

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.

Accepting The Vaccine Program

Only about three-quarters of the Moore County children who had their first shots of Salk polio vaccine last Spring were given permission to go back recently and get their second shots.

While some of these children may be getting second shots from private physicians, now that the vaccine is available, and while permission may have been denied others through misunderstanding or procrastination on the part of parents, the fact that one-quarter of the children were not allowed to take the second shot is evidence of the awful blunder that took place in the vaccine program last Spring.

The deaths and illnesses, elsewhere in the nation, that were attributed to defective vaccine naturally aroused parents and put them on the defensive and it will probably be years before polio vaccine is 100 per cent accepted, as a result of that tragic situation.

Elsewhere in today's Pilot there is a full discussion of the vaccine situation in North Carolina today, as outlined by the State Board of Health. It is an encouraging picture that is given there: a reiteration of the assurance that the vaccine is safe (as it apparently always has been from the manufacturer whose product was used in this state); that new tests are now made on all vaccine to further check its safety; that a study of polio over the past summer shows that even one shot of vaccine has provided some immunity to children.

We urge parents to read this article carefully and not to deny their children the benefit of the vaccine. The tragic deaths of last Spring, the inadequacy of government handling of the problem in Washington—all these are in the past and the real possibility of ending the scourge of polio lies before us.

But complete public acceptance and use of the vaccine must be obtained before the goal can be reached.

Lessons In A Peculiar Case

The layman observer is not in a position to judge whether or not a mental patient who has been released from an institution and then violates the law should or should not have been let out.

When a released mental patient gets in trouble with the law or his neighbors, the first impulse is to say that he never should have been set free. Yet the intelligent and Christian viewpoint is that, if there is a possibility of rehabilitation, no human being should be locked away for the rest of his life and that possibility denied him. We will have to leave it up to the doctors as to where to draw the line, realizing that sometimes they may make mistakes.

So we don't know whether the man who picked up a little girl and carried her a quarter mile and set her down, at the bidding of another man, and walked on, should or should not have been set loose, having spent a reported total of seven years in an institution, out of his young life of 25 or so years.

The incident that took place recently in the rural community where Moore, Lee and Harnett Counties join involved the man's picking

the child up from her own front porch and walking off with her, despite the protests of her 12-year-old brother. The child had not been harmed, when she was set down at the demand of a neighbor who happened to see what was going on. The man who walked off with the child is now in jail, awaiting trial on a charge of kidnaping, with recommendation of the Recorder's Court judge that he be given a mental examination.

What is apparent from this case that has sent cold chills up and down the spines of folks who read about it is that five-year-old girls ought not to be left alone—even at their homes and even with 12-year-old brothers to watch out for them; and also that adults must be vigilant—as was the man who stopped the kidnaping of the little girl—to spot peculiar situations and interfere when children are being molested.

No one knows, perhaps no one will ever know, why the man picked up the little girl and walked off with her, smiling. We can only speculate and be thankful beyond expression that there was some one on hand to bring the situation back to reality and rescue the child.

Helping Retarded Children

Moore County representatives have taken part recently in District and State meetings of the North Carolina Association for Retarded Children, an organization in which The Pilot has taken an interest since it was founded only a few years ago.

The public generally, as was pointed out at the District conference in Laurinburg, is too little aware of the scope of the problem of mental retardation. It was noted that out of every 100,000 children born in the United States annually, 3,000 are mentally retarded, in contrast to only seven who are permanently crippled by polio, seven who have cerebral palsy, 15 who are blind and 200 who have some form of heart damage.

There is a National Research Program in mental retardation, headed by a North Carolinian, Dr. Richard Maslin of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem. Last spring, Congress appropriated \$750,000 to this fund—which was something else we did not

know until the recent meeting—and there will be a fund drive during National Retarded Children's Week in November.

The four-fold program of the Association, here and elsewhere, emphasizes (1) research; (2) special education for the trainable child; (3) care of the severely retarded by day centers and institutional care; and (4) meeting the emotional needs of parents and families of retarded children.

The extraordinary success of the Fayetteville School for Exceptional Children—where mongoloid, severely crippled and cerebral palsied children are finding undreamed-of happiness and adjustment—is a fascinating story in itself and shows how much can be done for the retarded. It is the policy there, said its director, "to take any child that nobody else would teach."

Persons who would like to contribute to the work or find out more about the Association are asked to get in touch with Mr. and Mrs. Dan Roberts of Carthage.

Religion and Segregation

The official board of the Kingstree (South Carolina) Methodist Church lets the world know that it doesn't like the resolution adopted by the South Carolina Methodist Conference condemning pro-segregation citizens' councils throughout the state. The board refers to "peaceful and legal aims and ideals of citizens' councils" as it declares its belief that abandonment of segregation in schools and churches would be "harmful to the races."

But the Kingstree church board seems to be far off base when it goes beyond its expression of opposition to the Methodist Conference resolution and declares that questions dealing with integration "are secular in nature and have no Christian nor religious significance."

Does the Kingstree board mean to say that religion is religion and secular affairs are secular affairs, and never the twain shall meet? Does the church board mean to say that the Christian church has no answer or offers no hope of finding the answer to the perplexing problem of segregation or integration?

