

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.

New Church In A Church-Minded Town

The Pilot congratulates members of the new Southern Pines Methodist Church on the dedication of their new church building on Midland Road. For any town, the opening of a new church building is a major event—especially when the congregation—the organization itself—is little more than two years old.

When the local Methodist Church was formally organized more than a year ago, we noted that it is the privilege of few persons in this day and time to take part in such a ceremony. Somehow, it seems, our ancestors did that for us, in most cases, and there must be a special pleasure in becoming, as have the Methodists of Southern Pines, founding fathers.

The new Southern Pines church joins a fine group of active churches here—congregations that are growing and, it appears to

us, are claiming continually greater loyalty from their members, as well as gaining new members. This picture is part of a nationwide renewal of interest in religion.

Towns and cities lately have become self-conscious under the pressure of drives to attract new industry and otherwise expand their economies for the mutual benefit of all their residents. Not to be neglected, it seems to us, in those lists of qualities that make for good living and make a town attractive to business and industry, is what the community has to offer in the way of religious life.

From this viewpoint, Southern Pines appears outstanding—varied denominations, able pastors and widespread church membership. The new Methodist Church has become an important element in a town that can be proud of its churches and the part they play in community life.

Salk Vaccine: Key To Ending Polio

The 1957 March of Dimes begins this month with the brightest outlook it has yet enjoyed toward conquest of the scourge of polio.

We are cautioned, and rightly so, that the battle is not yet won. The generosity of the American people—that generosity that has saved countless lives, has relieved a vast amount of suffering and has provided in the Salk vaccine a key to an eventual victory over polio—must still be called on for continuing support of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. We urge our readers to continue to provide this support, as residents of this area have done throughout the history of the March of Dimes.

Coincident with opening of the polio drive comes an appeal from Governor Hodges that residents of this state take advantage of availability of the Salk vaccine in time for protection against next summer's danger period of the disease. There are now ample vaccine supplies—free from county health departments or at a reasonable cost through private physicians.

The Governor cites impressive figures to show that Salk vaccine has been effective in cutting polio incidence in this state and that those who have been given the vaccine—

even one or two of the recommended three shots—have benefited from the protection.

But it is shocking to read in the Governor's report that only 51.5 per cent of the eligible persons in North Carolina have had one dose of the vaccine, 42 per cent two doses and 11.8 per cent, all three shots.

It is not clear from the report whether these figures are taking into consideration only the shots given by public health agencies or whether the figures also include that proportion of the population that has been treated by private physicians.

We have no way of telling just what the picture is in Moore County. From talking with physicians, public health workers and school officials, our guess is that Moore County may stand above the state average in percentage of eligible persons receiving the shots. Yet a good many children and young people apparently are still unprotected in this county.

As the March of Dimes puts the subject of polio before us—the still very real threat to youngsters, the continuing assistance to former victims and the outlook of hope for the future—we urge parents who have not yet planned protection for their children to let them have the vaccine now, from either public or private sources.

Scenic Beauty Vital In Road Planning

In all the talk of billions to be spent for highways in the United States within the next four years, much has been said about safety and other characteristics of these "super" roads, points out The Charlotte Observer, but next to nothing has been said about making the highways beautiful.

This is a subject that is close to the hearts of many persons in the Sandhills. The late Struthers Burt, distinguished novelist and poet who lived at Southern Pines for many years, was an ardent worker for roadside beautification and elimination of unsightly signs and billboards. And now many residents of Southern Pines are mindful of the No. 1 highway by-pass, which is nearing completion, and are interested in keeping the by-pass clear of signs and other unsightly structures.

Some of the finest roads built in the country during recent years, the Observer notes, have become "merely strips of pavement between rows of billboards."

An encouraging development in the outlook for Tarheel road beautification is the following portion of the report by the seven-man group who studied reorganization of the State Highway Commission:

"One other matter concerns us that is closely akin to the problem of acquisition of adequate right-of-way: the problem of billboards which mar the scenic beauty of the new highways, and the unattractive development of gas stations, stores, automobile graveyards and other commercial establishments which grow up along the highways and intersections.

"We believe that adequate precautions should be taken to insure the maximum degree of scenic roadside development. This may be done by acquiring larger rights-of-way, by obtaining scenic easements in bordering privately-owned land which forever prevent the erection of signs and billboards on that land, and through zoning laws and other regulatory measures."

In accordance with a recommendation of the Southern Pines zoning board, the town council has designated that portion of the No. 1 highway by-pass that is within the city limits as a residential zone—although this ruling is subject to change in the future, as are all zoning commitments.

The residential zone prohibits the erection of signs, except for special purposes and in very small sizes—or for some purpose for which a special permission is required such

as the sign on the corner of May St. and Massachusetts Ave., indicating the location of the USAF Air Ground Operations School.

For this foresight, the people of Southern Pines should be grateful to the zoning board and the council.

