

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.

Did They Do Right?

The Southern Pines town council was faced with an ornery problem last week when it was called upon to sign a blank check, so to speak, committing the town to pay its one third share of the costs of rights-of-way for the proposed Highway 1 route through town, before those costs had been determined.

It decided to sign. Four councilmen voted yes; one abstained. The man who held out based his action on the fact that it is bad business practice, as well as dubious governmental practice, to sign blank checks. He asked for delay so that further means might be tried to get some idea of the sum involved.

This newspaper has had reservations as to the route chosen, one of them being this matter of cost to the town, combined with the fact that many people are doubtful of the benefits to the town of this particular route; however we have always held that it had many good points. Commissioner Lockey has stated he hopes to make this piece of road one of the most attractive in the state and, if the provisions he has outlined are carried out, there is little doubt that it will be just that. But we are not now concerned with this phase of the matter. What bothers us is the way the meeting to decide this question was handled.

Why, specifically, was the council given only 24 hours to study this agreement, so important to the town? Why was not a scrap of information about possible costs divulged. . . it is obvious, all denials to the contrary, that some manner of comparative figures could have been offered for discussion. . . Why, in a matter that has been going on for months, was it suddenly necessary to move so fast? One more question: it had seemed that this was to be a briefing session to gain information from highway officials meeting with the council for the first time. Should not such a gathering have been held informally with no public attendance, when the views of all those present could have been fully considered and the agreement itself worked over in all its ramifications?

Needed; A Will To Find A Way

It looks as if there were need for citizen action in the matter of the clinic building in West Southern Pines, used jointly by the Moore County departments of public health and welfare.

The status quo is that the building belongs to the town of Southern Pines. It is donated to the county for its use, free of rent. And here there appears to be an impasse. The town feels that as no rent is charged the county should take care of the upkeep of the building; the county has never appropriated funds for the upkeep of such clinic buildings; it is, presumably, reluctant to assume this responsibility for property that it does not own.

It is to be feared that unless there is some sensible and reasonably prompt action, the old building will fall apart. And meantime it is only too evident that the people who work there and the people who come there for treatments or consultations are not being properly accommodated. Pregnant women, feeble old people, mothers holding heavy babies must all sit crowded on narrow wooden benches, back-

Tax, Tax, Tax . . . Who's Got A Tax?

The tax battle in Raleigh still goes on, bringing out a pretty appalling amount of irresponsibility among the law-makers, as well as a lot of good sense, too, fortunately for everybody.

We find ourselves looking at the question in two ways. We have a strong feeling, for one thing, that a lot more money could be obtained through stopping up some of the loopholes in the present system of tax collecting than is being obtained now. We think of all the items that are being listed, right and left, as "business expenses" and therefore deductible, the "charitable contributions," the private planes, the parties. We think of all the other dodges to "take it off your returns," indulged in, high, wide and handsome, by a lot of crooks but, also, by a whole lot of upstanding good citizens, who would turn white at the thought of cheating anybody but the government. . . as if the government wasn't anybody and themselves, too.

Just more thorough checking of the records would divulge many other sources of revenue, if only slips in tax payments made through ordinary human error. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the federal government is today auditing ten percent more returns than a year ago and estimates that every dollar spent for the checking is uncovering \$25 to \$30 unpaid taxes.

That angle, of getting more tax money through better auditing, and plugging some of the loopholes is something to think about. As for the other way of looking at the present state tax battles, we find ourselves in strong agreement. . . and, let us say, not for the first time. . . with Editor Clarence Poe of The Progressive Farmer.

Writes Mr. Poe: North Carolina must indeed go forward and the money to enable it to do so must be found. While the most painstaking and

The town has voted to commit the taxpayers to an unknown expenditure of funds, a proceeding few businessmen would tolerate. It is not only going against the old maxim: "Never buy a pig in a poke," in that much information about the road project is still lacking, but it is going further than that: the farmer is pledging himself to buy his only half-known pig for a sum of money whose extent he doesn't know at all. Whether the rights-of-way the town is pledged to pay will be \$5,000, or \$50,000 is anybody's guess.

