

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.

Housing Need Is Real — Let's Meet It

The town council is doing well to investigate whether Southern Pines should seek federal aid in the construction of low-rent public housing here—a possibility that was outlined in a news story in last week's Pilot.

We agree with the council that the need is here, especially in West Southern Pines. We were most interested, too, to hear from the federal housing official who spoke to the council that special rental units for elderly persons, many of whom have to live on low incomes, can be made a part of such housing projects. Such units would be particularly welcome in Southern Pines where older persons of limited income sometimes find it hard to find suitable, accessible accommodations—despite the fact that the town makes much of inviting the retired as residents.

As with other federally aided projects, the government is lending a hand in housing primarily because private enterprise has failed to fill a need. Government's part in encouraging and supervising construction of housing may be deplored by rugged individualists, but government is there because few private builders have moved to meet the needs—sometimes quite desperate needs—in this field.

We have never understood why good low-rental units (as well as low-cost houses for sale) have not been built by

private business, when the need for them is so extensive, so obvious. The closest we have gotten to an answer is to be given to understand that financing is difficult, buyers or tenants in the low-price range are said to be frequently unreliable and that the profits involved are not worth the headaches likely to be acquired.

Whether these opinions are valid is seldom tested. In so far as they are negative opinions, based on a low estimate of human nature, we tend to distrust them, having found that this sort of opinion is closely akin to myth and so is blindly perpetuated with little actual reference to reality.

So much for theory. The fact is that, with population growing and older housing deteriorating constantly, Southern Pines, privately or publicly, must move ahead in the low-rent housing field—and there seems to be no other adequate, large-scale answer in sight except the government-sponsored program.

We hope that our news story last week made clear that such housing is not a government "hand-out." Aside from the federal guidance and helping hand in getting started, it is very much a capitalistic enterprise, with bonds issued by a locally chosen public housing authority, to be paid off by income from the project.

Unless there is some major flaw that we have not detected, we see no reason why Southern Pines shouldn't get on with the matter as fast as it can.

No Substitute For A Sense Of Values

The resignation of more than 90 cadets from the Air Force Academy in Colorado (at the last count we saw), appears, from the cartoon on this page, to be a rather forcible resignation. So it was.

Strict moralists have had a field day in calling down doom on the youth of the nation, lambasting the success-at-any-price philosophy of their elders, on the side. Others, siding with outraged parents of some of the rejected cadets, have sympathized with the young men who ignored that part of the Academy's honor code which requires the reporting of cheating on the part of others, equally with the rejection of cheating by oneself.

We have heard some observers express dread lest future Air Force officers, who would cheat or condone cheating while at the Academy, find themselves unable, as responsible military leaders in future years, to exercise their duties properly. A sense of honor, once violated, these observers reasoned, could well be violated again, to the nation's peril.

A New York Times article quotes a Columbia University survey which shows that academic cheating in American colleges—and elsewhere in the world, too—is much more widespread than is generally supposed. (In Russia, it seems there is a "long record" of cheating—not by students but by teachers: they have to

justify their accomplishments and take the easy way!)

This article sensibly raises the question as to the compatibility of honor systems and military institutions: "The contrast between rigid military protocol and the honor system may well be too extreme."

There is truth, as we see it, in all these points of view. And there is another truth which no one, in considering what happened at the Air Force Academy, can overlook. By far the largest majority of the cadets did not cheat or condone cheating—a much larger majority, it appears, than those who revere inflexible honesty at the civilian colleges, according to the survey reported by the Times.

Surely, there is a warning in what happened at the Air Force Academy—and what is happening in colleges everywhere. It is this: there is no substitute for a deeply ingrained sense of values. And there is no instant value mix on the market, today or ever. The process of value judgments starts with the cradle and continues, we have noted, ad infinitum.

As we ponder what happened in Colorado, we realize that the oldest solutions apply to the newest problems. Ends do not justify means, for an infant or an octogenarian. It's as simple as that.

Water Plan Shows Increasing Maturity

In hearing last week's town council meeting discussion with Aberdeen and Carthage officials about linking up the water systems of the three towns (a complicated project that we won't attempt to summarize here), we couldn't help wondering if Moore County wasn't dealing with a miniature version of the "megopolis" phenomenon which is rapidly producing a gigantic single city from Washington, D. C., to Boston, Mass.

Only a decade or so ago, a proposal that these three towns pool their resources in water, piping, treatment facilities and so forth—not only for their own use but for benefit of intervening residents and potential residents—would have been highly improbable.

The plan—and it remains to be seen if it's practical—reveals a new cast of thinking, an abandonment of insularity and isolationism. The plan is based on real needs, just as Washington, Philadelphia, New York and Boston can't live

to themselves alone. Yet we feel that the new attitude is evidence of a widening and deepening maturity, a quality that can be defined in terms of what is involved in the three-town proposal: looking ahead, anticipating needs, working together with others for mutual benefit, sharing resources.

What's been happening in education in Moore County is additional evidence of the same spirit. Consolidation of several high schools was accomplished because the people of the county became convinced—and it wasn't easy to convince them—that retaining small isolated inadequate schools (no matter how hard it was to give up what was "theirs") wasn't the way their children would get the best possible education.

