

# 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.

## Parking Meters For Southern Pines?

As we contemplate the question of parking meters—a subject about which a study is now being made at town hall, at the direction of the council—we long for the talents of a cartoonist.

The picture we see is that of the council, somewhat ill at ease, grouped around their table, while peering over the end of the table is a face, a smirking, confident face drawn in the form of a parking meter—with a little greedy mouth that can gobble pennies, nickles and dimes with unsatiated appetite.

From the expressions of the council, it would be apparent that they do not view their grinning visitor with unmitigated pleasure. From the expression of the parking meter and from a phrase or two that might form the caption of the cartoon, it would be apparent that the parking meter is smilingly confident of his eventual acceptance, as if to say: "You may not altogether like me now, but just wait, you'll change your mind. I know you have too many cars on your streets, I know enforcement of parking time regulations is a headache for all concerned and I know I can

bring in money, lots of it, if you give me the chance. You won't turn me down."

Well, we will see what the parking study produces. We do not like to approve or disapprove such a project without all the facts on hand. We are told that most towns have meters and most towns like them, once people get used to them.

We are told that parking meters will ease downtown parking troubles, will improve the morale of the police department and will confer various other benefits, direct and indirect, on the community.

It would seem that the easy informal downtown life of Southern Pines, with its traditional combination of business and socializing, may be out of harmony with the clicking of parking meters—but this is admittedly a sentimental view and this newspaper has not been notably sentimental about other changes in Southern Pines that appear inevitable if the town is to be operated efficiently and economically.

We would be pleased to hear the opinions of readers on the parking meter proposal.

## Crisis In School Discipline Problem

The agitation into which the town has been thrown by the high school situation is strong testimony of the keen interest that Southern Pines citizens take in their schools.

It has long been evident that this is a town which can be outdone by few others in devotion to its schools. Anything that affects the schools affects their earnest supporters, the people of Southern Pines, who gladly endure a large special tax supplement to make the schools here as fine as any of equal size in the state.

The situation that has the public so worked up is the result of a parent having had the high school principal arrested because of what is alleged to have been a physical assault on his son by the principal.

The facts of the matter will be given in court next week. Now, the facts that seem to lie behind and around the incident ask for public consideration. For they concern the over-all school picture.

Why, for instance, did this parent take such a drastic step, by-passing the school authorities? A part of the answer may be found in the general tone of the talk heard around town, now and for some time past.

This talk goes along these lines: "There's not enough discipline at the school. . . Kids get away with too much foolishness, or worse. . . The schedule is too full, especially with athletics. . . The teachers don't have time enough to do their work and handle the disciplinary problems or work with difficult students. . ." And so on.

The school seems to have suffered for several years from a certain rowdiness or "gang spirit"—and whatever penalties have been applied appear to have been largely ineffective, although the superintendent says the discipline problems are fewer this school year than formerly.

From all reports of the current crisis, the situation appears to have come about because of defiance of authority on the part of some students. To our mind, it is not the fact that a teacher may have lost his temper and acted too harshly that is the essence of this crisis. It is that boys of the age of those involved in these scrapes—juniors in high school, some of them—should be so rebellious and immature.

But here may be a key as to why the parent took the action of going outside the school authorities: he perhaps felt the situation has gone on too long and needed public airing in order to get it straightened out.

Another comment heard in the general talk about the school is: too much athletics. . . too much emphasis on the winning team. . . little done for the non-athletes (most of the boys said to have been involved in scrapes are not on teams).

This question of school athletics is a big subject, calling for much study, but this can be said: our high school principal is also the head coach, and a very successful one. Such double duty is often asked of a teacher, but is it a good plan?

Can a man carry such a heavy administrative and coaching load and also maintain the control and objectivity, the calm and judicious temperament needed to cope successfully with disciplinary problems, to study and understand the personalities and problems of his students, to lead his faculty? It would seem to be a super-human task in which at least one of the many jobs involved would be bound to suffer.

A statement issued early this week by the school board and appearing in today's Pilot indicates that the board is concerned about the situation at the high school, that it has been in touch with the main parties in the controversy and that an attempt was made to handle the matter at the school level and keep it out of court. The board's statement does not, however, give any indication of how the

board feels about the matter or what the board intends to do about it. This is regrettable.

If there is, as seems clear, a disciplinary problem at the school, lasting over several years, it is time that the school board helped to tackle it and that the public be informed as to what is being done and why. In the present case, it would seem that a man who has been retained by the board for six years in the honorable and responsible position of high school principal deserves some public indication that the board does or does not stand behind him, whether or not he has acted improperly as charged.

The thoughts outlined here are those that have been in many minds during the past week. The Pilot is not undertaking to pass judgment or try this case. While many persons have expressed regret that the matter was allowed to reach the court, it may be that subjecting the case to the consideration of a court that will call for all the evidence and render an objective judgment is the best thing that could happen, once the crisis had arisen.

