

# 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.

## Attention Turns to School Attendance

There are signs that North Carolina's appalling apathy over many years on the matter of school attendance may be changing.

On the Moore County scene, the county board of education has employed a retired school teacher as attendance officer to work only with the Negro schools in which the attendance problem is said to be more acute.

In the West Southern Pines schools, where the attendance problem appears to be not so acute as in the big consolidated Negro schools of the county system, efforts have been made to get chronic truants back in school and keep them there. And Southern Pines school officials see a possibility that the local school district might employ, at some time in the future, if the need is seen, an attendance officer for all the schools.

North Carolina has had a compulsory school attendance law since 1914, but it is common knowledge that it has not been enforced. It is also widely known that, in some rural areas of the state, there was even pressure for NOT enforcing a law that would take out of the fields the many useful hands and backs of children in various agricultural tasks.

What more and more people of the state are now waking up to is that illiteracy may pay off temporarily in cheap labor, but in the end

it is a major stumbling block in the road of a state's progress—economic, cultural and otherwise.

Within the past few weeks, as pointed out in a recent editorial on this page, the state was shocked to read that one-fifth of the persons applying for driver's licenses can't read. And there was speculation as to how this handicap might affect traffic safety on modern express highways with complicated signs that must be read to be understood.

The General Assembly has turned down, again and again, requests for funds to set up a state-wide system of school attendance officers—reflecting the apathy or out-and-out opposition to the matter in rural areas which dominate the Legislature.

Moore County's employment of a Negro attendance officer is an instance of a local effort to partially solve this state-wide problem, and as such it is praiseworthy, but the matter could and should best be solved at the state level. If the state has to depend on local efforts, there will be little or no action for years in the poorer counties which are usually the ones in which school absences and school drop-outs are the highest.

We offer this as a primary matter for the attention of the 1961 General Assembly.

## 'On His Merits as a Human Being...'

For the past 27 years, the National Conference of Christians and Jews has sponsored a nation-wide observance of Brotherhood Week. The President of the United States is Honorary Chairman and millions of Americans are participating this week.

Brotherhood Week is only a part of the work of the National Conference which is a civic organization engaged in an educational program for better human relations 365 days of every year. It enlists Protestants, Catholics and Jews who—without compromise of conscience of their distinctive and important religious differences—work together to build better relationships among men of all religions, races and nationalities.

NCCJ's work has been called "as American as the 4th of July."

The purposes of Brotherhood Week, according to Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, President of the National Conference, are to give people an opportunity to re-dedicate themselves as individuals to the ideals of respect for people and human rights. "We try to dramatize the practical things that people can do to promote understanding and realization of those ideals. Brotherhood Week is essentially a campaign against the prejudices and bigotries that distort and distort religious, business, social and political relations."

Dr. Jones urges people to do more than give the principles of brotherhood mere lip service. "By getting to know the other fellow, the one who has a different creed, race or national origin than yours, by understanding his viewpoint, his ambitions and goals, you will find old prejudices disappear. You'll find that we are all one family made strong and great by the very differences that so many times divide us as individuals and groups. You'll learn to accept or reject a person strictly on his merits as a human being and not because he happens to be different from you."

These words follow pertinently the revelation in a letter in last week's Pilot that the blessed water in the font at St. Anthony's Catholic Church had been defiled on at least three occasions. While this is an extreme example of bigotry—one which is expressed in physical action, like the painting of swastikas on synagogues—it is, in essence, no worse than the verbal expressions of religious and racial intolerance that one hears with shocking frequency even from supposedly intelligent persons.

The answer to the problem of intolerance, for an individual or for a community, is amazingly simple and sure: "... to accept or reject a person strictly on his merits as a human being."

## Family Troubles in the Courts

We continue to be impressed with the need for a domestic relations court that would serve the entire county or, if necessary to make possible the financing, this county and one or more other nearby counties.

