

# 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.

## Traffic Deaths: A National Disgrace

Three young men have been killed within three weeks in traffic accidents on the streets of Southern Pines and, as this is written Tuesday, a fourth youth lies critically injured in a hospital, victim of an accident in which his two companions died.

All three of the young men whose lives were snuffed out in one-car accidents attributed by police to excessive speed were under 21 years of age. Across the state and nation, thousands of young people are dying yearly in similar circumstances. It is a national tragedy and a national disgrace, yet there seems to be nothing that law enforcement officers, parents, schools or anybody or anything can do about it.

Can a nation ingenious enough to send a man into space and bring him back safely admit that it is powerless to prevent the deaths of these many young people, as well as the others of all ages who lose their lives in highway accidents?

North Carolina's new Traffic Safety Council is a step in the right direction and seems to have behind it more determination than has ever hitherto been put into such an effort. Yet, somehow, the conquest of this monstrous traffic peril must become an important, personal, moral issue to millions of Americans. The sort of driving that kills people must be viewed as a positive evil—something to which no one in his right mind would stoop under any circumstances.

If mechanical and legal controls are called for—reduced horsepower in cars, accelerator governors, lower speed limits, granting of driver's licenses only at age 21 or more—let them be put into effect. If they will save lives, why not?

If the American people will not become aroused at seeing their youth slaughtered, what will arouse them? Isn't it time to quit talking traffic safety and launch a program that will dwarf the puny, ineffective methods we have used so far?

## Wildlife Can't Build Bomb Shelters

This week's news that the Air Force has ordered a delay in plans to use 30,000 acres in the Lake Mattamuskeet area of coastal North Carolina for a practice bombing range pleases all friends of wildlife. It is hoped that after hearings to be held in January, the plan will be abandoned.

The area involved is one of the major havens for wildlife on the Atlantic coast, particularly for waterfowl that break their migratory flights there. It is so large that it can afford good hunting and still be classed as an area for the propagation and protection of wildlife.

A majority interest in the land (a tract of 74,000 acres in all) said that the bombs the Air Force intends to drop are "a little cast-iron thing with a shotgun shell in the nose of it." This may be true, but there is no guarantee that future bombings would be confined to such a device. Even the "little thing" described would no doubt be disruptive to wildlife. And, presumably, the area would be closed to hunters, if used by the Air Force.

Wildlife cannot, as pictured in Bill Sanders' cartoon on this page, build bomb shelters. Whatever protection wild creatures get is the responsibility of human beings.

## Must State Mark Time for Two Years?

In view of the overwhelming defeat of the 10 proposed state bond issues in the November 7 election, Governor Sanford could probably have made no other decision than the one announced Monday night: not to call a special session of the General Assembly and not to ask that revised, scaled-down bond proposals be put before the people.

The Governor's misgivings as to any possible success of a special session seem to have been prompted primarily by a careful survey of legislative opinion, a survey that reportedly revealed a great apathy on the part of many legislators, as well as a danger that some legislators would take the opportunity in a special session to sound off in opposition to the food sales tax, thus further linking this new tax to whatever bond issues might again be put to a vote, if not endangering the food tax itself.

The link between the defeated bond issues and the tax was a misleading, specious conclusion and made no more sense than would a man who, having bought himself an overcoat, resented the expense so much that he refused to buy himself a needed pair of shoes. We can be thankful that North Carolina has its food tax "overcoat" to make possible improvements in education at the elementary and high school level, but the "shoes"—the funds needed to expand opportuni-

ties and facilities in higher education are lacking and will apparently be lacking until the 1963 General Assembly takes action toward another bond proposal.

The prospect of this delay is appalling and it is obvious that the minor paring and patching efforts that the Governor said would be attempted will do little to counteract the tremendous setback given to higher education by the failure of the bond issues. The same is true, of course, in all the other bond projects.

