

# 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.

## The Council Makes The Choice

For the past week the town council, having boiled down the possible solution of the town hall plan to two alternatives, has been engaged in the soul-searching to be expected of sincere public servants in their endeavor to decide what is best in such an important matter.

In deciding to keep the large council room and postpone building of the fire department wing, the council appears to be banking on the idea that the people, who might not feel the urge to vote another bond issue for the former, will be forced to do so for the construction of the fire department quarters so that the original plan will then be carried out. This is clearly a political approach and it leaves completion of the scheme squarely up to the new council. It will probably work out, but there is an opportunistic touch here that smacks of the "too smart" school of thought—not always popular in these parts.

The question was: which to keep? The large meeting-room is ample enough to develop into the municipal court considered by many something to be worked for here. The fire department, however, though it costs a lot more, is certainly needed and badly needed right now. The town must either build a new one or improve the old one. That seems to be the story.

It is regrettable that this matter has gone along so slowly that the Council is now working against time, with election date looming close. That some of the present members are likely candidates for reelection is irrelevant; the group is in duty bound to consider their

action as the final one of their term in office, with all the importance to them, to the town, and to the Council to succeed them which that implies.

The Pilot is unalterably opposed to the site chosen for the town hall, a point of view that has certainly not been changed by the beauty of the town park in all its spring blossoming.

It is an anomaly hard to credit that while other progressive towns are tearing down buildings to create parks, Southern Pines should do the reverse and destroy a park ideally situated and of unusual beauty. For this reason, it is hard to go on record as favoring the inclusion of the police department and jail and fire department and garage in a building on this site. Yet that is the plan chosen and the plan meets with our approval. Both these facilities are absolutely essential. We must have good police quarters and the jail cells to enable our officers to stay on the job in town instead of continuing the incredibly wasteful and dangerous proceeding now in force of taking prisoners to Carthage; our fire trucks and fire force must be adequately served, either in new quarters or by having their old ones repaired; we must have fireproof storage for the town records, and adequate office space.

The Council is to be commended for moderating the original plans and seeking to cut the coat to suit the cloth. This is good economy. It is neither good economy nor good sense to destroy such an asset as the town park. As for this finessing of the fire department—or the public—that's something else again.

## Bill Would Protect People of State

The Pilot is squarely behind Rep. Clifton Blue's bill, introduced in the General Assembly last week, to set up a State board of examiners for certifying psychologists.

A psychologist, be it noted, is not a doctor of medicine, but is a person skilled in the study of the mind and its workings, normal or abnormal. A psychiatrist, on the other hand, is an M. D. who specializes in the treatment of mental illness. The bill in Raleigh is concerned with psychologists only.

Whether a psychologist works as an advisor to industry, education or institutions, or in the field of personal counseling, the public is entitled to have the assurance that the person with whom they are dealing is qualified by education and experience to undertake the functions he says he is able to perform. This assurance is what the certifying bill would give. Quacks and imposters would at least have to call themselves something other than "psychologist" if the bill is enacted into law.

Evidence of the turmoil into which an unqualified, unskilled and unprincipled person, practicing as a psychologist, can throw his patients and many others in his community was offered at a hearing on the bill before the Joint Health Committee of the Legislature last week.

This story, as it relates to Southern Pines, is in part familiar to residents of this community through news reports of legal difficulties in which the psychologist here finally tangled himself—resulting in his conviction on a charge of criminal libel and his leaving the town and the state. Impressively added to the testimony of several Southern Pines residents—testimony about the libel case and others equally sinister—was the statement of the chairman of the State Hospitals Board of Control that, while living here, this "psychologist" had sent at least four persons to State mental institutions, none of whom was found, on examination by doctors there, to require such treatment. The purported diagnoses by the self-styled psychologist in these cases were found to have been incorrect.

The State, said the Hospitals Board head, has neither time nor money to waste on such situations. Nor, we would add, should trusting individuals who consult a supposedly qualified person, be subjected to such exploitation, embarrassment and distress.

A puzzling factor in the bill's fate at Raleigh is the fact that the State Medical Society—supposedly on direction of the American Medical Association's policy-making headquarters in Chicago—is said to be opposing the Blue bill. As this is written, there has been no public announcement of this opposition, nor was it

expressed at the hearing. From persons close to the General Assembly, however, we learn that the opposition exists, that its pressure is being put on legislators and that it may well spell doom for the bill unless legislators discover that the proposed law has firm and enthusiastic backing at the grassroots.

The State Medical Society undertakes to set policy on legislative and other matters for nearly all the physicians of the state—just as the American Medical Association is said to set a national policy that is followed with remarkable uniformity by State and local medical groups. As we understand the matter at hand, a number of physicians, local and on the state level, who previously gave (and presumably in their own convictions still give) their approval to the certifying bill have been silenced by the edict of disapproval handed down by the State Society.

We have yet to receive a reasonable explanation of this opposition. We are told simply that physicians know best what are the health needs of the state and that doctors fear that the status accorded psychologists by a certifying law would encourage them to practice medicine illegally.

