

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. Wherever 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.

Tarheel Writing: Rich and Varied Fare

A wonderful service to the people of the state has been provided by the University of North Carolina Press which has published a booklet listing "One Hundred Outstanding Books About North Carolina."

Richard Walser and Hugh T. Lefler, who compiled the list, have chosen volumes from many publishers in the fields of history, biography and letters, folklore, fiction and short stories, drama, poetry, books for boys and girls and others. The list includes only volumes in print and available through book stores. It is being sent to some 20,000 Tarheels and is available free upon request to Box 510, Chapel Hill.

The subject of the list is described by the Press as: "North Carolina past and present, North Carolina as it appears in fiction and in fact, North Carolina as a physical reality and a state of mind on a spiritual striving, North Carolina in all its variety. . ."

It is interesting, in going over the list, to

see what a remarkable number of the writers have some connection with the Sandhills, by having lived here, having visited here or through other associations. Many of these books have been reviewed or otherwise noted in The Pilot at various times.

Some of the books are known to almost any literate person. Others, not so well known, promise many hours of good reading to everyone interested in the state and its people.

The book list strongly re-emphasizes something that is already well recognized: the richness, the variety, the sheer interest and enthusiasm of North Carolina writing.

So much writing can only mean that the intellectual and spiritual climate, or whatever you might call the pervading atmosphere that inspires and encourages such work, is favorable for creative endeavor in this state. This is a something of which all North Carolinians can be proud.

The Klan Maligancy Can't Be Ignored

According to newspaper accounts, a large part of the crowd of 400 to 500 persons who attended a Ku Klux Klan rally in Robeson County last week were "curiosity seekers"—yet it is an ominous sign, in our opinion, when the absurdly garbed leaders of this thoroughly discredited organization can draw anywhere near that many Tarheels to any kind of a show they undertake to stage.

The recent meeting, we are informed, stressed the alleged religious interest of the organization, producing as one of the speakers "our minister." Yet, since the leopard cannot change its spots, the race issue was introduced in its most inflammatory "racial purity" aspect, while newspapers, as might be expected from an organization that fears the cold truth, were lambasted as "smear sheets."

As usual, the leaders of the group declined to reveal their names—an infallible sign, in any undertaking, that there is more monkey-business than legitimate effort in the project. Leaders of this new "non-violent" organiza-

tion may indeed not now be flogging hapless victims in the dead of night, but their orientation—the intolerance and hatred that is implicit in all their notions—inevitably leads to such incidents.

The Klan, new or old, is rooted in hatred and fear and it can sow no other seed. Its menace is not what happens at such meetings as the one last week but rather from the fires it fans in limited minds and frustrated personalities. Intimidation and violence are the result, once the seeds are sown.

How the meeting affected those 400 to 500 "curiosity seekers" is an unknown matter, but it is a safe assumption that the nonsense spoken at the Klan rally must have fallen on a few—and we'd guess more than a few—sympathetic ears.

What happens next remains to be seen, but no Klan rally, if only of a dozen persons, can be taken lightly by people of good will. A malignancy of whatever nature can't be ignored.

The Outlook Serves Its Community

On the occasion of its 60th anniversary, celebrated last week, the Pinehurst Outlook produced a 28-page special edition in which the progress of both the newspaper and its home community are interestingly recorded.

We congratulate the Outlook on its special edition—an undertaking that we know from experience to be a taxing task in any weekly shop.

All newspapers and all communities need and should have such milestone markers as this 60th anniversary edition. Both a newspaper and a town become so engrossed in the business of each day or week, so much concerned with daily events and problems, that they tend not to look at themselves in perspective.

It is startling, when there have been mark-

ed developments—as there have been in The Outlook and in Pinehurst—to realize the extent of progress and the changes wrought by the years.

A town and a newspaper without background and history have hardly any existence at all. It is only when their varied background and eventual history are recalled that we can see them in their full significance.

Such efforts as those made by the Outlook on the occasion of its anniversary are among the most important services a newspaper can perform for its community, because they interpret the town to its residents and to all who read the paper. Past years live again and those who know little or nothing of the town's history find themselves seeing their community with freshly informed and enlightened eyes.

Police Resignations Indicate Problem

As was brought out at the recent observance of Police Chief C. E. Newton's 25th year of law enforcement work in Southern Pines, this community has a notably good police department.

The department is modern in administration and technical equipment. Its chief is competent and is respected by officers of his own and other police departments. Yet—resignations by police officers are relatively frequent. Without checking the records for accuracy, we'd say such resignations have amounted to about eight in the past four years, an average of two per year. That seems high.

Some resignations may take place because an officer tires of police work, finding after several months in the job that he does not want to make it a career. The reason most often given by those who have resigned is that they can make more elsewhere, either as a member of another police department or in another occupation.

Despite the record of resignations, it is a fact that police service in Southern Pines is considerably more attractive than it was four years ago, both in salary and working hours. The council and manager have made sincere efforts to make improvements in all aspects of local law enforcement work. The department has good officers and a number with several years' service.