How can a Christian church be true to its origin and say that questions dealing with integration "have no Christian nor religious significance"? The question of segregation versus integration involves the actions and attitudes of men toward men. Did not the Founder of Christianity repeatedly show that he had no use for a "temple religion" that was not intended to permeate all of life, controlling the actions and attitudes of its practitioners?

Who can say that, in the current crisis in the South, there is not an urgent need for Christian actions and attitudes to prevail? Pity the South if our churches do not take the lead in finding Christian answers to the pressing race issues!

It is not to be expected that all conscientious

seekers of Christian truth will always come up with the same answers, but it is proper to hope that all who call themselves Christians will engage in an honest search for Christian answers to the pressing race issues. Truth-seeking scientists or historians don't always agree on findings, but all of them who probe honestly contribute something valuable to the dependable knowledge of men.

—The Smithfield Herald

To Cut Fire's Huge Toll

Southern Pines residents seeing their fire-fighting equipment on display this Saturday—in observance of Fire Prevention Week—can be grateful for the excellence with which the community is equipped in this department. And the long tradition of alertness and energy that have characterized the Southern Pines volunteer firemen leave nothing to be desired on this score.

Fire Prevention Week directs the public's attention to the 11,000 lives and nearly \$371 million in property destroyed by fire in 1954—as well as to the safety measures that can help reduce these tragic figures in the future.

Ninety per cent of the fires that took this monstrous toll of lives and property could have been prevented, we're told by experts on the subject. So, here and across the nation this week, citizens are being asked to check their homes and places of business for fire hazards and correct any unsafe conditions they find.

We don't think we need to set down a long list of fire hazards. Most people know the hazards in accumulations of trash, defective heaters and furnaces, bad wiring and all the varied matches-smoking hazards, indoors and outdoors.

This is the week to check things over—and maybe save your home or your life.



Grains of Sand

Old Timers Give Way

Two landmarks in the same block gone and within a few months of each other: Mr. Knowles store and the Boy Scout house. That seems like a record.

Mr. Knowles' little old store, The Quality Shop, was the last to go. We always should think of it as his, though several others had it at one time or another. It was really old-timey and like many old-timey things it was very, very good. What was in it was good; you always knew it was good; the people and the food they sold. The whole place had a feeling of authenticity, of honesty and sturdiness. There was a depth and breadth, a density of solid worth.

The porch was off when we first noticed it; then the roof went, leaving the poor thing open to the varmints and the elements. One wall went next and then the other, and then there was nothing but the low rim of the foundations. The space where it had stood looked unbelievably small. It was hard to think so much had gone on there, in the little store, a part of the early days, and now giving way and gone before the large establishment from outside. A good store, too, and one well-known and respected here.

It would be nice to think the good will and the independent spirit that expressed itself in hard honest toil, and the friendliness and cheer that went into the making of the little old store will permeate the atmosphere of the new big one and live on on that northeast corner of Broad Street and Connecticut.

Goodbye to the Scout House

The other landmark gone on that block is the Boy Scout House. This building was put up in the early twenties, as we recall. It was designed by Alfred Yeomans, who supervised its construction, and then went on to work there with the first scout troop of Southern Pines. He took a lively interest in scouting; liked boys and got along well with them. He used to go with the troop to camp every summer at Thagard's pond. That Scout House was built with funds raised locally. Everybody contributed to give the first troop organized here a good place to meet.

High, Wide, And Really Handsome

Rugged individualism had its day on West Broad Street Wednesday morning. As we came to the railroad tracks, going down Connecticut, and edged across, starting to turn south, we stepped down on everything handy. Here came an old model T sedan. . . or would that be model A? . . . bowling along, coming right up the middle of the one-way street.

The little car glistened, shiney-black; you could almost see the fringe waving on top. And the

driver sat up like he was driving the original sulky. He clutched the wheel, by heck, and he drove right where he damplensed.

Quite a sight. And folks grinned and you could almost hear them shouting: "More power to you, old boy!"

Charter Member: K. McCall

Thought we'd started something when we announced formation of the Club For the Promotion of Dornancy. Not at all, it seems. Katherine McCall writes, from her hideout in Switzerland, that she can't be asked to join because she already belongs.

Now who'd a thought it! All this time we were thinking she was one of the original Do-It-Yourselves, what with all that lettuce growing, Shaw house tending, MCH Auxiliary auxiliarying, Town zoning board zoning, and all the rest. And here she was just dormant all the time.

Which raises an awful thought: What would she do if she woke up?

Too Much Activity

Still and all, at the close of the letter describing the delights of life at the Hotel Des Trois Couronnes, at Vevey on the Lake of

Geneva: "the food, the lovely view, the friendly courteous service, the food, the. . ." at the close of all that, she does add a postscript: "I do a few things. This week we have three concerts, (chamber music) a good French movie and an exhibit of Utrillo that is very fine."

Don't know if that amount of doing will get by, for a member of the CFPOD.

Then, too, there's the clipping K. McC. sent us, from a Swiss newspaper. She seems to be reading, too. That's bad.