The first argument is meaningless, without documentation. The second appears extraneous because the physicians are already well protected by licensing boards and laws governing the conduct and standards of their profession.

A fake psychologist, who is unprincipled to begin with, would be much more likely to attempt the illegal practice of medicine, we would think, than would a genuine psychologist who had been screened and approved by the proposed certifying board.

Yet, if it opposes this bill, the State Medical Society would seek to perpetuate conditions as they are: anybody, qualified or unqualified, skilled or unskilled, can come into this state today, hang up a sign "Psychologist" and begin to tamper with the minds, hearts and souls of persons who go to him in good faith for guidance and care. There is no law on the books in this state to stop him.

The General Assembly is elected to legislate for the people of North Carolina and not for the American Medical Association. So we urge that residents of Moore County—who are in a particularly good position to provide the firm and enthusiastic backing that is needed at the grassroots—write their opinions at once to Rep. H. Clifton Blue, member of the House from Moore County, and to the two state senators from the 12th District of which Moore County is a part: Sen. Henry W. Jordan of Cedar Falls and Sen. J. Benton Thomas of Raeford.

## Failure of Mind and Conscience

Last year, 40,000 men, women and children were killed in traffic accidents in the United States—2,200 more than in 1955.

There were 2,368,000 injuries in traffic accidents—210,000 more than in 1955.

Almost 80 per cent of the accidents occurred on dry roads in clear weather.

More than 81 per cent of the casualties resulted from driver error.

Last week-end, on a nearby highway, the lives of three children were snuffed out in

what appears to be a wholly avoidable accident.

Those children would be alive if mind and conscience had not failed to function.

If we cannot learn to ride the highways with alert mind and conscience sensitive to the awesome responsibility of driving—the responsibility for life and death—we should tear up our driver's licenses and stay home.

Can sensible people come to any other conclusion?

## And The Voice Of The Dinosaur Is Heard In Our Land



YOU CAN'T FOOL YOUR CHILDREN

## Being A Good Parent Takes Time

From time to time, The Pilot has printed its own or other newspapers' comments on the extensive organization or—as some think—over-organization of life in the United States today.

These comments do not refer to organization in the political or economic sense, but rather to the increasing claim that civic groups, clubs, extra-curricular school projects, professional and business groups and such activities make on both adults and youngsters.

One non-daily newspaper editor whose comments were reprinted recently in The Pilot came to the conclusion that "there is a limit beyond which it is not wise to go in this matter of organizing and competing for the time of individuals."

The Chapel Hill Weekly picks up where the other editor left off and comes to this conclusion: "Only too often a parent can make his best community contribution by staying at home with his children."

### To Divert Interests

This editorial begins by reference to shoplifting in stores and thievery in the schools which were said to have reached alarming proportions in Chapel Hill. The editor noted various church and recreation activities that have been introduced in an effort "to divert the interests of the thieves from stealing to playing."

Then the editorial—with significance for any community, it seems to us—continues as follows:

All such efforts indicate responsibility on the part of the promoters of the ideas and as such are good. But, in the final analysis, the problem of law-breaking children must be met in the home. Not only is it important that parents re-evaluate themselves as individuals that their example may be followed; they must re-evaluate themselves as parents. The question, "Am I a good parent?" may well be asked. The questioner may be a good doctor, a good merchant, a good Jaycee, a good civic worker, a good newspaperman, a good church worker, a good League of Women Voter, a good Junior Service League worker, a good bridge player, a good Scout worker, a good neighbor, a good housekeeper, or even a good wife or husband. That has very little to do with the question, "Am I a good parent?" In fact, if a person devotes much time to these many good ends, he may well not have time to be a good parent. Too often these activities prevent his being a parent except in the biological and economic sense.

### Like Holding Tree

Children need minute to minute and later hour to hour guidance.

As they grow older the span can be widened but at all times they need to know that Mama and Daddy care, not in an abstract intellectual way, but in a deep-feeling way, about everything they do. This close association, much like holding a tree straight to enable it to grow that way, develops a two-way or three-way confidence. Each knows that the unit is important and that any problems can be discussed. The child naturally tells of his encounters of the day and the parent can give the necessary guidance. With a feeling of love and understanding, almost no child steals.

It is a fortunate child who has

two interested parents, but even if a father refuses to accept the responsibility, the mother must and can assume it. It will be harder than if she had help, but many mothers bridge the gap left by men who think that civic work is more important than their children.

Civic workers who neglect their children may be fooling themselves into thinking that community work is more important and they may even fool the people who give them awards for their service, but they rarely fool their children. Only too often a parent can make his best community contribution by staying at home with his children.

## Pressure On Play Space Growing

Fast-growing demands of all kinds on our public and private lands and forests, coupled with increased leisure and transportation improvements, pose the question: Where will 220 million Americans play in '75?

