



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.

Looking Toward The Town Election

Filing time for candidates in the municipal election will open in two weeks.

The election May 3 will mark the end of the first biennium of the city manager form of government here, and perhaps the first thing to be noted about the coming election is that the form of government itself will not be an issue. It appears to us that, regardless of controversies about specific measures put into effect by the town council in the past two years, the city manager form has proved its worth and has achieved well-nigh universal local approval.

Despite the lack of out-and-out opposition to the form of government, we anticipate a "live-ly" election and welcome that outlook. We would like to see at least two candidates for each seat on the council. If there are more than 10 candidates, necessitating a primary, we would consider that as evidence of a keen civic interest that, in the end, can only mean better government and wider citizen participation in town affairs.

Two groups who will likely enter candidates for the council in order to have direct representation at town hall are residents of West Southern Pines and residents of Knollwood, the latter being a sizable group of citizens whose property was annexed by the town in the past biennium and who will be voting in their first town election.

While a number of Knollwood residents do not maintain a voting residence in Southern Pines, it is natural for this group to want representation on the council and we expect and hope that one or more strong candidates can be produced from that area.

West Southern Pines has entered strong candidates, claiming support from both sides of town, in recent town elections and it would not surprise us greatly to see a West Southern

Pines representative elected to the council in the natural course of events on May 3. We look for increased registration of Negro voters and this, combined with the support for a Negro candidate which will be given by many thoughtful voters on the East side of town, may well seat a Negro on the council this year. West Southern Pines civic leaders would do well, in advance of filing time, to reach agreement on a strong candidate and then round up support for him on both sides of town.

A proposal to enlarge the council to seven members and set up election machinery that would assure election of representatives from various parts of town, including Knollwood and West Southern Pines, was abandoned, at least temporarily, by the council earlier this year because of the difficulty and confusion of conducting the special municipal election that would be required to effect such a change, in the same year as and just prior to a regular town election. While the proposal was being discussed by the council (and it does have a great deal of merit), some astute political observers hazarded the guess that the end result—representation from all sections of town—might well be achieved in May without any machinery to guarantee such an outcome. Whether this will prove true will be something interesting to watch. And we suggest voters keep this genuine need for wide representation in mind when allotting their support to the various candidates in the primary or the election May 3.

We urge Southern Pines residents of ability and civic interest to file as candidates and not to under-rate the importance of civic service. We urge registration of eligible voters who are not now registered. And we urge the careful, considered participation by all voters in the town election.

Tourists Flock To Historical Restorations

Activities of the Moore County Historical Association have turned the thoughts of many residents of this area toward the past—most notably in connection with the Alston House which is probably Moore County's most interesting historical landmark in that it still shows the bullet holes of a Revolutionary War skirmish and was occupied not only by the Patriot Alston family, but later by Governor Williams. Other evidence of local historical interest is the Shaw house here, with the old log cabin that has been restored on the property.

The Historical Association is both the cause and effect in the matter of this historical interest. All over the nation people are becoming aware of the past. The growth and activities of the Historical Association are evidence of this interest, as well as a means of extending the interest in this area.

A recent visitor to the Sandhills, George B. Wells who is president of the board of trustees of Old Sturbridge Village, a historical restoration in Massachusetts, testified factually and eloquently to increasing interest in the past on the part of Americans, reporting that this restoration project of some 30 buildings on 25 acres of land in central Massachusetts last year drew about 154,000 tourists who paid a fee to look it over. And, as Mr. Wells pointed out, "No American will spend the best part of a \$5 bill unless he gets something out of it."

What they get out of it is the subject of considerable speculation and philosophizing by Mr. Wells and others who have been in close touch with the situation. We feel that these thoughts are pertinent locally in view of rising historical interest here, as well as the effort by the Sandhills and the State in stopping tourists and providing attractions that will bring them our way.

It may be, said Mr. Wells during his visit here, that people in turbulent modern America, with its stresses and strains, are finding in historical restorations of the way our ancestors lived a glimpse of peace and a simpler life, perhaps linked with a revival of moral values, as though by looking back at the way our ancestors lived we can acquire some of the simplicity, strength and peace of mind that they had or at least appear to have had.

The Sandhills visitor quoted the remark of a young man with his wife and children who stood in one of the old Sturbridge Village houses: "This," he said to his family, "is HOME." So, it is not the buildings or the furniture or the stone-grinding mills or the blacksmith shops or the candle-making equipment or the old things themselves people are primarily interested in—it is the way of life, Mr. Wells believes: a striving to see, know and somehow gain moral strength from a way of life that appears to be more spiritually rewarding and less confusing than our life today.

