THE PILOT

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THE TOUCH OF A MAGIC WAND

The building plans for Pinehurst are among the most significant that have been announced in a long time. The Robertson house near The Carolina, the Razook store, the new postoffice building, and the rebuilt community building give noteworthy elaboration to the entire heart of the village, and all of it of such advanced distinction that Pinehurst by next winter will have been lifted to a wholly new architectural level. In all the work new types are introduced, but in complete harmony with that note that has been dominant all the way through the evolution of the Pinehurst village.

Nor is this the end, for other building plans are in sight, both in Pinehurst and Southern Pines, and it is apparent that as the season advances more construction will be going forward. The information is to the effect that the same ideals will be observed in all that is to be done, in the towns or in the rural sections. There is no longer any doubt but that reconstruction has commenced in substantial manner, and on a basis that is prophetic of the positive advancement of the underlying ideal that has marked the local project from the beginning. The Pilot continues to be an optimist, and with growing satisfaction in the outlook.

UNDERSTANDING THE SANDHILLS

It is apparent that the Sandhill country is about to enter on a new period of progress and appreciation, and when it does the new era will be far ahead of anything previously undertaken. In the past the purpose of creating here a place of recreation and enjoyment has been but a feature of the life of this part of the state. We have regarded utilitarian projects as of equal or greater importance than the appeal to pleasure and enjoyment. But we are gradually evolving into a condition that will make the main and almost the whole purpose that of creating a paradise, and the more we progress in that direction and the more we recognize this aim and emphasize it, the faster we will be on the road to this accomplishment and the more we will increase the number of recruits who will join the movement.

Moore county today is far more attractive than ever before in its history, and with the newly awakening interest that seems manifest on all sides it is plain that a new enthusiasm has broken out that is significant. Another surge of enthusiasm over horses has taken place. Another incipient stimulus to building and buying bits of country property is manifest. New folks are looking over town locations. A significant event on Wednesday of last week was the Fourth of July celebration which brought to Southern Pines possibly the largest number of people ever assembled here at one time, and with no particularly outstanding program or affair as the occasion. The gathering influence of this community as a territorial center is plainly in evidence. Probably Southern Pines last week had a bigger number of outside visitors than any other place up to three or four times as large. The Spring Festival, the Fourth of July, the picture shows, the various new features that are gradually expanding, are all awakening an interest that is attracting more people with each announcement, until it is now pretty well established that anything in the Sandhills will catch the eye of those who are looking for entertainment, and especially of the unusual type of entertainment that this neighborhood provides.

All the signs indicate that Moore county has a future ahead far more satisfying than anything that the folks of the past could anticipate. And at no time were the signs more indicative than right now.

SEAWELL IN THE CAMPAIGN

The announcement by H. F. Seawell, Jr., that he is an active candidate to represent Moore county in the coming Legislature brings into the summer campaign a rather interesting feature, and one that will probably have a definite effect on the whole process of the election. From what Mr. Seawell says a wholly new line of political tactics is ahead of us, for he is not entertaining anything like a political antagonism, but a presentation of economic and of public problems that have become so acute that they are practically presenting themselves. While he is a Republican he is not basing his campaign on that ground, for he says that he is entering a contest that is strictly a State affair, and chiefly applied to county relations. National matters are outside of his field or concern for several reasons, one being that at the present the President has on his hands the demonstration of some theories that are of vital importance and that as we of the smaller political subdivisions have no jurisdiction over the national matters and that these latter are not involved in the elections of this fall they are not of local significance.