Could it be that the people of North Carolina will rouse sufficiently from their lack of concern about these pressing state needs to make bond issues to meet them, at least in part, possible before another two years has gone by? Might it not be possible to call a special session later next year, with some prospect of success, where one called now would not respond?

We most earnestly hope that some answer will be found. It is tragic to see a great state mark time for two years, unable to meet its demonstrated needs in facilities for higher education, the retarded, the delinquent, its ports and the conservation of natural resources, and in other fields.

Above all, these needs must not become "out of sight, out of mind." Persons who see and understand the needs must keep awareness of them alive, for two years if need be. The Governor's address Monday night must have made many opponents of the bond issues squirm, as he pointed out, without rancor, the injury their opposition had done the state. It is quite likely that they, and many others, in the next two years, will see the light.

## Setting the Pace

A new spirit of ambition, determination and cooperation is evident in many rural communities, sparked in this area by the annual contests of the Sandhill Area Development Association and encouraged, as these qualities always have been, by the Agricultural Extension Service.

At this week's meeting of the SADA here, awards were made to seven of the 22 rural communities in Moore, Lee, Richmond and Montgomery Counties that took part in the contest for community improvement during the past year. Spokesmen for the winning communities testified impressively how common interest and common work of their efforts had drawn the community together and enriched its life.

Dr. D. S. Weaver, who has spent many years in agricultural work, paid tribute also to the new spirit apparently arising from the community development work, seeing in it at least a partial answer to the heavy out-migration of people from North Carolina which has gone on steadily for the past three decades. If young people become interested in their home communities and if adults in these communities improve them and help bring in new business and industry, the young folks are much more likely to leave.

Towns, it seems to us, can learn a thing or two from these efforts of our rural neighbors. They are "going places" in the best possible way: working together for the common good.

## Bravo, Jaycees!

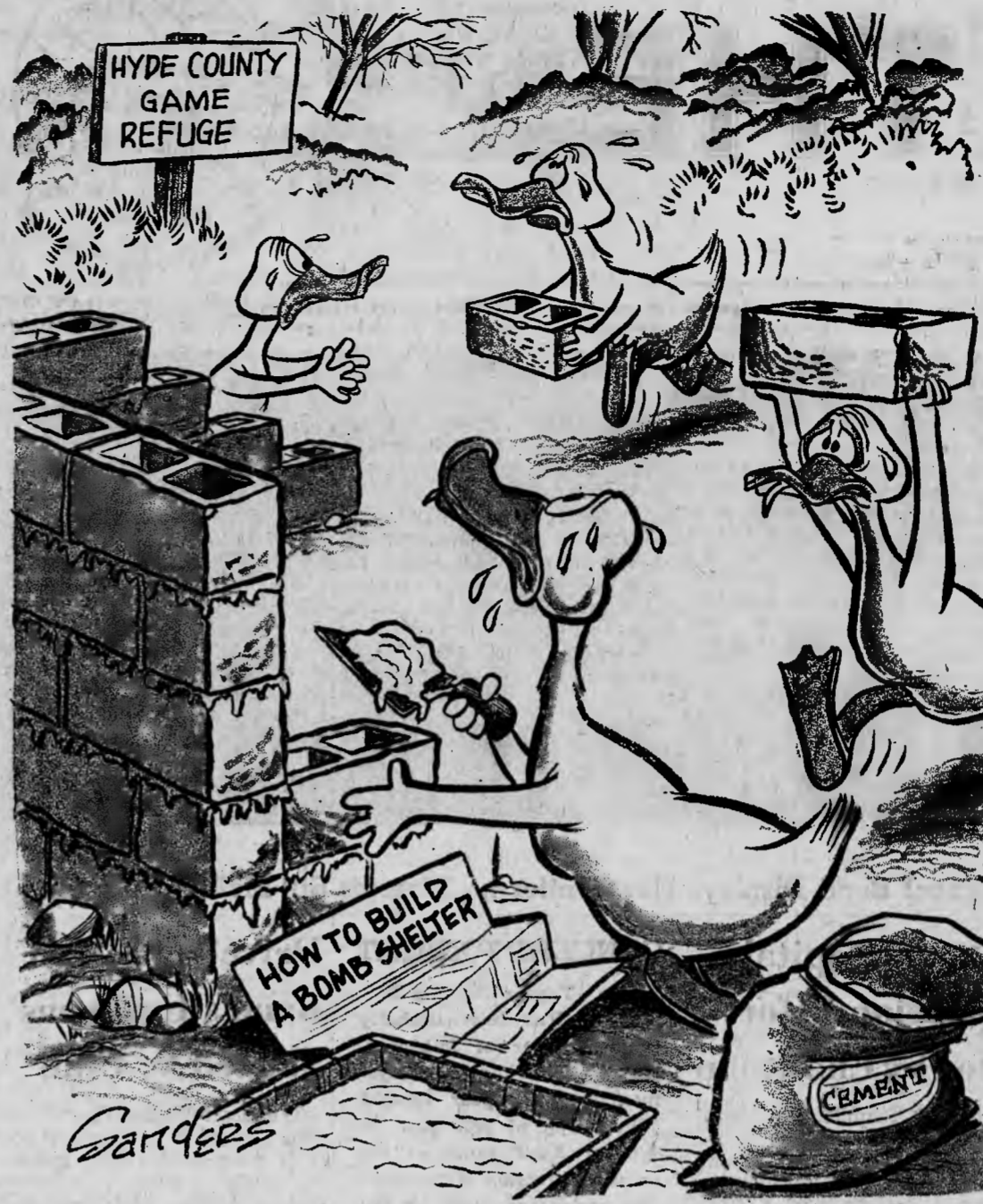
Stand up, Southern Pines Jaycees, for a round of community applause!