It is not that the judges of courts in Moore County are not doing a good job handling domestic relations cases. We think they are—in some cases not only "good" but outstanding. Knowledge of human nature, sternness tempered with mercy, and the ability to tell when witnesses are lying—all these qualities of the experienced judge are of tremendous value in dealing with cases involving husbands, wives and children, cases which often would challenge the wisdom of Solomon himself.

Our point is one we have made before: the ordinary lower courts which handle these cases—abandonment and non-support, assault between husbands and wives, trouble between parents and children—do not have facilities either to investigate the cases deeper than courtroom testimony reveals the facts or to follow whatever judgment is rendered with counseling and supervisory services.

Ideally, of course, the domestic relations court should work closely with a psychiatric clinic in which the overwhelming hostilities, immature emotions and other tangled personality defects seen in these cases could, in some cases, be relieved enough to make a more normal life possible.

Visits to a courtroom should be part of everyone's training in citizenship. Most persons leading orderly lives, and acquainted mostly with others living in this manner, can not realize the incredible messes in which some of their fellow human beings get themselves involved. Not out in public, but right at home.

And the same folks come back into court, again and again, suspended sentence or not. Often, the situations end with the father or husband going to the roads, at which point the Welfare Department—which means money out of the pockets of all of us—must take over and support what remains of the family.

Though it is often true that the family is better off with the father on the roads, it is a sad commentary on the skill and compassion of our society that this must so often be the only solution to domestic strife and turmoil.

Though many parents appear to be beyond redemption (and we suspect that, in the right guiding hands, they might not be so lost as they appear), society's concern must be with the children—the future, for, unless they are helped, the pattern may be repeated, multiplied, in their own lives, in a decade or two.

We would like to see the county commissioners dig into this matter, find out what the problems and the possibilities are in looking toward a domestic relations court. Is there demand or need for such a court in nearby counties?

Every study of delinquency and other social ills stresses the primary importance of the family as the unit that bolsters social stability. Should we not do everything possible to prevent, or at least to ease, the disruptions of family life?

