

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.

On The Eve of The National Conventions

Democrats—and especially the supporters of Adlai E. Stevenson of whom we count ourselves an enthusiastic member—have been treated in the past two weeks to a series of heartening happenings, on the eve of the National Conventions.

A few months ago, it would have seemed like a sweet dream, to a Democrat, and a nightmare, to a Republican, to have Mr. Stassen, a member of the President's official family, leading an effort to eliminate Vice President Nixon from the Republican ticket and to have Kefauver withdrawing as a candidate and throwing his support to Stevenson.

On top of all this, the Republicans are faced with the unhappy fact that the President is recuperating from his surgery more slowly than the nation was led to believe would be the case—so slowly and, according to some reliable reports, with such distressing after-effects that the ordinary observer must be led to entertain some doubts as to Mr. Eisenhower's fitness for the role of Presidential candidate again this year.

Truly, the Republicans must recently have been lamenting that "when it rains it pours." The incomparable GOP public relations machine, with the skilled James Hagerty at the controls, thought to recoup confidence in the President's physical condition by arranging the jaunt to Panama, but the President, in an aside that certainly hadn't been written into the script, ruined the production by revealing that

he hasn't much strength but just keeps trying to go on.

And so the picture changes. What seems remote today is tomorrow's reality. The conventions, with their special atmosphere of tension, their unforseen and lightning-like switches of loyalty, may produce before the month is over, a picture as unlike what we see today as today's is unlike that of a few weeks ago.

While we are solidly in the Stevenson camp, we are not blind to the pitfalls that lie between our favored candidate and the Democratic nomination. There is no denying that the Stevenson personality is viewed with a somewhat jaundiced eye by certain powerful professional politicians who fear that he is too intellectual, too witty and perhaps not handsomely warm enough for the common man—although we have not found this to be true in our observation of the candidate.

Brains and wit are no handicap to a President. The lack of warmth charge is perplexing; we have found human interest, warmth and kindness amply evident in public and private appearances of Mr. Stevenson. His recent speeches and utterances reveal these qualities perhaps more than any others.

Against the background of these changing circumstances, next week's Democratic convention at Chicago and the subsequent Republican gathering in San Francisco will be watched with extraordinary interest over the nation.

Regulation Needed In Pest Control

It is good news that a State pest control commission is preparing rules, regulations and minimum standards for operation of this business which has provided a fertile field for fraud in recent years.

Reliable local pest control operators, of which there are several in this area, will very likely have no trouble in meeting the standards that will be set up. And state-wide uniform regulations will control or at least discourage the gyp artists that are practicing in this field.

Most of the fancy operations in pest control have to do with termites. It is amazing how a sensible home owner can lose his reason and judgment when it is shown that he has termites in his home. With the enthusiastic encouragement of the unscrupulous exterminator, the home owner seems to feel that he is facing an explosively disastrous situation and that if the pest control man is not sent immediately into the fray against the insects, the home will crumble into dust before nightfall.

We know an elderly lady who lives alone in a home whose heart pine timbers have been ignored by termites for nearly half a century (which shows the good sense of the lumber and the enviable soundness of old-time timber and construction), but who was taken in by a traveling termite "expert."

A friend arriving at the old home discovered

Step Forward for Freedom of Press

An Alabama judge would go a step further than the Supreme Court of Colorado, the first State officially to relax the ban on press photography in court.

Colorado judges may now permit the taking of photographs, but their new rule states that no witness or juror shall be photographed "over his expressed objections."

Judge Walter B. Jones of Montgomery, Ala., Secretary of the Alabama Association of Circuit Judges, and chairman of its Committee on Judicial Ethics, believes this may "nullify the constitutional freedom of the press."

Judge Jones expressed this opinion in a letter to Joseph Costa, chairman of the board of the National Press Photographers Association in New York.

The Alabama judges are expected to write their own version of the American Bar Assn. canon of judicial ethics with respect to courtroom photography.

He "appreciates" the Colorado decision and expects it to be "helpful in other jurisdictions," Judge Jones stated. However, he is "disappointed" in the provision concerning witnesses and jurors.

