

# THE PILOT

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## OUR VIGOROUS WINTER

February has run its little race, and it was not so hot as the boys say. From start to finish it was consistently cold, and if the groundhog had any thing to do with the weeks of weather that followed its day the hog has proven a consistent worker. Yet February was not so bad to us here in the Sandhills when we remember what the folks elsewhere were awarded as their winter favors. We got one on the old timers, for we will from now on have the winter of 1934 to brag about instead of having to listen through the dreary succeeding cold winters about the great blizzard of 1888. That 1888 business is so far away that 1934 is going to have place in the vaulting over cold weather winters in the day ahead.

But even at that the law of compensation rules winters just as it has its finger on other things. Folks have been coming to the Sandhills in larger numbers than if the winter had been milder, and the records seem to indicate that this will be an old-fashioned winter in point of business when the hotels were crowded and the telegraph wires were informing prospective visitors that there was no room in the inn. Winter is what brings folks here, and the more winter it is in the North the more they life to skurry away from the blizzards and rough weather to the milder conditions in the South. Cold weather in the North means more or less winter in the South, no matter how much we would like to see snow ten feet deep in New York and roses big as saucers in Moore county.

And it has not been a bad winter here. The temperature has been down among the unpopular figures, but not much rough weather has been experienced, and that has met the approval of the visitors who are not much worried over cold when it is just pain cod, provided the sun shines and the wind is not too rantankerous and the snow not too deep and the rain not too persistent. We have had a right fair winter except that we might have been satisfied with less cold. But that is what makes the folks look southward in the winter, and that being the case it seems that the winter was about the kind that makes the mare go, which is to say that while a little chilly for some of the folks who want summer all the year round, it has been a good winter to bring visitors and they have been pleased with their escape from the real cold of the North.

## THE OLD SLAVE REUNION

Some time ago came a suggestion that a gathering in Southern Pines of the old slaves who still survive would be an interesting affair, and accordingly a move was made to accomplish such a thing. It looks now as if in April a large number of the old-time slaves will be assembled here, and it ought to prove an event of more than ordinary attraction. Because of the long period of time that has elapsed since freedom was declared, now seventy years, the slaves who survive are rapidly drawing near to their last days, and those who are living are men and women of advanced years. It is therefore improbable that such a gathering can be attempted again, and that in a

short period the former slave will be a memory.

The list of aged negroes who still live and who had the experience of being slaves, although they were young at the time, is small. It will be smaller each day. This will be the last time probably that any one will have a chance to see a considerable group of those who were in their younger days the representatives of an exceedingly curious feature of the development of this nation. It will be a chance to talk about slavery with those who were actually in bondage, and who, as slaves, helped along in the industrial and social progress of this nation. It will probably be a chance for some people to get from first hand some information concerning an institution, old as the story of mankind, and which brought about the greatest war this country has ever witnessed, and which has been one of the outstanding events of civilization's revolutions.

Today we look at slavery and the civil war with less bias than at any time in the past, for as we grow farther from our differences they are not so gigantic in their perspective. We can analyze today what our ancestors fought about. We can study without bitterness what once looked much more fundamental than it does now. Possibly such another opportunity for the contemplation of a great social upheaval has not in the life of this nation presented itself for the observation of the outcome of a major political antagonism. This old slave meeting is worth a reunion that the old problem, which is now no longer a problem, can be visaged in its denouement. Slavery, whether you believe it or not, had many angles of vision, and the living actors who will take part in the meeting here in a few weeks will be the evidences of many side lights on the story. The trains ought to be crowded and the highways with people heading this way on the days when this thing is staged. It will be one of the basic studies of one of the factors that will be influential in the creation of a great part of the Union, and we can now approach the consideration on the part slavery played and without acrimony, and with honest, dispassionate interest.

## SALES TAXES AND OTHER FORMS

Funny how men will fool themselves. From time to time the papers submit new forms of old ideas in the thought that a new thing has been discovered. The sales tax is held up as a benefactor because it has permitted taxes on other things to be reduced. Or some other tax is to be tried in the belief that it will lessen the need of sales tax. Or we will reduce the price of an automobile tag with the confident assurance that our taxes are lowered although we will tack on a new tax in another quarter.

Let us get this thing straight. We are called on for a growing amount of money as taxes. The most striking thing is that the amount is growing. It is plain that it will continue to grow. You might as well show your teeth and realize that they will be pulled. It is no longer a question of economy of government. That day has gone by. We are so deeply in debt now in nation, state and minor districts that interest on the debt will keep our taxes mountain high as long as any of us live. With that we are steadily piling up greater costs of all government operation and appropriation, which means simply further taxation. As long as more money has to be paid the taxpayer has to pay it, and whether he pays it as gasoline tax, sales tax, land tax, air tax, or under any other name, the only thing that counts is that he has to come across with the increasing amount of money.

The trouble starts whenever we lay a new tax on anybody, but it can't be helped. If the redheaded man objects to a tax on red heads he has the satisfaction of knowing that the tax on warts may not catch him, or the tax on bandy legs, or the tax on enlarged tonsils. But they all catch somebody, and that is what makes the thing efficient. Jointly we all have to help carry the loads, and it is a useless protest to kick against our particular burdens. Of course if we

would insist on lowering expenditures some relief might come, but there is the great difficulty for no one wants the spending of public money stopped. We all want it increased that we may get a finger in the swag, and while we are of that frame of mind taxes will continue to get us worse and worse. And don't fool yourself with the idea that the burden is to be shifted to the other fellow. He is taxed to the bone just the same as you think you are. But if he can be taxed more it will not help the rest of us any. It will simply mean more money to spend, and we will all probably share in the new form of taxes rather than in finding relief. The prospect of a tax reduction is about as hopeful as the millennium, and will not come in our day.