## Welcome, N. C. Symphony

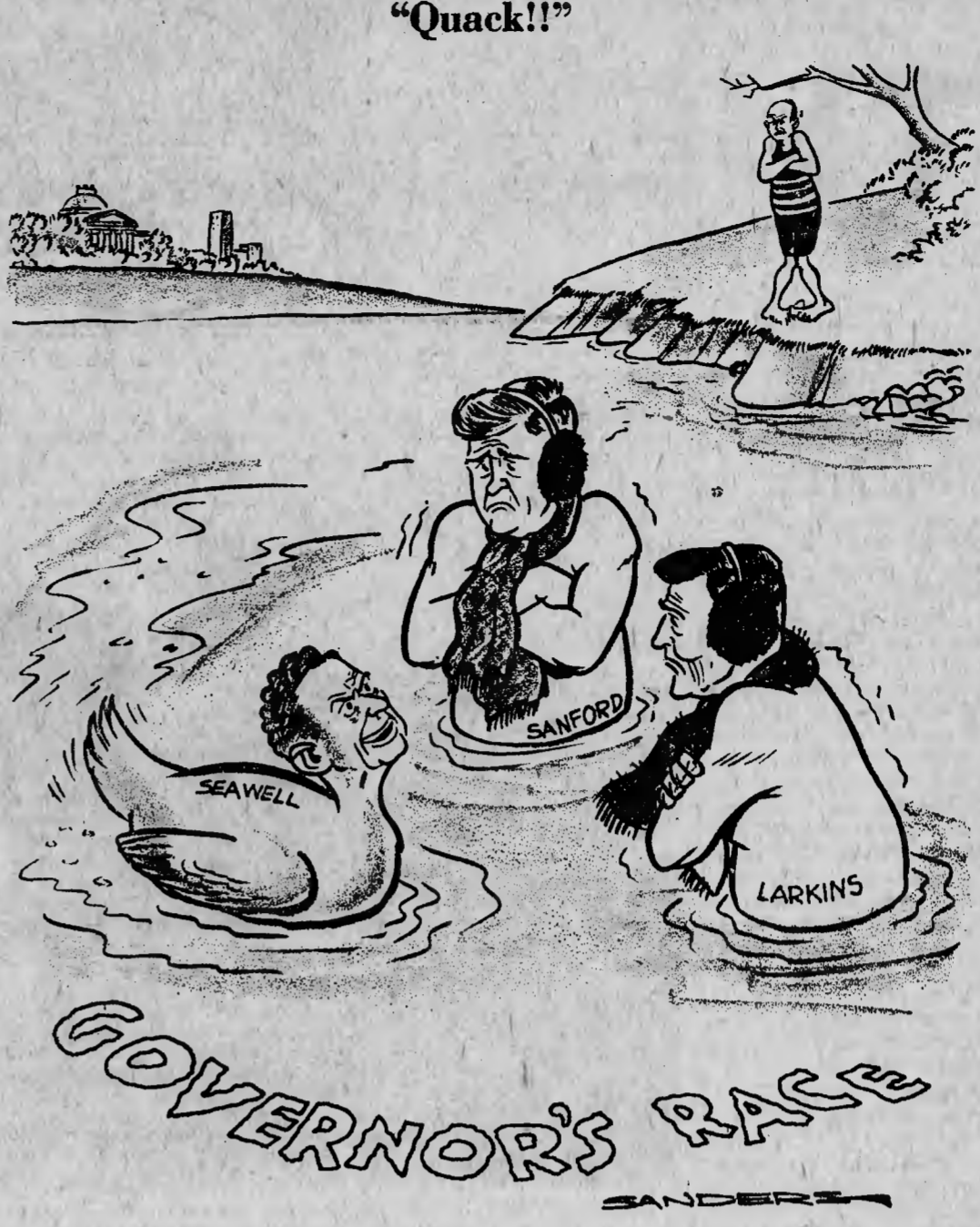
The Pilot welcomes to Southern Pines the North Carolina Little Symphony and its conductor, Dr. Benamin Swalin.

The orchestra's stay of two or three days here include playing for Negro school children of the county this afternoon at West Southern Pines; the regular concert tonight at Weaver Auditorium; and a concert for white school children tomorrow morning at Aberdeen.

Some one who has not attended a children's concert presented by the North Carolina Symphony could hardly imagine the unique quality of these events—the enthusiasm, the participation, on the part of the children, and the skill and vigor of the music's explanation and presentation on the part of Dr. and Mrs. Swalin and the orchestra. Thousands of children, all over the state, are thus being introduced to good music in a way that arouses the kind of interest that could remain with them for the rest of their lives.

We commend tonight's concert especially to older students who are admitted at a special rate. The rate applies to season tickets for this and other attractions presented by the Sandhills Music Association and to admittance to individual concerts.

Tonight's program, which features two soloists, seems unusually interesting. We urge our readers to attend.



### CONCLUDING MR. HARSCH'S ARTICLES

## Can 'New Foreign Policy' Succeed?

The Pilot, by special permission, has been printing a portion of a Christian Science Monitor series of articles by Joseph C. Harsch on what he calls "the new Western foreign policy"—a gradual, groping attempt to make some sort of adjustment with the Soviet Union. Mr. Harsch's final article, in which he evaluates his findings, appears below:

Any reader who has followed this series thus far will have guessed, correctly, that the writer has avoided as long as possible the unavoidable effort to draw up an assessment of the new foreign policy's chances of success. It has a flaw in its origin. The greatest danger to its success comes from that flaw. It is the logical end result of the 1953 decision to cut back the United States arms program. But that decision did not spring from a negotiated arms reduction agreement or from a calculation that Moscow would respond. It sprang from a desire to cut the budget and acquire a chance to cut taxes.