We know of no restrictions on signs and structures along those portions of the by-pass outside the town limits. Since right of way agreements for this property have been completed, it is likely that changes can't be made in them now to help insure the scenic qualities of the by-pass which, incidentally, are considerable.

We can only voice the hope that owners of this property bordering the by-pass will exercise voluntary control of the purposes for which they lease or sell their land, thereby helping to beautify this very important entrance or gateway to Southern Pines for travelers in the future.

And, of course, we join with the Observer in the conviction that, on the level of state and national control over new highway projects, more highways could stay undefined, if help is given from Raleigh and Washington.

Sandhills Surprises

Stay out of the Sandhills if you don't like changeable weather.

As it happens, we like it. We can't imagine anything more boring than to know that each day the sun will shine or that it will be freezing cold or blazing hot—the same thing, day after day.

Sandhills weather is full of surprises. Winter is not necessarily plain Winter. It may provide a day, here and there, that is just like Spring, or like Fall. And some, of course, that are just like Winter, too.

Sometimes the changes are rapid and in defiance of all portents. Weather keeps you guessing, hereabouts. That's fun.

The other night, for instance: it had been a cold day; the night promised to be even colder. A good-night look out the front door disclosed the glittering stars of Winter—Orion, as Robert Frost put it, "kicking his leg over the mountains." (For "mountains," read "Weymouth Heights.")

In the morning, it was sparkling outside and, to judge by looking out, very cold.

We bundled up, somewhat grudgingly, stepped out and discovered the air was like Spring: mild, sweet and sun-warmed.

What could be nicer? And such weather surprises are always happening, one way or another, in the Sandhills.

VIOLENCE FLARED IN SPITE OF EFFORTS BY PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

Clinton's Experience Is Lesson To Towns Of South

In a recent editorial, The Pilot commented on an Associated Press feature story from Louisville, Ky., pointing out that interracial cooperation and a long history of preparatory work by press and local government had made possible there a remarkably smooth and successful racial integration of the city's public schools.

Clinton, Tenn., a community where attempts at school integration resulted in riots, closing the schools and, most recently, arrest of segregationist racial agitators on contempt of court charges, has been cited as a community where school integration failed. The assumption has been that people there were not properly prepared for the change.

Clinton is a town much more comparable to the small towns and cities of this Sandhills area than is Louisville. So it may be of particular local interest to read what Clinton's weekly newspaper editor and publisher, Horace V. Wells, Jr., wrote to fellow newspaper owners in Tennessee in a private memorandum that was published recently in The American Press, a newspaper trade magazine.

Difficulties arose in Clinton, it seems, despite a good deal of interracial cooperation and a strong effort by the newspaper to explain and comment on the integration order.

There is a lesson for all small Southern towns in Mr. Wells' analysis of what happened in Clinton where he, as newspaper editor, was personally and directly involved.

The editor's comments follow, in part:

"When and if your town is ordered to integrate one or more of its schools (and it will likely happen some day) you may be wondering what you should do as a responsible citizen who has always upheld law and order.

"While I am sure Clinton is not like your town and you may have no problem on this subject, there are some thoughts I would like to pass along to you.

"First, we thought we had the situation whipped when we won our lawsuit. Then the Supreme Court of the United States pulled the rug out from under us (all of us) with its new version of 'equal rights'. We had more than a year to get ready, but we moved rather slowly.

Committee Formed

"The Board of Education, upon whose shoulders the responsibility fell for working out the problem since it was under a Federal Court Order to act, formed a county-wide committee made up of the principals of all schools, white and Negro, and of all Parent-Teacher Association presidents, also white and Negro.

"This group was concerned most with Clinton High School, although the Court Order applies to all Anderson County High Schools (and there are two others outside of Oak Ridge). So it was decided to prepare the people of all feeder schools, the students at Clinton High School and their

parents.

"In the meanwhile this newspaper did what it could to bring the people up to date on what was happening, and to guide them in realizing that we had fought against integration, we had lost our Court fight, and as law abiding citizens it was up to us to follow the Court order. (There are some of you who do not agree—but to me a law is a law, until it is repealed, and I can't see it any other way.)

No Controversy

"How well we succeeded is shown by the fact that there was absolutely no public controversy whatever.

"In early August, with registration soon to be upon us, the school people asked us to play up the story about Negro students registering for the Clinton High School. We did—a main story under a black two-column head—in which we also reprinted in full the Federal Court Order. That was Aug. 9. And still there was no reaction.

"On Aug. 20 the students registered, both white and Negro, and still no reaction.

"On Aug. 27 classes started and total enrollment went to 803 on Aug. 28 as compared with 776 last year. For two days both races attended classes together.

"Then John Kasper, executive

secretary of the White Citizens Council from Washington, came in and with his hate-arousing, racist speeches he brought on the situation you have read about in recent weeks. Everything we had done was undone in almost a twinkling of an eye.

