

THE PILOT

Published every Friday by
THE PILOT, Incorporated.
Aberdeen, North Carolina

NELSON C. HYDE, General Manager
BION H. BUTLER, Editor
JAMES BOYD STRUTHERS BURT
RALPH PAGE
Contributing Editors

Subscription Rates:
One Year\$2.00
Six Months\$1.00
Three Months50

Address all communications to The
Pilot, Inc., Aberdeen, N. C.

Entered at the Postoffice at Aber-
deen, N. C., as second-class mail mat-
ter.

REALIZING THE JOB AHEAD

The planning that is going on in connection with the territory between Pinehurst, Knollwood and Southern Pines, and the improvement in the landscape projects along the State Highway No. 50 through Southern Pines, foreshadow a big revolution in the conception of the people toward the appearance of the Sandhills country. In two ways this bold attack on the problem of making this country a more pleasant place to live, keeping in mind all the time Struthers Burt and Jack Boyd, is commendable. One is from the altruistic view point, and the other is the material side. We are complaining of taxes in town and county and state. But if we make here the pleasant place to live that the apostles of more attractive outdoor life advocate we are encompassing that other dream of caring for our taxes and public expenditures and our material community advance?

One of the chief occupations of this neighborhood is taking care of winter visitors and residents, and nothing could be more interesting, for those people take an active hand in doing the main thing the community wants done, which is to further improve the conditions that create that more pleasant feature. The newcomers are improvers. They employ skilled architects and landscape engineers to add to the delight of the country and town home. They join in the burden of public affairs of all sorts, taxes included, and the truth shows that they are among the leaders in the payment of taxes and other funds that go for the public good. Most of the newcomers are people of good ideas in community advancement. Practically the development of the Sandhills has rested on the shoulders of the folks who have come here to make their homes.

This brings up a duty that is owed the newcomers and prospective newcomers, as they are to be considered from every view point that can add to their enjoyment and profit. In this limited territory around the villages is no longer a vast acreage open for settlement. Therefore what is to be had should be a matter of much study, and of adaptability to the conditions that will get the best results in the best hands. The sale of any piece of ground merely as a sale of something for a price should not be a dominant motive. Every acre that is bought by any newcomer should be an acre that will best serve his needs, no matter who may want to sell. Above all no man should be urged into buying anything that is not likely to permit the development that he has in mind or would like to accomplish. Merely to get any man's money is the poorest policy possible. The matter of wisdom is not to get his money, but to get his help as a community maker on the broad basis of making this still more a pleasant place to live. To do this he must be placed to the best and most satisfactory advantage, and received into a cordial fellowship, and his counsel and energies invited in the work that will be pleasing to him as well as useful, and at the same time useful to all of us.

A lot of good folks are coming this way in the near future, and they will be a help and salvation in the tasks that have been laid out for Sandhills development. But they must be given the best that is possible in every way that they get the value for their money and effort and that they may be encouraged and repaid for what they do. A dozen or a hundred or two or three hundred good neighbors here and there around us would be a

wonderfully valuable asset in carrying out the dreams entertained for the Sandhills. But dissatisfied newcomers or anybody who has been exploited is a liability.

THE DEATH OF MILTON BREWER

The death of Milton Brewer at his home in Vass takes away one of the original members of The Pilot force, as he had been with the paper from its start until his health reached such a condition that he had to give up active work. In his connection with the paper as well as during his lifetime in the county he established a circle of friends that was one of the most valuable assets a man can gather about him, for that friendship recognized him as a man of unusual character, and dealt with him accordingly. Milton Brewer was sound in his integrity, considerate, kindly, steadfast in his work and his loyalty wherever he owed allegiance, and through these qualities he made a name wherever he was known.

For years he had been the victim of affected health, which made his work more of a task for him than it would have been for a man of normal vigor. But he could always be depended on to carry out what was allotted him, and with his assignment he added a little for good measure from his own inclination and sense of fairness. He kept pretty closely in touch with the things that moved in this county, and had wide acquaintance over the entire district, which was valuable because it was the acquaintance of a man who was regarded by the people with trust and confidence. In his younger days he had been about the country some, and as he was a reader and a philosopher he was an interesting companion anywhere. He was a good type of that sound rural life that sees things with a clear vision, weighs affairs with an eye that is capable of judging accurately, and deals with neighbors in accordance with that law of fairness that is known as the golden rule. A good citizen, a good neighbor and a good friend.

WHERE WILL YOU GET THE MONEY

When a Charlotte man read that the legislature had enacted a bill to take the schools of North Carolina from the counties and undertake to be responsible for a six-months' school term he asked, "Where will you get the money?" That is a question that now is discussed. One aim was to reduce county taxes on lands. But it is now proposed to levy a state tax of twenty cents on the hundred dollars value of land, making the state the tax collector from the land owner instead of the county, and making the state the operator of the schools instead of the county.

