If all this doesn't spell success for a town government, we don't know what does.

The Pilot advocated council-manager government before it was voted in here. We have generally approved the policies and procedures of the new administration and we believe that the list of their accomplishments for the good of the town is by no means completed.

While the financial situation reflected in the audit report is only part of the story of council-manager government here, we feel that the audit reveals a situation that should inspire confidence in the town administration.

Should School Boards Be Elected?

Should members of local school boards and committees be elected? We're inclined to think so.

If elections were held today for school trustees in the Southern Pines and Pinehurst city units and in the districts of the county school system, we might or might not end up with better school boards—perhaps we'd end up with all the same folks in the offices they now hold—but the cause of democracy would be served and the average citizen would feel less remote from school administration and would probably be more interested in the schools.

Members of the county board of education are elected—at the time of the Democratic primary—but are subject to appointment the next year by the General Assembly. While this method is cumbersome and might also be altered, what we are talking about now are district school trustees in towns and rural districts of the county.

Trustees in districts of the county system are appointed by the county board of education—which gives this latter body sweeping control over school matters throughout the county. Trustees in Southern Pines are appointed by the town governing body which is, so far as we know, the manner in which they are named in Pinehurst also, although Pinehurst is not an incorporated town.

Local school board members are thus one step removed from the electorate: they are named by officials who were elected by the people. This is not a wholly unhealthy situation, but is certainly open to debate.

The matter was in the news lately at Chapel Hill where machinery was started to make membership on the school board there elective.

On this development the Raleigh News and Observer delivered the following to-the-point comments with which we agree and which we hope will stimulate thinking about the matter by readers:

"No aspect of life in America is so essential as a foundation of democracy as the public school system. It should be tied as tightly as possible to the democracy of the people. In many cases where school boards are appointed by other officials it has been said that this 'takes the schools out of politics.' Maybe it does; it also takes them out of democratic control. And often it puts them into the politics of a few who want to control the schools for their own purposes. There is no way in America

to take any public institution or agency out of politics without taking it out of democracy.

"Undoubtedly some products of politics are bad. Some politicians are evil. There is no guarantee, however, that those who control public functions without direct responsibility to the people will always be good and wise. Furthermore, when the people have no right to elect officials, they may become less vigilant about officials. If they have no right to choose them—or reject them—they may feel a lack of responsibility about them.

"As the foundation of our democratic hope for the future, the public schools more than any other aspect of government should be under clear democratic control. It is not much of a lesson in democracy to the children in the schools to say that the schools themselves cannot be trusted to the democracy of the people.

"Other communities should follow the example of Chapel Hill and see to it that those who run the public schools of our children should be directly chosen by the public. Any other course is to teach the civics lesson that democracy is a system which cannot be trusted to deal with its most democratic institution."

The Pilot would be pleased to hear readers' opinions on this matter.

Now A Reality

When the Rev. E. E. Whitley arrived in Southern Pines some months ago to help organize a Methodist Church, we pointed out that formation of a new church was a great development for any community, as well as one in which only a few pastors and relatively few lay individuals are privileged to take part in an established community.

That process of organization has been completed and congratulations are in order for the new congregation. Now formally set up as a part of the North Carolina Conference, after special services last Sunday, the church as yet has no buildings, but plans to build as soon as possible.

We shall follow with interest further progress of this new church of a major denomination. With its enthusiastic membership of over 70—a membership we know will continue to grow—and with its active young pastor, we are sure that the Southern Pines Methodist Church will play an increasingly important part in community life.

About Struthers Burt

The death on August 23 of Struthers Burt—novelist, poet, historian and for over 30 years a resident of Southern Pines during much of the year—brought newspaper editorial and other comments in North Carolina and elsewhere.

Some of these comments which have come to the attention of The Pilot appear below, illustrating the high regard in which Mr. Burt was held in the two areas of the nation where he spent most of his life—North Carolina and the Far West, where Mr. Burt and Mrs. Burt, who is now in Southern Pines, had their Three Rivers Ranch at Moran, Wyoming.

(From The Pinehurst Outlook)

Struthers Burt played a prominent part in the upbuilding of the Sandhills in general, Southern Pines in particular. His gifted pen often turned to praise of this section of the South in articles he wrote for the Saturday Evening Post and other periodicals. He never let an opportunity to advertise slip by him when he addressed northern audiences, as he did frequently, or to herald our assets in private conversations with friends throughout the North, East and West.

He loved the Sandhills, and wanted others to share in what we have to offer here. With the gratitude of his Southern Pines neighbors goes deep sympathy to his charming wife and two fine children.

(From The Greensboro Daily News)

The death of Struthers Burt in Wyoming at the age of 73 brings a sense of loss to North Carolina which was proud to claim him as one of its authors together with his wife Katharine Newlin Burt who is a distinguished novelist in her own right.