Whatever the discussions about the water proposals may bring, there is a great deal of sense in what is being proposed. We salute the imagination, the cooperation and the foresight being shown.

'A Change of Seasons' — And How!

The Sandhills, it's said by devotees of the area, is preferable to Florida or California as a place of residence because a southerly latitude has modified the climate here, but "there is still a change of seasons."

Indeed there is—and sometimes all four seasons within a week or two, the way the weather's been behaving.

Short-sleeved shirts have stayed in the top drawer, this winter, because you never knew when they'd be needed. Down the hall, a winter overcoat and scarf also have been ready. And all have been used.

Fall and Spring have had their turn. There have been crisp days with the feel of autumn and there have been gentle, misty mornings when the first thing you

noticed on stepping out was the daffodils poking up and, in some cases, almost ready to bloom.

Our Japanese quince bushes threw all caution to the winds and burst into full flower a few days before the mercury dropped way down under freezing. They paid the full price for their indiscretion. Brown and withered now, there'll be no real Spring for them. Somewhat more cautious, but skirting close to the line of peril, the forsythia has been opening a yellow eye, here and there, as though to test the outlook, but most of the buds are tight enough, we hope, to withstand a freeze or two.

Don't mention the dogwoods—or the peaches. Just keep your fingers crossed.

Wild Blue Yonder



UNITED NATIONS REPORT

Future Of UN Hanging In Balance

BY JAMES BOYD

United Nations Correspondent

Just before the week-end of January 24, Foreign Minister Gromyko and Secretary of State Rusk commented upon the international situation. No mention was made of the United Nations and the crisis that now faces this organization.

The problem goes to the very heart of the United Nations. It is: whether this international body will function on a regularly assessed budget for Peacekeeping operations paid by all Members, or whether the money will trickle in at the whim of each nation.

The principle involved is whether the General Assembly has the right under the Charter to carry out Peacekeeping operations and make assessment for same.

The argument started in 1960 when the United States, supported by the majority, got the General Assembly to act on a Peacekeeping operation for the Congo and the Middle East. This involved an assessment which came to \$52 million for the Soviet Union. Later a ruling was obtained from the International Court to the effect that this assessment constituted "regular expenses" of the organization.

But the Soviet Union stepped in. It does not recognize the International Court and did not accept this ruling. Steadfastly Russia maintained that the whole operation was illegal, including the assessment.

You First, Sir!

Last week the situation had the earmarks of a childish dispute as to who goes first. The Soviet Union stood by its position that it is not in arrears but, to help the financial crisis of the United Nations, is willing to make a voluntary contribution—but only after the General Assembly starts its normal proceedings, which includes voting. The United States, on the other hand, insisted that the Soviet Union must make this contribution before the voting starts and it must be of sufficient amount to satisfy both the United States and the Secretary General.

What does not make this whole affair a ridiculous matter is that the very future of the United Nations hangs in the balance. This great organization was conceived by the United States as well as the Soviet Union in 1945 "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind," and up to now it has done pretty well on a very limited budget (compared to the \$52 billion that the United States spends each year for armaments.)

The UN has been able to calm down a number of dangerous trouble spots. It has done much to help the poor and backward people of the world through its technical aid and specialized agencies: to eradicate disease, build dams and irrigation ditches, plant trees and crops as well as supply food to vast millions where death from starvation was a common occurrence.

It is hard to conceive that the United Nations is now to be de-

stroyed because the two super powers of the organization cannot agree on how and when to make a contribution.

The United States' position, in spite of all it has said, is not entirely unclouded. It emphasizes the principle involved, namely that the Soviet Union is obligated by the International Court and the rule of the majority to contribute to the past Peacekeeping operations. But when questioned on the future, it is interesting to note that the United States tends to side with the Soviet Union's view that future Peacekeeping should be left to the Security Council. The reason is clear: The United States no longer controls the votes in the General Assembly. The Assembly is dominated by Africans and Asians who are often unsympathetic to the United States' point of view.

Confrontation Avoided

The direct confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States, which seemed unavoidable, a confrontation which would have meant a defeat for one or the other nation, which would, in turn, have precipitated a walk-out, was considered one of the most serious moments in the history of the United Nations.

This was the showdown that seemed inevitable, last week.

Then came the death of Winston Churchill, that great statesman who, with Roosevelt, had dreamt up the idea of the Atlantic Charter which became the basis of the UN. As a mark of respect the President of the Assembly called a week's recess in honor of Britain's heroic leader.

Because of this respite, further delay has been gained in which to work out this critical problem and there has been much activity behind the scenes. Secretary General U Thant has asked for suggestions on how best to proceed and some pressure has been applied on this country to moderate its stand.

The general opinion seems to be that confrontation of the two big powers should be avoided, if possible, that the General Assembly should take steps to pass the arrears matter on to the 1965 budget, and that a committee be set up to study the whole business of the Peace-keeping operations.

The fact that no nation objected to this plan would indicate that the United States will go along and that once more the UN way of negotiation and compromise will win the day.