Mr. Seawell says he has no intention of making the campaign personal, for he has a high regard for his opponent, Mr. Clegg, a neighbor and friend of ability and professional standing. The purpose in coming into the campaign is to attract attention to State and county legislation, especially the financial administration of both. The State is buried under a debt of millions of dollars, and is operating at an expensive figure, which is a matter for the Legislature to consider, while the county is in a predicament that challenges the ability of the commissioners and the people to deal with, and which demands decisive and intelligent action. For seven years it has been impossible to collect the taxes assessed, and each year the deficit is adding new sums. A climax seems to be facing the county, and Mr. Seawell regards this situation as of far more consequence than the ordinary political matters that usually form the subjects of campaign argument. His theory is that it is of no consequence whether it be a Republican, a Democrat, a prohibitionist, a populist or what who leads us out of the difficulty we are in, if he leads us out, and that other matters are of minor consequence until we get our feet on a sound and workable financial footing.

The significance of this campaign is that it appears now it will call up for general discussion one of the real functions of State and county government, that of financing the public operations, a matter that we have glossed over too long and seriously in the disappointing hope that things would work out all right in the course of time. But they are not working out, and if we have a campaign of a vigorous study of our difficulties and an awakening of the people as to cause and as to means of escape from our predicament, it may be one of the most useful contests in which the county has engaged politically in many a year, if not in its whole experience from its formation.

The Board of Commissioners is working on the problem of county finances, perhaps more strenuously than any previous board, and because of their familiarity with this problem and their serious efforts in the present term is why The Pilot hoped for their reelection. With Mr. Seawell bringing these things out in the plain sight of the whole people by a vigorous campaign it is likely that the public welfare will be served by his entrance into the forum regardless of whether he shall be elected or not. The man who points out a path, or who calls attention to it, is often as useful as he who follows the trail after it has been recognized. Mr. Seawell may or may not be elected to the legislature. The Pilot is more given to the recording of things that have been done than to forecasting those that are to happen. But if Mr. Seawell can bring to the people of this county, and to this portion of the state, an inquiring interest in the financial condition of State and county, and can help the county commissioners to get across to the people the situation in which we are entangled he will serve a valuable purpose. The apostles of protest are among the great benefactors of human life. The minority is perhaps as essential as the majority. No matter how able the engine of the best automobile in the world, the brakes are equally a fundamental necessity.

THE PAGE TRUST COMPANY PAYMENT

The payment of a twenty per cent dividend to depositors of the Page Trust Company makes things look better in the territory covered by the banks. The hope is entertained that further payments will follow as collections are realized until the loss to depositors will be much less than has been anticipated. The situation, of course, is dependent on the success of the liquidating agents in realizing on the securities held, which seems now better than was at one time anticipated.

The Page Trust Company at one time had in excess of five millions in deposits, with practically the same amount in loans. At that time everything in its territory appeared to be in the most favorable condition, and the company, with the broad community interest it displayed, made every effort to place its funds to the aid of the progressive activity of the region. Peaches were bringing money, cotton and tobacco were profitable and apparently on the soundest possible basis, the villages were growing and people from the North were taking an active hand in the Sandhills, and no one suspected the grave depression that was ahead for this section, for the state, the nation and the whole world. Prosperity reigned throughout the earth, and the Page Trust Company undertook to assemble and make available all the capital possible for the promising development of its communities. The stockholders placed their own large capital beside that of the depositors in making loans, and even though disaster came to this part of the country, as it came to all the rest of the nation, enormous benefits accrued along with the disaster. Middle North Carolina will come out of the trouble on a much advanced footing as compared with twenty years ago, and will be ready to go forward again with the accumulated energy that came with the work that was done before the crash.

One thing that many people overlook is that while depositors are getting a dividend payment from the resources that are salvaged the men who established the group of banks will get nothing. Their capital is the last to be returned to them, and there is no prospect that enough will be realized for them to expect anything but absolute loss. All other claims must be paid first. It has been a tragedy, but one that came from a desire to take up that urge after the war of "business as usual,' and of standing by the community to the limit of their abilities. Everybody was fooled because nobody could forsee the world-wide collapse that involved civilization everywhere. The Page Trust Company in trying to back the community in its progressive aims fell with the rest of the industrial world because the borrowers could not pay their loans. The borrowers have their load, the depositors are getting a payment on their deposits, the stockholders are the holders of the absolutely empty sack with no hope. It is a tragedy, but the depositors have still further reason to expect returns for themselves.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following transfers of real estate have been recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Moore county:

George W. Statzell and wife to Helen M. Roelofs, property in Mineral Springs township.