A man of intellect, sympathy and artistry, Struthers Burt lived a full life. He was born in Baltimore, reared in Philadelphia and educated at Princeton and Oxford Universities; he was the author of a number of books which were not only popular but excellent in the fields of both fiction and non-fiction, including Powder River, a history of Wyoming, and Philadelphia: Holy Experiment.

Mr. Burt taught for a time at Princeton, one of his students being James Boyd, the historical novelist. Not long after that both moved to Southern Pines and with their families made their homes there. Mr. Burt also had a summer home in the Grand Teton mountains, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, but Southern Pines was his domicile.

He was more than a good writer; he was a fine man with a rare combination of wisdom, culture, courage, charm and wit. He was also a born reformer, a tough fighter against what he believed to be stupid or wrong; he had the gift of indignation. He loved his adopted state, North Carolina, and was keenly interested in its needs and problems, with particular emphasis on public libraries and highway beautification.

Our sympathy goes out to his friends and family. North Caro-

lina was proud of him and will miss him.

(From The Salt Lake City (Utah) Tribune)

The dude ranch country of the West serves as a summer retreat for many eminent and gifted persons who are able to find tranquility with near-anonymity amid the pines and along the rushing mountain streams.

Struthers Burt has been a Wyoming rancher for 47 years, spending summers at his cattle ranch in the Jackson Hole area and most of his winters at Southern Pines, North Carolina. The eminent writer and poet died after a long illness at 73 last weekend and services were held at Jackson Wednesday.

Mr. Burt, a native of Baltimore, came west on an antelope-hunting trip in 1908 and was so delighted with the Jackson area he acquired a ranch and went into the cattle business. His ranch home has been the scene of many gatherings of celebrities in the world of art and literature.

The author of at least a score of books, some of them in verse, and innumerable magazine articles, Mr. Burt also found time to take part in local affairs. He was active in the movement to protect the Jackson Hole scenic values by creating a national monument, has championed the cause of conservation many years and has otherwise worked for the public interest. It would be difficult to pick out his best works for mention, but perhaps "Powder River," in which the incredible cruelties to the Western Indians are described, is best known.

The Burt family is unique. Katharine Newlin Burt, the author's widow, is a famous novelist in her own right, and their son, Nathaniel Burt of Princeton, N. J., is also a poet and novelist.

Mr. Burt's loss will be felt not only by the many thousands who were inspired by his writings, but by his many friends throughout the region, several in Salt Lake, who knew him as a kindly, sensitive and fair-minded gentleman.

(From The Charlotte Observer)

When Struthers Burt died in Jackson, Wyoming, a week ago Saturday, The New York Times carried an obituary notice that was almost a column long. No where in the extensive biography was there a mention of Mr. Burt's association with North Carolina. "Mr. Burt called himself a 'Philadelphian, bone of the bone,'" said The Times last Monday morning. But Mr. Burt also felt himself to be a Tar Heel. Several of the Associated Press stories on his death originated from Southern Pines. And this was natural and appropriate. For he loved the state of North Carolina and did much for it.

He worked diligently for the beautification of highways in the state. In 1932, says the Associated Press, he was elected a director of the North Carolina Plan, Inc., which sought to develop the state economically and beauty-wise. That year, he also served as vice president of the board of the Moore County Hospital.

What The Times did not report was that Mr. Burt and his wife divided their time between Southern Pines and the Bar B. C. ranches in Jackson, Wyoming. They had spent the winter and last spring in Southern Pines, and had planned to return there in a couple of months to build another home.

During the winter, there were several stories and pictures about the writing Burts in North Carolina newspapers. This was when their son, Nathaniel Burt, of Yarmouthport, Mass., joined them after his first novel, "Scotland's Burning," had been published and generally acclaimed by the reviewers. Naturally, this success was gratifying to the senior Burt.

Richard Walsler, head of the English department in N. C. State College, wrote two years ago in North Carolina Authors: A Selective Handbook: "... though he never wrote a book with a North Carolina setting, few writers have exerted a more wholesome literary influence upon the state than Struthers Burt. Before the early 1920's there was no center for writers in North Carolina; but after James Boyd and the Burts settled in Southern Pines, the radiations from these vibrant novelists began to be felt beyond the borders of Moore County. Soon Chapel Hill and Asheville caught on, and then the three spots became 'rivals' for literary

The Public Speaking

Letter To Mayor Clark To The Editor:

The following is an open letter, the sixth of a series, to the Honorable Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines, N. C.:

Mr. Mayor: In May of last year we voted in a new form of town government called Plan D. What did we get? Just what the "little boy shot at."

"How come and why?" you ask. The answer, we believe, is simple, straight and factual. When the newly elected councilmen met to select a mayor from among their number, according to Plan D, Mr. Patch, a "carry-over" councilman who received the least number of votes, promptly said, before their feet had time to even cross their feet under the table and without any discussion whatsoever, "I nominate Lloyd Clark for mayor."

