

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

Address all communications to
THE PILOT PRINTING COMPANY, VASS, N. C.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1925

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00

FARMING PROBLEMS IN THE SANDHILLS

Favorable Natural Conditions Yet Something Seems Wrong

(Sandhill Samuel)

What is the matter with farming in the Sandhills? Why has it been no more profitable than it has the last few years? We do not mean to intimate that farming is less profitable here than elsewhere. The writer will take his chances here in the Sandhills after having lived and farmed in several different parts of our country. It might be well to discuss first the troubles of farming throughout the nation.

Some say that overproduction is the cause of all our troubles, that if we would just make less we would have more. Then some of us believe that lack of co-operation is what holds us back in the race for prosperity, that we must organize if we would cope with organized business, that unnecessary middlemen are getting too large a share of the consumer's dollar. Then others will say the farmers is to blame individually for his hard luck, that he hasn't the industry or thrift that we find in men of other occupations, that he does not study his business nor manage it as well. The writer will concede that all of these are partly the cause of the farmer's distress. Let us take first the matter of overproduction.

There are some who go so far as to claim that the farmer would be directly benefitted if some insect pest or adverse weather conditions would cut his crop in half.

The senselessness of that argument is well proven in the cause of the tobacco and other crops right here in the Sandhills this year. We made about a half crop of tobacco. Are we getting rich much faster than we did last year with an overproduction? Not on your life. And we will never be helped by the limiting of acre yields. Our acre yields are too low for most economical production. Crop yields per man are pitifully small in the South as compared with some of our northern states. It is true that the boll weevil in Georgia and Alabama and Mississippi has been a direct and decided benefit to the cotton grower of North Carolina. But now that he is here, there are not many who count Mr. Boll Weevil such a great blessing. It is quite certain though that the boll weevil has been an indirect blessing to the South in making it doubly impractical for us to continue our one crop system, forcing us to adopt a practice of more diversified farming. It has also helped to turn a lot of the cheap negro labor into other channels, a laborer with whom the white farmer cannot compete without lowering his own living standards. We do have an over supply of near-farmers. Right here are the main ideas upon which all effort to reduce crop production should hinge. If we have been making too much of some one crop, let us adopt a live-at-home policy, raise the food and feed crops we have been buying. And those of us who have no especial love for farm life

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COMMISSIONERS GRANT RECORDER'S COURT

The county commissioners on Monday decided to establish a recorder's court for Moore county. A judge will probably be appointed at the next meeting of the commissioners at their April meeting. This is an important step, and the commissioners have left the appointment open for the coming month in order that they may hear from the people as to a choice of judge and prosecuting attorney. Everybody who has anything to offer on the appointments will be heard. As the county is not filled with available timber for this purpose picking the men is not the easiest job in the world, wherefore the commissioners want some suggestions and criticism.

NO CAMERON LETTER

On account of the sickness of Mrs. J. Mck. Harrington, we have no Cameron letter this week. Mrs. Harrington has been confined to her bed several days. THE PILOT readers will miss her letter for the first time in about four and a half years, or ever since THE PILOT became a paper.

SAM RICHARDSON IS STEPPING MIGHTY HIGH

Sam Richardson, whose office at Southern Pines includes life and casualty insurance with its many other ways to ease their money away from prosperous Sandhill folks, has been notified by the Aetna Life Insurance company that his office stands sixth in the amount of casualty insurance written and fiftieth in the value of life policies issued, the comparison being with the whole United States. This is for the Aetna company, which is one of the topnotchers of this country. For a small community that is a right startling record, which is why the mayor is swelled up over it.

SAME OLD STORY COMES FROM PINEHURST

Each winter Pinehurst has the same story to tell—an increase in the business over the year before. This winter is no exception. The season opened earlier and it has been running along in excellent shape. Letters and telegrams for accommodations are pouring in, showing that the Sandhills lose none of their popularity with the people of the country. The outlook is for a good summer in the building line there, and inquiries for building locations are coming up from all sides.

THE WEEK-END COLD SNAP HELPS THE PEACHES

Last week it looked as if the impatient peach orchards were liable to blossom too soon and run their trusting noses into a certain destruction. But the cold snap that wound up the week checked up the impetuosity a bit, and gave the situation a more satisfactory note. A few more cold days and the trees will be near enough to April sunshine to be reasonably safe. Here and there a few blossoms are reported, but not many yet.

