

# 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.

## A Start That's Full of Promise

Of necessity, due to the circumstance of being a weekly newspaper, the Pilot frequently is forced to join the chorus of state papers in a regrettably "me, too" fashion. This is the case right now as this newspaper adds its voice to the editorials all over the state acclaiming the speech of Gov. Hodges at the opening of the Legislature. The speech has been called statesmanlike, brilliant, inspired. It was all of these and highly deserved such praise.

Actually, this was an occasion when the Pilot might well have taken a chance and had the editorial ready in advance. For everything in the present governor's career and character, as we know it, pointed to the fact that he would be fully capable of what has proven to date to be true. It is only the start, of course, of his career as governor. But ever since he started to help the late Governor Umstead, he has shown the same sort of wisdom and level-headed clear-thinking as was exemplified in his address. Luck favoring him, there is every chance, we believe, that he will prove to be an outstanding governor.

Particularly reassuring was the evidence of his grasp of administrative procedure. Having several capable committees working on some of the state's most difficult problems, he showed fine judgment in his acceptance of their findings and recommendations.

The Special Advisory Committee on Education, which brought in the school segregation

report, was appointed by the late Governor Umstead but was given full backing by the new Governor.

That is not to comment on the actual reports of these committees. There is considerable question in our minds, for instance, as to the recommendations on the implementation of the Supreme Court decision. We cannot imagine that the method suggested will be anything but a block to carrying out of what is now the law of the land. For surely there will be few local boards who will not be far more fearful of local opinion than a Supreme Court edict. If the law is to be carried out it will need the force of the whole state behind it. But Gov. Hodges was wise to accept the committee's report and plan, as he doubtless will, to go on from there when the time is ripe.

The committee's report, and the Governor's comments on it during his message to the General Assembly, appear in the news columns in today's Pilot. We'd be interested in hearing, via our "Public Speaking" column, readers' reactions to the committee's proposal to give county and city school boards authority to control the assignment of pupils to schools. This proposal of course, is embodied in one of the first bills to be introduced in the House and Senate and appears to be rather favorably received by members of both bodies.

Without qualification, we add a "salute to you, sir!" to the chorus of praise for the new governor of North Carolina.

## Right On The Ball

Southern Pines may congratulate itself on the responsiveness of its representatives in the Legislature.

The first bill to be introduced in both the House and Senate was the one from this school district asking for permission to reallocate school funds. Representative Blue introduced the bill in the House where it was passed on to the Committee on Education and, in the Senate, the bill was presented by Sen. Hawley Poole, where it was promptly passed.

We have a feeling this may be the first time this town has led the list at Raleigh and such expedience and alertness on the part of those responsible deserve acclaim. It is a good feeling for a community to know that it has representatives who are on the ball and awake to the needs of their constituents. Furthermore, the fact that both these items, in the House and in the Senate, were well received shows that the men from Moore County have the respect of their colleagues.

Of course, this latter point is nothing new for Moore County. Both men have long been recognized as able and responsible servants of their constituency and of the state. Their record is a long and a good one.

This community of Southern Pines, and the

Sandhills in general, is one which is now experiencing much new growth. While development in this section has been comparatively steady, it seems, of late, to have taken on new activity. It is to be expected that a good many items needing legislative action will come up during this term, and it is reassuring to feel that they will be in good hands. But the legislators will not be able to do a good job unless the work cut out for them has been well thought out and well prepared. It will be the responsibility of the citizens to see that they are not bothered by foolish and short-sighted requests for action, and that all requests made to them shall be truly necessary, well-planned, with the benefit to the section clearly evident.

Too many inconsequential or hastily conceived bills block the legislative wheels; too much time has to be spent for little sensible purpose. It is up to the citizens to see that their representatives, able and conscientious men, are spared such time-consuming but wasteful efforts. There will be plenty of worthwhile projects for them to undertake.

For the efforts of Rep. Clifton Blue and Sen. Hawley Poole in the legislature now in session, Moore County people are sincerely grateful. They got off to a fine start. It is a good omen for the future.

