to our Town street system and

general Town responsibility dur-

ing the last year alone, the costs

trend continues during the next

ly maintain our streets as well

as the ending necessity of the

I am proud to say that last year

ments for sewer was reduced and

considerable headway was made

selves will be staggering.



"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.

Should The Mayor Be Elected By The Voters?

The council-manager form of government his straight thinking and sterling character. generally follows the rule of having the elected There's another angle: councilmen are often council choose the mayor from among its mem- chosen as representing a certain point of view bers. The question has been raised in several or a geographical area, but it would be highly quarters: is this the best way?

Would it be better to make the thing automatic and let the councilman who gets the most mayor and four councilmen?

We are of the opinion that the system might well be changed and that it deserves serious thought. Of the two alternatives suggested, we strongly favor allowing the people to elect their

Voters have a right, and an obligation, to know what they are voting for. If a man is voting for a mayor to head the town government, he wants to know it; if he is voting for a councilman, he wants to know it, too. The chances are he will be looking for some very different qualities.

For mayor, he wants a man with qualities of leadership. He wants a man who is well-rounded in his interests and character, to get along with all groups. He wants force but diplomacy, too. He looks for a man with some proven administrative ability. But when looking for a candidate for councilman, while these qualities are certainly desirable, they are not essential.

A councilman may be not diplomatic at all but even fiery and argumentative and be a stimulating asset to the group. Or a man may lack the drive essential to leadership or the if the people are to do the governing they must breadth of interests to command wide support know what they are doing. They must know yet be the most valuable councilman, the an- whether they are voting for a mayor, or voting chor-man of the team, confidence-inspiring for for a councilman.

Again, a mayor ought to have some proven votes, out of the five, be the mayor? Would it administrative ability, but it is possible to imbe better still to allow the people to vote for a agine that a councilman who was purely a stargazing backseat driver could be pretty useful. At least, he would have ideas and the courage

undesirable that a mayor should be strongly

identified with any special interest or section.

to express them, something that has been overscarce, from time to time, in a good many governing bodies. . . not only town councils. The joker is, of course, this star-gazer might well be universally popular and cop the most votes. . . and what a fix the town would be in if, by such means, he became the mayor!

There is a further argument for letting the people elect the mayor: it would tend to put an end to the behind-the-scenes maneuvering that is bound to occur under the present system. The pulling and hauling that is now almost inevitable could build up antagonisms in the council that might well endanger the unity and therefore the effectiveness of the group.

In sum: it would seem that the idea of letting the council choose the mayor is of doubtful value and might breed trouble that could easily be avoided, while the system of giving the position to the councilman with the most votes is full of evident pitfalls.

It comes down to the fact that government by the people is generally the best way, but

Sabotaging The Refugees

There is now getting under way in Europe a from his post as head of the refugee program. conference of all agencies engaged in the care Appointed by Secretary Dulles with highest and resettlement of refugees. To this conference the Administration, in a move that smacks of senselessness, to say the least, and grossest Leod's door the major blame for its failure. hypocrisy, to say the most, has sent a delegation headed by the two men who have done more to sabotage the refugee resettlement program in this country than any other factor. These two are Security Officer Scott McLeod and Senator Francis Walters.

McLeod owes his post as security office the State Department to the influence of Senator McCarthy. To McLeod is largely attributed the undermining of morale, and therefore effectiveness, among State Department employees, through his over-zealous interpretation of a solution of this complicated and tragic human security regulations and the star chamber proceedings which his regime and the Justice Department have instituted.

McLeod is, of course, the official who was responsible for the resignation of Edward Corsi,

praise as "the man ideally fitted to carry out the President's program," Corsi lays at Mc-Walters is co-author, with the late Senator

McCarran, of the immigration act that bears their names. Unfair in many of its provisions, obstructive and rankly prejudiced, its effect on the handling of the refugee problem has been almost fatal. Of the 214,000 persons whose entry was decreed under the President's plan, less than 2,000 have been admitted to date.

We cannot imagine men less fitted by temperament and outlook to attend a conference meant to facilitate and, if possible, bring about problem. Their selection as delegates to represent the United States at this conference is a misfortune for the United States, a gratuitous insult to the earnest people who will meet with them, and, for the refugees, a catastrophe.

Secrecy In The Saddle

The Pilot is thankful that Moore County is one of the few to which the provisions of a General Assembly bill allowing county commissioners to meet in secret does not apply, yet the shame of the Assembly's action-or lack of action-on this bill is felt in Moore as throughout

To Senator Hawley Poole and Rep. H. Clifton Blue go our appreciation for putting Moore County on record for freedom of information.