The Public Speaking

Election, Inauguration Should Be Held Earlier

To the Editor:

There may be a thousand ways to catch the "common cold." One of the surest is to stand or sit for several hours outdoors on a January day in the city of Washington, D. C. Yet that is precisely what a foolish custom requires many of the most important men in our national and state governments to do, once every four years.

The outdoor inauguration all began when a stupid and selfish Congress refused the request of President Monroe to be inaugurated in a room of the Capitol. Congress tried to justify its bad manners by stating that the inauguration of a President was a matter that concerned the Executive Branch alone, and that the Capitol was a building constructed for the use of the Legislative Branch alone.

I suggest that it is stupid to inaugurate a President outdoors in January. I also suggest that it is equally stupid and unnecessary—modern communications being what they are—to stretch out a Presidential campaign over a period of four months. To be quite honest, after two months of last year's campaign, I confess that I was growing a bit weary of my own party's (Democratic) candidates, and downright disgusted with their opponents. By Labor Day my mind was made up; I was ready to vote and I imagine that there were millions who felt as I did.

I suggest that it would be to the advantage of all Americans, most of all the respective candi-

dates, to move both Election Day and Inauguration Day two months forward. Congress could change the date of Election Day by deleting the word "November" from the present law and substituting the word "September." Similarly, November 20 could be substituted for January 20 as the date of the President's Inauguration. All over the United States better weather is practically assured in September than in November, and in November than in January.

Under this plan, Election Day would immediately follow Labor Day. Vacationing voters would have the holiday to reach home to vote, in fact they would have the long weekend beginning the previous Friday. I believe that such a change would increase the total number of votes cast. Certainly this suggestion, or something like it, is worth pondering.

DONALD G. HERRING
Southern Pines

Funds Urgently Needed To Aid Home For Boys

To the Editor:

Just a note to share a particular problem with your readers. We didn't receive enough funds from our Christmas appeal letters to cover our boys' care costs, and also to make a \$5,000 payment which is due this month on land which we purchased two years ago.

Any share that your readers can take in this urgent need will be deeply appreciated.

R. N. McCRAE, Director
Boys Home
Lake Waccamaw, N. C.

Grains of Sand

It Won't Be Long, Now

We find in last year's calendar (yes, that's why things have gone a bit awry for us of late) the notation, under Feb. 1: "Remember to go out and look for arbutus EARLY."

With a bit of snow on the ground and the air still nippy, this sounds like a forlorn hope. Surely the arbutus won't be starting to show for some time, you say. Don't be too sure. Give it a few weeks longer maybe but not too many.

"Trailing arbutus," is the way old-timers speak of it, adding grace to its name. It used to be that little tykes would gather around the Postoffice with tight small bouquets of arbutus in their hot fists, crushed together with rubber bands. They got a quarter for a good bunch (there were few good ones). You don't see such a sight nowadays, or seldom. Are the children less enterprising? Less energetic—it takes a bit of walking to find arbutus. Or did the little boys pull so much of it up by the roots that they have created a scarcity? That seems the likely explanation. If so, it's a great pity.

Coming Events

Another thing you start seeing out in the woods pretty soon is the little pine seedlings.

Each one is an utterly fascinating miniature. There is the cone, rather dishevelled, lying in a sandy spot, and there around it are the seeds it has cast forth. Look close and you'll find one that has started to take root. One end of the seed is buried in the earth and a long crack runs up its tough brown hide. At the top is the tiny pine. You could think it was a bit of moss, the kind that has minute "trees" on its back. But this is a real tree starting, a perfect replica of what it will grow to be some day, if no one with an axe or a cross-saw comes along. And no one steps on it.

We remember such a tiny tree, a seedling of last year that had had a very close escape from a passerby. But it wasn't a man's footmark, or the hoof of a horse. It was the slim track of a fox.

"Not as big and strong and deep as a dog," we used to be told, "not as round as a cat's print or travelling as wide; not the little hands of a coon or the big pointed toes of a possum, but slim, slightly pointed, the padmarks almost in line." If there had been snow, now, you might even have been able to make out the slight shadowmark of the tip of his brush as the fox stepped delicately past the little pine.

Now we are on this subject of animals, has anyone seen one of those bold black squirrels, lately? Or heard a great horned owl whoo-hoing from the deep woods? The big squirrels used to be a fairly frequent sight in the Round Timber tract, between Youngs Road and Connecticut and along the Azalea Swamp, but no one has reported seeing any for some time. Maybe the countryside is getting too civilized and full of people.

As for the big owls, it should soon be time for them to start talking.

Listen the first spring-like night and ten to one you'll hear the deep, shivering call that suddenly brings the wilderness close. Almost you find yourself wondering: "Was it an owl, or a creeping, crawling Indian?" The night is suddenly darker; a cloud slides over the moon. "Who-hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo" comes the call. Chief Big Owl is scouting the territory.

Stop Press!

About the squirrels: even before we went to press came an official reply that the big blacks are still around. Mac Goodwin, warden-naturalist of Weymouth Woods, reports many blacks in the Nature Preserve. Also dark brown and tri-color. "Kind of an olive shade," he says.

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