## So-Called Security Program Due For Overhaul

The New Year saw a great burst of happy oratory from Washington. One statesman hailed the fact that no major war was in process and another claimed a great advance on the road to peace; the President's "atoms for peace" plan was held up as a major step in the establishment of this longed-for state.

But at the same time, in other newspaper columns considerably, for the New Year's Day, relegated to back pages, were the stories telling of further firing of government employees of honorable record and long service, of sneers at the United Nations voiced by eminent men-at-arms and powerful isolationist leaders of government. Factual accounts of the precarious state of things in Indo China yied with comments of responsible observers who fear for the future in Europe now that Germany is free to arm and, therefore, bargain with either side for the prize of a unified country. Which side, the writers ask, will she choose? Only one, they point out, can give it to her. In the waters between Formosa and China neither the New Year nor the treaty with Chiang seem to have lessened the activity going on there.

That no major war is going on, that the UN is still meeting and talking, with all its original members present, that the president made his gesture towards peaceful use of the atom: these are great gains. We should and may rightfully be thankful for them. But it is unwise to close the eyes to the threats to peace and progress that continue as powerful as ever. Some of these, in fact, badly need examination and re-appraisal, some of them need immediate change if the gains are not to be lost.

Of these we would concentrate, right now, on the President's security program, and all it involves. It may well be the most important. For there seems to be little doubt that under it the country has lost valuable men and that, because of the program's ruthless character and injustices, it has now become almost impossible to get able, intelligent, independent-minded men to work for the government. That is why it is so important. In the last analysis, the country must depend on the men who are running it and those given the job of carrying out their decisions. Incompetence in a critical position can be as dangerous as treachery.

Furthermore, the spectacle of fear, suspicion,

stupidity and injustice which this security program has created is dangerously harmful to the nation. How can the United States pose as the leader of the free world, when Uncle Sam appears to be afraid of his own shadow? Take the Republican leaders' statements about "20 years of treason" made during the campaign, made not by underlings or political stump speakers, but by the Vice-President, the leader of the Senate, the Attorney General? Take the Oppenheimer case, the Kennan retirement, the Bohlen delayed confirmation, the McLeod firings, the present Wolf Ladejinsky affair. Anyone who doubts their seriousness should read the article in the current "Harper's" entitled "We Accuse," by the Alsop brothers.

We wish for Americans in the New Year an end of fear and a return of confidence in each other. Only so shall this nation inspire that confidence in others which may, in turn, bring about the strong growth of friendship and goodwill which alone can find a way to peace.

We should like to see the Democrats put reappraisal of the President's security program as the first item on the calendar of the new Congress.

## Words For the New Year

"We have (lately) shifted emphasis from creation (of the new country) to preservation of 'the American way of life'. Our way of life has great value. Yet its unique quality has been its hospitality to change. We can, not only truthfully, we should, logically, admit publicly that we intend to remain a dynamic people . . ."

"We should cease to fear, and rather to welcome contact with our adversaries, relegating the problem of spies and traitors from the political to the criminal plane. We might modify the McCarran-Walter Act so far as it applies to transients. Abroad, we might encourage our people to seek out Communies and 'neutrals', whether at the diplomatic or the 'cultural' table.

"Have we no faith in our beliefs? I never yet met a Communist to whom I could not stand up in argument.

"We might even drop our childish suspicion of the United Nations. With the world's ultimate choice—I say ULTIMATE—so clearly between enforceable world law for everybody and wars ad infinitum, which do we prefer?"

—Edgar Ansel Mowrer

## Grains of Sand

### Hulas But No Signs

We have never thought much of the idea of making Hawaii the 49th state. In fact, but for one recently learned circumstance, we are firmly against it. Too far away, too "different", too much the picture of this continent encroaching beyond all reason into places far from its natural habitat. And the circumstance that might change our opinion? It came in the form of a postcard from Voit Gilmore, sent from that far land of enchantment. It said, among other enumerations of the delights to be found there: "No roadside signs in Hawaii; so refreshing." We'll bet.