"When a person comes into court as a witness or juror, he really does not come as a private citizen, he comes officially—really as an officer of the Court," Judge Jones maintains.

He also makes the point that a distinction must be made among press photography and other media whenever the question of courtroom coverage comes up. He believes that many judges tend to group them.

As for the press photographers, he expresses the view that they "have shown in demonstration after demonstration that they can perform their function and exercise their right without any disturbance of the Court whatsoever." He believes they "have public opinion behind them."

Commenting on Judge Jones' letter, Mr. Costa said, "The NPPA has been aware of the limitations of the Colorado decision. But we believe it was still a tremendous step forward. "The most important thing is that the first

the phony exterminator in the basement of the house spraying some noxious oil mixture all over the perfectly sound floor joists and incidentally making an awful mess of the cellar. It seems that the nastier some worthless mixture smells and the more it is splashed around, the more effective it is supposed to be for insect control, in the opinion of unscrupulous persons.

The fly-by-night operator, challenged as to what he was doing, appeared eager to stow away his equipment and depart with a small token payment. A job that, at his estimated cost, would have meant a loss of several hundred dollars to the home owner, was prevented only by the good fortune of some one arriving who knew more about such things than the home owner.

Recently, we noted that the town ordinances on itinerant salesmen and on solicitation of religious and charitable funds are ineffective without public cooperation in reporting violators and backing up law enforcement officers. The same point applies to pest control. Pending state-wide licensing and standards for the profession, home owners should be most careful with whom they are dealing. Once licensing and standards are established, the public should inform itself about the requirements and should be vigilant in the effort to maintain them.

ON WISDOM

State Supreme Court has officially and legally brought press photography under the freedom of the press guarantee.

"Moreover, while the press photographer is still restricted by the provision concerning witnesses and jurors, we know that progress comes one step at a time. We believe that other judges, as Judge Jones, will ultimately recognize the limitations of the Colorado decision."

As recognized by Judge Jones, court business is public business—a fact that The Pilot affirms each week by printing the full proceedings of Recorder's Court at Carthage, with no cases left out or pertinent names omitted.

Now that it is possible to take courtroom photographs without flash bulbs or other procedures that might be detrimental to the dignity or concentration of the court, we feel that such photography should be permitted and we hail Judge Jones for his sensible opinions on the matter.

"And what is wisdom—that gift of God which the great prophets of His race exalted? I do not know; like you I know it when I see it, but I cannot tell of what it is composed. One ingredient I think I do know: the wise man is the detached man. By that I mean more than detached from his grosser interests—his advancement and his gain. Many of us can be that—I dare to believe that most judges can be, and are. I am thinking of something far more subtly inter-fused. Our convictions, our outlook, the whole make-up of our thinking, which we cannot help bringing to the decision of every question, is the creature of our past; and into our past have been woven all sorts of frustrated ambitions with their envies, and of hopes of preferment with their corruptions, which, long since forgotten, still determine our conclusions. A wise man is one exempt from the handicap of such a past; he is a runner stripped for the race; he can weigh the conflicting factors of his problem without always finding himself in one scale or the other." —Judge Learned Hand

"Go On—I'm Backing You Up, Comrade"



(The Pilot this week begins publication of the cartoons of Hugh Haynie, staff artist of The Greensboro Daily News, whose work is now being syndicated. For further information about the artist, see news story on today's front page.)

'Pablum On The Potomac'

(From the recent address of Adlai E. Stevenson, candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, at the Colorado Democratic State Convention.)

If America is about anything, it is about the liberty of the individual. How has the Eisenhower-Nixon Administration handled this precious responsibility?

First the President sat passively by while Senator McCarthy conducted his campaign against freedom, terrorizing the Government, assailing the foreign service and the Army, and doing his general best to shoot up the town.

Then the President sat passively by while Nixon and other prominent colleagues shouted about all the Communists, fellow travelers and security risks they had cleaned out of the Government. But it turned out that there were no Communists and that they themselves had hired half the so-called security risks.

