

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.

Aberdeen Plant Sale: New Lease On Life

Announcement of sale of the Amerotron plant at Aberdeen to A. & M. Karagheusian, Inc., one of the nation's outstanding carpet manufacturers, has given the Sandhills and this entire area a new lease on life.

There were few faces that were not brighter after publication of this great news. In Aberdeen, where effects of the Amerotron shutdown last year were most deeply and widely felt, the atmosphere is jubilant. There is not a town in Moore County—including Southern Pines—that will not be benefited by the big plant's reopening.

The past few months, during which the Amerotron payroll ceased and its building stood idle, have shown this area how important industry is becoming in its economy. It was a painful lesson—but it has been well

learned. The Sandhills is now geared to industry. There is no doubt about it.

That, we say, is good. A normal pattern of development is good, in whatever field of human endeavor. And the normal pattern—the workable, creative and economically sound pattern—of American life at this time has a base of productive industry.

The Pilot welcomes the Karagheusian company and recognizes with gratitude the efforts of those persons who were influential in bringing the firm to Aberdeen: Highway Commissioner Forrest Lockey, W. P. Saunders, director of the State Department of Conservation and Development, and others.

We have every confidence that the firm to locate here will find its association with this area pleasant and profitable in a multitude of ways.

Members Should Back Chamber of Commerce

Directors of the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce are understandably disheartened by the response accorded a meeting held last week to discuss the organization's plans for the coming year.

As reported to The Pilot, 17 persons were at the meeting, including nine members of the board of directors. Not only had the gathering been well publicized in the usual channels, but the directors had made more than 150 telephone calls on the day of the meeting, personally notifying all members. In addition, all interested citizens, members or not, were invited in public announcements to attend. Suggestions of members and citizens, bearing on the Chamber's carefully prepared program to promote the economic prosperity

of Southern Pines, would be welcome, it was announced.

We find the Chamber of Commerce program interesting and challenging—especially proposed efforts to get people to live here who do not necessarily have to make this town their home, people who travel in their business or have offices or businesses elsewhere but still could live here. In fact, such a group already makes up a significant segment of the residential population of Southern Pines—a group from which local businesses benefit daily.

There can be no successful Chamber of Commerce, here or anywhere else, unless members contribute not only their annual dues payments but also their energy, time, thoughts and suggestions.

Town Election: Opportunity For Service

As this is written early this week, no candidate for the town council had filed—and the April 8 deadline for filing is fast approaching.

We hope that this does not mean there will be a slackening of interest in the town election this year. We recall with pride the election two years ago when there were 15 candidates for the five council posts, including two women. That is a show of civic interest of which any community this size could be proud—and we, have heard observers from other towns, where elections are generally apathetic or routine, speak admiringly and even enviously of what happened here two years ago.

Since the council-manager form of government was adopted here four years ago, the town has been served by councils chosen in elections that aroused much interest—councils that have been energetic and representative of various interests. These officials have revamped the policies and procedures of lo-

cal government at a pace that sometimes may have outstripped public understanding and acceptance, but that have vindicated themselves in provable efficiencies, tax reduction and general good government. It has, for the interested citizen who followed this progress, been an exciting four years in municipal operations. But, let it be emphasized, much remains to be done, both in consolidating the innovations of the past four years and continuing the progressive efforts that have characterized the past two administrations.

Though it is likely too early in the filing period to tell how much interest there will be in this year's town election, we remind citizens at this time that community service through elective office is one of the top responsibilities of citizenship. We urge all citizens who feel that they could contribute a measure of their talents and energy to the community not to hold back from making that fact known by filing for election to a seat on the town council.

'Doctor's Day' Honors Nation's Physicians

In commenting on the burgeoning development of science, we once expressed a wish that this modern world in which we live might have penicillin but not the atomic bomb. And we went on to make more comparisons of ways in which science has made life contrastingly both more secure and more precarious.

But there is one field of scientific endeavor for which there is almost universal approval. This is the field of medicine whose developments in the past century have removed from mankind a burden of pain and tribulation such as we can now hardly imagine.

Even those of us who, perhaps too sentimentally, now and then feel that people would be happier without high-powered automobiles, television and other appurtenances of modern life, do not hesitate to call a doctor when in physical distress and to accept the miraculous potions and treatments that are making lives much longer and pleasanter

than lives used to be.

All of us, then, will not find it difficult to join millions of other Americans in honoring the nation's physicians on Saturday, March 30, which is known as "Doctor's Day."

The physicians of Moore County will, on Saturday, be wearing red carnations presented to them by the ladies of the Moore County Medical Auxiliary—a gesture that has been customary for some years now, in recognition of this special day.

Moore County, with its large number of physicians and its exceptional hospital facilities should have no hesitancy in recognizing on Saturday the blessing of having good medical care constantly available.

While this, like other blessings, tends to be taken for granted, Doctor's Day is a good time to let our physicians know that we are grateful for their efforts in our behalf and for the efforts of medical men everywhere in helping to alleviate mankind's ancient burden of sickness and pain.

