

"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.

Firecrackers and Responsibility

rode through the countryside last week flinging lighted firecrackers, or "cherry bombs," out the window of their car is

a puzzler. The spree culminated apparently in the disastrous burning of the highway bridge over the Lumber River on the Laurinburg Road with damage estimated at around \$60,000, but it is a miracle that far greater destruction was not done. The culprits threw their "bombs" everywhere they had a mind, apparently regardless of the fact that the country is in a state of utmost danger from forest fires due to the prolonged drought.

"Juvenile delinquency," the casual observer will say. But these two were not boys: one was nineteen and the other was twenty-one. What could have inspired such a silly, senseless action? That it was dreadfully destructive and potentially highly dangerous could have given it a fatal fascination; the spice of danger is always intriguing to the young. But, year-olds, to play with firecrackers.

The incident of the two young men who to judge by their comments, this side of their adventure did not occur to these two: they "never meant to do any harm."

But why, at that age, drive way down to South Carolina to buy firecrackers and then find amusement—apparently—in throwing the things out the car window? These two must have been mighty hard up for entertainment if they couldn't find anything better to do than that.

It is to be hoped that the new "quality" education will emphasize the fostering of self-development, of resourcefulness and a sense of responsibility, of sensitivity to the things that cause the mind and the spirit to grow and mature, developing,

perhaps in the end, some wisdom. This must be part of the answer to those who deplore such behaviour as that of which the two young men were accused and who must earnestly hope that these two, and many who may resemble them, find something better to do with their leisure time than, like ten-

No Frigate Like A Book

nobody is reading. Johnny doesn't know how; Susie and all the rest of the kids spend—what it it—more time looking at TV than doing anything else? A look at the modern house plans shows you the bookless family: bookshelves are never included as they always were in the old days. If by any chance a man acquires an old house with bookcases in it, he goes out and buys sets, by the yard, to fill the empty spaces.

All this is very depressing to book-lovers. But, hold on; what about these book-lovers? Not only do these characters still, despite this gloomy view, exist, but when you look at some facts it seems that they are doing pretty well. Take the facts close at home, the town library, to wit, and you find an astonishingly satisfactory state of things.

In the last fiscal year, ending in June, the total number of books taken out of the town library was 29,032. This represented an increase of 1,039 over the previous year. But—and here's the surprising figure—during the first four months of the present fiscal year there was an increase in circulation of 1,661. In other words, the increase in the past four months exceeded by 622 books the increase for the whole twelve months of last year.

As for Johnny and Susie, they would be dull indeed not to be drawn to the library by the grand list of dozens of books to be placed on the shelves there next week, it.

The word goes round these days that in observance of nation-wide Children's Book Week-not to mention hundreds of other volumes for children and young people already in the library's collection. And, the records show, young folks are liberally represented in the rising circulation statistics.

It would be interesting to know the reasons for this increase in reading. Some of it, obviously, is due to the same population explosion that is hitting the schools, but it seems that adult readers are increasing, too. The library, with its welcoming staff and general atmosphere of enthusiasm, is growing in popularity; and there is the fact of this growing town itself, the newcomers here and in the area who appreciate the library's wellrounded collection. But it seems likely that there is a third factor, more powerful if more intangible. In times of tension, of confusion, of apprehension, people instinctively reach out for help, and, to many, that help can be a book. It may be gained from a few hours of relaxation, of getting your mind off your troubles with a good book, the kind that Emily Dickinson called "a frigate to bear us lands away." Or the reader may seek deeper sustenance in the wisdom or the women who. leave much to be inspiration and reassurance to be found desired in the honesty of their in the great works of past or contemporary authors.

Whatever the reason, whatever the need, those who seek help within the covers of a book will seldom fail to find

Foray into Dangerous Territory

On Sunday the Voice of America beamed 52 transmitters at the Soviet Union and sent messages to the Russian people informing them of their government's action in resuming nuclear testing and filling the air with poisonous radioactive fallout. The program was repeated throughout the day in many languages and the question repeatedly asked: "Have you been told?"