Must be sensible people out there. Would Hawaii be able to maintain the good sense that prompted it to pass such a law if it became a state? Or would the outdoor advertising boys be too strong for it?

### Early-Blooming Camellias

Seems a few eyebrows were raised at this column's mirations over K. McColl's early-blooming camellias. Mirations in order but they might have had a wider scope, so to speak. We find that Net Thompson and F. Morell also have early-blooms on their bushes. . . not to mention a few others, here and there.

Dangerous business, mentioning names, they say. Oh well, after all the McColl camellias were the only ones this columnist had a personal acquaintance with. We just HEARD about the others. And not from the owners, either.

### Woes of the TV Fixer

According to Will Stratton, there's just one thing worse than putting up a high TV aerial: it's rescuing the man who is supposed to be putting it up for you, and gets up there and then freezes in terror. Will has had to unfreeze and get down a few of these non-flagpole-sitters and it's quite a job.

### Why Don't We?

Met a lady the other day who'd been coming down here from New England for 14 years, and asked her how she felt about this growing metropolis.

"It's fine," said she, with heart-warming enthusiasm. "The town is most attractive, but . . ." and the warmth started to cool. . .

"Why don't you folks DO something about the outskirts of the town? Why don't you clean it up, pass some zoning laws, do SOMETHING? I guess it's better than a lot of towns I see in the state, but you could make it just a LITTLE attractive. Those rows and rows of filling stations! Why do they need so many? And the neon signs at night; you can't tell where you're going! And all the ugly bare ground and the billboards! You know that just drives folks away. Why don't you people DO something?"

### That Hazel

Anybody who thinks Hazel wasn't quite a girl take notice:

From Jerry Healy, no spinner of tall tales but a man with both feet set firmly upon the good ground, comes what is, to this columnist, to date, the prize Hazel story.

It seems that the Heals sold their beach cottage last July. The first, to be exact. A good start, you'll admit, to a good story, seeing what followed. After the hurricane, Jerry went down to see what had happened to the house. He managed to get out to what had presumably been his lot, to find it swept clean. Not a sign of the house. Several weeks later, he drove Mrs. Healy down to show her the sad spot. They poked around a bit but found no trace of their attractive house. And then . . .

And then, two months later, Jerry met up with the man he'd sold it to and the two went down to talk to the insurance people. They were standing on the beach, discussing things, when a man called to them.

"You looking for your house, Mr. Healy?" he said, "It's back in the pine woods."

Jerry and the others walked to where the man pointed and there, comfortably installed behind some tall pines was the house. It had been lifted off its foundations by the tidal wave, carried four blocks up the road and two blocks back from it, swooped up over the trees and settled down behind them coming to rest on just about an even keel.

Feeling that they were taking part in some kind of a fairytale, the men got out the key, unlocked the front door and went in. There the enchantment became really unbelievable. Beyond a certain amount of wetness, everything was as they had left it. Fur-

## Polio Hitting Hardest In Small Counties

In recent years citizens of small counties have been stricken by polio more often than their big-county cousins, according to data released by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Statistics just compiled for the five-year period 1948-52 show the average annual polio attack rate in counties with a population of under 50,000 to be 27.4 cases per 100,000 people, while the average annual rate in counties of 50,000 or larger was 24.0 cases per 100,000 population.

Final incidence figures for 1953 show the average annual attack rate for the entire United States was 22.3 cases per 100,000 population. They also show unusually high attack rates in many small counties. Here are examples of high incidence counties in the 3,500 to 38,000 population range. (Figure following the county is the number of times its attack rate exceeded the national average):

Golden Valley, N. D., 13; Washington, Va., 8; Polk, Wis., 8; Avery, N. C., 8; Pope, Minn., 7; Schyler, N. Y., 7; Del Norte, Calif., 5; and Richmond, Va., 4.

