

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.

Opening Doors to Understanding

Events of the past few days on the school front are opening doors to public understanding of the momentous question of what is going to happen to the three school systems of the county—the Moore County system and the Southern Pines and Pinehurst administrative units.

A meeting in Aberdeen Tuesday night, reported in detail elsewhere in today's Pilot, was attended by persons from every school district in the county. A committee was formed, with representatives from each district, with the purpose both of informing people about the high school consolidation program and reporting public opinion back to the county board of education.

Of equal importance and also essential to public understanding, is a study of consolidation being conducted by the Southern Pines and Pinehurst boards of education, a study that was discussed in a joint meeting of the two boards last Friday night, as also reported elsewhere in our news columns.

The Pilot hopes to keep as closely as possible in touch with these study and opinion groups and to give our readers as complete a picture as we can of the high school consolidation proposals, as they relate to all sections of the county.

The reason why public understanding is so important—aside from simple interest in the destiny of the county's young people—is that

huge amounts of money are involved, money that would probably be raised by bond issues that would have to be authorized by a vote of all of the county's people.

Thus, for instance, if general opinion in the Southern Pines and Pinehurst districts turned out not to favor consolidation (the proposal is for Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen to unite), consolidation could be blocked for all the other schools by a negative vote on the bonds in these locally disapproving districts.

So—at this stage in this very complicated educational, financial and legal problem—open minds of everyone involved must be the watchword. And the focus must be on what is best for the children, all the children. Above all, school progress must not be blocked by resentments between various areas of the county.

To go back to our original figure of speech, let all the doors possible be opened, pro or con, on the high school consolidation question. We feel that people of good will and having a sincere interest in the welfare of the county's youth are seated on all the school boards involved and on the new study and information committee.

It would be incredible if all these good people, with the advice of an informed public, can not emerge with a satisfactory and effective program for improving high school education in Moore County.

Action on School Night Basketball

The Pilot, which has suggested several times in these columns that school officials of this area consider eliminating Tuesday night high school basketball games, is pleased to note that the Albemarle Conference, which operates in the eastern part of the state, has taken official action to end the mid-week game in all its schools, in its 1960-61 schedules.

The principal of one of the schools said that his school planned to play its non-conference games on Saturday nights, with the regular conference games scheduled only on Friday nights.

The change was made "in consideration of improving academic work of playing students." When this action was taken, many a parent, teacher and school official must have breathed a sigh of relief.

Highly enthusiastic basketball fans, in any community, probably would not approve cancellation of the mid-week game, but it seems in order to ask ourselves, in judging this mat-

ter, whether several hours of studying time—not to mention resting time—for hundreds of students (players and spectators) should be sacrificed in the interests of community entertainment.

Surely, the persons who expect or demand this entertainment could find something else interesting to do on Tuesday nights. It is obvious that the schools exist to instruct, not to entertain. And we cannot get rid of the old-fashioned notion that night-time, for young people, is a time for study and rest—not athletic activity nor the feverish excitement that often accompanies high school athletic contests.

With many schools involved and custom and community attitudes to be considered, changing a basketball schedule is not an easy task. But we think that the school officials, teachers and parents of Moore County owe young people the consideration of thinking seriously about the matter and taking action on it as soon as possible.

The Wilderness Bill

There is a bill under discussion by Congress that should have the earnest support of all who are interested in conservation of the natural resources of the nation—and who is not?

It should also have the support of all hunters, fishermen and folks who just like to go out into the wilds and enjoy its beauty and its peace. And who among us is not, occasionally at least, in that category?

The Wilderness Bill, as it is called, will place extra legal safeguards around the parks and preserves and the game and bird sanctuaries already in existence. Its passage should also, it would seem, call attention to the need for more of these natural treasures, these islands of resources, both actual and spiritual, and ease the way to their establishment. But, most of all, it should be passed in order that they may remain established.