Offering New Possibilities Of Hope

The accidental juxtaposition of two stories on the front page of a recent Pilot could be interpreted as significant.

One of the stories reported organization of the Moore County Mental Health Association. The other related the occurrence and the background of a tragic event: the attempted suicide of an unemployed man with a large family—a man who reportedly sought work vigorously, but was too proud to accept private or public financial assistance, and whose frustration ended in an attempt to take his own life.

What is the connection between the two stories? Primarily, it seems to us, it is imaginative and prophetic: if the association fulfills its aims, it will be influential in helping establish clinic facilities, on some basis that would remain to be worked out, that could offer to distressed persons the help that they desperately need in understanding themselves and meeting the predicaments in which their unhappy fates have cast them.

The influence of such an organization as

the Mental Health Association extends outward from it in planned and unplanned ways. A community—and in this case we are thinking of all of Moore County—in which a number of influential and interested persons are thinking of social problems of all kinds in terms of mental health will be a community that becomes better balanced and more healthy mentally in seen and unseen ways. The influence, we are certain, is felt over the years, whether or not there is such a specific development as a clinic.

When the goal of a clinic is achieved, the people of such an area are, seemingly without having been conscious of the change, prepared to accept the clinic and, most important, to use it. The problem is not as simple as that, yet we are sure that such forces are at work. The ripples move outward from the source to remote reaches of the social structure.

People who need mental help must gradually come to learn that they are not at a dead end, that there are possibilities of hope.

"Gee, It's A Nice Picture—I Hope It Works"



Nation's Biggest Health Problem

There is mounting interest in the fast-growing movement which, from state headquarters in the Education Building at Raleigh, is spreading through a number of North Carolina towns and counties to help meet community needs in the field of mental health. Among local groups already flourishing are those of Alamance, Burke, Cumberland, Forsyth, Guilford, Haywood, Pitt, Rowan and Wake counties, also in Charlotte. Education and research are the primary and initial objectives, with practical help such as the setting up of community clinics among the eventual ambitions.

Moore Joins List

Moore County has joined the list of those with mental health associations, with formation of a county-wide group—headed by

Dr. Malcolm Kemp of Southern Pines and Pinebluff—here recently. The new association has been carefully organized and is sponsored by various county officials, civic organizations, physicians, lawyers, ministers and other interested persons.

Figures Show Need

The need for such an organization, strong at all levels—national, State and local—is shown by figures which prove mental illness to be the biggest health problem in the country today.

Of the total hospital population, 54 per cent are in mental hospitals. One out of every 10 persons will at some time be hospitalized for mental illness. One out of four families will at some time have a member in a mental hospital. In the past 10 years, while the population of

the country as a whole has been increasing by 20 per cent, the number of patients in mental hospitals has increased by almost 44 per cent.

New Understanding

Yet mental illness is still a subject with which the average layman is on unfamiliar terms, lacking comprehension as to its causes and effects. Days when "crazy people" were penalized and brutalized like common criminals have gone. There is new understanding and a desire for more. Recognizing mental and emotional ills as sickness like any other, with a good recovery rate if properly understood and treated, is part of the battle now being waged under capable leadership, with organization and public education as its major weapons.

Why Should We Penalize The Innocent Child?

Like counterfeit coin, bills to deny public assistance to North Carolina's illegitimate children seem to keep turning up in Raleigh. They have been sighted on the legislative landscape during ten consecutive sessions, providing many a statesman with the opportunity to deplore sin and extol virtue to his heart's content.

Reason has always prevailed, however, and the measures have been mercifully put to sleep.

Rep. Speight of Bertie County is not a man to be sidetracked by reason in this matter. He has again burdened the General Assembly with a bill cutting off welfare aid to illegitimate children when the mother "persists" in having babies out of wedlock. The present system, he says, is "raising a stink all over North Carolina" and amounts to "stat-supported house prostitution."

The bad-penny aspects of his punitive measure are all too ob-

vious. In dealing with the subject of morality, Rep Speight has managed to produce a bill which in itself has no moral legitimacy.

Such a statute would, in effect, punish an innocent child for the transgressions of the mother.

Need is the sole basis of qualification for eligibility to receive public assistance funds. The legitimacy of a child has nothing to do with it. That is precisely the way it should be.

Furthermore, if this principle is junked, North Carolina would risk losing all federal funds for aid to dependent children. In the past, Uncle Sam's share in this program has amounted to about 80 per cent.

Under Control

If Rep. Speight would rummage around in his own memory he might recall a subcommittee report adopted by the House Welfare Committee in May 1955 noting that "there is no relation-

ship" between the aid to dependent children program and the number of illegitimate births in North Carolina. The group also said it "found that few children are born out of wedlock after a mother once begins to receive aid to dependent children."

Dr. Ellen Winston, head of the State Department of Public Welfare, assured the House Judiciary Committee this week that North Carolina's illegitimacy record is nowhere near as dark as many other areas of the U. S. and that "we have the situation under control."