Let a woman have her own way, especially when she's driving a car.

PLANNING BUSINESS IN THE SANDHILLS

Dozen Leading Men Meet at Knollwood to Talk over Affairs

Bion H. Butler

Tuesday night Sam Richardson, Frank Buchan and Talbot Johnson assembled a little group of men at the Mid-Pines club house to discuss the situation in the Sandhills and the possibility of extending the interest and development of this field. Being in attendance it was my opportunity to size up a right important meeting of outstanding men of this vicinity gathered to discuss a vital question. Besides Johnson, Richardson and Buchan others present were James Barber, Leonard Tufts, A. S. Newcomb, Judge Way, Jack Boyd, Harry Lewis and Edwin McKeithan. If you will look that list of names over it will be seen that it is a right strong bunch of men. John McQueen and H. A. Page Jr. had been asked to take part in the meeting but were kept away by other matters. John McQueen and Henry Page are both pretty busy men. But they are interested in the situation.

Talbot Johnson announced the purpose of calling the men together telling in his introductory talk about a trip to Florida a few days ago where he found that everybody has gone crazy over what is the most astonishing real estate gamble probably ever known on earth. Without going into the merits of that situation very far Leonard Tufts and Arthur Newcomb told briefly a similar story of their experience in Florida, the purpose of the tale being to show what can be done with warm weather and enthusiasm and to impress on Sandhill folks that with our resources here we might do much more than we are. To imitate Florida was farthest from the intention of any man at the meeting, but all agreed that if Florida with her limited resources can infect this whole United States with the virus of real estate insanity a reasonable amount of energy and enthusiasm backing the solid resources of the Sandhills can do an awful lot more in this neighborhood than we are doing at the present time.

Not that the Sandhills is playing a losing game at all, for it is not. Leonard Tufts presented figures of Pinehurst which showed that this is the best season ever known there. For that matter each year at Pinehurst.

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LET THERE BE LIGHT

In the PILOT of last week the Cameron correspondent remarked; "The male, female, or neuter—possible the latter—who in Sundays News and Observer, called the bathing beauties the 'Lady Godivas', is off its base, and wide of its mark; and evidently never read or even heard the story of Lady Godiva."

This remark was made concerning the writer of a comment on the bill introduced in the legislature by representative Woodley of Moore county, requiring bathers to wear suits of certain specifications, and prohibiting them to be worn on streets and highways. The writer says: "The Lady Godivas of the future North Carolina swimming hole not complying with the regulations as set forth in the bill will be punishable with 30 days in the jailhouse or a fine of \$50."

Coventry, a town in Warwickshire, England, is an abbreviation of convent town. It got its name from a Benedictine priory established there in 1044 by Leofric, lord of Mercia and his lady Godiva.

She is said to have obtained from her husband a release of certain imposts of which the people complained, on condition that she would ride naked through the streets of Coventry at noonday. She ordered the people to remain indoors at that hour and close all doors and windows. Veiled only by her long flowing hair she rode her horse through the city. No one looked but a tailor, who was ever afterwards known as "peeping Tom." He was instantly struck with blindness.

The story was first told by Matthew, of Westminster in 1307, two hundred and fifty years after it was supposed to have occurred. It was on this story that Tennyson founded his poem.

D. P. McDONALD
Olivia, N. C.

E. A. WOODS TELLS VALUE OF A LIFE

Big Insurance Man Talks to Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club held its dinner meet at the Aberdeen hotel Wednesday; completed arrangements for a radio outfit for the shut-ins and announced that the equipment would be in operation in twenty four hours in the home of some invalid.

Plans for the Kiwanis dance were pushed forward and every member was given a bunch of tickets to sell, with the information that if the club is to care for all the charitable tasks it has taken on its hands it must make a success of the dance.

W. P. Morton of the Pinehurst schools, was called on to tell about himself, and he told that in his younger days, as he had a brother who was a preacher he thought he would be a preacher too, but that when about the age of 16 he was called on to substitute for a few hours for the teacher in his room he concluded to be a teacher and has been an instructor ever since. Mr. Morton was given until the eaters finished their ice cream for his talk, and before he got far along he noticed that the ice cream was disappearing and he concluded he would stop. But Talbot Johnson, president, said that he would have to go on with the story at the next meeting.