Then the President sat passively by while his Vice President tried by innuendo to cast a veil of disloyalty over the opposition Party in the 1954 campaign. . . . But did I say that the President sat passively by? I am wrong; he sent the Vice-President a letter of commendation at the very height of Nixon's ill-will tour.

No Guidance

In the same way, the President has sat passively by while America has wrestled with the anguished problem of racial segregation and civil rights. Here, I said last February, is an area where prestige of the Presidential office could be put to active, positive use—to help restore communication between the reasonable people of both sides, and to further our full understanding that the current of freedom and equality sweeping across the world is inexorable and that what is right is also law. Yet, while this great test of our moral maturity shakes the nation, no word, no guidance has come from the White House.

Inertia is the rule across the board. But there is no Executive pressure, no Party coherence, no Presidential leadership.

Indecision is passed off as wisdom, postponement as statesmanship, stagnation as progress in this cynical attempt to conceal the vacuum of leadership behind a barrage of propaganda, deception and ballyhoo.

The Republican formula is simple—it is pablum on the Potomac.

Can Be Trusted

And against the Republican cult of showmanship there stands the calm and traditional confidence of the Democratic Party that the American people can be trusted to act intelligently when they are told the truth.

This was the real secret of our twenty years' tenure of power. Against the massed power of nearly all the money in the country, nearly all the agencies of propaganda in the country, and all the disaffected and disgruntled people in the country, we won five successive elections. The string of victories was not broken until the Republican Party masked its purposes behind a great national hero in whom the Party leadership did not believe and whom it had no intention of supporting.

But to have the courage to tell the people the truth you must believe in the people. You must believe that, if they are given the facts, they will make an intelligent decision. The Party of privilege has never believed this—from Alexander Hamilton to Charles E. Wilson, George H. R. Roosevelt and the Eisenhower Cabinet—men so rich we are supposed to conclude they must be wise.

If you believe that you can manage the people better than they can manage themselves, you never can understand men like Roosevelt and Truman.

More than that, you can never understand America.

The PILOT

Published Every Thursday by THE PILOT, Incorporated Southern Pines, North Carolina 1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor
C. Benedict Associate Editor
Vance Derby 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,
Thomas Mattocks.

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.

The Public Speaking

Another Viewpoint On Amerotron's Operations

To the Editor:

Mr. Gramelsbach of Amerotron, as indicated in your news story last week entitled "Industrial Relations Program Has Ten Points," must have sounded like a little boy whistling loudly as he walked past a graveyard, in his talk to the local Kiwanians. They surely must have recognized it as strictly a "canned" speech full of high sounding phrases, which in the light of Amerotron's recent activities meant nothing. It certainly was a most untimely mouthing.

The summary dismissal of half a dozen or so executives in one fell swoop recently, men highly respected in this community and in the textile industry as a whole, certainly has not been overlooked by Sandhill residents. Where was the "full acceptance of the dignity of the individual" on that one? Not one was even forewarned of his fate—a practice which is not common among the better firms in textiles, or any other business for that matter. Not one was given a chance to line something up for himself.

As for their concept of the Golden Rule, it appears that they must refer to the gold that reaches the pockets of their executives (via stock option plans) and stockholders.

An interesting article appeared in the July 14 issue of The Saturday Evening Post, entitled "Our Tax Laws Make Us Dishonest," by Cameron Hawley, author of "Cash McCall." He describes how our present tax laws are a much greater determining factor in how businesses are run than even some executives would like to believe. There is no question that their manipulations are perfectly legal in every respect, but Mr. Hawley does question the moral climate.

It is a well known fact that the former Robbins mills are all a part of a gigantic tax-loss manipulation. In affecting the merger between American Woolen, Texton and Robbins, Texton-American, the resulting corporation, picked up some sixty million dollars in tax losses. Using this and other monies, they have expanded rapidly into non-textile fields.

Mr. Little, their chairman, has announced their intention to "spin-off" Amerotron, the textile portion of Texton-American. The Raeford and Clarksville plants have already been leased or sold to Burlington Mills. It is a known fact that the Aberdeen plant is on the block, and I would not be surprised that, if they could find a buyer for the Robbins and Red Springs plants, they would not go too. Three woolen mills in New England are being inspected by prospective buyers also.