The Sturbridge Village restoration began with the problem of housing a family antique collection and then, because of public interest, turned into the complete village set-up, with many of the "old" buildings moved to the site or newly built. The thing that makes it different from a museum which would never draw

thousands of persons, is that throughout the village about 30 people are employed actually carrying on the varied trades and manufacturing processes that would have been found in a village of 150 years ago. The way of life, not just the materials of it, is visible. The products they make are sold and there is even a bookshop, specializing in historical books, that sells around 2,000 volumes a week in the height of the summer season.

The meaning of all this for North Carolina and the Sandhills is not as remote as it might seem. Seen in the light of this background, the Alston House—of course in a far smaller way than a project like Sturbridge Village—may become in itself one of the major places of interest in this area, drawing people here. Aside from all other values of the Alston House, it is therefore well worth all the effort of Historical Association members and the \$5,000 the State is now being asked to put into the project.

The Massachusetts man says that \$1 million "wisely spent" could create in North Carolina a project like Sturbridge Village "that would pay for itself." While we see no million dollars forthcoming from either public or private sources, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that a similar project, even if on a much smaller scale—perhaps depicting the way of life of the Scots settlers of the Cape Fear Valley—could be started somewhere in this area.

Such projects elsewhere in the nation said Mr. Wells, are "fantastically successful"—and that means commercially successful, top-ranking tourist attractions.

The capital to start something like this might be found right here in the Sandhills. Expert advice on historical details is readily available locally and from elsewhere in the State. We feel sure that the advice or cooperation of Mr. Wells and others who are experienced in commercial restoration projects would be gladly given.

The more we think about it, the more attractive the idea becomes. It would bring to the Sandhills a whole new group of tourists—people who do not play golf—as well as provide for regular visitors an added attraction that would serve to spread the fame of the Sandhills. It would be in no way seasonal and could operate throughout the year more easily than similar projects in the North.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

"Freedom of expression is not merely a right—in the circumstances of today, its constructive use is a stern duty."—Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"So long as the truth is made available to our people, we need have no fear for the future of our democratic system."—Harry S. Truman.

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."—Voltaire.

"Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."—Napoleon.

WASHINGTON REPORT

Taxes To Be '56 Campaign Issue

By BILL WHITLEY
The Democrats don't intend to let the Republicans forget about taxes when election time rolls around next year. Even though they stand a good chance to lose their fight to give low-income groups a small tax cut this year, they will have some good points to campaign on next year.

The 1954 tax law was written—under direction of Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey—with the idea of taking some heavy burdens off the shoulders of corporations and high income groups. It was done by the Republican Congress on the theory that the many millions of dollars put into the hands of investors and potential investors would be turned back into industrial expansion thus creating more jobs at a time when employment was dropping.

The effects of the new tax law are highly debatable. The Democrats are arguing that unemployment is still rising and industrial production is dropping. Thus, they claim, the benefits given to the high-income groups last year are sticking to the hip pockets of the wealthy.

The argument of the Democrats is that more money should be put into the hands of low-income groups. There, they argue, it has no chance of sticking, and will be turned back into the overall economy with the result of higher re-

tail sales and increased demand for industrial production.

Below are some of the arguments Democrats are using against the tax law enacted by the Republicans:

The dividend exclusion and credit sections of the law are especially favorable to higher income groups. To begin with, 92 per cent of all American families own no corporation stock whatever, so dividend benefits help only eight per cent of our families. Further, 3.7 per cent of all taxpayers—those with incomes over \$10,000—get 76 per cent of all dividend income. It is the argument of the Democrats that these are the people who are in good financial shape and really need no help compared with the man making two, three, or four thousand dollars a year.

Another big complaint is being filed against the special fund "reserve" clauses that allow corporations to deduct certain anticipated expenses a full year before they are actually made. It was originally designed as a needed aid for business, but such things as anticipated vacations for workers are being claimed as legitimate future expenses. Secretary Humphrey originally estimated that it would cost 47 million dollars a year in revenue. The estimates, as a result of unreasonable claims pouring in, are now in the billions.

GOVERNOR HODGES LISTS REASONS

Why Is N. C. 44th In Income?

In his recent special news conference at Raleigh for weekly and small daily newspapers, Gov. Luther Hodges offered several suggested reasons for the comparatively low per capita income in North Carolina, as compared with the other 47 States. The Governor suggested as one remedy that more local capital should be put into businesses and that processing plants to handle products produced in the State would help raise income.

Here is the Governor's full statement on this problem, as made at the press conference:

During the year 1953, North Carolina ranked 44th in per capita income as among the 48 states. South Carolina, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi were the only states in which the per capita income was lower. The North Carolina figure of \$1,097 is considerably below the national average of \$1,709.