## BACKING THE COUNTRY CLUB

Doctor McBrayer, who is an active worker in the Chamber of Commerce, has always shown an energetic interest in any question of the Sandhills, the other day with a group of men was talking about the Southern Pines Country Club and its usefulness to this community. The Doctor broadened the discussion to say that every agency that helps to add to the attractions of the territory is vital in its influence on the future. This group of sandy ridges, having its center at Southern Pines, is a winter resort that has attained prominence. To increase and hold its popularity it must present things that will appeal to visitors and to winter residents as well as to permanent inhabitants. Nature has done so much that the people by using the natural advantages can add steadily to the development here, for the big task has already been done by those who laid the foundation. Here is now a right well equipped settlement with those modern features that satisfy the visitors. Attractive villages are here, good roads, good hotels, good public service of all kinds, practically everything that can be asked for. But in order to grow we must constantly be providing for the demands by those additional people who come. The village facilities must spread more widely. The streets and highways must be carried farther out into the country. The Country Club must be encouraged to a broader footing. All of those big and little things that strangers look for must be provided.

All this is a big order to be sure, but it must be remembered that people who are invited to come this way must find things to interest them if they are expected to stay, and it isn't the job for the Country Club, or the Chamber of Commerce or the town commissioners, or any single force, but for everybody. It is the vital job for every resident of this community, jointly and singly and needs to be worked at every day.

## MOORE COUNTY AND FIRE PREVENTION

Moore County appears to have been placed in a very fortunate position in regard to the securing of the services of CCC workers in its work of forest fire prevention. This was largely due to the wholehearted interest which members of the Moore County Forest Protective Association have taken in the fire prevention work of the organization.

Other counties have tried in vain to secure such services. Only those counties which had protective associations and whose citizens had showmarked interest in forest conservation got first choice.

The work in Moore county has been done under the direction of the Association and has been so planned as to afford permanent protection to the larger towns and the lands surrounding them. The permanence of this work should be assured, and to us there seems no better way than through continued cooperation with the organization which has already done so much in that line. The expense entailed is so little—only two cents an acre—and the benefits so great that no property owner in Moore County, particularly in the wire grass section, can afford to stay outside.

Just now the men are running a line between Southern Pines and Pinehurst following the telephone line. This will

## Grains of Sand

Gene Stevens says the sale of the Allen house on Weymouth Heights resulted from a golf match in Southern Pines some eight years ago. Col. Edward Carey, the purchaser, and Frank Harrington challenged Gene and someone else, Gene can't remember who, to a match. The Carey-Harrington team was badly beaten and the colonel said:

"One of these days I'll be back here for revenge."

He's been quite a while getting back but when he came he told Mr. Stevens he'd come to administer that promised licking and wanted a home here as it might take him quite a while to accomplish it.

Those who are near to U. L. Spence intimate that he will look with favor on a nomination for the State Senate if it seems to be a desire of the people.

Culled from the Charlotte Observer:

In its "Notes of Social Activities in New York and Elsewhere," The Times headlines "Southern Pines" and "Pinehurst." These famous North Carolina resorts have become so popularly known that it is unnecessary to name the State.

As a party from Southern Pines was leaving for the Camden races a week ago the front bumper on the car became loose. Unable to get it back on the car they took it off and being in a hurry, hid it in a culvert on Weymouth Heights, planning to pick it up on their return. It seemed a safe enough hiding place, but when they returned there was no sign of the bumper. Be careful where you hide things.

The next few weeks will be busy ones in the Sandhills, with golf, tennis and equestrian events predominating. There'll be plenty to do and plenty to watch.

Almet Jenks had a corking good story in the Saturday Evening Post of a week ago, "Down the Dark Corridor."

## QUILTING PARTY ENJOYED AT QUAKER ORPHANAGE

Mrs. J. A. Price entertained at a quilting party Saturday afternoon at the Quaker Orphanage.

After being welcomed by Mrs. Price and some of the girls, the guests were shown beautiful quilts, counterpanes, rugs, and other articles made by the girls. The work showed not only excellent skill and training but an appreciation of the artistic development as well.

The weaving and quilting were of great interest and enjoyment.

The guests included members of the Farm Housing Survey Project, Miss Pauline Cole and Miss Flora McDonald.

split the land up between the double road and the Southern Pines-Pinehurst sand clay road. They are also cutting a line between Southern Pines and Fort Bragg, which will cut off the tremendous fire hazard which the Fort Bragg reservation presents to our county.

Officials of the Association have made a careful study of the situation and have located the lines as their best judgment indicated. They have issued a cordial invitation for any one who has any suggestion to go over these lines with them, as they desire to have the lines so located as to give the best possible protection.

Federal, state and county governments are so anxious to encourage the work of the Association that each year they match the monies raised by the Association, and in this way quite a sum is realized for prevention work.

Your membership fee or any donation you desire to make should be sent to H. J. Menzel, secretary-treasurer, Village Court Building, Pinehurst. If you desire to look over the work that is being done, get in touch with L. L. Biddle, II, Pinehurst, and a trip will be arranged.

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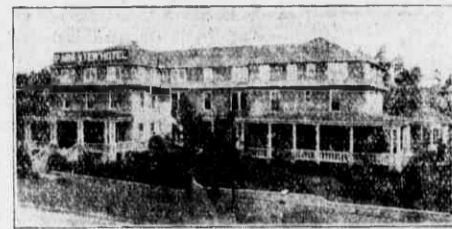
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