"Ever since we have been asking ourselves (and the 125 newspapermen who were here covering the story have been asking us) wherein did we fail.

Troublemaker Group

"Look at your community and see if it is like ours. Do you have a group of people who not only do not read your newspaper, but just don't read any newspaper? Aren't these the same people who do not attend P-TA meetings? Don't you find that most of them have no connection with the high school in that they have no children going there, and they did not go themselves? Oh, yes, this is a small group, but if you'll look you'll find them, and when there is any kind of trouble they'll be right there!

"Well, this is the group of people we failed to reach—and we still don't know how to reach them.

"Our second failure was our lack of a sufficient group of law enforcement officers to handle a large crowd. Sure we had five policemen, and the sheriff had

three or four deputies available—but confronted with more than 1,000 (and some estimated as high as 2,000) people, what can this handful of men do? Nothing.

Few Local People

"Well, after one big night in which they literally smashed passing cars, which couldn't pass the mob of people covering the highway, and threatened to dynamite the home of the mayor and others (including you know whose), they all returned Saturday for an even bigger whingding! And they were here, too—from your town, and just about every other town within driving distance; out of the mountains and the cities. They were ready to howl—and we are not alone in this belief—not a handful of them were local people!

"While we know the newspaper, the radio and TV boys and their cameramen did a big job of covering the news, you can imagine what a mob of 125 newspapermen and cameramen can do to a small-town community not used to such high pressure reporting! They didn't want the bright TV lights in their faces and they didn't like the flash bulbs either. And when one newsman thought he saw trouble, the others sensed it too, so you had scores of men madly dashing about—and you can imagine that they found trouble.

Some Consolation

"While we don't know the answer to that one, either, you can have the consolation that you at least won't be the first town in Tennessee to have its public school integrated.

"What I have said may not be of any help, but at least you know what we were up against; and should it happen to you (and we pray it won't) we surely can sympathize."

"Hey! You Can't Restrict My Personal Liberty"



The Public Speaking

Local Man Challenges Scarne On Mediumship

To The Editor:

The review by "VAD" of the book "The Amazing World Of John Scarne" was very well done. I noticed in particular that this reviewer did not stick his/her neck out with personal views except to tread softly around, "The book has so many personal reminiscences that to cite any one of them would not give you the entire picture—" (?)

Anyway, this reviewer makes it clear that Scarne says he has absolute proof that all spiritual mediums and those claiming the powers of extra-sensory perception and psycho-kinesis are all fakes. Now it strikes me as very strange that he did not devote even one teenie weenie little paragraph (and it is a thick book) to proving it. But enough of this bickering; let's get down to some proven facts.

In the findings of Archbishop Lang's Committee on Spiritualism and the truths of psychic phenomena, The Church Of England makes these statements:

1. "It is strongly urged that if we do not accept the evidence for modern psychical happenings, we should not, apart from long tradition, accept the Gospel records either."

2. "We should add that whatever be the value of this confirmation of the truth of religion, spiritualism does not seem to

have added anything except perhaps a practical emphasis to our understanding of those truths."

3. "It is often urged as of great significance that spiritualism in many respects re-affirms the highest convictions of religious people, and that it has brought many to a new assurance of the truth of teaching which ceased to have any meaning to them."

Well now Mr. Scarne, would you say that The Church Of England is trying to defraud the people back into its vast empty spaces by making these state-

ments? (The Archbishop's committee sat with various "mediums" for 20 solid years.) And you—?

Oh, yes—I issued a challenge to Scarne to prove the facts of mediumship, even offered to forfeit five thousand dollars (I don't bet) if survival after death of the body could not be factually proven, not only to him, but to a majority of any other people he cared to bring with him, if the major press were invited and would print the story in full. The offer was made to Milton Rubin, publicity agent, whose address is the R. K. O. Bldg., Rockefeller Center, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Rubin's answer was that Mr. Scarne wouldn't bother for that small amount. Understand—it wasn't a bet, it was to be a forfeit if I did not come through with the terms of the agreement. Frankly, it isn't the money involved at all. If someone is so all-fired-up with disproving something, and he starts tossing names around like "fraud," "humbug," "fake" etc., he should be glad to go out of his way just a little bit to make it stick, but do you know, friends—people who call names always run for a hole when they are challenged, and Scarne must be afraid that he can't make his "name calling" stick. Wan'na bet?

REV. TOM O'NEIL
Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

Too Late

The Pilot's advertising manager, Clyde Council, is our joke-man. In his rambles around this area, he picks up the latest funny stories and brightens the lives of us office slaves by relating them on his return.

Recently, Clyde came in with one about a drunk who drove in a lane to a one-way street in a strange town—headed, of course, in the wrong direction.

"Where do you think you're going, buddy?" growled a policeman who soon stopped him. Peering waveringly around and ahead, the drunk innocently replied: "I don't know, but it looks as if I'm too late. Everybody's coming back."

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