This is no light comment. These parks and wilderness areas, few as they are, are under steady pressure from encroaching interests. Among these are, besides the private interests of paper companies, lumbermen, ranchmen, geologists, miners, some of the government bureaus themselves. Of these the efforts of the Forestry Department and Public Lands Bureau are perhaps most persistent. "Wise forestry production," "good conservation practices," are used as slogans to lull the public into acquiescence to what in many parts has developed into a whittling away of the forests and the establishment of dams and other impediments of civilization along the streams and valleys. Ranchers are demanding—and getting—grazing rights on mountain slopes and prairie lands; the few parks are becoming smaller as the tourist flood increases with corresponding need for roads, food and lodging. The result is that the truly wild areas, where beasts and birds may live and be studied in their natural habitat, are in great danger of eventual disappearance.

This is the sort of bill that depends on wide public support for its passage. The Wildlife Association, the Audubon Society and all such groups will be back of it as a matter of course, but the support must touch a wider circle to be effective. For this is a measure that promises nothing concrete, nothing substantial in the way of visible economic advantage to anyone. It is not going to make any money for anyone; no great interests are pushing for its enactment. The plea of aiding in the defense effort cannot even be made in its behalf.

Or is that statement sound? After all, things

of the spirit, the least visible and concrete things, rank high in this human struggle. The attitude of a great nation towards its own resources, both its heritage of history and its heritage of nature itself: these are surely part of its armored strength.

The wilderness that was America is to be found, now, in only a few small corners of the land. It is to be earnestly hoped that this Wilderness Bill will pass and that these protected spots may be preserved forever, as evidence that the land—the lonely, beautiful land, "from sea to shining sea"—was conquered by a people in whom the humble faith that made that conquest possible has not been lost.

Library Week

"Open Wonderful New Worlds. . . Wake Up and Read!" So proclaims the slogan for National Library Week which will be observed here and throughout the nation April 3-9.

North Carolina is going all-out in observance of the special week. The Governor has issued a proclamation that urges "all our citizens to unite in this national effort to achieve a better-read, better-informed America." Newspapers, TV and radio are cooperating. And a state-wide Book and Author Fair, being held in Greensboro Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, will put thousands of books on display and bring nationally known authors and illustrators to the fair for various parts of the program.

The Southern Pines Library is using a hobbies and pastimes theme, with exhibits at the library and in a Broad Street office window, to let people know how much interesting and instructive material is available in the library here for persons who have hobbies or who want to develop one.

The Moore County Library, which furnishes invaluable bookmobile service to all sections of the county, is taking part in the observance, urging even more rural readers to take advantage of the service that brings books to their doorsteps on a published schedule.

In hundreds of visits to public libraries, we have never failed to see something that caught our interest—usually many things—and would gladly, though this was not often possible, have spent the rest of the day there. The fascination of libraries is endless—and we hope more and more persons, particularly young people, continue to experience it.

"We Have Decided To Give Careful Consideration To The... Er... Problem Of Control!"



RED CHINA LOOMS IN BACKGROUND

Important Break in Arms Race

Joseph C. Harsch, special correspondent for The Christian Science Monitor, writes from Geneva with his customary lucidity on the great issues of arms reduction and the suspension of nuclear tests—issues in which the presence of Red China in the background, as depicted in Bill Sanders' cartoon above, is of prime significance. The Pilot reprints Mr. Harsch's article by special permission:

As stated in a previous column in this space, Moscow's change of position on nuclear test bans is regarded among Western diplomats here as the most important "break" in the arms picture since nations began seriously seeking some restraint on the arms race. And it is worth repeating that the Zorin formula presented here March 19 reflected more than Soviet workmanship. It was the product of considerable consultation with Western diplomats who have become satisfied that Moscow is seriously, even earnestly, seeking a real agreement with the West to end nuclear testing. This conclusion is fortified by the mere fact that to get an agreement Moscow is prepared to admit Western inspectors to international control posts inside the Soviet Union. This is a major concession by the world's most isolationist state which regards its internal secrecy as a major military asset. It is a reasonable deduction that Moscow would not be ready to pay such a price for less than an overriding reason. The question for us to weigh most carefully is the nature of the reason.