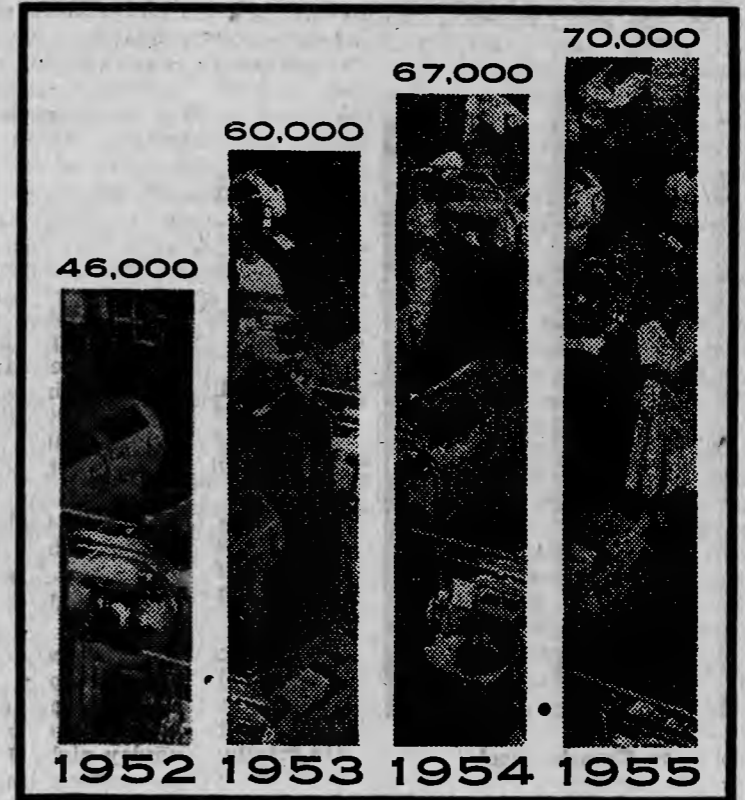
No one knows just why this pattern exists, the National Foundation reports. Scientists are analyzing data on case rates among different population groups, but have not come up with any answers as yet. Among "guesstimates" advanced is that improvements in sanitation among rural communities may have reduced "silent" infections in infancy which are believed to give natural long-term immunity.

Whatever the cause, more and more small communities are seeing at first hand how their March of Dimes contributions aid polio patients. This may be one reason why such areas lead the honor roll in their per capita giving to the March of Dimes.

Some of the records set in 1954 by counties with a population under 15,000 were Alpine, Calif., where residents gave an average of \$4.16 per person; Pulaski, Mo., where citizens averaged \$3.12 each; Mineral, Nev., with \$2.32 per capita, and Jeff Davis, Tex., with \$2.22 per person.

## POLIO AFTERMATH

VICTIMS NEEDING AID AT START OF EACH YEAR



JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES JAN. 3 TO 31

Each year sees an increased number of polio patients from previous epidemics who can be helped by long-term care paid for by the March of Dimes. As the proportion of deaths decreases, the cost of mending lives for the thousands who survive steadily increases.

## The School Segregation Decision

### This Is A Time For Greatness

(Below is another excerpt from "A Report to The Governor of North Carolina," a special study of the U. S. Supreme Court's school segregation decision, made by the Institute of Government of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. This excerpt is the concluding portion of a section titled, "Where Do We Go From Here?" in Part I of the report called "The Background of the Decision.")

### Sources of Light

Accredited leaders wrestling with this question may find invaluable sources of light: in state and local school officials and in local school boards with members chosen from the rank and file of the people in every rural and urban district in the state. These school administrators and officials have been working with white and Negro principals, teachers, and children for years and have in their heads and headquarters—facts, knowledge, and experience at the start that committees starting from scratch could not accumulate in years.

With this background, they can foresee the multiplicity of problems which will be involved if, as, and when mixed school attendance is invoked—from the time children get on school busses to go to school in the morning, through classroom hours and school recesses and student activities during the day, till the end of the bus ride home in the afternoon.