Why? The only reason we can imagine is that the commissioners who voted for this measure preferred to take the chance that the sum will not be beyond the town's means than to run the risk that if any sum is mentioned in advance of securing the rights-of-way, property owners along the road will try to hold up the town for exorbitant payments.

This might perhaps be a valid point, though given the calibre of the majority of landowners involved, most of whom favor the project, we hardly believe it was worth the risk. Furthermore, even a slight delay would have allowed options to be obtained and definite commitments to be made. This would have been, we submit, a sensible and desirable way to handle it, for it is likely that far more effective arguments could have been advanced by persuasive and friendly townspeople than will be the case now. For once the resolution has been duly signed, the matter of rights-of-way, we understand, will be handled not by the town but by the state, which will make the arrangements with property owners and then send the bill to the town.

That is not to say that the end of segregation will come in every community in the South simultaneously—at an exact hour decreed by the Court. A decree to end segregation everywhere at a single instant would be as unworkable as it would be unwise.

Time must be allowed for psychological readjustment to a new pattern of life. Attitudes with deep roots simply don't change overnight. Some communities are ready for desegregation now. Others are far from ready. Some communities will require more time than others for readjustment.

There is evidence that the Supreme Court understands the difficulties involved in desegregation. When it declared segregation to be unconstitutional, the Court refrained from handing down any decrees to make its decision immediately effective. It preferred to postpone decrees until the states most affected by the decision had opportunity to express thoughtful opinions about how desegregation could be accomplished.

The Supreme Court has taken a reasonable approach to the problem—a more reasonable approach, we think, than the approach taken last week by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that the mixing of the races in the schools of North Carolina "cannot be accomplished." The original version of the resolution had stated that the mixing of the races could not be accomplished "forthwith." The original version was reasonable.

As for the furnishings; it seems as if it would be an easy thing to obtain donations of a few chairs and a table or two to make the folks a bit more comfortable. It strikes us that this is something that some of the women's organizations might like to take up. How about it, Civic Clubbers, Does, Junior Women, Federated Clubwomen, Church groups?

conscientious care must be exercised to find those new tax subjects which will be least hurtful in their effects, we venture to say that no tax or combination of taxes yet proposed would be as hurtful to our state and its people as a failure to maintain the momentum of progress in which our people have justly felt so much pride. With this sentiment we believe the great masses of North Carolina farm men and women would heartily agree.

Hail Good News And Dr. Falk

Maybe some day the dimes can stop marching. That is the good news that comes to the world in the reports of the success of the experiments made last year with the polio vaccine.

It is, of course, too soon truly to tell. Meantime, the surge of hope that has come to all parents of young children is truly electrifying. When the dimes have marched along until all those who need care are provided for, when the experiments are thoroughly proved over a period of years, then the time to stop thinking about polio will be here: the dimes can stop marching then.

It is good news. Good, too, to have this one more realization that man is going ahead, that the scientists are showing the way to true progress, to health and happiness.

And if, by some this good news is shadowed by the bad news of atomic tests, of the dread fall-out, of threats of war, so that they sigh and think: "If it isn't one thing, it's going to be another," to them we would say "Put your mind for a bit on the one thing, on this polio vaccine, and the children it will save, and, for a bit, stop thinking about all the rest. This is good news; let's make the most of it."



Beauty That Was And Will Be Again

Gardeners tried hard to find the silver lining to the bad freeze this spring. For a while it looked like a vain attempt, but it's different now. Grey clouds are fading as folks are finding that many shrubs and flowers are staging a rousing comeback, and late blooming plants and dogwoods have not been harmed. So there's hope that the gorgeous azaleas at Homewood, shown above, and at Clarendon Gardens, Hollytree Nurseries and other fine Sandhills garden spots will bloom again.

