

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.

Change in Attitude on Spraying?

We may be over-optimistic in thinking that we detect on the part of the public more sympathy with this newspaper's opposition to the municipal summer insect spraying program. If opposition to the program is increasing, we hope that persons disliking it will make their opinions known to the town council and to The Pilot.

We have opposed the spraying program since it began several years ago, because:

1. It is inconceivable that breathing a fine mist of fuel oil and insecticide (a mist that often lingers in the air for hours on a calm night) has no deleterious effect on the human body, particularly on infants and older persons—and indeed we know of specific cases of persons with respiratory afflictions in which the spray has caused definite, unfavorable reactions.
2. Regardless of a possible health threat, it is highly objectionable to have the sweet summer night air (which we in this pleasant little town are so lucky to be able to breathe, unpolluted by industrial and other smoke and fumes) deliberately made offensive in odor and consistency by the clouds of spray belched forth from a loudly chugging, sputtering machine that itself violates the peace and quiet of the community.
3. We do not think that a unit of government has the right to befool the air which all persons must breathe. It has been established, we believe, that a

municipal government has the right to add chlorine or fluorine to its water supply, but no citizen is forced to drink the water. There is no alternative, however, to breathing air. We don't know enough law to expatiate on this point, but we feel that the Town is morally, if not legally, violating a basic human right with its spraying program.

So serious on a national scale has become the problem of air and water pollution, use of agricultural chemicals, nuclear fall-out, food additives and chemical and health hazards in various occupations that a federal Environmental Health Center, in or near Washington, has been proposed to do research in these fields. Little is actually known, for instance, about the long-term effect of insecticides on the human body, as many of the substances have not been in use long enough for full studies to be made. Some of these chemicals are not disposed of, but are stored, by the body.

In his Health Message, in February, President Kennedy supported the Environmental Health Center proposal and a request for funds for it has been submitted as part of the new federal budget.

Certainly, the project reflects growing national concern with hazards to human health and life that were almost unknown a decade or two ago. Perhaps it is some of this concern that is reflected in the change we think we are noting in public attitude to town-wide insect spraying.

Watch Out for Fires

Here's one time when the stint of writing an editorial on Monday that won't be read until Thursday isn't such a perilous affair. This time the editor doesn't need to hope wistfully that the subject won't be a dead dormouse by the time Pilot readers get to it. In fact, this time he's hoping just the opposite. If it turns out that this editorial was an unnecessary effort, so much the better.

In other words, on Monday we find ourselves still saying: "Watch out for fires!"

The woods are dry as tinder. A cliché but expressive. The word holds all the fearful crackling danger of what it means. "Tinder" is seldom used today except in just this connection. The dictionary says it's from the Anglo Saxon, meaning something that will set things afire without an explosion. (And the dictionary explains primly that this was before the time of lucifer matches.)

Those Anglo Saxons obviously didn't know anything about Southern pine-woods. Whoever has heard the snap and crash of fire hitting a big pine will never forget the sound. Or the sight. The huge tree bursts, explodes; there's no other word for it. It becomes in seconds a great roaring torch against the sky.

Several score years back, the owners

of woodlands would "burn over" as protection against fire, but that practice is seldom carried out today. Though it did offer much protection to the forests, it killed the tiny seedlings. Now the organized Forestry Service, with its fire-fighters and trucks equipped with the latest things in tanks and fireplows, and their watchers constantly aloft on the towers scattered at points of vantage, form the defenders of the forests. And extremely efficient and able they are. And extremely effective.

Today there is double emphasis in the warning spread far and wide by these watchmen on the firing line. "Watch out for fires! Be careful in the woods: don't build fires, don't throw cigarettes carelessly; don't put out trash to burn! BE CAREFUL!"

To this we would add the caution: If you see a fire starting, or smoke on the horizon, get on the phone to the fire tower immediately. The number is 692-7951, and it's the first listing in the Ns: N. C. Forest Service Fire Tower.

And may we add the fervent if cautious hope that the drought will break and this editorial be out-of-date by the time it's read.

Doctors Not United Against Care Plan

There must have been considerable gnashing of teeth around the headquarters of the American Medical Association when Dr. Benjamin Spock, renowned physician who is the author of "Baby and Child Care" and who is beloved by millions of parents for his sensible advice, came out with an unqualified endorsement of President Kennedy's plan for health insurance of the aged through Social Security.

Dr. Spock did not merely condescend to speak a few favorable words for the plan embodied in the King-Anderson Bill now in Congressional Committees. He wrote three newspaper features which have been distributed nationally by the National Council of Senior Citizens for Health Care Through Social Security, pointing out how valuable the President's health insurance plan would be for security of the whole family, as well as for the aged, and stating emphatically that the plan is not "socialized medicine," permits free choice of physicians or facilities by the patient and imposes no Federal supervision or control on the practice of medicine by any doctor.

The connection between health care for the aged and children of this country is "very close," says Dr. Spock. The Social Security plan he states, "is needed almost as much for the benefit of children and parents as it is for the grandparents for whom it is directly intended."