Better make it two rounds—or three: one for sponsoring the highly successful recent Golf Carousel which brought about 200 persons here to play golf, from as far away as Canada; another for assuring that the business section will have Christmas lights; and a third round for general energy, good will and community interest.

When the Jaycees make money on a project, the town benefits. They are gradually supplying the park playground with additional equipment. They lend a hand, with money or work, in numerous civic projects.

It is gratifying to any community to know that its young men are concerned about its welfare and progress. In Southern Pines, where civic leadership was exercised predominantly by older persons for a number of years, this is particularly gratifying.

We hear many expressions of confidence in the future of this community. What the Jaycees are doing for Southern Pines is helping prove that this confidence is not misplaced.



VARIOUS TYPES OF FEEDERS DESCRIBED

## Running Bird Cafeteria Is Fun

BY CHARLES E. MOHR  
Director, Greenwich Audubon Nature Center

Written from the viewpoint of a home in the north, the accompanying article by an Audubon Society expert may nevertheless have a few hints for Sandhills folk. Certainly the presence of the enormous flocks of birds now sweeping across our skies is a warning to get ready with feeders ahead of time, so the birds will know where to come when the berries begin to give out.

Birds are on the move again. Flights of northern species are replacing many of the insect eaters which have flown southward. Even the resident birds are leaving their summer haunts. Freed now from the heavy responsibilities of nesting, birds travel farther afield. Woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees and tufted titmice, from orchard and woodland, and cardinals and song sparrows from the thickets or shrubbery, come into the garden several times a day.

Emboldened perhaps by an ever-threatening food scarcity, they come confidently to the doorstep, feed from the window sill, or even alight on the gardener's fingertips for the choice morsels they crave. Of course, they will not come repeatedly unless they find it worth while. But if they do discover food of a kind they like, there is a good chance that they will be back for more—bringing their friends along.

This will not be the case, however, if the garden is devoid of what bird watchers call "shelter." In his delightful new book, "Songbirds in Your Garden," John K. Terres, managing editor of Audubon Magazine, explains that shelter to a bird does not mean a roof over its head. Shelter means a bush or tree into which the bird can fly to safety.

