

## THE WEEKLY PILOT

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### BEGINNING THE THIRD YEAR

The Pilot is entering on its third year. Those who regarded the venture as a flight in the face of providence when it was begun two years ago are not so outspoken now, for although it transpired that about the time The Pilot was started financial difficulties overtook the nation the spring the paper came through and is today an established institution in the Sandhill life.

Modesty has been one of the traits of character of the paper, and it has never undertaken to reach higher than its limits. So it has not missed its hold. It has endeavored to gauge its field, and occupy it. In its two years it has gained a place and a name, and though not the biggest paper in the state it certainly has the blue ribbon that says it was credited by the committee that decided the contest at the state fair as presenting the best editorial page of all the papers submitted. The Pilot has not been puffed up with vanity. It was a committee of newspaper men passing in judgement on the merits of the competing papers that gave the blue ribbon.

But that is only one testimonial. Another which is perhaps of more force is that in the county The Pilot has the confidence of the people as being honest in its purpose to help along with the progress of the community and in doing its work in a reasonably intelligent and helpful way. The Pilot makes no pretense of anything but what it is, a country paper in a rural village, remote from the influences of the populous centers. But it has the conviction that the village and the surrounding country neighborhood has its place in human affairs as well as the big towns with all of the importance they assume for themselves.

The Pilots starts off in its next year satisfied that it has been of use in its sphere, holding its head above water, and what is of more general value, holding its course in the direction of continued usefulness in the community. It has made no promises and asked no favors, preferring to be judged as it goes along, and to pay for what it gets and to get what it pays for. The two years that are gone have been years of some effort, but withal two years of much satisfaction and genial relationship with the people and the world. And the memories of yesterday justify the expectation in tomorrow.

### THE MANLY CANNERY

A big bunch of men prominent in the affairs of the county are arranging for a big canning factory at Manly. The signs all indicate that the pro-

ject will work out, for the right type of men is behind the venture, and the conditions here in the fruit belt are such that something of the sort is necessary to help get the product of the community into the most available shape.

Much of the high cost of living is due to the difficulty in distributing the things we buy. Sandhill peaches go to market in a costly fashion. They must be sent in iced cars, in fancy packages, and sold through hands that take a tool that helps to make the price high to the buyer. The same fruit in tin cans would not be perishable material, and would not have to be marketed in a hurry, but could wait for months, and in that time be distributed around the world, and to markets big or little wherever the demand could be found or created.

There the can has the advantage over any other manner of distribution. Fruit taken from the orchard to the cannery without expensive packages or expensive hands to pack it, and put in cans that can be moved by the slowest and least expensive trains, and that can be sold in small packages, a can at a time if desirable, will reach a market much bigger than fresh fruit can ever hope to encounter.

If Moore county will put its fruit in cans far greater outlet is open to the producer than is the case now. A beginning in that direction would stimulate further production, and also bring into cultivation many other things that are easily made here. The culture of string beans would be one, for beans will grow and mature through several months of the year. It is doubtful if any place exists that will make better yields of string beans than the Sandhills.

It is wise for the fruit men and the farmers and gardeners and everybody to keep in touch with this movement, and to join in providing the material to keep it under way if it gets in motion, for it is through these commencements that big industries arise. It takes a prophet to say what will be the future of this section of the state if canning once becomes successfully established at Manly.

### A LOST ACCOMPLISHMENT

Fifty years ago the young man had an ambition to learn a trade, and a system of apprenticeship was in vogue all over the country. The boy put in a term at learning his trade, and he came out from his apprenticeship a skilled artisan, with a knack of doing well one line of work on which he could depend for his living for the rest of his career if he wanted to continue at the trade. Skilled men were numerous then, and good work in every line was the rule.

The old system has gone. Perhaps it served its usefulness, but we have not provided anything in its place that is half so good. Skilled men are few now, and the young men who have trades that they can look to with confidence are rare. Auto-

mobile repairing has drawn a lot of young fellows but too large a portion of them are smatters, for the old fashion of thorough training has long passed from popularity.

The vocational schools are trying to bridge over the gap, and they do a lot of good, but they are not like the old apprenticeship system. Perhaps it is all right. We are becoming a machine-made nation, and everything that we buy seems to have come from the factory where men simply tend automatic machines, and if we want repairs the old hand workers are gone, and we buy duplicate pieces at the hardware store or the grocery and in many cases make the adjustments ourselves.