This sounds like a good idea on the surface, but actually what will it accomplish? Granted that the majority of Russians certainly ought to, but do not, know what their government is doing, will it do any good for us to tell them?

What will be the effect of this broadcast? One way to get a line on the answer would be to imagine a reversal of roles. Supposing the Russians started sending similar or other accusations against the United States, what would be the result? That's easy: everybody would be hopping mad.

A good many Americans have the happy idea that the Russian people are ready to rise up against their government at the slightest chance. This is probably true of the satellite countries but not of the Russians. According to every authoritative report, the people are solidly behind their leaders, with the vast majority entirely satisfied with a government that has raised so high and so fast the Russian standard of living. Too bad, but too true.

So what will this broadcast do? It seems doubtful if many Russians did listen to it and among those who did few will believe it, any more than Americans would believe a broadcast from Russia denouncing this country. But if it has no good effect, will it have a bad one? After all, here is the chief Soviet opponent in the, to date, "cold" war trying to bring about—what actually is the Voice of America trying to bring about? A march of the Russian people to Moscow to tell Khrushchev to stop? Well, hardly.

Does this whole thing recall another time when radio broadcasts from the United States were aimed at a people of Europe and the terrible tragedy, with deep humiliation to this country, that

followed? It should.

At the time of the Hungarian revolt, broadcasts from this country were widely blamed for arousing the Hungarians to their desperate attempt. The anguished pleas that came over the air as the Soviet tanks closed in showed only too clearly that hopes of aid had been raised by these over-enthusiastic and careless broadcasts, hopes which this nation had no idea of fulfilling. The present situation is quite different but if this new broadcast to a foreign people's only effect is to infuriate the great majority of those who hear it, including the leaders with whom we are trying to deal, is it such a good idea?

By coincidence it was just five years ago this week that U. S. radio people made their ill-starred attempt to meddle in international affairs. Let us hope that this latest foray into this complex and tricky field-made at a highly critical time—will not produce another unfortunate result making things all the harder for those who are wrestling to save the peace of the world.

Christmas Lights

The Jaycees this week are conducting a whirlwind campaign for business section Christmas lighting funds, taking over with enthusiasm and determination a project that has been a sort of unwanted step-child for several years in the realm of local civic endeavor.

These young men who spend an amazing amount of their time working for town betterment have faith enough in some 165 merchants and professional people in the Southern Pines business community to believe that each will give at least \$10 to make possible purchase of "English lantern" decorations that seem well suited to Southern Pines and would produce here an attractive display of

Christmas lighting. We urge full support of this project by business and professional people and, though not solicited directly by the Jaycees, from other residents, many of whom have expressed disappointment at inadequacy of downtown lighting in recent The Race Is On



AL RESCH LETS FLY AT SENATOR SUMNER

Criticism of Press Challenged

By E. A. (AL) RESCH In The Chatham News

There may be specific seasons for hunting quail, deer, geese, ducks and other wild game, but there never is anything but open season for banging away at the

Nobody in his right mind claims perfection for the people who write our newspapers. Being human they are subject to the regular run of frailties. As in any other business there are men and approach.

For the most part, however, these people are honest and what mistakes they make are made usually under the pressure of the clock.

I don't mind criticism when it is documented and specific. I am, however, becoming considerably irked over the scattershot technique that some critics of the press are employing.

In a recent speech before the Agricultural Council in Asheville, State Senator Ben H. Sumner of Rutherford County listed two needs for the 1961 legislature in which he served as a member. One was the need for men who could be counted. The other was for honest reporters.

No Detail If Senator Sumner went into detail during the course of his speech I am not aware of it. He should have.

As regards the members of the General Assembly Mr. Sumner should have stated what his fellow legislators needed to be counted for. If he knows anything the public doesn't know he would be doing the state a great service by telling all.