The case of the bill in question is, as The News and Observer in Raleigh called it, "one of the strangest pieces of legislative emasculation in history. . . "

Here is the Raleigh newspaper's outline of the background:

Early this session officers of the State Association of County Commissioners appeared before a House committee to present a duly adopted resolution of the association requesting that a mistake made in 1951 be rectified. The mistake was the inadvertent omission of a long-standing requirement that meetings of county commissioners be open to the public, which was inadvertently omitted when the laws relating to county commissioners were rewritten in 1951. The delay in the request was explained by the fact that the omission did not gain any public attention until after adjournment of the 1953 General Assembly.

Ordinarily such a request would have been granted immediately and without question. But secrecy is not an ordinary

Years Of Achievement

Next Sunday's formal dedication of the sanctuary and educational building of Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church marks the culmination of 20 years of effort.

A church that began as a small group holding services at the Civic Club and that was organized with 90 members in 1936 finds itself in 1955 with a membership approaching 600 and a physical plant of which any church organization could be proud. More than 250 of the church's members have been added within the past five years—testimony to the growth of the with Southern Pines and to play a major role town as well as to interest in the church.

matter for members of the 1955 General Assembly. The rules of both the House and Senate were changed this year to permit secret sessions of committees. Some members seem to feel that to vote for open sessions for county commissioners and secret sessions for themselves would show incon-

sistency on their part. So the bill was held in committee for about three months and then reported with 98 counties, all except Nash and Person, exempted from its terms. . .

As written into law, a few more counties, including Moore, were placed under the provisions of the bill, guaranteeing open meetings in those

This bill is the strongest evidence yet of the obsession with secrecy that is reflected at all levels of the nation's governmental activity. In the case in question, no one was even asking that the secrecy provision be continued-yet the Assembly apparently took it upon itself to assure its continuation, even against the expressed wish of the officials the secrecy permit is supposedly designed to please and protect.

While no board of commissioners, of course, will be forced thereby to hold secret sessions, the new law assuredly offers encouragement to

Alertness of press and public throughout North Carolina will be called for during the next two years, to make sure that county officials do not learn to live down to the new low standard which the General Assembly has set

The Rev. E. L. Barber, who served the church for its first six years after organization, will be here to take part in the services Sunday, with the Rev. Cheves K. Ligon, the present pastor. Thoughts of those attending will go back to the Rev. Marcus A. Brownson, for whom the church is named and who died in 1938, and to Dr. Thompson E. Davis who was pastor in the years

Our congratulations go to the church for its remarkable achievements in its first 20 years. We are confident that it will continue to grow in the spiritual life of the community.

In City Manager's Budget Message To Council

'Significant Strides' Made By Town In Past Year But Much To Be Done, Says Cunningham

the message submitted to the town council last Thursday night, by City Manager Tom E. Cunningham, with his proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The council adopted the budget, with one minor change, as reported in a news item elsewhere in today's Pilot. Also reported in a news item elsewhere are some of the "Expenditures by Departments" which were included in the budget message.

This budget has been prepared with three paramount objectives in mind: (1) The maintaining of all essential services at the highest possible level and the continuance of the new programs start ed last year, such as rear yard garbage collections, and the colthe peculiar benefit of individual citizens and property owners. Much To Be Done

With regard to the removal from the tax dollar of expenses that are for the peculiar benefit of individual citizens and property owners, I believe that much remains to be done. It is my opinexpected to maintain shoulders of the roads in front of some properties, assist in opening private driveways, and bear the burden

Closely related to the preceding 30—editor) will amount to ap paragraph is the responsibility proximately \$500,000. presently taken by the Town with regard to opening streets and assuming responsibility for their maintenance. It is my conviction, and I believe this would be backlarge percentage of municipalities cost of about \$30,000. throughout the country, that the

in any street, except where the \$16,095. abutting property owners provided themselves with permanent



MR. CUNNINGHAM

ection of yard rakings and tree ers. This would result in greatly rimmings; (2) The equipping of reduced costs to the general prop-Town forces with the best pos- erty tax payer, and the sole resible equipment to perform their sponsibility of the Town would responsibilities smoothly, effi- be for the routine maintenance of ciently, and with maximum econ- the streets instead of the exomy; (3) In the face of increasing tremely expensive costs involved costs, especially in the metals and in holding dirt streets together chemicals line, this budget is pre- where there are no permanent pared to at least hold the line as improvements. I recommend that ar as the present ad valorum tax the Town Council appoint a comrate is concerned and the contin- mittee of Council who would nance of removing from the tax spend several days with the Town dollar those expenses that are for Manager and carefully review the practices of other cities, relate these practices to the present very expensive and uneconomical program of Southern Pines and make immediate recommendations to the Town Council.