Soviets Fear

We Westerners cannot know the reason, but a considerable body of evidence exists and it all points in the same direction. The evidence is strong that Moscow is decreasingly concerned over American, British, and French nuclear power but is increasingly anxious over the possibility that unless something is done quickly the Soviet Union will be ringed by other new nuclear powers and that this someday will include inevitably West Germany and Communist China.

French success in achieving a nuclear explosion is evidence that nuclear secrecy no longer exists seriously. What France has done today Sweden can do tomorrow. It might take Communist China one year or five years more to reach the same stage, but it certainly will get there soon. West Germany possesses both scientific knowledge and industrial skill sufficient to do the same. Unless the process is checked, the time will come when even President Nasser's Egypt and Premier Fidel Castro's Cuba could become nuclear powers.

The present negotiations here are only between the United States, the Soviet Union, and Britain. But if they achieve a test suspension, they will invite others to subscribe to it. Conceivably some might resist signing. But if Washington, London, and

Moscow joined forces, their powers of persuasion, added to general public uneasiness about nuclear testing, could be extremely persuasive. The three together probably have it within their capacity, if they work together, to end the proliferation of nuclear powers in the world—provided they can agree among themselves.

We have lived for a decade in a world dominated by the fact of two centers of nuclear power—the Soviet Union and Anglo-America. This has become familiar. Neither has used its power against the other. The situation is called a stalemate of terror, but it has been a stalemate. Power computations and calculations spiral upward each time a new country enters the nuclear club.

Stalemate

Nothing could be more disturbing to this status quo than to have both West Germany and Communist China become nuclear powers. Certainly we do not want China so armed. Moscow has obvious reasons for feeling the same about West Germany. Moscow cannot say publicly it would prefer China to remain non-nuclear, but nothing would so reduce Soviet power stature than to be sandwiched between a nuclear China and a nuclear West Germany.

We do not know for a fact that Moscow would prefer to keep China non-nuclear, but Moscow has proposed a denuclearized zone for Asia which Peking has backed with monumental lack of enthusiasm. And the so-called Khrushchev disarmament plan inter-

estingly schedules arms reduction in such a way that if ever adopted (which it will not be) at the end of the second stage, the principal victims would be China and West Germany.

A process of depolarization of power probably will take place in the world. It can come about either by generalization of nuclear weapons or the gradual suppression of nuclear weapons. Eventually either all modern industrial countries will have them or those which have them now will at least cease testing them and eventually reduce their stockpiles sufficiently to persuade others to refrain from making them.

U. S. Middleman?

The implications of Moscow's interest in avoiding the solution of generalization are interesting and pose problems for us. In essence we must decide whether or not to join Moscow in an operation which would protect the Soviet Union from being sandwiched between nuclearized China and West Germany. Clearly to Moscow this is the greater evil—the lesser evil being our inspectors inside Soviet frontiers.

If we do join, we shall have entered into a project which cuts across the lines of the old cold war. If we refuse to join, we shall be responsible, in part, for the nuclear arming of many states not yet so armed. There will be interesting changes in the political geography of the world whichever course we elect.

The Public Speaking

'Pertinax' Summarizes Opinions He's Stated

To the Editor:

Mr. Harrington states that, though he is not in the least interested in my opinion as to how calamitous it would be for the United States, if Nixon should become President, nevertheless he is interested to point out that my previous statements are "inaccurate and without foundation," whether inadvertently or by design he knows not. He refers, I suppose, to previously expressed opinions—

1. That Republican professional politicians have already chosen as their "most available" candidate, one of their own number, Richard Nixon.