### Temporary Shelter

New home owners who haven't yet made a suitable planting of trees and shrubs may be able to substitute evergreen boughs, abandoned Christmas trees or other evergreens that have been culled in thinning overcrowded plantings. With a bit of ingenuity a woodland setting can be provided for the tempting repast that is to be spread before the feathered clan.

Or if new plantings are to be considered, there are many shrubs and trees to be recommended for attracting birds and giving them shelter. Many of them have fruits in winter, which makes them even more desirable as far as the feathered clan is concerned. For example, dogwood and viburnum have abundant berries, as do quite a few of the climbing and shrub roses and snowberry bush. Some specific evergreens of merit for shelter, as well as landscape value, are red cedar and white pine.

Many a novice at the art of at-

tracting birds hopefully invests in an elaborate metal-topped feeder or an intricate wooden affair, only to find that the food is completely ignored because it may be out of sight. As Mr. Terres points out, your first feeder should be an open one, such as a feeding shelf at a window or a tray on a post. The first food should be conspicuous—chunks of white bread. Birds will spot the bread from a block away and investigate. Then other types of feeders will prove their value, and a better choice of foodstuffs can be put out.

### Quick Energy

To supply the high daily-energy requirements of insect-eating birds like chickadees, nuthatches, myrtle warblers and woodpeckers, beef suet, bacon drippings, and peanut butter should be provided. This can be served most conveniently in a "suet stick." Any piece of wood about three inches thick and eighteen inches long will do, although sections with rough natural bark furnish the best footholds. Six or eight one-inch holes (an inch deep) are drilled in the stick and filled with suet, melted bacon drippings or peanut butter mixed with bird seed. The stick is hung from an overhanging branch or other support.

Grosbeaks, sparrows, juncos, redpolls and finches are almost exclusively seed-eaters. For them a tray or trough perpetually full of seeds is the strongest attraction. An old card table makes an excellent feeder. A two-inch moulding around the side keeps the seeds from being scattered. But so much refuse is left, particularly the empty shells of sunflower seeds, that frequent cleaning is necessary. This service will be performed automatically by the wind if the tray has a double flooring of screen (mosquito netting above, chicken wire below for support) instead of wood. The wind blows the lighter seed husks out of the tray.

At least one large "hopper"

### FREE MINDS CAN PURSUE THE TRUTH

It would be an interesting race of human beings if the minds of men and women demanded food with the same insistence that the stomach does. Suppose your brain, if neglected and forgotten for a day, would set up the same insistent clamor for sustenance that your appetite does.

Truth is supposed to be the goal of education and philosophy, and religion, as well. The truth will "set you free." How many of us realize that the best pursuit of truth comes only when a mind is free of passion, prejudices and popular superstitions? How many of us make any systematic effort to remove such cobwebs from our brain?

—Bertie Ledger-Dispatch

feeder should be used, if the feeder must go several days between refillings. A gallon cider jug filled with seeds, inverted and wired in place half an inch above a feeding table, should feed twenty-five birds for a week.

Tested and approved seed mixtures contain approximately equal parts of hemp seeds, small and large seeded millets, white millet, buckwheat and fine-cracked corn. Up to a third of the mixture set out should be sunflower seeds. Or these larger seeds can be supplied in separate, smaller containers which will be frequented by the chickadees and nuthatches.

### Foxing the Squirrels

Most hopper-type feeders incorporate some type of squirrel baffle in their design. No one could starve the amusing and amazingly ingenious gray squirrels, but most folks object to these bushy-tailed rodents growing fat on expensive sunflower seeds bought for the chickadees and others. Thus the top of many feeders is a flat cone, or else the bottom resembles an inverted bucket or drum. If located far enough from trees or other launching sites, such feeders will retain the costlier seeds for their intended purpose. The squirrels will be just as healthy on a thrift menu of cracked corn, with an occasional acorn thrown in for desert.

Second only to food and shelter is water for drinking and bathing. An aluminum refrigerator ice tray fitted into the top of a box containing two fifteen-watt light bulbs, will serve as an ice-free bird bath and will be your best drawing card.