Under these circumstances, how can their present executives blindly carry on and try to convince not only their own employees, but those who live around them, that they conscientiously are here to stay? As for

keeping the public informed about the organization, was it not your own paper that received a terse "no comment" when it made inquiry into the dismissal of the local Amerotron executives?

I say, and I know that I speak for many others around here: for the sake of those still working at Amerotron and for the stability of our own little area, let us hope that their mission in this part of the country is accomplished swiftly. Let the mills be sold to firms who are more interested in manufacturing than in manipulating, and who honestly have the interest of all their employees and the community which surrounds them at heart.

ROBERT S. EWING
Southern Pines

Fluoridation Advocates Given 'Rude Awakening'

To the Editor:

There has been a lot said lately in the "free press" regarding the fluoridation fiasco (quite a profitable venture for those who are selling) but once in a while, the people who are violently "for" fluoridation cross themselves up.

It happened recently in almost two identical cases, one at Ottawa, Illinois, and the other at Mason City, Iowa.

Let's examine the facts in the Mason City case, where the drums started beating for fluoridation. The same canned and misleading literature was distributed; the United States Public Health Service was prominent in swaying the community.

The newspaper crusaded for it, as necessary if the children of Mason City were to have fine healthy teeth. Civic groups signed petitions, went all out for the plan.

The "endorsements" of the so-called leading health authorities were all introduced. Local doctors and dentists testified as to the horrible states of the children's teeth in Mason City, and how the decay rate was so much greater than the available dentists could take care of and that the situation was out of hand.

Dr. Charles Henshaw, tax-paid partner of Health, Dental Health employee of the Iowa State Department, made frequent appear-

ances and gave out so-called facts as to the safety of fluoridation at one part per million and showed his charts and graphs as to how this 1 p.p.m. would save 65 per cent of the dental decay in the children in Mason City.

Then came the rude awakening. With the taxpayers and the public ready for the kill, somebody thought to test the water in Mason City for natural fluorine content, and it tested 1.24 parts per million—a little more than the magic amount the fluoridators would add.

And all of this occurred after they had gone on record as to the bad teeth among the children in Mason City.

All the above facts can be easily verified from press files and clippings of the "fluoridation fiasco" in Mason City, Iowa.

About the same history was written at Ottawa, Illinois, only difference being that the water there naturally tested 1.3 parts per million.

I believe that these facts reveal how really phony the fluoridation idea is.

Aren't we fluoridated in Southern Pines? How much is it costing us?

TOM O'NEIL
110 Highland Road
Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

Runs In The Family

A friend of ours (Smith by name) has been purchasing "paint-it-yourself" pictures these last few years, when he would see one that appealed to his artistic side.

However, he never seemed to get around to painting one, saying he was saving them to work on when he broke a leg or something.

As luck would have it, it was his teenage son, not the father, who really broke a leg when he was thrown from a horse. While convalescing, the son has just about completed all the pictures. Doing a mighty fine job, too, we might add.

All of which should prove something. . . but we don't know just what.

SANFORD HERALD SAYS:

Not In Our Tradition

It was in a fine North Carolina tradition that opponents of the Hodges Administration's school plan had their say in Raleigh. Whites and Negroes, they minced no words. And the legislators, many of whose minds were closed to the arguments, heard them in courtesy.

Not in the North Carolina tradition, though, was the subsequent legislative attempt to discredit Dr. Douglas B. Maggs, a Duke University professor of Constitutional law, who offered the opinion that the Administration's program would not meet the test of the Federal Courts. A former student of Dr. Maggs, now a State em-

ployee, was produced to testify before lawmakers that the professor once had an assistant who was a Communist. A rumor was spread to the effect that he defended the character of Junius Scales, a convicted Communist.

The former student's testimony and the rumor have been discredited. That is not as important as their launching.

The tactic used against Dr. Maggs was pure mccarthyism—guilt by association. Purpose behind it was as shameful as anything to come from the national hate camps—to silence an opposition voice because it is articulate. Raleigh needs no more of this.