Rather than cut needy illegitimate children off with no support, the General Assembly would serve the cause of humanity better by allowing the appointment of guardians for their care in extreme cases. A needy child is a needy child. It is made no less needy by virtue of its illegitimate birth.

—The Charlotte News

Working On Roads Was Citizen's Duty Half Century Ago

(By W. E. H. in Sanford Herald)

The maze of good roads existent in North Carolina is in marked contrast to the few which existed no farther back than 1915, when Locke Craig, then chairman of the state's first road commission, called out all able-bodied men in the state to work for two days on roads in their localities with spades and shovels.

There are still folks around who remember the days when it was state law that every able-bodied man give several days work a year on the roads, under direction of precinct road supervisors. This practice was discontinued about 1913, and except for Locke Craig's 1915 call, road building and maintenance have been a county and state tax responsibility since that time.

In Early Times

As far back as 1720, when there were no roads except Indian trading trails and paths, cit-

izens annually gave several days of labor to build and maintain roads. This early road building was by very primitive methods. Little more could be done by the small number of people available than to cut back the trees and brush to widen a trail, remove obstructions to carriages and horsemen, and permit the sun to aid in keeping some of it reasonably dry. As more and more people moved into the state, finding the land adjacent to rivers and creeks (which were the first "roads") taken up, they had to move farther into the forests.

They responded cheerfully and built roads of a sort, also some bridges, and even laid causeways over the marshes.

A slow evolutionary process of public roads was growing prior to and for 50 years after the Revolution, and the board of justices of the peace in each precinct was responsible for the appointment of supervisors and for enforce-

ment of the law requiring all able bodied men to work on the roads.

Plank Roads

Prior to the Civil War, plank roads were built in many parts of the state, some with tax money, most through stock sales. In 1879, the modern movement for good roads started in Mecklenburg county with a county road tax of 7c to 20c on each \$100 valuation, plus a labor assessment of four days each year by all able-bodied males between 18 and 45. Other counties followed suit. The pattern of substantial tax money for roads was formed; rural free mail delivery, started in 1896, intensified the better roads improvement and the advent of automobiles speeded it up.

There have been no labor assessments for 44 years, but up to then working on the roads was as much a citizen's duty as paying taxes and serving on juries.

Grains of Sand

GRAINS presents herewith a challenge for detectives in the field of local history; an article or editorial about Manly—that esteemed, if small, community that adjoins Southern Pines on the north. We'd like to know when it was written and anything else of interest about the period which it describes.

The item comes from a yellowed newspaper clipping brought to The Pilot by P. P. Pelton, of 670 N. W. Broad St., who has frequently expressed interest in historical matters. There ought to be some clues in his article that will enable oldtimers to tell us about when it was written. When, for instance, was Dr. Turner a member of the Legislature from Moore County? That is surely on record somewhere, but we don't know where.

The article is headed "Manly" and reads:

"Manly is a small place but 'with expectations,' sixty-nine miles from Raleigh. It is about five years old and is an incorporated town. It is in the center of the finest pine section in this or any other State. It is the largest shipping point on the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line Railroad, the shipments of naval stores being 40,000 barrels, and of lumber 5,000,000 feet, annually. There are also several hundred bales of cotton shipped.

"This place is one and a half miles from the summit of Shaw's Ridge, which is the highest point on the railroad between Raleigh and Hamlet. The soil on the ridge discovers a strange phenomenon of nature, being red sand, and exceedingly productive, some of the lands having been cultivated for years without manuring, with no perceptible exhausting of soil.

"Whilst the soil on the ridge is rich, red sand, that adjoining it is very unproductive white sand. The line of demarcation between the red and white sand is distinct and well defined.

"Manly has the reputation of being exceedingly healthy. Dr. Saddleon, an eminent New York physician, has recently visited this place with a view of establishing a sanitarium for consumptives and sufferers from lung diseases. He regards the climate as more salubrious than that of Aiken, South Carolina. The atmosphere is dry and the soil sandy, which taken together, excludes all malarial and impure air. Dr. Turner, member of the Legislature from Moore County, says that, with an active medical practice in this section for forty years, he has never heard of a single case of consumption.

"Shaw's ridge is the dividing line between the waters of the Cape Fear and Pee Dee Rivers. Thagard's mill stone quarry, owned by W. C. Thagard, Esq., is six miles from this place. The stone is said to be superior to any other in the South, if not in the United States, for grist mills.

"The recent big fire which swept over eighteen thousand acres of choice pine lands, did not entirely destroy the pines, for they can be sawed into lumber.

"There is a point on McDade's Creek, one mile from Manly, which has sufficient water power to run five thousand spindles in a cotton factory easily."

As written in this item, "Thagard" is misspelled, we feel sure. So far as we know, the name has always had two "g's"—and so appears on all local maps we have.

The creek called by the writer "McDade's" is spelled "McDeeds" on recent highway maps of Moore County. Was it always "McDeeds," we wonder? Is the creek name also misspelled or was it once really "McDade's?" This is the stream along which the new No. 1 highway by-pass runs, dividing East and West Southern Pines.

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