But apparently there is room for still more improvement.

Small town police work has for many years been one of the poorest paid occupations—and small towns everywhere have paid the penalty both in the quality of service they have received and in frequent turnover of personnel.

An unrealistic attitude toward law enforcement is almost a national failing, on the small town level. Contrast Great Britain's superb system of academy-trained constables and

officers who vie for the privilege of police service all over the nation through a tough course of instruction that approaches college work in its scholastic requirements. There is a totally different approach to the job over there. The result is that even a small town officer is wonderfully trained in a central national academy—and, moreover, is universally respected.

Small towns in the United States are coming around to a point of view that sees police departments as much more than a place to save money that is spent elsewhere in the municipal budget.

The improvements made in the Southern Pines police department are recognized and appreciated. But we urge the council not to stand still on continuing to raise salaries and standards and provide better working conditions. A police department that will hold men, through loyalty and incentive, over long periods of years, should be the aim. It should be possible here.

THEY'RE SAYING

Humor In The Campaign By LOUIS GRAVES In The Chapel Hill Weekly

It is my observation that the Democrats do better than the Republicans in the way of humor. Here is a remark that, for campaign humor, is surpassed by none I have heard or read in a long time. And before I quote it let me remind you that the opinion it reflects, the side it is on, has nothing to do with my admiration for it. The humor of it is all that I am extolling.

Thomas D'Alessandro, mayor of Baltimore, was speaking, and he said: "My great fear is that Sherman Adams will die and Eisenhower will become President."

"What'll I Do Now—Cackle Or Crow?"



Grains of Sand

Reported Raid

There's been a reported run on the store that is selling those paperweights we were talking about. The ones that are a hard block of lucite with the statue of a donkey—OR elephant—imbedded in it. Seems there's a rumor Ike may be going to Princeton to make a speech and the Tigers are getting ready for him.

Can't be outdone by Buckley Yaleites and a few rotten tomatoes.

Who'll Write This Play?

GRAINS views with an amused and sometimes rebellious eye the specializations and complications that form so dominating a factor in modern life: the involved rigmarole of the unswerving objective viewpoint, the kind of attitude in which people are called "personnel."

Among the driest of the dry "releases" that flood newspaper offices are the notations of Civil Service and Merit System jobs which are open over the state.

The esteemed Merit System—which has certainly been a good thing for the State, in that it fills hundreds of State jobs by examination rather than by political appointment—gives in a recent release a long list of occupations in which examinations are to be given (nursing, bacteriologist, sanitarian, psychologist etc.), concluding some 20 occupations with: bedding inspector, film serviceman, public health investigator and puppeteer.

A frivolous mind like that of GRAINS cannot but subject such a list to some exercise of fancy, and we find ourselves casting in our imagination a little play in which the characters are a Bedding Inspector, a Film Serviceman, a Public Health Investigator and a Puppeteer.

It might add interest to the drama to include in the cast a psychiatric social worker (also appearing on the job list) whose duty it would be to encourage a balanced and healthy outlook among the rest of the motley crew. It would be advisable for one of the cast to be female. Our choice for this role would be the puppeteer.

Fascinating? We invite readers to compose outlines of their own for a short play involving these characters. At least, we'll bet, the characters don't turn out to act like "personnel." They certainly don't in the attempts (which we shall permit to go unpublished) that we have made.

International Note

The British have a new garment to offer this year. They call it a "buffer-coat."

For wearing in the buffer zone, doubtless.

Two Races

Two Sandhills horses came in first in the races at Belmont Park last week Tuesday. But one of them was listed last.

Why? Because, though the horse came in, the rider didn't. This one was Mrs. Vernon G. Cady's Square Dance II, second to the favorite in the betting.

His rider flew off at the fourth jump when his mount dove through a brush hurdle. The horse kept his feet and ran the entire course, taking every jump along with the leaders and was first over the finish line, with the crowd cheering.

Only, the Cady's must have been pretty sick. The winner walked off with a cool \$11,925. (His rider stayed on.)

The one who won and did win was Mrs. L. P. Tate's Jean Baptiste, who has run here and won in the Stoneybrook race meet several times. But worse luck, this was a less valuable race: only \$2,925 to the winning Tates. Only!

Shall We Walk?

Then there's the one about the two fleas who had been to the theatre. Leaving, one said to the other, "Well, shall we walk—or take a dog?"

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VOCATIONAL vs. CULTURAL COURSES

What Is Task Of High Schools?

(From The Central Carolinian at Sanford)

We noted over the past week-end a report on a survey made among recent high school graduates who did not attend college. The object of this survey was of course to determine what these recent high school students felt were the strong and weak points of their high school training.

It was interesting that most of these young people in their early twenties felt that schools had been lacking in the realm of vocational-type training. All seemed to be of the opinion that they should have had access to more information which would have been of some definite value to them in the hard and tricky business of making a living.