Now let that proposition soak into the heads of the Moore county land-owners who have asked for reduction of their land taxes, but not for a possible reduction on one hand and a positive additional assessment in the form of state tax on the other. When that thing is noised about this county it will be interesting to listen to the howl that will arise.

The trouble comes from the attempt to shift taxation from one group to another, and without that sufficient fair distribution of taxation among all persons able to pay, which is the only legitimate method of taxation.

A sales tax has been much talked about, but against it is that mistaken plea that the poor man would have to pay it. The poor man pays but little of anything, for he has little to pay with. The man of means does the paying in all cases. But it is easy to figure the simple effect of a sales tax if we don't fog our eyes trying to shift everything to some one else. This state has a production of manufactures, farm products, fisheries, etc., of about a billion and a half or a billion and three quarter dollars. That is our income as a people. Half a cent on each dollar of that income would afford over seven millions dollars for the schools, and would hurt no one. It would be one cent tax on each two dollars we buy.

It is not necessary to cloud the situation by any entanglements with other conditions. Just put a tax of half a cent on the things we all buy, and collect it at the source as the gas tax is collected, and nobody will protest. The gas-

oline tax, and the poor man pays it, is ten times as much as a half cent tax on other sales, and the poor man does not seem to fall over dead when he pays that five cents tax on his gas. Why would he worry over a half cent tax? That is not as much as the difference in prices in any two stores in any place.

WHAT IS A DEMOCRAT

A correspondent signing his name "A Perplexed Democrat," writes The Pilot to ask what is a Democrat, and then he answers his question with a multitude of entangling statements that leave no doubt of his perplexity. He appears to be a man of some age, or at least of considerable study of the earlier history of the country as well as of other governments, for he comprises the Democratic theories of anti-civil war days with the conditions of today which he refers to as definitely socialistic inclinations, with much progress directly into the socialist camps. He asks, "What could be more positive socialism than the step taken by the present legislature in placing the school system in the hands of the state government, or the proposition to put the roads there likewise? And what is it but socialism that gives the state, and the nation behind it, control of health, of the charities, such as farm relief, drouth relief, and such other things that in the past were left to individual initiative and action?"

GRAINS OF SAND

Country weeklies are, as a rule, pretty dull, says Sherwood Anderson, noted author who entered the weekly newspaper field in Virginia a few years ago. They need new blood and offer a rare opportunity to young men and women with imagination and ability.

So strongly does the novelist believe this that he is going out to talk about it to young collegians who have a "hunch" they can write.

"In all our colleges are these youngsters who object to becoming cogs in huge organizations," he says. "I'm arranging a series of college lectures for next winter and I'm going to talk to them about the country weekly which, if rightly run, isn't a newspaper at all in the daily sense."

"The colorful young fellows with a writing hunch who once became country editors are now drifting to the cities. Frequently they enter newspaper work but they seldom write what they want. I think they are missing more than they gain."

Anderson believes the country weekly offers opportunity of escape from the illusion of bigness for talented persons, with ambition to write, who enter newspaper work to get a start. "Individualism, now vanishing in the daily press, has a distinct place in the small-town weekly. To men with courage, imagination and love of life the job offers an intimate touch with life, a chance to study people and a great deal of pleasure."

We agree with Fellow-editor Anderson on the need for new blood and new ideas in most country weeklies. Most of those we receive from various parts of the country are just thrown together, with no editing or make-up.

More Salaries Pruned by County Commission

At the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held on Monday of this week, further steps were taken to reduce the expenses of the county by cutting the salaries of two more of the public servants. The official record is in the following words:

"Upon motion of W. H. Currie, seconded by E. C. Matheson and duly carried, it is ordered that the report of the committee composed of W. H. Currie, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, John W. Graham, chairman of the County Board of Education, and L. L. Marion, chairman of the County Board of Road Commissioners, cutting the salary of the officers hereinafter named be and the same is hereby ratified and adopted and it is ordered that the salary of Miss Maida Jenkins, County Auditor, be reduced from \$50 per month to \$35 per month and John C. Muse, annual audit expense, be reduced from \$200 per month to \$125 per month, these reductions to begin as of February 1, 1931."

It was ordered that Henry Muse be exempted from paying poll tax for the year 1930 on account of total disability, that Pete Goins' fam-

ily be allowed \$10. per month for support, that Martin Barber be allowed \$15 per month for support, and that Charlie Phillips be allowed \$10 for the month of February on account of total disability. It was ordered that Charlie Jeters be admitted to the county home.