Several reasons have been offered in explanation for North Carolina's per capita income. Among these are:

1. The excessive number of small, marginal farms. North Carolina has more farms per farm capita than any other state in the nation. These small farms are, for the most part, operated manually and their yield is extremely low.

2. North Carolina has comparatively few industries which make use of highly paid skilled labor. Such manufacturing as is done in this State is of a kind that uses principally low wage labor. 3. This state has a high percentage of Negroes in its population. More than one million or about 26 per cent of the total population of North Carolina are Negroes. The 1950 census showed that the medium Negro family income in this state was around half that of the medium white family income.

4. North Carolina has an unusually large ratio of school age persons in its population. One-third of the State's population is under 15 years of age and is non-income producing. The national percentage of persons within this age bracket is 26.9.

The large number of young people in the State's population has an additional effect which is that the State's expenditures for education must be somewhat larger than would normally be necessary.

A recent illustration of comparative per capita income between New Jersey and North Carolina is very enlightening. Trenton, New Jersey and the metropolitan area showed a per capita income of \$1,672, whereas Greensboro in Guilford County showed \$1,685.

When two rural counties were compared, Ocean County, New Jersey, showed an average of \$912 against Franklin County of \$580.

When the states as a whole were considered, New Jersey had a per capita income of \$1,731 against North Carolina of \$1,091.

Among the things we need to do in North Carolina is to create more local capital and more actual individual interest in local processing plants to handle the products of the farms and fields,

as well as from our waters which are abundant in seafood.

A striking illustration: Camp Lejeune, North Carolina is purchasing its seafood as follows:

	State	No.	Sources
Oysters:	Virginia	1	
Shrimp:	Florida	1	
Perch:	Georgia	1	
	Florida	8	
	Maryland	1	
Haddock:	Georgia	1	
	Florida	5	
	Maryland	1	
Halibut:	Florida	7	
Mackerel:	Florida	1	

This is disgraceful! What's wrong with North Carolina?

The Public Speaking

Chapel Hill PTA Approval For ABC Stores Is Opposed

To The Editor:
At the regular meeting of the Aberdeen-Pinebluff P. T. A. on February 17, 1955, attention was called to an article that appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer, dated February 15, 1955. The article stated that the Chapel Hill P. T. A. voted to ask the County Commissioners to call a county-wide referendum on the establishment of ABC whiskey stores in Orange County.

We agree with the Chapel Hill P. T. A. in that more funds are needed for the purposes of education. However, we do not believe that the means of securing these funds as proposed by the Chapel Hill P. T. A. are justified.

Section 2, Article III, of the National Bylaws, as quoted in the Parent-Teacher Manual of National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1953-1955 edition, definitely states: "This organization shall be noncommercial, nonsectarian and nonpartisan. No commercial enterprise... shall be endorsed by it. The name of the Congress, its branches, or its officers in their official capacities shall not be used in any connection with a commercial concern or with any partisan interest, or for any other purpose than the regular work of the Congress."

ABC whiskey stores are both "commercial" and "partisan" in nature. To use the influence of any P. T. A. in getting such stores established is to go directly against the above mentioned Bylaws.

On page 4 of the Manual, the objectives of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers are listed. We quote these objectives below with a statement concerning the effects of the use of alcoholic beverages in our attaining of said objectives:

"To promote the welfare of children and youth in the home, school, church and community."

The use of strong drink always degrades the individual welfare. It never promotes it in the long run. It may help build educational buildings, by the revenue derived therefrom, but the welfare of the children, youth and adults is not promoted by the use of intoxicants.

"To raise the standards of home life." The standards of home life are lowered... not raised... by the drinking of strong drink.

"To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth."

Instead of securing "adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth," the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages often violate many laws that have already been passed for "the care and protection of youth."

"To bring into closer relationship the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the training of the child."

Instead of enhancing the close relationship of the home, school, parents and teachers, the drinking of alcoholic beverages will endanger that relationship by making it more difficult to have an intelligent cooperation between all groups involved.

"To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education." (Article I of the National Bylaws).

The drinking of strong drink does not develop "united efforts" between the educators and the general public in seeking "the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education." Because of the detrimental effects of strong drink upon the individual personality, the use of strong drink makes it impossible for a person or a group to achieve "the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education."

Since the consumption of alcoholic beverages undermine the efforts of the individual, the school, the parents, the church and the community at large, in attaining of our objectives, we sincerely hope the Chapel Hill P. T. A. will rescind its recent action regarding its efforts in making the establishment of ABC whiskey stores possible in Orange County.