FROM THE SMITHFIELD HERALD

Resolution Is Wishful Thinking

Contrary to the wishful thinking of many people in the South, the Supreme Court decision against segregation in the public schools is the supreme law of the land, and the decision will be followed by the actual abandonment of segregation in the South as elsewhere.

That is not to say that the end of segregation will come in every community in the South simultaneously—at an exact hour decreed by the Court. A decree to end segregation everywhere at a single instant would be as unworkable as it would be unwise.

Time must be allowed for psychological readjustment to a new pattern of life. Attitudes with deep roots simply don't change overnight. Some communities are ready for desegregation now. Others are far from ready. Some communities will require more time than others for readjustment.

There is evidence that the Supreme Court understands the difficulties involved in desegregation. When it declared segregation to be unconstitutional, the Court refrained from handing down any decrees to make its decision immediately effective. It preferred to postpone decrees until the states most affected by the decision had opportunity to express thoughtful opinions about how desegregation could be accomplished.

The Supreme Court has taken a reasonable approach to the problem—a more reasonable approach, we think, than the approach taken last week by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that the mixing of the races in the schools of North Carolina "cannot be accomplished." The original version of the resolution had stated that the mixing of the races could not be accomplished "forthwith." The original version was reasonable.

It was based upon a sober analysis of the psychology of North Carolinians. It said that segregation could not be ended immediately. The original version of the resolution, in effect, said to the Supreme Court of the United States, "Don't force us—give us time. There are many complications to be worked out. We must overhaul our psychology before we overhaul our school system."

But the Legislature, by striking out the word "forthwith," has taken an unsound position. Of course, the Legislature was not defiant as some legislatures in the South are. The resolution, as adopted, did not say North Carolina would pay no attention to the supreme law of the land. But the resolution did say, in effect, that the anti-segregation decision of the Supreme Court won't ever work. This is saying much more than reason dictates.

The Greensboro Daily News is on firmer ground than the Legislature when it comments: "Our feeling is that the omission of 'forthwith' weakens rather than strengthens the resolution. Changes in the racial picture in the South are bound to come in the future, as they have in the past. North Carolina should speak its mind on the Court decision—but it should not slam the door tight on possible revision in that thinking by oncoming generations."

The resolution passed by the Legislature weakens the strong case that we have had all along for gradual desegregation. But it does more than weaken our case before the Supreme Court. It gives support to wishful thinking in North Carolina at a time when the great need is a facing up to the realities of our world. Sober, realistic thinking tells us that segregation is going to end, in fact as well as in principle. The only questions are by what procedure and in how long a time.

Grains of Sand

Bombs and Weather

J. R. Marsh of 565 Morganton Road believes there is a connection between explosion of atomic bombs and such freak weather as the disastrous freeze of a couple of weeks ago. He says that he is not alone in that conviction and that he and a local man of his acquaintance have been discussing the matter over the past year.

The vast quantity of hot gas released by the atomic explosions disturbs air currents, Mr. Marsh thinks, resulting in unseasonable weather over wide areas of the earth.

The Final Word

A quick reply from Fred Brindley, local light versifier, was elicited by Mrs. J. R. Lynes' last—or as we wrote it "last(?)"—word in last week's Grains anent the good-natured war-between-the-sexes needling that has been going on between the two verse writers (who incidentally have never met in person) since Mrs. Lynes started the ball rolling in February with 11 lines of affectionately patronizing comment on men in general.

Mr. Brindley, a retired businessman, replied and Mrs. Lynes replied to the reply—all three items appearing by way of summary in last week's Pilot.

Bright and early Monday morning, Mr. Brindley was in with his answer which evens the poetic comments to two and two for each side and which, we respectfully suggest, should end this particular exchange of words. We haven't the slightest doubt but that most of the female readers of Grains still agree just as strongly with Mrs. Lynes, as if she had literally had the "last" word—and vice versa with male readers and Mr. Brindley. If the question has remained a matter of argument over the thousands of years of mankind's history, we rather doubt if it will be settled in Grains now. Besides, we think Mr. Brindley adopts this time, as did Mrs. Lynes in her last words, a very pleasant, compromising tone.