To find out, western senators and congressmen headed by Senator Anderson (D) of New Mexico, and Representative Aspinall (D) of Colorado, with an assist from Representative Saylor (R) of Pennsylvania, want a three-year study of projected needs and potentials of recreational facilities in our great outdoors in 1975 and 2000.

Since 1946, recreation visits to Rocky Mountain national forests climbed from 2 million to 7 million, and in the nation from 18 million to 45 million. Another 10 million visitors were registered last year at western recreational areas developed by the reclamation bureau. State parks recorded 133 million visits.

By 1966, when the Public Affairs Institute estimates total outdoor recreational demands will have jumped by 75 percent, the

national parks expect 80 million visitors. Hence, Mission 66 to expand park facilities, and Operation Outdoors to double national forest accommodations.

Despite the increasing numbers of posted signs going up against the nation's 25 million anglers, there are indications private industry and landowners also are awakening to the growing need of the modern day world to "get away from it all." Weyerhaeuser Timber Co. has opened its 2.5 million acres in Washington and Oregon to recreational uses, and built 11 public parks on its timber holdings. Today 85 pct. of the nation's hunting, No. 2 sport, is done on private lands.

Still, swelling populations continue to place ever-heavier burdens on all lands. Every mile of superhighway we build takes 36 acres out of other uses.

This constant crowding, multiplying uses and growing pressures on our outdoor facilities testify convincingly to the need and merit of the Anderson-Aspinall study proposals.

—Denver Post.

## Rain Gear—North And South

(From The Sanford Herald)

Up North, men dress for the weather. In Boston, for instance one will see merchant or lawyer or salesman hurrying through the drizzle and slush in neatly buttoned, well-cut storm coat, lightweight overshoes, and hat of hard felt. He is likely to carry a black umbrella, perhaps with silver-topped handle, of tough fabric so thin that when folded the thing resembles a walking stick.

Here, though, we regard any change for worse in the weather as an emergency. Hardly a man seems to own a raincoat; he depends upon a garment of synthetic rubber and uncertain origin, likely split and patched with scotch tape, that hangs from season to season on the office hat-rack.

If the mercury slips below top-

coat temperature, he can be depended upon to dig out a moth-eaten relic of Army days and drape it over his shoulders as an extra garment—refusing to discover that it no longer will button about him.

He has owned no overshoes since he lost a pair in the sixth grade cloak closet. As for hats—well, have you ever studied the collection of caps, toboggans and hoods that show up with each precipitation, even the extended ones?

A Southerner's rain gear may be evidence that he expects his weather to be clear and mild. On the other hand, it may reflect a desire to break away from civilization's props and battle nature on even terms. Whatever the answer, he has no good excuse for the cold that dogs him these wet days.

## Grains of Sand

Could Be Worse

When the vagaries of the newspaper business begin to get us down, we now have a new source of comfort, a letter written by a Tennessee man to his Congressman:

"Recently married, expecting, just moved into new home and broke. I do not know anything about anything. Neither does my wife."

Question: what was the Congressman supposed to do about it? Maybe the deeper comfort is derived not from comparison of our sad lot with the man in Tennessee but rather with the Congressman.

Speaking It Safe

Speaking of newspaper problems, we are overwhelmed by the humility of a colleague in weekly journalism at the beginning of the year: "I hereby apologize for all mistakes made in writing the news last year and for the ones I undoubtedly will make this year. If your name is misspelled or misused, just let me know and I'll try to do better."

We'll bet, however, that the man whose name is misspelled in August will not remember that the apology was already made in January.

And wouldn't this reporter feel silly, having apologized, if he actually got through the year without making a mistake?

Wasted Bath

That horrible word, "mistake," brings up something that happened Saturday.

Somehow, in the caption for our photo of the Episcopal Boys Choir in last week's Pilot, a choir practice scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock was announced as an Easter Even service.

Most of the boys in the choir convinced their parents that it was only a final choir practice before the big day in church on Easter. They came in play clothes, as usual for such rehearsals.

But one lad, accompanied by his mother garbed in Spring finery, arrived all scrubbed up. Outside the church, the truth was learned. It wasn't a service—only a practice session.

The boy turned on his mother then in bitter accusation and boundless regret:

"You see. And you made me take a BATH!"

The bather's regret is no greater than ours for having made the error.

It Pays

The codfish lays ten thousand eggs. The homely hen but one; The codfish never cackles To tell you what she's done.

And so we scorn the codfish While the humble hen we prize, Which only goes to show you That it pays to advertize!

## The Public Speaking

Save Park's Beauty

To the Editor:

As I sat by the swings in the Park this week, looking toward Broad Street, my eyes feasted on the beauty of the pink dogwoods and white ones against the dark background of magnolia and evergreen trees, and I wondered if this might be perhaps the last Spring we could enjoy this beauty, if buildings should replace it.

It is sad indeed to feel that any of it may have to be sacrificed, when we, who love it, and love Southern Pines because of it, will all be the poorer on account of the growth of the town. Let us hope our Park may be spared all its beauty.

LOUISE M. HAYNES  
Southern Pines

## The PILOT

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