The sound way to cut an arms budget is to negotiate with the rival armed state and then honor the agreement. To cut first and then negotiate is to remove the element of inducement from the rival's position. Moscow has had no inducement to meet cut by cut. Moscow's advantage has been on the side of refusing to agree. Washington went on cutting regardless. The result is that the new foreign policy is based not on strength but on weakness.

The question is whether this is a fatal flaw.

### Two Arguments

There are two arguments supporting the proposition that the flaw is not fatal—both interesting, neither conclusive.

The first is that negotiated arms reduction is the most difficult type of agreement to reach between rival great powers. There is no case on record of a significant arms reduction having been achieved by prior agreement. It is a fact that Moscow has followed Washington in tactical arms reduction, although not proportionately nor in all areas. It is conceivable, although so far the record gives little reason to expect it, that Moscow will continue to cut and someday might bring itself down to the Western level.

The second argument is the theory that fear of Western military superiority has been an important element in Soviet belligerency, that removal of genuine cause for fear is the necessary first step toward that reconciliation between East and West which in these nuclear days is the nearest we are likely to get to a guaranty against use of the weapons.

### Hopeful Sign

Moscow had some reason to fear when the West enjoyed a nuclear monopoly and therefore decisive military superiority. It is a hopeful sign that as Moscow has closed the gap and gone on

to superiority in certain types of long-range weapons Moscow has spoken with less hostility in its voice. But Moscow has continued to seek the superior weapons.

However interesting, these arguments are not conclusive against the countertheory that if Moscow ever should see a chance to destroy the military power of the West without massive injury to itself, its leaders would feel obliged to seize that opportunity. If this should happen, the flaw would indeed have proved fatal.

Whatever chance the policy has of succeeding must derive rather from the theory that while Washington's power has declined in direct ratio to Moscow's power, Moscow's position in the world also has declined and that there are new emergent reasons why the men in the Kremlin must be decreasingly interested in damaging the West.

### China and Germany

Moscow may command newer and longer-range weapons than Washington, but Moscow no longer exercises decisive control over Communist China. And there can be no serious doubt that Moscow is genuinely alarmed over the pace of West German recovery as an industrial and political force in the world.

Surely one reason, and perhaps even the decisive reason, for Premier Nikita S. Krushchev's interest in "better relations" with Washington is because he cannot be entirely certain of the eternal permanence of his fraternal ties with Peking. Surely one reason the Kremlin has been so anxious to woo France of late is because Moscow counts on France to help it keep Germany divided.

Other forces are at work in the evolving political and social life of the Soviet Union which parallel the foregoing. The people have a taste of consumer economy and want more. There is a reviving awareness of ancient cultural ties with the West. Boris Pasternak is recognized as a massive literary figure both at home and throughout the West, even though somewhat reluctantly recognized at home.

### Can't Be Sure

And none can be sure either that the new policy is safe or that it is likely to succeed. One must wish there had been less weakness in its origins. The combination of sturdy strength with a confident willingness to make peace is the most desirable posture for a great nation. We never yet have had the two components in perfect balance and do not now. However, neither has the Kremlin.

There is an unfortunate groping content in the policy. It can hardly be called perfect. But it does fit with the fact that Moscow, in its own stumbling and also groping and imperfect way, appears to be seeking to subject the power struggle to some elementary rules. The power struggle goes on. Western objectives have not shortened. Moscow's have not. The shortening of our objectives reduces the danger of a nuclear war. Exchanges of visits can reduce that danger further. In that respect the policy may well succeed.

But there is no positive component in it yet to match in scope or vision the Soviet purpose of becoming the most modern and powerful nation on earth.

## Traffic and Trees at Chapel Hill

(From The Durham Herald)

What puzzles us, down here at the Durham foot of the Tarheel Olympus which is Chapel Hill, is how seven—seven, mind you—people who would like to cut down a tree ever got into The Village. Our bewilderment wouldn't be quite as great if the folks who have asked the Board of Aldermen to cut down a venerable elm lived in Glen Lennox or Victory Village. After all, in these times of urban growth, even the most distinctive of communities cannot expect to assimilate immediately all the newcomers into its atmosphere and traditions.