Dr. Spock says he has seen in homes the financial and emotional strains, affecting children as well as parents, that result when parents have to assume the burden of medical care for their own parents, perhaps having to use educational funds saved for the children or having to postpone medical treatment needed for them. Or perhaps homes must be mortgaged or savings exhausted. Children's opportunities, says Dr. Spock, should not be sacrificed because of crises which can easily be insured against.

Though the American Medical Association would have it appear that it speaks unanimously for all the physicians in the nation, this is by no means the case. Dr.

Spock is only one of numerous distinguished doctors who have formed the Physicians Committee for the Health Care of the Aged through Social Security. The AMA, with vast sums of money at its disposal (it spent \$163,405 for lobbying last year, more than any other group in the nation) is going all-out against the King-Anderson Bill—an opposition that seems as inexplicable and as fanatical as were the AMA's unsuccessful attacks on voluntary plans for health insurance in 1934, the Social Security plan itself in 1939, extension of Social Security benefits to the permanently and totally disabled at age 50, and old-age and unemployment insurance.

It is gratifying to find that a more reasonable point of view prevails among some physicians outside the leadership of the AMA.

Register!

With Moore County's new registration of all voters due to end in 10 days, two thirds of the month allowed for it has passed. But many hundreds of the county's voters have not yet re-registered.

While there are few county Democratic primary races to rouse interest, there should be no apathy about the voting May 26. There are two races for highly important seats on the county board of education and the Congressional primary is of utmost importance, determining the quality of leadership that will affect not only Moore County, but the Congressional district, the state and the nation.

There is, of course, no such thing as an unimportant election. Some elections may be considered more "important" than others because of the number of races or the nature of the office involved, but the principle remains the same. Citizen interest in voting is, literally, the life force of democracy, the vitality of a free nation. An apathetic electorate is a nation's illness—an illness that has been fatal to democracy in more than one country of the world.

"They Sent Us To Guard Your Goldfish?"



Grains of Sand

"But... no rain!" Maybe it will come before this paper is read, and for once that will be all right with us. Mind, now: we aren't groaning any prophetic groans about the drought. We don't say that when the paper comes out on Thursday it will be just as dry, or dryer, than it is today. Manfully, we keep on hoping it WON'T be. But we hope it in a whisper. No use tempting providence, though why providence should be brought into such things is not for us to say.

Which reminds us of a story told by Ralph Page about the time when he was asked to make a prayer in one of the little country churches.

Nothing phased Ralph then, (as nothing phases him now!) and he cast his mind about for a suitable subject. This was a farming community. Of course! Pray for rain: the farmer always wants rain. So Ralph Page delivered an earnest plea for rain.

After the service a farmer came up to him. He was friendly, if cautious.

"We were right glad to have you with us, Mr. Page," he said. "That was a mighty good prayer, too," then there came a pause. "Course," said the farmer, "What we really need's manure."

Cile Turner's Latest

Cile Turner is not one to neglect the fundamentals. The song she is working up now has for its punch line: "Toujours manure."

The idea came to her from a terrible experience. It appears there was a big garden club tour planned for a certain day and the idea was to get everything furnished up for the occasion. A friend with a particularly cherished lawn got busy way ahead of the date prodding the local yardman to get the fertilizer started early: the lawn was looking a bit yellow and she wanted it super perfect for the tour. Time went by and time went by and, in the manner of yardmen, nothing happened. She realized her lawn was going to have to make do and thought no more of it.

On the day of the tour the lady went marketing early so as to get back to receive the hordes of visitors who always came. As she started back and turned into the drive a wave of horror assailed her nostrils. It grew stronger as she neared the house and the truth burst upon her. The yardman had at last showed up—and how. Her lawn, the pride of the house, was covered with manure.

Cile's song isn't entirely devoted to the gloom of this catastrophe: true to her philosophy of implacable optimism—as well as her belief in "old-time religion," whether it's gardening religion or any other kind—she gives old-time manure it's due. In gardening, she says, if all else fails, there's "toujours manure."

Signs of Summer

More "Live Bait" signs hung out here and there... and sometimes in zones where they hadn't ought to be.

More folks crouched over fishing poles along the creeks and by the farm ponds.

Telephone calls that bring the harassed answer: "Can't do it. I'm putting away winter clothes." (And the attic already so hot you can't breathe.)

Birdbaths, those drinking-and-bathing combos, emptied almost before you get them filled. Such a wild flutter of wings you'd think they'd all drown.

But the best sign of summer isn't a sign at all but a sound: The first descending "chuck-chuck-chucky-chucky" of the summer cardinal tuned in with the first fluttering arpeggios of the woodthrush on the next branch. That's a duet worth waiting for.

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SOVIET BOMB TESTS SHOW WEAKNESS

Loss in Russian Power Noted

By JOSEPH C. HARSCH
Special Correspondent
Christian Science Monitor

(Reprinted with permission)

It is assumed that almost immediately (following the first U. S. post nuclear-test-truce series of testing) the Soviets will commence their second post truce series of tests.