Herewith, then, Mr. Brindley's second contribution:

Mrs. Lynes' advice, so well worth while, is crammed with humor and with guile. This is a mixture relished by men. Who come back for more, again and again.

When in a lady's eyes they see A gleam—to them it's "Ecstasy." A man, and this I'm glad to say, Likes to see ladies happy and gay. Guile, yes, but the changing of mind Is irksome to man, and often we find That what was formerly ecstasy Is quickly changed to "Riddle Me Ree."

With a gracious lady of your age, I'm proud to exchange this badinage.

(Ed. Note: For the benefit of readers who reached this exchange of poems late, we'll explain that "Ecstasy" got into the verses when Mr. Brindley pointed out that it's something men will open wide their eyes to see Hedy Lamarr in, while Mrs. Lynes asserted it was more fittingly something for men to "keep the brakes firm on." The Pilot thanks both Mrs. Lynes and Mr. Brindley for their lively contributions to this

space and hopes to hear from them both again on various topics of their choosing.)

Mumps and A Poem

Our esteemed colleague, representative at Raleigh, best friend and bitter rival, Cliff Blue, got the mumps in the middle of his demanding and strenuous work up there at the capitol.

He was pretty sick about it; pretty sick, anyway, for that matter. Mumps are no fun.

But he did get this satisfaction. The way his friends turned to and helped him out was something that warmed the cockles of his heart. They say: you never know who your friends really are until trouble strikes. Cliff had his troubles but he also had his friends.

Another thing: Cliff had, besides the mumps: he had a poem written about him. By that grand old scribe of many friends himself, Skipper Oscar Coffin. It was published in O. C.'s column in the Greensboro Daily News and we take most overwhelming pride in including it in this week's Grains of Sand, as Chief High Cockerum of All Grains: Candid Camera: Cliffon Blue: Really rating in Legislative Who's Who

Is a quiet newspaperman, Clifton Blue. Detests secret sessions? Sure, he's that sort of fellow, But hasn't pawed the earth or let out a bellow.

When he came from Moore County to January in Raleigh It was not to berate brethren for that obvious folly; For while he deploras laying Constitution on shelf He's confident the press can take care of itself.

Best thought he gives, backed by splendid endurance. To need to protect a simple citizen's insurance; And he has set for himself the laudable stint

Of seeing that policies do not blur their fine print. I'm not going to claim that all wisdom's his, he's got, But it's his heart that's warm, not his head that's hot; And in lawmaking woods he's a far abler sawyer

Than many a solon who's been licensed as lawyer. —O. C.

Hens Can Take It

While the poor humans may be groaning over the lugubrious effects of a shot of aureomycin, terro-ditto, or any one or another of the strenuous mycin family, harken, dear readers, to the tale of the hens.

At the last commissioners' meeting it was reported by Assistant Farm Extension Agent F. D. Allen, that Moore County hens receive not one but three different mycins when they catch cold, and all in one fell shot.

"They react just like folks," said Mr. Allen. "About to die one day, and the next they're up and strutting round, smart as paint."

Well, all we know is: we had just one of the ding things once and like to give up there and then. Takes a hen to stand three, we'd say.

Mr. Allen's reports always cheer everybody up. When he gets to telling about all those eggs being laid, and how there's a boom working up in broilers, you can almost see the commissioners begin to lick their lips. Visions of fried chicken, Moore County chicken, all hot and dripping, skincrackling waft through the air of the commissioners' room. Even fetch in a few waddlers from the courtroom, now and then.

The PILOT

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

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor
C. Benedict News Editor
Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr.
C. G. Council Advertising
Mary Scott Newton Business
Bessie Cameron Smith Society
Composing Room
Lochamy McLean, Dixie B. Ray,
Michael Valen, Jasper Swearingen

Subscription Rates:
One Year \$4. 6 mos. \$2; 3 mos. \$1

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

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