His blast at newspaper reporters should also be clearly delineated as to events, dates, times when reporters were anything other than honest.

I happen to know the preponderant majority of the men and women who covered the doings of the legislature. I have a son who toiled many long hours trying to present an accurate picture of what was going on in Raleigh. I resent his being included in an undetailed charge that reporters are dishonest.

Unusually Able The reporters who covered the 1961 session did what I think

was an unusually able job in covering the legislature What has gotten under Mr. Sumner's skin I have yet to learn and would be pleased to have the gentleman from Rutherford County outline the reason for the charge he has made. I spent a good deal of time in Raleigh during the 1961 session. Many of the legislators, some friends of mine and others whom I scarcely knew, were kind enough to tell me they had never been in a session that was so ably covered by the ladies and gentlemen of the communi- take note of the fact.

Mr. Sumner may have become disturbed over the coverage of his own action. He introduced a bill or resolution which called for the elimination of the federal income tax and some other ultraconservative suggestions which had little chance of passage.

If memory serves me correctly a number of the reporters put the John Birch Society tag on the Sumner action. Being so labeled may have been the reason for Mr. Sumner's ire. I wouldn't know and he hasn't said.

Not Dishonest

Mr. Sumner to realize that in writing what they did the reporters were not being dishonest. They were reporting in print and by the spoken word what most of the legislators themselves thought Mr. Sumner was doing. And they were saying so in the rotunda of the Capitol. I heard many of the comments myself.

The one incident, however, isn't of sufficient importance to warrant a scatter-gun charge of reportial dishonesty

If there were other evidences of dishonesty and Mr. Sumner knows what they are he would be doing the people of North Carolina a fine public service by being specific.

Mr. Sumner, a manufacturer, is

I believe he is a member of the North Carolina Press Association. I would, therefore, be bold

a part owner of The Rutherford

County News, or he was the last

time I talked with him. As such

enough to suggest that Mr. Sumner communicate with Clifton Blue, the Aberdeen newspaper publisher and veteran Moore County legislator now serving as the association's president. I am sure.Mr. Blue could arrange for a spot on the program at the newspaper institute in Chapel Hill, upcoming in January, I feel sure he would be given a courte-It would be well, however, for ous hearing and an opportunity to spell out his charges. Newspaper people welcome honest criticism. After almost forty years of association with them I am sure they don't claim perfection nor do they develop hypersensitivity to criticism.

Undocumented Resentment results only when

undocumented charges are made. The corps of capital correspondents deserve better treatment than they received from Sen. Sumner. What he said is serious business and needs to be spelled out. Otherwise the charges don't hold water and should be labeled as the outburst of a disgruntled politician or one who seeks to curry favor with the public by shooting in all directions.

The Public Speaking

The White Knight' With A Madison Avenue Touch

To the Editor:

The other day a lady, a dear friend to me and mine for forty years, asked me what I thought of Barry Goldwater. My lady is lovely and charming and has a good brain with which she can think logically on almost any subject except politics. Possibly she expected me to praise the man. At all events she seemed disappointed, not to say slightly shocked, at the phrasing of my reply. All I said was, "In my opinion Goldwater is a Styles Bridges with Madison Avenue trimmings."

If this lady, a Philadelphia Republican, thinks that I was not denigrating Goldwater by comparing him to Bridges, then she must think that I insult him by implying that somehow he smells of Madison Avenue. The lady herself is of the opinion that Madison Avenue is a place where a great deal of time and effort is often expended to give something the appearance of that which it is not. More briefly put, on Madison Avenue there are people who work hard at deception, and by so doing earn big money. Maybe in that peculiar Philadelphia Republican way of thinking, it is quite all right to bare one's conscience for money-occasionally, for quite a lot of moneythough it must be considered definitely unsporting in others to