It is probable, although not entirely certain, that this new round in tests never would have taken place had the Soviets continued to observe the truce. The most reliable evidence is that it has taken Washington five months to prepare for the forthcoming round of rival tests. The answer is, I believe, fairly clear. It is because the past 10 months have witnessed a contraction or diminishing of the over-all power of the Soviet state which has alarmed many persons in Moscow and which they think can be remedied most quickly by an attempt to score a breakthrough in nuclear weapons.

At the time Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev met President Kennedy in Vienna roughly a year ago the Soviet Union appeared to be at the zenith of its power position in the world.

Its doctrines and its agents were or appeared to be making headway across Africa and Latin America. Chaos in the Congo and Premier Fidel Castro in Cuba were merely the most alarming immediate indications that Moscow was on the march.

Its threat to Berlin had the Western alliance in an anguish of conflicting opinion and uncertainty about the future.

It was believed to have the capacity to drop enough nuclear weapons on the United States to constitute as deterrent an effect as the number which the United States could drop on the Soviet Union.

Its system of alliances was

JONATHAN DANIELS LAYS IT ON THE LINE

States' Wrongs

"If the law supposes that," said Mr. Bumble, "the law is a ass."

Never recently has that been given better demonstration than by the positions or pretensions of some Southern Senators that the Constitutional rights of Americans would be invaded if Congress held that in Federal elections the completion of a sixth grade education should serve as adequate demonstration of literacy as a prerequisite to voting.

Obviously what these Senators are defending are not states' rights but states' wrongs. And in that process they are energetically engaged in trying to prove to the country that the South does not want to protect or see protected the rights of all literate citizens to vote in national elections.

If any persons, Southern Senators included, really feel that pre-

known to have been shaken by the gnawing ideological dispute with Peking, although Western experts assumed that the issue was manageable and would be contained within the structure of an effective Communist alliance.

There was no general awareness in the West of a major domestic issue in the Soviet Union over agricultural policy. Mr. Khrushchev was known to be having food problems, but they were hardly regarded as a serious weakness in his position.

Over the past 10 months this picture has been substantially altered.

The West learned that Soviet nuclear capacity had been over-estimated; that, in fact, American nuclear capacity substantially outgunned Soviet capacity.

The whole Western world learned that the agricultural problem had mushroomed into a major domestic crisis inside the Soviet Union. At the same time the West concluded that the Soviet-Chinese dispute had been as much underestimated as Soviet nuclear capacity had been over-

estimated.

Since then the march on Soviet influence in Africa and Latin America has slowed down, in fact has begun to recede, and even the building of the wall in Berlin began to appear to partake more of the nature of a desperate defensive action to check the melting of imperial frontiers than that of a genuine imperial offensive.

When the power of a great state is seen to be shrinking in so many areas and the shadow cast by its power to be recessive, that state is likely to seek some bold and sudden means of reviving its diminishing influence. The tide could be reversed, of course, by a spectacular breakthrough in nuclear weapons.

The above is, I believe, the reason why Moscow broke the truce and why it is preparing another round. Under the circumstances it is difficult to see how Washington can avoid its own testing. It is ironic that this step, so much deprecated by so many, is the product not of rising Soviet strength but of the appearance of Soviet weakness.

The Public Speaking

Nation Watching 8th's 'Battle of Ideologies'

To the Editor:

I see by the papers that the eyes of the Winston-Salem Journal, and of old Lindsay Warren 300 miles away, and in fact of the nation in general all the way up to the White House, are on the Eighth District Congressional race. The election has all the drama any scenario writer could hope to contrive. Can a glamorous challenger for the first time in American history dethrone two incumbents in one race? Can the South's one really entrenched Republican be beaten? Is the present-day rightist resurgence virulent enough to put across a bedrock, arch-conservative Dem-

ocrat against such omnipotent opponents?

In this limelight, the Eighth owes it to the nation to give them this fall a clearcut battle of ideologies—dedicated conservative Charlie Jonas against dedicated independent thinker John P. Kennedy instead of a mere lukewarm personality tiff over which of the two rockribbed conservatives (Jonas and Kitchin) can shake the most hands.

H. MILTON SHORT, JR.
Charlotte

'Communist Thinking'

To the Editor:

This is the first day of our first visit to Pinehurst. Having purchased your paper and viewing the leftist bent of your cartoon of the D.A.R. and Birchites and having read your editorial disparaging "flag waving" and those who "denounce communism," plus your editorial recommending no "testing," I have come to the conclusion that the inroads of communist thinking abound down here in Dixie, so help me! The New York Times.

I. H. SCHAUMBER
Pinehurst

(Editor's note: The Pilot thanks its new reader for his comparison of this newspaper with The New York Times.)

PRODUCERS

He who by any exertion of mind or body adds to the aggregate of enjoyable wealth, increases the sum of human knowledge or gives to human life higher elevation or greater fullness—he is, in the larger meaning of the words, a producer, a workingman, a laborer, and is honestly earning honest wages. —HENRY GEORGE

—Raleigh News & Observer