'Significant Strides'

The budget which I present to you tonight does not contemplate on, that careful study should be any increases in the present standgiven by the Town Council to ards or levels of work being persuch permanent improvements as formed by the Town, and I do curbs, gutters, and storm sewers, not recommend any across-thewhich are customarily in the vast board salary increases for all city of municipalities employees. Although, on the throughout the country borne to a whole, I believe last year was not Memorial Day large extent by the abutting prop- too eventful a year in our municierty owners. Town forces are still pal improvements and services. we made several significant strides as follows:

1. We experienced a very large Memorial Day which appears in the porch and told the newcomers of storm sewers, where the basic building boom which of course, is the May issue of the DAR maga- to make themselves at home, and responsibility lies with the indivi- directly related to our expendi- zine.

> 2. Related to our growing town at the close of the year, we will cal year alone, three miles of san-3. Also, we will have installed

city should not assume any new at least 3,664 feet of six-inch responsibiliy for the maintenance water main, seven fire hydrants of any street, nor should the city and 6,100 feet of two-inch water provide any services whatsoever main, at a total estimated cost of

4. Although last year we installmunicipal improvements, such as ed about 6500 feet of paving, recurb and gutter, and storm sew-surfaced 3200 feet of existing pav-

STATE LEAGUE PRESIDENT SAYS:

'We Dare To Tackle Problems . . .

The following paragraphs forming the opening portion of the address of Mrs. Harold Walters of Chapel Hill at a meeting of North Carolina League of Women Voters delegates here last week-are indicative of the approach this organization is taking toward matters of public interest. The Southern Pines League, now fully recognized by the State and National Leagues, has attracted widespread interest through its

It is a great privilege to welcome you to our second North Carolina Council meeting. This is an occasion when we can note and evaluate our overall league pro gram. We can exchange ideas and we are striving.

First I would like to make a of first importance.

We are not frightened women. are big and which may take years to solve. We do not have deluany program that is worthwhile must have wide citizenship sup- The possibility of war is a real port. We are not cowed by the one. We have staunchly supportwill stretch our brains and worry ing to live in peace. We are supthe life out of a set of figures for porting a liberalized trade policy a trade survey. We concentrate among nations, hoping that if naon an objective approach to polit- tions can work together on the drawn into personality conflicts. to cooperate in other areas.

We are women with a sense of humor too. Personally I hope the day never comes when we are grimly serious about politics.

Next I would like you to think about our program in its larger meaning. How does our limited program relate to the world we live in? Are we like ostrichesstudying zoning laws for instance, while the shadow of an atomic war hangs over us? I do not think so. I believe as we become more alert citizens, we are better equipped to consider the issues of our day. Nor is our program unrelated to these problems. We know that we are in danger

of losing our American heritage of liberty and freedom. It is to revitalize this faith that we agreed technique. We can reaffirm and we are experimenting with a pro- Pines was in its less staid and reassess the goals toward which cedure new to us-that of going to the community and saying "We would like to search for an few observations about the nature understanding of individual freeof League members. We are wom- dom-will you help us?" By en-voters and volunteers. Our combining with other groups and families and our professions are individuals in our communities. we are seeking to convert the prevalent climate of suspicion We dare to tackle problems which into one of faith and belief in the democratic way of life.

We know that our country is in sions of grandeur. We know that danger from enemies without. We are not even sure of our friends fact that 70% of the electorate is ed the United Nations, weak as it made an attractive lake and also said to be politically passive. We is, in the hopes of somehow learnical problems and refuse to be economic front, they may be able inces of the North Atlantic coast.

ing, and installed 5100 feet of as- pal public works during the past phalt guttering, the overall pic-seven years and during the comture of our street improvements could be much improved by a ing year, in my opinion, demonpermanent improvement policy strates clearly the need for the on the part of the Town Council. Town to completely re-evaluate Since 1950 the total mileage of its program of capital improve-Town streets has increased from ments and public works in the 23 to 35 miles of streets. The total light of our healthfully growing paved mileage has increased from municipality. For example, last 10 to 18 miles of paved streets, year actually no funds were spent and there has been practically no for what might be considered percurb and gutter installed except manent street improvement, yet for the Knollwood Apartments for the streets which were added

As a point of information, I should point out that in the year of permanent improvement would 1950-1951, our street expenditures be at least \$25,000. It will cost us was approximately \$35,000 or better than half of this figure to \$1,500 per mile of streets. In the hold them together as dirt streets budget which I submit to you to- during the next 10 years. If this night, total street expenditures are estimated at \$38,291 or \$1,100 twenty years, the cost to routineper mile of streets. It is my opinion that the continuance of this program of street improvements permanent improvements themcoupled with the increase in mileage of our city street system will result in the necessity of an enor- our required permanent improvemous bond issue being the only solution to an overwhelming

It might be well to point out bution system out of cash income 7%, funds for expenditures repre- munity. sent an expansion of our sewer and funds out of cash income are amount of 9%.