Maybe that is a better way, but it looks as if we are becoming a nation of machine tenders, losing the skill that generations of careful effort gave to men, and ambition to excel is giving way to the desire to get through so many hours of doing a certain uninteresting stunt of watching the machine. Ordinary machine tending stimulates no individual initiative or excellence, and the result is that the employers who want men of certain skill and character hunt in vain for sufficient of that kind of labor. In the last week The Pilot has heard three big employers of the county deplore the situation, but they had no remedy to suggest. Skilled men in the trades are apparently becoming extinct. Human efficiency is supplanted by machine efficiency. It does not look like a wholesome change, although it may be.

### THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving finds this part of the footstool in pretty fair shape. Finances are not running on the high plane of war time days, but conditions are getting to a more steady basis, and things are going smooth with the most of us. The magnificent climate of the Sandhills has given an illustration of what this marvelous region can do, for this fall time weather has been so nearly ideal that the man who would ask for anything better could hardly be trusted. Of

course that overlooks neighbor McQueen who wants a little more rain for his dams, but even at that he has had a reasonably fair amount of water during the summer, and he is not a kicker anyway.

The crops are abundant, and the prices are reasonable. Vass has had a summer that has been prosperous. This is indicated in the substantial expansion of the village. The road work is gratifying. We have not all grown rich, but poverty and fear of want has not come to this community in any form that has been hard to bear. General conditions are stable, and the future seems entirely hopeful.

The tax statement drops in about Thanksgiving time, but probably that is about as good a time as the Sheriff could hold out his hand for this necessity of civilized life, for a promising table ought to make the taxpayer come over with a smile on his face, especially as he has to come any way. And with his smile he can fortify his philosophy with the better schools and better roads, and the fine new court house, and the other things that we are getting for the money.

It is not a bad old world to live in now that the harvests are in, and the wood pile is cared for, (at least it ought to be), and the shoofly is back on the road again, and we have a right good force of state and national and county officials, and sugar is no longer 25 cents a pound. Gasoline is down to twenty-five and tires are so cheap that it no longer pays to vulcanize them. It is not a bad old world to live in now, and you old kickers want to keep that in your head for at least one day, if perhaps it hurts you to keep it there any longer.

Incidentally if you happen to know of some fellow pilgrim whose sun is temporarily behind a cloud at this season slip him a glint of light from your own bit of sunshine. Such things never hurt you a bit.

LAND FOR SALE—50 acres, one mile and a quarter of Vass; 14 acres cleared, 2 acres in dewberries. Mrs. W. D. Wilson, Vass, N. C. (1t)

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## PERSONALS AND BRIEF

Mr. W. B. Graham made a trip Ruffin this week.

Mr. W. H. Keith was in Sanford, Tuesday.

Mrs. W. C. Leslie was shopping in Sanford, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. McCaskill spent Friday in Raleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McLean visited relatives in Vass, Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. T. J. Smith visited Mrs. H. Smith at Lobelia, Sunday.

Miss Jewell Edwards, of Guilford College, spent Sunday at home.

Mr. Arthur Thompson was a visitor in Cameron, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. George Blue went to Aberdeen, Tuesday.

Mr. W. D. Smith attended the sale of the Whitehouse lands last Tuesday at Aberdeen.

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Smith were visitors in Southern Pines, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Elvey Thomas came home from Raleigh and spent Sunday with mother, Mrs. J. R. Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Borst spent a few hours in Sanford, Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Lillie Cole Fry, of Carthage, visited in Vass and community last week.

Mrs. Mary A. Bynum is spending this week in Southern Pines visiting her daughter Mrs. W. P. Shaw.

Don't fail to hear the great pianist, singer, humorist—Thomas more Lucey, Friday night, November 24th, at the school auditorium.

Mr. and Mrs. John Arch Keith, daughter, Miss Nealie, went to Aberdeen, Hoke county, Tuesday on a visit to Mr. Baxter McNeill.

Mrs. Seth W. Lassiter and daughter, Margaret, of Smithfield, and Mrs. L. Auer and daughter, Esther Pharr, Texas, are visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Edwards.

The new Methodist pastor for the Vass circuit for the coming year, Rev. F. B. Noblett. Rev. L. H. Joyner, who finishes his fourth year this charge, goes to Stem in Guilford county. Rev. Joyner was greatly beloved by his flock, and they bid him up very reluctantly.

Here's a beauty hint for Vass men: Don't talk about your neighbor or your hair may come out by handful. Here's another one: Don't smoke cigarettes, for stain will be seen on your fingers.

The best advice we can give young men of Vass is to never get in love this close to Christmas time.

### CO-OP MARKET WILL CLOSE FOR THANKSGIVING

The Co-Op market will close Wednesday until Monday, December 4th. The Association announces a second payment will be coming to the farmers about Christmas.

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