What about blue jays? "We love them," says Mr. Terres in his book. Never in twenty years of bird watching has he seen jays attack or intimidate smaller birds. Rather, they play an important role in the bird community—they are the watchdogs. Every bird recognizes and heeds the jay's raucous alarm note, sounded the instant a cat, hawk, or other possible marauder is sighted.

### Start—and Don't Stop

It's always fun to watch the response to a newly placed feeding device. Often it is discovered within minutes. Generally the different species approach and feed in a definite order, a priority list well worth compiling.

There is still time to start feeding. Most of the winter birds haven't yet established a pattern of daily travel; in fact, additional northern species may be arriving until late December. Once feeding is undertaken, it should not be interrupted or abandoned. Birds operate on a narrow margin of energy reserve which may be insufficient to permit extensive foraging, especially where feeding has built up large wintering populations. It's better not to feed at all than to stop just when the birds are depending on it.

## Grains of Sand

### Portent

Were there ever so many birds here before as the huge flocks that have been wheeling through the skies this past week? And all the time the sharp wind was blowing.

How does the old song go?  
Blackbirds flying south:  
Cold weather coming, baby,  
Cold weather coming.

### Trying To Help

William David Ormsby-Gore, the new British ambassador to the U. S., is widely regarded as an exceptional person, intelligent, quick, persevering in what he considers is the best course. Said one who knows him well: "You feel he always wants to help."

Was this a characteristic of this young man since early days? It seems so. There's a story going round of the time when young David Ormsby-Gore was a first-year student at Eton at a critical time. One of the boys had tried to commit suicide.

Gathering the boys together, the headmaster made a serious plea: "Can any of you throw any light on why this boy should have tried to kill himself?"

A hand shot up from the back ranks. Attached to it was a very small, black-haired "new boy."

"Yes, my boy?" said the headmaster.

"I wondered, sir," said young David, "might it have been the food?"

### Impressive

A young man named Futterman died recently and in his obituary in the New York Times there was a paragraph that we found especially interesting.

This man, only 33 when he died, started low on the ladder, but went upward miraculously fast, especially in the past two years when, with a comparatively small capital to start with, he formed a real estate corporation that in those two years became a \$100 million enterprise stretching across the nation.

How did he do it? What guided his extraordinarily skillful business-sense? You get an inkling of it in this paragraph in which he stated his credo in the realty field:

"Never buy arithmetic, always buy basics," he said in a recent interview. "Basics in a real-estate investment include a view of each city as a socio-economic organism, with its industries, municipal policies, citizens' views of their civic duties, and the means of getting in and out of town all taken into account."

In other words, this young man would always initiate a possible real estate venture by studying carefully the past, present and probable future of a community, before he even started figuring on profits: "basics instead of arithmetic."

It's not surprising that he became known as an expert on town planning, with a first book to his credit: "The Future of Our Cities."

### Felt So Bad

"He went around looking as baffled and hurt as a collie who has been whacked by Albert Payson Terhune."

### The Rockingchair

"The rockingchair was among the most valuable of our inventions. It provided relaxation, comfort and intellectual stimulation, but if something began to boil over on the stove or if the doorbell rang, you could get out of it on its next go-forward with the ease of stepping off a low platform."

"But sitting in a modern contour chair is like falling into a coal bin. And you can't get out without assistance." —Harry Golden

## The PILOT

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

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor  
C. Benedict Associate Editor  
Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr.  
C. G. Council Advertising  
Mary Scott Newton Business  
Mary Evelyn de Nisoff Society  
Composing Room  
Dixie B. Ray, Michael Valen,  
Thomas Matlocks and James E. Pate.

Subscription Rates  
Moore County  
One Year \$4.00  
Outside Moore County  
One Year \$5.00  
Second-class Postage paid at Southern Pines, N. C.

Member National Editorial Assn. and N. C. Press Assn.