He points to the farm board, the tariff, which while a republican form of worship of materialism is strictly a socialist effort to extend the power of government to bulk human efforts. He argues that this slough of high taxation in which we find ourselves is socialism carried to an extreme and not government at all, for the actual need of money for government constitutes but a very limited demand on the people for taxes. In state and nation he says billions are collected for taxes that are applied to social purposes wholly, and in many cases, as in the sale of lands for taxes, property is confiscated to procure money for socialist ends.

Unfortunately The Pilot is unable to answer his question as to what is a Democrat, referring of course to the present significance of the word as to party affiliation, for Democrat and Republican are so closely allied in their standing that one is practically interchangeable with the other in that the purpose of their existence seems to be to secure office, and that the political principles of the parties are indistinguishable one from the other. The man's questions are worth thinking about, especially by those who are pronounced in their protests of extreme loyalty to their parties. What is a Democrat these days, and wherein does one differ from anything else in political alignment, and especially where is a Democrat different from a socialist?

One principal reason is that the readers of these small town papers seem satisfied with what they get. They are so vitally interested in their communities and their neighbors' doings they think if their paper is telling them that Mrs. Jones entertained the school teacher at supper and Jim Smith killed a hog it is serving its purpose.

A country weekly should be a leader, not just a recorder. It should suggest, stimulate, promote; it should have ideas of its own; it should raise the tone of the community, show up the evils, laud the good deeds. It should give its readers "something to chew on" in each issue.

The very fact that Mrs. Jones wants to read about Mrs. Smith provides the greatest opportunity for beneficial community service that exists in America. If in reading about Mrs. Smith Mrs. Jones finds in her country weekly something constructive to think about, something educational, entertaining, uplifting, she is becoming, each week, a better citizen. And the country editor is doing his job as it should be done.

Sherwood Anderson bought two weeklies in Virginia a few years ago, the Marion Democrat and the Smyth County News. He deserted the literary colony of New York, moved to Marion, set out to run his papers. His shop, like the traditional corner drug store, is a community center. There is a ping-pong table, a free circulating library, and almost always a free-for-all discussion.

And one of the strangest things about his papers is: One is rapid Republican, one virulently Democratic. Each has its own political editorial writer.

JANUARY WEATHER

January averaged just a little colder in the Sandhills than normal, the month's record showing an average temperature of 43-8 against the normal mean of 44 and the 45.5 of January, 1930. Against the thirty-five year averages, maximum 54-6; minimum 33-2, average of 44 for a comparison, January of 1931 gave us temperatures of 57-5 maximum, 30-2 minimum and an average of 43-8, the maximum being above the average and the minimum below. The record for January, 1930 showed maximum 32-9 and average 45-5. Rainfall for the month was 3.7 inches, .28-100 above normal and above the record of 1930, 1.20 inches falling on the 5th and 1.05 inches on the 12th with 2 inches of snow on the 14th. Our warmest day, the 29th, registered 71, and the coldest, the 5th, 15. Seventy days were clear, nine partly cloudy and five days more or less rainy.

GAMMACK & CO.

Members

New York Stock Exchange
Pittsburgh Stock Exchange

Main Office
39 Broadway, New York City

SOUTHERN PINES—NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE

Telephones: Southern Pines 6751—Pinehurst 3821

For Sale

25 acres of the finest land for an Estate in this section. Located on the outskirts of Southern Pines, near Private School and the hunting country. This tract, sloping towards the Sunset and overlooking a large area of beautiful country.

For particulars, see

EUGENE C. STEVENS

Southern Pines,

North Carolina

PAUL T. BARNUM, Inc.

Insurance of All Kinds

—At The—

Citizens' Bank Building
Southern Pines, N. C.

Successors To

PAUL T. BARNUM S. B. RICHARDSON, INC.

THE PAGE TRUST COMPANY,

ABERDEEN, N. C.

Spring time means the time to get your deeds, insurance policies, valuable papers and documents of every sort into a safe deposit box in the Page Trust Company vaults. Don't take any chances with fire, theft or loss by keeping such things around the house.

In arranging your banking relations your account is invited by one of the strongest institutions in this section with a record of service, safety and wide contact with business.

THE PAGE TRUST COMPANY,

ABERDEEN, N. C.

ON

Weymouth Heights

Southern Pines

A Territory Already Planted to Trees

The movement to set pine trees all over the Sandhills is one of the best things ever inaugurated.

Fortunately, however, for Weymouth Heights, Nature has been on that job up there from the morning of creation.

On Weymouth Heights are still hundreds of the original long-leaf pine never touched by an axe. Small pines are coming everywhere on Weymouth. Dogwoods whiten the spring with their blossoms, and a variety of other hard wood trees are abundant.

The Weymouth roads are the most delightful that can be imagined. Weymouth Heights for Home Locations.

S. B. RICHARDSON

Real Estate

PATCH BUILDING

Southern Pines. :: North Carolina