Re-evaluation Needed

towards eliminating this problem. There still exists an immediate that during the year ending 1955, need for a minimum of approxifunds for expenditures represent mately \$100,000 worth of sanian expansion of our water distri- tary sewer work to adequately provide these all important saniin the amount of approximately tary facilities for all of our com-As far as I know, during the

system in the amount of 12% last decade the Town has made no headway in its storm sewer included for the expansion of our problem, and the condition as it paved street surface in the exists today, is a sore point in the minds of many of our property owners and the condition is be-The overall picture of munici- coming more acute each year.

Grains of Sand

tive in both the American Legion Auxiliary and the Daughters of us an interesting article about Col. Patrick chased the dog under

dual property owners and is rela- ture requirements. Building per- The article traces the custom of Recognition of two men still ted to the actual value of their mits alone, at the close of the decorating graves with flowers living in Pinebluff, Levi and Dayear (the fiscal year ending June back to the ancient Greeks, Ro- vid Packard-the latter being a

mans and Druids. Other predecessors of the modern custom which finds its expression in the national holiday May 30 are listed as memorial have installed during the last fis- services held by the Benedictine just about as complete as a hismonks in the sixth century and tory of Pine Bluff that overlooks ed up by the practice of a very itary sewers at a total estimated the French "Jour Des Morts," a the Packard brothers and J. W.

> all cemeteries are decorated. Origin of Memorial Day in the United States is traced to a New York newspaper story published in 1867, telling how women in Columbus, Miss., had been strewing early upbuilding of Pinebluff and Confederate and National soldiers. now almost forgotten recreation The story attracted much interest of canoe trips down Drowning

> and songs. National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and going all the way to the sea named May 30 as "Decoration Day" when graves of soldiers were to be decorated "while a

survivor of the war remains." As the idea caught on, it is related, State legislatures, one after another, enacted laws for observance of the day. Later, the name was changed to Memorial Day.

About Pinebluff

Mrs. Robert F. Stewart, former resident of Pinebluff and widow of the late R. F. Stewart who was mayor there for many years, sends from Bethesda, Md., where she now lives, a few pages from a 1915, which she found among old Pine Bluff (as some persons spelled it then and some still do spell it) as "a retreat for the men who sought to escape the bustle and to work for an understanding of excitement of Southern Pines in individual liberties. To do this the early days when Southern dignified infancy."

Hmmmmm . . . sounds like we might have missed some lively times here by not being around 60 or 70 years ago.

Here is a further colorful description of Pinebluff's founding by John T. Patrick who, of course, also laid out and first promoted Southern Pines:

"To do the thing right, he put the town about a mile from the rairoad . . . (Don't we wish we had done the same thing here!) . . . 'which resulted in having the station a mile from the town. At the station Patrick built a dam which gave an excuse to set up a printing press to print cheerful things about the Sandhills for distribution among the unbelieving Pharisees of the Baked Bean Prov-"Most folks will listen to a man

with curly chin whiskers, and Mrs. L. A. Des Pland, who is ac- Patrick had a nice bunch. So presently some strangers were obthe American Revolution, sends served coming up the walk, and

> then Pine Bluff was begun." former resident of Southern Pines as well—is made in the old

Outlook article: "A history of the deluge which forgot to mention Noah would be festival in which all the graves of Pope who have been so long and substantially identified with the

Also mentioned is Dr. John Warren Achorn, Boston physician who was a great influence in the flowers on the graves of both who organized the unique and and inspired a number of poems Creek, which he rechristened the 'Lumbee River," starting from In May, 1868, John A. Logan, Blue's Bridge, which is now the east entrance to Camp Mackall,

Welcome Rain

below Georgetown, S. C.

Farmers and gardeners welcomed last Friday's downpour of rain which was general throughout the county. The Weather Bureau station at town hall showed a fall of 1.94 inches. The many driveways and dirt streets that give trouble in heavy rains were all washed out as usual.

Water entered The Pilot building, pouring into the rear yard from the center of the block around the back of the A & P Pinehurst Outlook of March 15, store. When water gets on the floor, the customary method is to family papers and which describes throw down old newspapers to soak it up-but only a few days before, we had thrown out stacks of old papers that were cluttering the office.

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