But how such arboreal iconoclasts ever got into the sacred precincts of East Franklin Street and Battle Lane will never cease to bother us. To think that this heart of residential Chapel Hill harbors those who put the convenience of traffic above the beauty of trees!

Now if it were Durham, or Raleigh, or Greensboro, or that metropolis Charlotte, the tree would come down, and the cars would go through. Motor traffic has long since prevailed over trees in these parts of trade, commerce, and industry. But Chapel Hill has been

## Grains of Sand

**Family Note**  
"Heir Arrivals" as reported in the News and Observer:  
"To Mr. and Mrs. Philip Mountbatten: a boy, 7 1/4 lbs. born at Buckingham Palace, Feb. 19. Mrs. Mountbatten is the former Miss Elizabeth Windsor."

**Lively Nature**  
The N. Y. Museum of Natural History has established a "live museum" as its newest project. Small live animals are kept there and small children come to look at and sometimes pet them.

A lively task is a job at the Live Museum. Here is an excerpt from the daily record kept by the curator:  
"Woodchuck built nest under bureau after roaming around some. Papers torn from bottom shelves of Mrs. G's bookcase. (PLEASE after this be sure to lock cages securely.) Skunk now weighs ten pounds; worm-eaten. Male blacksnake shed skin today. Has finally eaten after fasting since mid-Sept.; ate 8 mice. Accepted bats; two musk turtles. Cut skunk's toenails, shampooed and fed him in preparation for TV debut. Toads laying eggs well in salamander's tank. (Everybody O. K.) Robin bathed. Treated black snake's eyes for infection. Five young starlings: feed every two hours. WATCH OUT. Female chipmunk probably try to escape. Use long-handled net. Three custodians returned young milk snake, gone a week. Found at Information desk (doubtless asking way home). Much time lost chasing female chipmunk. Left black snake's cage door open to catch her and HE got out. Finally recovered in Stone Age Hall. Robin died during night."

**Looking For Some Wood?**  
Says Ike: "Our defense deterrent force is indestructible..." and then does he wish he wasn't on television so he could reach out and touch wood?"

**Peep**  
The Hunt Ball and the shindig for the benefit of St. Anthony's took place the same night.

Perhaps there wasn't too much conflict of pulling power but it does seem a pity that folks can't get together and schedule these affairs for different times. In this case, the Hunt Ball is an annual Washington's Birthday weekend event. Still and all, an events calendar would be a good idea. Maybe the Pilot can pull itself together and try, try again.

Just a little cooperation needed, folks! Telephone us your dates.

**Picnic In Room 20**  
Said Mrs. Bruce Nichols to Miss Eleonora Sears: "Please come to our picnic before the Hunter Trials."  
Said Miss S.: "Fine. Where are you staying?"  
Said Mrs. N.: "At the Southland Hotel, Room 20."  
Said all the other 50 or more guests, when Miss S. walked up to the picnic at the Hunter Trials Course, a little late and out of breath: "Where you BEEN?"  
"Been?" came the reply. "Sitting in Room 20, waiting for the picnic, of course. How was I to know—" the rest drowned in sympathy and merriment, with the hostess arguing she really HAD said "out at the course," and the guest arguing she hadn't.

**That Big Little Trip**  
GRAINS confesses to a weakness for that Little Trip horse.

Looks as if all judges have a weakness for him, too, the way the ribbons come a-flying his way.

But he has a possible rival coming along and right in his own stable, too, Pine Needles, a true Tarheel, bo'n and bred, hyer in the Sandhills, sub, is treading on his heels.

Watch out next year, Little Trip. Or your may get a big trip instead of a ribbon!

## The PILOT

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Katharine Boyd Editor  
Dan S. Ray Associate Editor  
C. G. Council Gen. Mgr.  
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