What has happened at the school is very much the public's business. In its news columns The Pilot is attempting to present the facts as fairly and accurately as it can. In these editorial comments we are attempting to delve below the surface of the matter to stimulate public thought, to the end that what is best for the school and for all its students may be done.

We do not pretend to offer a solution. But a solution must be found. The schools can't do it all. Parents must play their part. And this is supremely a time for communication and sincere, humble cooperation between parents, school officials, faculty members and all citizens who are interested in the schools.

The well-being of the students, the effectiveness of the schools must be placed ahead of all other considerations.

### THEY'RE SAYING:

#### They Do Get Around

A few mornings ago a Connecticut villager about halfway between Hartford and Providence found a 900-pound bull moose in his garden. What's more, he did the modern thing and photographed it.

No doubt he was surprised. (Connecticut's suburbanite population has long exceeded its moose. Probably not as surprised, however, as was the woman living in the heart of St. Louis' million and a quarter metropolitan area who found a red fox peering into the bathroom of her second-floor apartment.

Wild animals do roam, in bunches and singly. Our own John Gould is authority for the tale that Maine's caribou herds left the state from one day to the next—just like that. And the history books back him up, more or less. As to why they left all at once we wouldn't risk public speculation. Forest rangers in New Mexico's Sangre de Cristo Mountains and in Idaho's Bitter Roots have exchanged notes on the same old battle-scarred grizzlies who make the 900-mile trek up and down the high ridges. (Grizzlies don't like crowds.)

Anyhow, all of them—moose, fox, caribou, and grizzlies—being Americans, like to get around, even if they have to do it without eight cylinders and power steering.

—Christian Science Monitor

### PAYING THE PRICE

"For anything worth having, one must pay the price; and the price is always work, patience, love, self-sacrifice—no paper currency, no promises to pay, but the gold of real service."

—John Burroughs

## "I Sure Hope You Know Where We're Going"



HUGH HAINES

### N. C. SYMPHONY DIRECTOR SAYS:

## The World Needs Good Music

Dr. Benjamin Swalin, director of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, has presented the argument for increased public interest in better music in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Symphony Orchestra is a joint venture of the State and the people of the State. Each year a subsidy of \$20,000 is paid by the State for maintenance of the orchestra. Remaining funds for its support come from memberships in the N. C. Symphony Society and from contract concerts which the symphony presents. Among such concerts is the one given annually in Southern Pines under auspices of the Sandhills Music Association.

The Pilot is printing Dr. Swalin's article in two parts, the first of which appears below.

During the fourth and fifth centuries, some of our forefathers probably ate human flesh. They lived in a world of savagery, violence, ignorance and superstition.

Although civilization has progressed on some fronts, the world is still chaotic. It is a world ridden with debt and wracked by war and destitution. It is a world in which there is an appalling increase of thought controls, racial conflicts and social dilemmas. Goya, the Spanish painter of the 19th century, caustically depicted civilization as one ass trying to teach another.

Tobacco, peanuts, fish, cotton, overalls, towels and cigarettes may be symbols of one kind of progress in North Carolina, but they are not ends in themselves. Things should never be ends in themselves. The emphasis should rather be on what happens between things; for we live in an era when explorations and discoveries change our material values swiftly and dynamically.

A physicist at the turn of the century was reputed to have stated that everything that was worth knowing in the realm of physics had already been discovered. Little did he realize that during the first half of this century the lives of people all over the world would be revolutionized by momentous discoveries in physics, chemistry, medicine and other fields.

### Mind's Potential

I am impressed by the fact that the potentialities of the human mind seem virtually illimitable. Man flies above the clouds in an airplane; he goes below the sea in a submarine; he unfolds the secrets of atomic energy; and he is contemplating going to Mars.

Swift, in the 18th century, said that men are often accused of not knowing their weaknesses, but comparatively few of them know their own strengths. It is in men, as in soils, that there is often a vein of gold that they know not of. Fostick defined democracy as the conviction that extraordinary things may come from ordinary people.

Cultural values are permanent. A specific example may be observed in the case of Spain and Mexico and South America. Spain lost its political supremacy in Mexico in 1821 and it also lost its South American possessions during the same century; nevertheless the Spanish culture, today, through its language, art and customs, pervades the life of virtually every Mexican school child and of millions of school children in South America. A similar case may be observed in the Portuguese influence in Brazil, the French-British influence in Canada, and, for that matter, the English influence in the United States.

### Vulgar Music

Much of the music that we hear today is vulgar and banal. The public is bombarded with frequent repetitions of this low-grade music over juke boxes un-

til a kind of public indifference sets in, and it therefore becomes requisite to strut forth with a new model. As in the fashion world, the public is then told that it "likes" this stuff and, what is even more objectionable, this fusillade of mediocrity makes its way into foreign lands as representative of American culture and taste. I submit that this is not worthy of America.