THE ABERDEEN-PINEBLUFF PTA
Harry Howie, secretary; W. A. Tew, Mrs. M. D. Coward and Dr. F. B. Bishop, committee.

Grains of Sand

Another Sign of Spring

Nearly everybody has his own sure sign of spring and they may be as different as the people themselves. The ground hog has nothing to do with any of the signs we hear about.

A short time ago, Col. Calvin Burkhead, who lives at the corner of Pennsylvania and Ridge, called for a member of The Pilot staff to step outside and listen to a mocking bird serenading in one of the sycamore trees across the street from the newspaper. To the retired Army officer, that was an unfailing sign of spring and one worthy to be proclaimed to the world or at least to this part of the Sandhills. The colonel was so elated that winter and cold weather were past that it is not improbable that he hastened up the hill to his home and forthwith changed to summer attire.

And Yet Another

There is another retired man in Southern Pines who now has his own special way of knowing spring is here and that nature and the bees and birds are preparing for it.

L. S. Walker, former railroad supply executive who lives on S. May St., is spending his first winter and spring in Southern Pines. Having led a busy life for many years, Mr. Walker perhaps never had the time or inclination to take more than a passing interest in birds—their habits or migrations or the remarkable part they play in helping replenish the earth with trees and shrubbery.

Mr. Walker has a green car and takes particular pride in its gloss. The day following a recent special cleaning and polishing, the cedar waxwings came to town. He has now regained his composure and by next spring will no doubt be as resigned and philosophical about the waxwings as most of the native and long-time residents. Typical of this attitude is Virgil Clark's comment: "We can't at least be thankful cows can't fly."

Guest Teacher

Voit Gilmore is one of the six or seven teachers of the older men's class of the Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Sunday School. The teachers are rotated so that there is no undue imposition on either the teacher or the class members.

It happened to be Voit's time to teach the Sunday the North Carolina Little Symphony was spend-

ing a week-end in Southern Pines recently and Voit caught Dr. Benjamin Swain, conductor of the orchestra, with his baton down. So he took him to his Sunday morning class as guest teacher.

Members of the class are still recalling the earnest talk made by the symphony conductor.

Parkway Calendar

Residents along May St. (No. 1 highway) need no calendar to tell them when spring or winter are here. A glance at the parkways in front of their homes, they say, reveal what the traveling public is eating or drinking and what percentage of the motorists have colds.

In spring, they report, they find beer cans, ice cream cartons, popcorn packages and candy and gum wrappers of every description. When winter comes and colds take over, paper tissues return and it's a slighted resident who looks out his window and sees less than half a dozen of the white paper squares on his parkway.

Said one May Street resident: "One wonders how long it will be before some enterprising auto manufacturer installs a garbage disposal unit in his car. But that wouldn't work," this spokesman added, "What motorist would reach over to drop his trash into a receptacle when a nice open window is there—and the other fellow will have to clean it up?"

'Houston' Is Back

Mrs. L. L. McLean, who also resides on May St., is positive Spring is here because "Houston" dropped down for a call about 10 days ago, after an absence of seven months.

Perhaps "Houston" would be better known to many by the name of Sitta Pusilla or brown-headed nuthatch. Any name you give him, he's not that large.

There are hundreds of nuthatches in Southern Pines, but probably none more friendly or trusting than "Houston." He adopted Mrs. McLean about a year ago when she offered him a cracked pecan, provided he would eat it from her hand. After making dozens of passes at the nut and coming a little closer each time, he finally threw caution to the wind and settled down on her hand for a meal. Since then, they've been good friends.

In the early fall, he stopped coming for his daily handout and

nothing was heard from him until 10 days ago. It's now beginning to dawn on Mrs. McLean that Houston is friendly with her for a purpose. He deserted her after his family was raised last fall and now he's mending his political fences, getting ready to bring another batch of little Houstons into the pine trees—and why should one refuse food for his family when it's there for the taking?

Self-Owning Tree

Down in Athens, Georgia, there is a tree that owns itself. And, doubtless for that reason and for that reason alone, it has stood firm into a grand old age.

It seems that, early in the 19th century, a Col. William H. Jackson, owner of the land where the tree stands, decided that something special must be done to protect it: it was too big and old and beautiful to risk to the uncertain tempers of uncertain Man. So he got up an inscription, had it engraved on a plaque and the plaque firmly set into the base of the tree. It reads like this:

"For and in consideration of the great love I bear this tree and the great desire I have for its protection for all time, I convey entire possession of itself and all land within eight feet on all sides to the tree."

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