The Madison Avenue touch that others notice is that this conscience-baring more than slightly resembles a campaignorganized not only to line up followers, but to collect in advance from the faithful to help finance future campaigns. Ambitious politicians of course are entitled to organize campaigns of propaganda—and in this instance at least contributors get a book for their money. But the lady who thinks like a Philadelphia Republican must forgive those who so promptly recognize the Madison Avenue "angle," namely, propaganda thinly disguised under the specious title of conscience, spelled with a capital C. Only the most

credulous are so easily deceived. Surely, therefore, it is not unreasonable per se, though I think that the lady must believe it to be especially deplorable, when skeptics raise a modest Bronx cheer at the spectacle of the Knight in Shining Armor, on his banner the device of a white elephant borne erect upon the surface of a river of flowing gold, in the background clouds shaped

vaguely like numerals. To the Philadelphia Republican type of mind a political cam- One Year paign is always a "Great Crusade" (remember the phrase?) by the GOP against the forces of evil. Could The White Knight be thinking of leading some sort of crusade in 1964?

Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

Miaow

GRAINS has just learned that this is National Cat Week, to be followed by Children's Book

Well, youngsters and kitties go well together.

To give The Cat his due, and with a bow to our cat people, both four-footed and two, we print a few appropriate remarks by the Great and near Great:

"Cats are a mysterious kind of folk. There is more passing in their minds than we are aware. -Sir Walter Scott

"If man could be crossed with the cat, it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat." -Mark Twain

"A cat can be trusted to purr when she is pleased, which is more than can be said about human beings."

-William R. Inge

"Now a cat will not take an excursion merely because a man wants a walking companion. Walking is a human habit into which dogs readily fall but it is a distasteful form of exercise to a cat unless he has a purpose in

-Carl Van Vechten

"Living with a cat is like being married to a career woman who can take domesticity or leave it alone, so you'd better be nice to

-Margaret Cooper Gray

"In a continent which screams neurotically about cooperation and the Golden Rule, cats are disdainful of everything but their own immediate interests and they contrive to be so suave and delightful about it that they even receive the apotheosis of a National Week."

-R. Davies

Believe It Or Not!

That Miss America is an ex-

ceptional young woman. When asked by the prying reporters for her opinion on the Berlin Question, she replied: "I don't think a nineteen-year-old girl's opinion could be of much

value. M for Miraculous Modesty,

Maid Maria! Such words from a teenager should go down in history-accompanied by a good glossy print of Asheville's pretty Miss A.

Sam Ragan Says A Mouthful

From Sam Ragan's column "Southern Accent" in the Sunday News and Observer we glean this

"The man who said: let someone else write the laws but let him write the songs of a nation must not have been thinking of what the songwriters are turning out today."

Putting It Another Way

And Ben Swalin, another Tarheel, has a word or two to say

about the same sad subject. "America has gone backward in the popular music field. The jazz and swing we heard twenty years ago was musically pioneering, interesting. It is very different from what we constantly

hear today." The Director of the North Carolina Symphony suggests the only adjective that seems to fit today's rock and roll, bebop, and so on, is the French expression "abrutissant" which, he says, is defined as describing anything

that brutalizes man. Says Dr. Swalin: "As long as untrained and sometimes untalented entertainers can amass for themselves and the record companies millions of dollars almost overnight, they will continue to exploit the adolescent tendency to choose the tinsel instead of the gold."

The PILOT

Published Every Thursday by THE PILOT, Incorporated Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941-JAMES BOYD-1944

Katharine Boyd C. Benedict Associate Editor Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr. C. G. Council Advertising Mary Scott Newton Business Mary Evelyn de Nissoff Society Composing Room

Dixie B. Ray, Michael Valen, Thomas Mattocks and James E. Pate.

Subscription Rates Moore County

Outside Moore County One Year .

Second-class Postage paid at Southern Pines, N. C.

DONALD G. HERRING Member National Editorial Assa. and N. C. Press Assn.