The speaker of the day was E. A. Woods, of Pittsburg, the man who does a greater business in life insurance than any other man in the world. He represents the Equitable company there, and for years his

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STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE CO-OPS

Vote 23 To 11 To Uphold Contract by Opposing Braswell Bill

Cooperative marketing and the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association in particular, were given strong support in the legislature of North Carolina when the House Committee on Agriculture from that body, voted 23 to 11 last Friday against the Braswell Bill to permit members of cooperative marketing associations to withdraw by filing notice.

A farm woman, in old fashioned bonnet and black dress—Mrs. M. O. Winstead, of Nash County—made the most eloquent plea of the day for cooperative marketing, when she asked the author of the bill why he had introduced it, without the consent of a majority of association members in her county. Declaring that she might not know much about law or the ways of legislators, Mrs. Winstead said: "But I know that I signed a contract and I have too much honor and too much self respect to get out of it."

Representative H. G. Connor, of Wilson County, who has been an active figure in litigation against the tobacco association, argued for forty minutes in an attempt to prove that it was constitutional for the legislature to authorize members of the association in North Carolina to withdraw from their contract upon request.

In reply to Representative Connor, George Ross, head of the Division of Markets in North Carolina, declared that the bill, if passed, would seriously injure forty cooperative associations which the farmers of the state had formed in order to improve their condition by orderly marketing.

Deliveries of tobacco to the association have now brought its total receipts of this season to more than 100 million pounds, according to the latest report.

Within three years of operation the association has received more than 440 million pounds of tobacco. During this period the tobacco farmers of North Carolina have received according to government statistics, an average price of 24.7 cents as compared to an average price of 15.1 cents during the four years preceding the World War. At no time since the operation of the association has the price of tobacco in North Carolina averaged as low as during any year prior to the war days.

S. D. FRISSELL.

FRUIT GROWERS SHOW VALUE OF ASSOCIATION

At the Kiwanis dinner Wednesday R. N. Page announced that he had just been informed by the secretary of the Fruit Growers' association that a reduction of twenty cents a hundred pounds of fruit going north to the territory east of Pittsburg had been allowed, which means about ten cents a crate on peaches, or about \$50,000 for the expected crop to be harvested this season.

He also said that the Georgia rate from Fort Valley had been advanced about four cents, which helps the Sandhills orchard both coming and going. Georgia had a much lower rate than the Sandhills in the past and the change is in the way of an equalizing adjustment. And it is also a victory that shows the value of the Fruit Growers' association to this section. And that pleased the honorable Bob about as much as the new rate does.

PRESBYTERIAL TO MEET

The Fayetteville Presbyterian meets in Aberdeen, N. C. April 7-9. Each auxiliary in the Presbyterial is requested to elect a delegate and to send the name of the delegates, as soon as possible, to Mrs. Frank Shamberger, chairman of Hospitality Committee, Aberdeen, N. C.

America's Greatest String Quartet To Appear in Pinehurst

Chamber music is one of the highest forms of musical expression. It has, therefore, become one of the chief measures of a country's musical culture. In fact, as the musical life of a country widens in scope and influence, the number of chamber music organizations grows and the various communities demand more and more concerts devoted entirely to chamber music. While opera houses and symphony orchestras and concert artists add to the spectacular side of a country's musical life, string quartets, trios and other chamber music organizations lend increasing prestige to the really musical atmosphere of the country's art centers.

And of all chamber music, the string quartet is the most popular form. Some of the greatest works of Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert and Brahms were written for the string quartet. The modern composers, such as Debussy, Ravel, and others find their happiest expression in works for orchestra and chamber organizations, rather than for individual instruments. Thus, we have come to value the outstanding string quartets of a country as one of its chief contributions to its musical culture. To mention the Rose Quartet is to single out a leading factor in Austria's musical life. The Capet Quartet is as widely known as any other musical institution of France. The same is true for Germany with respect to the Bohemian Quartet, and for England this position is occupied by the London String Quartet, an organization familiar in this country.

In America two string quartets have during the last few years shared premier honors among touring chamber music organizations, the Flonzaley and the Letz Quartet. The latter is the rightful and worthy successor to the Kneisels, which during its existence was recognized as the leading string quartet in this country. Therefore, the Letz Quartet can be looked upon as a credit to American musical art and as such should be welcomed by every music lover, when it appears here at Pinehurst, Saturday, March 7th.