2. That, consequently, the Republican convention will be merely a farce, played out by stooges.

3. That, when Nixon is nominated on the first ballot, after some staged windy oratory, only the most naive Republicans will be able to delude themselves into believing that they, the rank and file, acting through their delegates, have actually had a voice in choosing the official candidate of the party of Lincoln.

4. That, in the vernacular of the political pro, the word "available" means not only that the candidate has a chance to be elected, but

also that, if elected, he "can be reached" in the White House by the party bosses.

5. That "can be reached" does not imply that the man in the White House is corrupt; it may mean no more than that he is unusually naive.

6. That, among all thirty-three Presidents, not one has been corrupt, though a number have been deplorably weak, four in the last forty years.

7. That the bad Presidents I instanced—Grant, Harding, Coolidge and Eisenhower—illustrate perfectly not only how widely different weak Presidents may be in background, character and brains, but also that each of them had been deemed available by the professional politicians in advance of the party conventions, just as the pros have now deemed Nixon "available."

As for the Democratic convention, it would seem to be a wide open fight. Not even the most experienced Washington newspaper man has dared to predict the winner. All I can do here is to wish him the best of luck against Nixon, whoever he may be. Thus I follow literally Mr. Harrington's advice, namely, to vote for the policies and the people behind the candidate.

PERTINAX

Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

Discrimination Is The Word
You can't run a bird into the ground. That is our belief. At least, that is, not as a subject of the most intriguing interest. Like the birds, such a topic seems to take wing and soar away. So—blame the birds, folks, for this column's obsession with their doings.

We pick up with the evening grosbeaks. This time, with their discriminatory practices.

Why, for instance do they go to everybody in town's feeding trays and not to K. Boyd's? Why, out in the country do they visit everybody except Helen Butler?

The latter reports that they go to her neighbors, near and far: the McCrimmons, down on James Creek, entertain the grosbeaks, but when they come to the Butler place, they flit up and over.

This is odd, calling for study. So far the main thing we can think of that these two slighted individuals have in common is that they are both newspaper people?

Does this indicate that the grosbeaks shun publicity? Part of that finicky group that shudders to see their pictures in the paper? If so, they'd better change their ways and their looks, too. How folks like that think they can keep out of the limelight when they dress up so gaudily and go swooping all over the place making the most ungodly chatter wherever they light—!

But that's the way a lot of folks act about a newspaper. Cut a big dash around the place and then expect the paper to tell about everybody's business except theirs.

Old Trees

Aren't there any ancient trees in North Carolina?

An article telling about famous trees of the nation lists many of surprising age and size from other states, but none from this one.

It appears that Philadelphians got excited about their trees when they were getting ready to celebrate the 250th anniversary of William Penn's arrival in the New World. The question was: how many of the old trees, still alive, were there when Penn landed?

Philadelphians organized, schools got into the act, boy and girl scouts, garden clubs, of course; they all teamed up and succeeded in finding 350 trees growing around Philadelphia that were alive and sizeable trees on that day 250 years ago. Most of them were oak but there were actually 36 species in the 350. One of the finest and oldest was a giant buttonwood, twenty feet in circumference, (California redwood tree union, please note). This buttonwood stands at General Lafayette's headquarters near Chadd's Ford.

But that's not nearly the oldest: there's a white cedar at Natural Bridge, Virginia, that is supposed to be—hold onto your hat—between 800 and 1,000 years old; probably the oldest tree in the east unless some Florida cypresses have an edge on it. Not considered likely.

Tree people think there are lots of other ancient veterans of the centuries to be found still standing if folks would just bestir themselves and go look. Maybe there are some big ones, like those others, around here, but, with the forest fires so bad in the old days, chances are there aren't. Borings have been taken in the Round Timber on the Weymouth ridge that showed ages between two and three hundred years. Mere infants.

Still and all, they're probably among the oldest, biggest trees in the state, barring none of the giant swamp cypresses.

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