I should like to raise the question as to whether or not our so-called "likes" are always legitimate and whether or not they are so important. The answer is: only if those "likes" are a result of independent thinking and reflection on the part of the individual. A child "likes" candy; but is it to be given candy until it becomes ill?

Even a well-educated person may be heard to remark about the arts, "I don't know anything about them; but I know what I like." Does he make similar pronouncements about law, medicine and mathematics? One can bear with an individual for not comprehending a masterpiece, for, after all, probably none of us can grasp the full meaning; but one cannot condone an attitude that excludes greater insight.

### PROGRESS ENDS PLEASANT CUSTOM

## Curing Leaf By Wood Fire Once Was Social Occasion

(E. A. Resch in The Chatham News)

I suppose you have to pay some penalties for progress.

A feature of the old days when tobacco was cured with wood burners instead of oil furnaces was the "chicken stew" held in front of the tobacco barn.

Necessity mothered this very enjoyable social occasion. Because of the danger of fire it was necessary for one or more people to remain at the barn site throughout the curing process. It was nothing unusual to see a couple of iron beds, ready for use, right outside the barn door. Watchers of the curing tobacco didn't leave for meals. Meals were brought to them and it wasn't long before the "chicken stew" came into being with friends and relatives being invited.

### Didn't Leave Barn

In early afternoon the lady of the house would throw two or more big, fat hens into the large pot. She'd add seasoning as she went about other chores. The main thing was to get the hens to stewin'.

People would begin to gather about dark. Wood smoke and the smell of stewin' chickens was enough to whet anybody's appetite.

If you cared about looking into the big, black pot you would notice that the chicken meat had cooked off the bone; that rich, fat broth, to which butter had been added, was ready for the final step—adding either dumpings or plain, store bought loaf bread.

### Kept Going Back

With the fire lighting up the surroundings, the line would form and the stew served. Sometimes there were other dishes but usually the stew was it. You ate and kept going back for more. Finally, when you were full to the eye-poppin' stage, you would either stretch out on the ground or sit down, with a tree as a prop.

If there were youngsters present you would be sure that they would be, along with their parents, the first to leave.

Those remaining would sit up with the guardian of the tobacco barn, swapping yarns, engaging in small talk.

## The Public Speaking

### Regarding Spiritual Healing

To The Editor: An open letter to the clergy regarding spiritual healing:

Regardless of color, caste or creed of mankind, let us hope and pray and determine that, if it be in our power, we shall succeed in reaching and touching all of them, so that they, too, may find that assurance which they lack and be brought to a realization of those eternal truths which provide a refuge for all mankind; that they may be able to be aware of that power of the spirit, regenerating in its influence, revitalizing in its force, comforting in its presence, ennobling in its purpose; so that they, too, in time, may become its instruments and help to spread its light wider and wider throughout the world.

It is planned that the "psychic phenomena of spiritual healing" and the truths of "psychic phenomena" in all its phases, shall spread not through "one type" instrument, but permeate through tens of thousands of instruments all over our world of matter. You must remember that so long as the power of the spirit has been at work, man has been on the march. He now begins to claim his heritage, so long denied him—his "spiritual" freedom. These ideas, these urges, these impulses are so potent that they cannot and will not, ever again, be placed in the hands of ecclesiastical temperament, because—all over our world these "renewed" ideas are bestirring millions who yearn and claim and demand the liberty of the spirit, of the mind, and of the body.

That is how our New World will come into fulfillment. Thrones will topple, rulers will fade away, tyrants and dictators will disappear. Man will gradually come into his own, and his spirit will shine triumphant in his life everywhere.

That is what will be achieved by the surging, rising impulses of the spirit that are now at work in their great process of regeneration. That is why we should never despair, for we should see the onward march of the human spirit towards the goal of its liberation from us, the clergy, who have held it in bondage to "The letter that killeth" for much too long!

And now let us pause to remember the many, regardless of creed, who require our "healing service"; let us remember, regardless of creed, the countless numbers whose hearts are filled with a leaden sorrow and who yearn greatly for some "spiritual" truth in the hour of their dismal weariness. Let us strive to help all those who come within the radius of our influence, to bring them a measure of alleviation, to transform their sadness into hope, to cheer them in their loneliness, to assure them that life is not finished, AND NEVER WILL BE.

Hence, let us gather strength from that divine reservoir filled with infinite power: Let us seek to exercise ourselves that we become living "healing instruments" of that power which created us, fashioned us in its own divine image and filled us with a part of its divinity. And let us always be conscious that we are its instruments, and know that with faithfulness, service and fidelity to that trust which is laid upon us, we can go forward fearing nothing, knowing that our difficulties will melt away as shadows before the glory of the sun.

REV. TOM O'NEIL  
Southern Pines

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