L. R. Flinchum and wife and D. A. Blue and wife to John Beasley and wife, property in Carthage.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license has been issued from the office of the Register of Deeds of Moore county to Cano Brewer of Steeds and Alva Brown of Biscoe.

Grains of Sand

The boy who usually dashes out of the postoffice with the Special Delivery letters went on his vacation this week. When Frank Buchan, Jr., heard he was going he applied to his postmaster father for the job while he was away. Papa said yes.

Frank, Sr. was dressing the next morning when he was interrupted by a call from the next room.

"Hurry up there, Dad," said the voice. "I've got to get to work."

Incidentally, Mrs. Buchan is away this week. Wanting to make sure that Son Frank had something to do on his new job and at least one "speedy" fee, she sent a letter carrying extra postage to a friend here. Unfortunately the best of intentions sometime go astray. She registered the letter instead of sending it Special Delivery.

Editors and publishers of the state are gathered at Pinnacle Inn in Banner Elk this week. During their annual convention they will hear Dr. John Dickinson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, an able member of the Roosevelt "junior" cabinet; Senator "Bob" Reynolds, Federal Judge John J. Parker of Charlotte and Coleman W. Roberts, head of the Carolinas Motor Club, who is to tell about plans for the newly organized "Carolinas, Inc."

When they voted for Cooley for member of Congress from the 4th district last week it was the first time a goodly majority of the registrants had ever voted for anyone for that office other than Edward W. Pou. The late Mr. Pou was elected first in 1900. Only those Democrats over 55 had ever voted for anyone else.

The Pilot speaks for his many friends in Moore county in expressing deep sympathy to Congressman Walter Lambeth on the death of his father, John W. Lambeth, of Thomasville.

In a recent contest conducted by The State, Carl Goerchs magazine, Frank P. Graham, Josephus Daniels, Clyde Hoey, Cam Morrison, Governor Ehringhaus, Senator Reynolds, Judge Francis Winston, W. L. Poteat, F. M. Simmons and Colonel Fred Olds were selected the ten most interesting people of North Carolina.

Clement Ripley, who forsook a career in peach growing in the Sandhills for writing stories of the thriller type, has just sold the movie rights to one of his tales for $30,000. The Ripleys are now living in Charleston where Mrs. as well as Clem turns out cracking good fiction.

It is estimated that more than 8,000 persons enjoyed the fireworks display at the Southern Pines baseball field the night of the Fourth. One person counted 1,400 cars passing a given point headed in the direction of the field that evening, and that was only the approach from one direction.

It looks as if it wasn't going to be such a quiet summer after all. They've called a special election next month to decide whether we shall borrow a quarter of a million dollars from Uncle Sam for new and improved school buildings, and there are likely to be some folks objectin' to borrowin' so much money.

STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR TOBACCO REDUCTION

County Agent E. H. Garrison, Jr. has just received notice from Raleigh that all parties who have not signed Tobacco Reduction contracts and desire to do so may get these signed up this month. "This does not mean that anyone who cares to may come along and sign a contract, but that those who can establish a base like all others did may sign," says Mr. Garrison. "There may be a few who for some reason or other did not sign a contract when the time was open before. These are the parties who are being given a chance now.

"Be sure that you can establish the fact that you have been growing tobacco; then come to the office and get this fixed up as soon as possible."

1934 AGRICULTURAL YEAR BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

Word has just been received from Congressman Walter Lambeth that the 1934 Agricultural Year Books will soon be off the press. Anyone desiring one of these may have same by writing to Mr. Lambeth at his home in Thomasville.

"These are very handy books and contain valuable information," says County Agent Garrison. "Be sure to write to Mr. Lambeth for a copy."