Instantly, Mr. Blue, another "carry-over" councilman, said, "I second the nomination." This in effect with our "sympathetic" Mr. Clark, who was also a "carry-over," was WHEN and HOW our Plan D ship of state was torpedoed. The "old gang" was in control again.

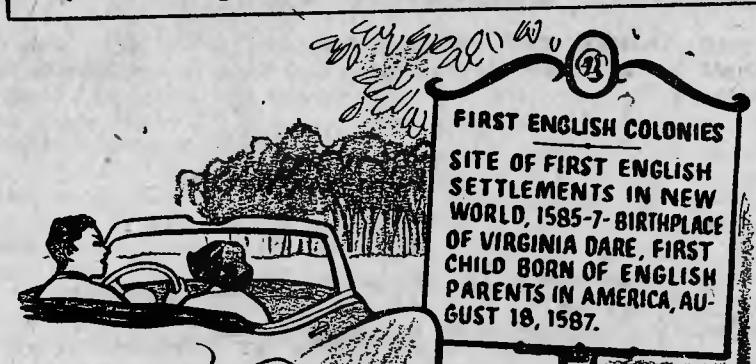
Mr. Gilmore, the councilman who received the greatest number of votes and who should have been our mayor, was not even considered. And this in spite of the well-known fact that he is better qualified to be our mayor than all the other councilmen combined.

Gosh all hemlock, I have never seen a greater disregard of the wishes of the majority of the people or such clearly outlined manifestation of jealousy, petty spite, selfish interests or what-have-you!

The foregoing, for the good of all the people, should cause you to resign as mayor at once.

A. R. McDANIEL, Southern Pines.

IN NORTH CAROLINA



FAMOUS FIRSTS!

THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA - ON ROANOKE ISLAND, NORTH CAROLINA, WHERE THE OLDEST OUTDOOR DRAMA PORTRAYS THE MYSTERY OF THE "LOST COLONY" EACH SUMMER

Variety Vacationland THESE FAMOUS FIRSTS ARE ON NORTH CAROLINA'S FABULOUS OUTER BANKS, DESCRIBED IN THE "VARIETY VACATIONLAND" BOOK, FREE UPON REQUEST TO THE DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT, RALEIGH, N.C.

FIRST FLIGHT IN SIGHT OF THE FIRST COLONY LOCATION IS THE WRIGHT MEMORIAL, MARKING THE PLACE OF THE 1ST FLIGHT AT KILL DEVIL HILLS (NEAR KITTY HAWK)

PREVIEW—Here is a look at one of the "In North Carolina" series of advertising cartoons to be used in the 1955 edition of "The Tar Heel State" booklet which will be circulated largely out of the state. This Sandhills resort area is one of the sections of the state that benefits from the extensive advertising that is carried in out-of-state publications, prepared by the Advertising Division of the Department of Conservation and Development.

Letter Carrier Is Versatile Man

The letter carrier must be gifted with an accurate retentive memory. He must assimilate for instant use the postal rules and regulations which are contained in a book of over 900 pages. . . . He must know how to detect obscene mail, dunning notices and all other prohibited kinds of mailing matter and be prepared at all times to answer the queries of the public. . . .

The letter carrier . . . must arrange his mail in an order of sequence for delivery, he must learn the scheme of distribution for his route, which consists in memorizing upward of several thousand names of patrons of the postal service and associating those names with the labeled pigeon-holes in the post office distributing case. . . .

The carrier must keep a log book in which are recorded the removal addresses of former patrons of his route. . . . The log book contains hundreds of names and the letter carrier is required to memorize the forwarding addresses so that he can write on the envelope without recourse to the log book, the new address.

The letter carrier is also a sort of a secret service man. He is frequently called upon to obtain information of a strictly confidential nature, elicited by the several secret service departments of the government both within and without the postal service. He is called upon to give clues to the whereabouts of alleged criminals, of seditious persons, of smugglers, bootleggers, post office robbers, of fraudulent schemers making use of the mail service, of deserters from the Army and Navy, of counterfeiters, illicit distillers and other revenue dodgers.

The letter carrier must be a mechanic and chauffeur, as all classes of mail are collected by motor vehicles and large parcel post packages and registered parcels are delivered by motor vehicles. He is used as a collection agency in delivering COD parcels and unpaid mail, and is responsible for all moneys entrusted to his custody as well as for the mail and packages. He must be a sphinx in respect to knowledge acquired by him in the performances of his duties, imparting to no one under penalty for violation thereof, confidence received by him in his employment.

He must be a trained diplomat in handling all classes of people, the irate, the quarrelsome, the complaining and the "knockers." He is the buffer between the patron whose grievance is not redressable and the department, charged with responsibility for rectifying the complaint of the aggrieved. He must be honest, loyal, industrious and sober at all times, as well as neat and circumspect in his attire.

In summation, a letter carrier serves in a dedicated position. His job is one of great importance to all citizens of our country. He is truthfully Uncle Sam's contact man with the general public and, therefore, is often referred to as Uncle Sam's Ambassador.

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 E. 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.