But we're glad she sent it. And think others will be. Here it is:

Before A Bank of Zinnias

(from Le Journal de Geneve) The zinnias are in full bloom. If they have somewhat the look of painted flattened pinecones, at least they have been painted tints that are altogether magnificent, a veritable burst of color. Here is a soft pink one, then deep currant-red; here one of pale steel touched with gold, here a flower of violet a prelate of high order would not scorn to wear as a boutonniere. As you gaze at them you are astonished that tints that clash in violent enmity should form so harmonious a whole. Everywhere else, except in this kingdom of the flowers, such gamuts of colors would shout aloud their dissonance.

But just then my delight seems to burst out across the green grass in joyous fanfare. The goldfinches have sighted the zinnias from afar! Here they come, swinging their flight towards the flowers, their food-bearers, with a whirling of small wings, an enchanted warbling. . .

Because he is so small the goldfinch has the special right to take his stand, like a butterfly, on the petals of certain flowers of sturdy stem. Now the whole tribe has taken possession of the flowerbed. Their minute red heads dip deep into the heart of the flowers. They buzz, they flutter, they keep up a trilling chatter. . . and they eat! Ten, twenty, a hundred times the stiletto beak dips into the cup. You'd think they were tiny mechanical toys.

Do you realize, Madame, you who so delicately refuse, with lifted finger, a second helping, simpering that you have the appetite of a bird, do you realize that of all animals, the bird is the one who eats the most in proportion to his weight? You might as well say that you are a glutton.

Rather, Madame, you should declare your likeness to the melancholy calf, standing behind the haystack hanging his melancholy head, with muzzle soft and moist. He is, it seems, the most temperate of beasts.

And so, when in society, do not fear to declare boldly: "Thank you; no more. You see I eat like a calf."

The Public Speaking

Not Same O'Neil

To the Editor: The advertisement in the Pilot of October 6 entitled "Cracks of Light" is of such a nature that the identity of the advertiser should be clear.

I, Thomas H. O'Neil, known in a long newspaper career as Tom O'Neil, am the editor of GOLF WORLD published in Pinehurst. As associate editor prior to Bob Harlow's death I came to the Sandhills four years ago. I have never advertised my personal views in any publication.

The Pilot is its own judge of matter unfavorable to a religion, but there should be no doubt about the source of such matter.

Implications of the October 6 article are easily answerable. I leave that to others. No freedom of the press warrants connotations as to authorship harmful to another publication and its editor.

TOM O'NEIL, Editor, Golf World

(Editor's Note: The author of "CRACKS OF LIGHT" who purchases space for the item in The Pilot, is Tom O'Neil of 305 E. New York Ave., Southern Pines, proprietor of the Hillendale Little Nine Golf Course on Midland Road. The Pilot regrets any embarrassment that a confusion of identities may have caused Thomas H. O'Neil.)

PLAN FOR ACTION . . . (2)

Population To Rise To 7,000 Here By 1975

(This is the second in a series of reports from the recently issued booklet, "Southern Pines—Plans For Action." The booklet was prepared by graduate students of the Department of City and Regional Planning of the University of North Carolina.)

POPULATION

Three aspects of the future population of Southern Pines have special significance in this planning study: its size, its composition by age, and the average number of people in each household. The population at any future date cannot be estimated with certainty, but several methods of estimation have been employed, one as a check against the others, and approximate results obtained appear to be reasonable for purposes of this study.

The population of Southern Pines in 1950 was 4,272, according to the United States census. It has been estimated at about 5,200 in 1955 by a count of dwelling units made in March; this estimate probably includes a number of seasonal residents. By 1975 the population within the existing corporate limits will probably be about 7,000, and, in the planning area, about 8,000. The average household size is declining, and will probably continue to fall; it will probably level off at about 3.0 by 1975.

Conclusions: The population of Southern Pines will continue to increase at a decreasing rate. It will be about 7,000 in 1975.

The average household size in the Southern Pines area will decline to about three persons in 1975.

The proportion of older people in the population will increase as more retired people are attracted to the town.

ECONOMY

Southern Pines is principally a tourist resort and place of retirement. Its climate and environment make it ideal for this kind of activity. However, the seasonal nature of the resort business, with sales and employment falling to a low point during the summer months, is a problem which could assume serious proportions in times of business recession. Accordingly there is good reason to seek a more diversified economy.

Up to the present, industry has been confined to a small factory, some greenhouses, a lumberyard, and several auto repair shops. Wholesale activities in Moore County have been, and will probably continue to be carried on principally in other towns.

Southern Pines serves as a retail shopping center for an area containing a population of about 18,000 people, but shares this trade with other towns in the area.

The town has profited by the presence of the Air Force technical school; this type of industry is highly beneficial to a town of Southern Pines' character and should be encouraged.

Conclusions: The economy of Southern Pines is centered in the tourist trade, which is subject to heavy seasonal fluctuations.

Southern Pines is a retail shopping center for a portion of the surrounding area, but is in competition with other towns for this trade.

Southern Pines would be attractive to a light industry of a limited size, and could profit by the diversification of its economy that industry would bring.

The PILOT

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