Many local school boards and officials scattered through the state have started on this task in a spirit expressed in a resolution by one of them:

"This board is confident of . . ."

ing from their individual hobs under the shelves; not one had fallen. As they came out into the living-room again, feeling a bit dazed, they saw, on the table, an ashtray with two cigarette stubs and some ashes in it. It was the very one they had used, and those were their stubs and their ashes deposited there when they had left the house after closing the sale in July.

We'd say the above firmly establishes the reputation of this community's newest realtor. Any man who can sell his house in one place and have it show up a few months later in an entirely different location is some operator. And have it all in apple-pie order, too. Minus a foundation, of course, but what's a little thing like that?

Forgot to ask about the man who owned the lot the house landed on. Finders keepers?

its ability and that of local citizens to face any problems which may be occasioned by this Supreme Court ruling with level headed realism and sobriety. . . and it is the intent and purpose of this board. . . to conduct a preliminary appraisal and analysis of this ruling to the end that when final decisions and policies are made, any necessary adjustment in the local school system may be effected with a minimum of difficulty and a maximum of patient understanding, vision, good will, and cooperation."

Realistic local appraisal of these problems and ways of meeting them, fairly made and thoroughly documented by local school officials in every district in the state, under the direction of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, might inform and illuminate the deliberations of our leaders, and strengthen the arm of the Attorney General in giving the Court sources of light it needs and wants and ought to have in formulating decrees affecting North Carolina.

### Live and Let Live

For if the invitation to the Attorney General to assist the Court in formulating its decrees means anything of substance beyond the shrewdness of tactic, strategy and device, it must mean a recognition of the "problems of considerable complexity" growing out of its decision in a "great variety of local conditions," and a willingness to listen to advice and counsel.

Surely it must mean that the Court will allow for time with healing in its wings; that it will allow more time and wider latitude of local discretion within and between counties with less than ten per cent Negro population and counties with more than fifty per cent; between states with five or ten per cent Negro population and states with twenty, thirty, or forty-five per cent; between states and communities with over nine-tenths of the Negroes concentrated in urban areas and less than one-tenth in rural areas, and states and communities like North Carolina with one-third of the Negroes concentrated in urban areas and two thirds scattered throughout rural areas.

Surely it must mean that the Court will allow more time and a wider latitude of local discretion between states and communities with long traditions of few Negroes and mixed schools, and states and communities with many Negroes and long and separate school traditions which, if they can be reversed at all, cannot go into reversal without long, careful, and painstaking adjustment; and that the Court feels that the Constitution of the

United States can afford to take into consideration the constitution of human nature.

Here are pressing and persistent factors—no less psychological, sociological and legally significant in their nature than personality development considerations referred to by the Court in reaching its decision.

### A Time for Greatness

Abiding answers to these mysterious and tormenting questions, if found at all, will not be found in fighting phrases, or in stirring slogans, or defiant gestures. They will be found in the differing viewpoints and clashing opinions coming out of the mind and heart and conscience of our leaders and ourselves, colored with something of the gall and gorge of all us, and tempered with the saving grace of a charity that suffereh long and is kind.

Let us pray that it is not too much to hope that the children of a people who found resources in themselves to build the foundations of a new civilization out of the ruins of the Civil War and the bitterness of Reconstruction; who in 1865 let the dead past, in part at least, bury its dead, and in 1869 found a way to open the doors of public schools to white and Negro children and build in steadily equalizing measures our state-wide system of separated schools; let us pray that it is not too much to hope that they will bend all of their energies to find a way, if there is a way, within the framework of the 17th of May decision—to save the solid values which three generations have built into those schools, that they will avoid the losses which for the moment appear both frightful and inevitable to all too many people, and that in good faith and in good humor and without violence, they will dissolve corroding and disruptive issues as fast as they arise.

We cannot keep the schools if we do not keep the peace.

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