Another report released recently took entirely a different tack on the problem of high school curriculum. More mature adults, questioned in this particular poll, felt that secondary schools needed to place even more emphasis on the so-called "cultural" subjects—languages, history, the arts, literature, etc.

Two Extremes

Here we have perhaps the two extremes. The youngster just out of high school with no hope or intention of going to college naturally wants to be able to get a top-paying job in a hurry. Many of them marry young, some even before they finish high school and they are quickly saddled with the responsibilities of a family. There is little wonder that these persons feel that their high school training should have given them better equipment for making a good living. A good living is their big need at that particular time in their lives.

On the other hand, the more mature, say the middle aged or older adult, has long since gone through the struggle to make a place for himself in the business world. By middle age or slightly thereafter these people have either reached a peak which gives them a very tidy income or they are doomed forever to whatever niche they happen to be occupying. At this point in their lives then, they are looking not so much for a way of making a living as they are for a way to enjoy living. And for some of them it has proved a difficult problem.

Face A Dilemma

The sad part of the whole dilemma is that many of these same young persons who are today bemoaning the sad deficiency of vocational training in the public schools will in a decade or so be protesting as loudly that they did not receive enough foundation in the more "cultural" subjects while they were in high school. Many of them will make a way for themselves to financial success but will receive little pleasure or enjoyment from their comfortable situation because they will never have gained the depth of appreciation for some of the things which make life really enjoyable.

Perhaps it's a little old fashioned in this day and time, but we still hold to the theory that there is much merit in the more classical studies which were required in schools a generation ago. There is of course the argument that a foreign language, say Latin, is of little use to any one studying it in school these days unless he intends to pursue scholarship throughout his lifetime. Perhaps that is true. There is also the classical argument in favor of the study of Latin—or mathematics—that the study of these subjects is excellent discipline. This argument has been scoffed at time and again. (We know, when we were toiling through conjugations and declensions we thought this was an awful poor route to discipline, or to anywhere for that matter.) But it is nevertheless a very worthwhile argument. Perhaps some of the folks who are bemoaning the absence of vocational training would be getting ahead a little faster if they were a little better able to discipline themselves, or to accept discipline

from others. There is, after all is said and done, still no easy route to success in the business world or in any career. And while the days of Horatio Alger seem gone forever, the precepts of hard work and honesty which were woven through his stories are still valid ones. The road to success can no longer be taken in tremendous strides as Alger's heroes trod it. It is a slower, more tedious journey. For that reason, if for no other, discipline and the latent ability to enjoy the finer things of life are actually more important today than they were years ago.

Vocational training is a wonderful thing, in moderation. But let's keep a close watch on our schools, lest they turn out secretaries who can't conduct an intelligent conversation or machinists who could never read a line of poetry. The few cents an hour more on their wages won't really be worth it to them in the long run. They'll be for the first to find it out and curse us for our failures.

FROM WALTER LIPPMAN'S COLUMN

WHY THE DEMOCRATIC UPSURGE?

The Democrats have in this century become the agents for bringing our public policy and institutions abreast of the changing times. There have been, as it were, two political cycles, each with a period of innovation followed by a period of correction and consolidation.

In the innovation phases the country has turned to the Democrats, as with Wilson and with Franklin Roosevelt. In the correcting and consolidating phase, the country has turned to the Republicans, as with Coolidge and Eisenhower.

There is substantial evidence, I believe, for thinking that for the third time in this century the country is coming into an innovating phase.

This is, I submit, the reason for the extraordinary upsurge of the Democrats at the grassroots. The new phase is caused once again by the country's need to bring its policies and measures abreast of the times.

'Old Plantation Mentality' Seen In Hodges Remarks

(From Chapel Hill News Leader)

The Greensboro Daily News speaks of a recent remark on the racial issue by Governor Hodges as a "faux pas."

But it was much worse than that.

It was a revelation of the Old Plantation mentality, which held Negroes (known only as servants) in some contempt.

When the Governor last spoke at Chapel Hill he was asked what his answer would be to those who criticized the absence of a Negro member on the Pearsall Committee. He said he had seriously considered such an appointment, but based on his "experience with Negroes," he didn't "think they could stand up under the pressure and get the job done."

What would the Governor say about the seven State-supported colleges and institutions which are headed by Negroes, and which are efficiently operated? What would he say about the

other commercial concerns who are solidly Negro in ownership and operation? What would he say about the thousands of Negro school teachers who are doing an effective work under all sorts of conditions?

Would he deem none of these fit to serve on a Pearsall or other committee, so that they could give the dominant white membership some needed information about Negro hopes and Negro points of view?

We don't consider these unjustified remarks by the Governor as malicious or intentionally contemptuous. They are merely old-fashioned and dated. They belong to an era now expiring.

If any more Pearsall or similar committees are to be appointed, they must, in fairness and in devotion to democratic teachings, contain Negroes because Negroes are citizens, because their rights are affected, and because they are human beings.