

THE PILOT

A Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding

of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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Southern Pines and Aberdeen, North Carolina, Friday, February 22, 1935.

FIVE CENTS

Chamber of Commerce to Campaign for Recreation Center in Southern Pines

Hugh J. Betterley Elected President and "Forward March" Adopted 1935 Slogan

With its election of Hugh J. Betterley as president, the new board of directors of the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce pledged itself to launch a campaign for an auditorium and recreation center at once, and to make "Forward March" the slogan for the organization for 1935.

Mr. Betterley's election to head the Chamber, succeeding Nelson C. Hyde, was unanimous. Ralph L. Chandler was elected vice president, Dr. L. B. McBrayer national councillor and D. D. Shields Cameron secretary and treasurer. The following were elected to the board of directors at the annual meeting held last week at the Mid-Pines Club:

W. L. Baker, H. L. Betterley, Frank Buchan, Shields Cameron, Herbert Cameron, George W. Case, R. L. Chandler, E. T. Chapman, R. S. Durant, R. L. Hart, Dr. George G. Herr, Nelson C. Hyde, Dr. L. B. McBrayer, J. A. McPherson, Dante Montesanti, George C. Moore, Dr. W. C. Mudget, F. B. Pottle, E. W. Reinecke, S. B. Richardson, C. J. Simons, J. Fred Stimson, Hiram Westbrook and J. M. Windham. Honorary directors: Charles W. Picquet, John J. Fitzgerald, Harry Buckley and Frederick Stanley Smith.

For Recreational Facilities
The need of a recreation center in Southern Pines was stressed by a number of members, among them Mr. Richardson, Mr. Windham, Mr. Betterley and Dr. McBrayer. The frequent complaint heard from winter visitors that there is no general meeting place here, no community or social center, no place to drop in to meet other winter residents, enjoy a friendly winter game, a game of billiards or other pastime, was voiced and the argument set forth that until this condition is remedied Southern Pines could not hope to compete with other winter resorts. It was pointed out that a large percentage of the winter population here does not play golf or tennis or ride horses, and that some recreational facilities they might enjoy must be provided for them.

President Betterley is to appoint a committee this week to look into the possibility of a federal loan under relief funds for such a community and recreation center, to contain an auditorium large enough to accommodate convention meetings, mass meetings, stage productions and such affairs; to have card rooms, a reading room, billiard room, possibly a swimming pool and bowling alleys. It was also suggested that municipal offices be provided in the structure.

In addition to the launching of the campaign for an auditorium, plans were discussed at Tuesday's meeting for the second annual Spring Blossom Festival here in April. A meeting of committee chairmen was held on Monday night at which time General Chairman S. B. Richardson pointed out the duties of the various committees and started them off on their work.

SANDHILLS BUSINESS MEN APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

The Sandhills section was represented at the public hearing in Raleigh Wednesday on Senator John Sprunt Hill's bill to provide for the sale of liquor through state-operated stores. Among those from here appearing in support of the bill were James W. Tufts, E. G. Fitzgerald, Donald J. Ross, James MacNab, and Livingston L. Biddle, II, of Pinehurst, and William Flynn, M. H. Turner, John Fitzgerald, and Howard Burns of Southern Pines. Their arguments were that it is detrimental to the interests of this section, the winter home of so many northerners, to deprive them of the same rights here that they enjoy in their northern homes, and that the liquor traffic in North Carolina can be better controlled by a law consistent with federal laws than it is at present.

C. of C. President



HUGH J. BETTERLEY

MAIL CARRIER IS HELD UP, ROBBED OF CAR AND CASH

John Monroe, Eagle Springs, Forced to Surrender Auto at Point of Gun

John Monroe, R. F. D. mail carrier from Eagle Springs, was held up and at the point of a gun forced to surrender his automobile to two young white men, who also relieved him of a small amount of cash before speeding away. The robbery occurred on Monday not far from Eagle Springs. Mr. Monroe, driving a car that was practically new, had returned from his mail route and was on his way to his farm when the hold-up took place.

According to the report, two men appeared at a filling station and asked if anyone was likely to come along in a new car, giving the impression that they wanted to get a ride. While there they ate some canned goods and drank coca colas. Becoming suspicious of the men because of their inquiry about a "new" car, the filling station operator, it is said, carefully placed the cans and bottles used by the men to one side, thinking they might prove useful as a source of fingerprints.

Officers were soon on the trail, and reports were heard of a speeding car having been seen along the highway toward Asheboro, but no arrests have been made.

Princeton's Highest Honor to H. A. Page, III

Aberdeen Boy Awarded M. Taylor Pyne Prize, For Excellent Scholarship

The M. Taylor Pyne Honor Prize, the highest general distinction Princeton University confers upon an undergraduate, will be bestowed today upon Henry Allison Page III, son of Henry A. Page, Jr., of Aberdeen. The award will be made by President Harold W. Dodds at the winter meeting of the Princeton National Alumni Association held in the Faculty Room of Nassau Hall.

The Pyne Prize is the second honor which has come to Page this year. Early in January he was chosen as one of the four Rhodes Scholars from the South Atlantic district. Page, whose scholastic average has been among the highest in the senior class, was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society his junior year and is
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GYMKHANA POSTPONED

Due to the death of Bion H. Butler, the gymkhana committee, Rev. J. Fred Stimson, Nelson C. Hyde and Herbert Cameron, yesterday postponed the event scheduled for this afternoon at the Southern Pines Horse Show ring.

HUNTER TRIALS TO PRECEDE RACES HERE MARCH 16

Full Day's Program Announced by Sandhills Steeplechase & Racing Association

ENTRY BLANKS SENT OUT

Entry blanks and conditions for the first race meeting on the new course of the Sandhills Steeplechase & Racing Association on the Midland Road were mailed out to owners of leading hunt race horses this week. The entries close on March 10th, ten days before the meeting.

The first race on the program will be the Pinehurst Steeplechase, a private sweepstakes of \$10.00 each, for maidens and winners of one race. Four-year olds are to carry 145 pounds, five-year-olds 150 pounds, six-year-olds and upwards, 155 pounds. Former winners five pounds additional. This race is to be two miles over brush jumps.

The second race will be the Sandhills Cup Steeplechase, three miles over timber fences, for four-year-olds and upwards. Weight, 165 pounds. Four-year-olds allowed 10 pounds, five-year-olds five pounds. A trophy for this, the feature event of the afternoon, has been presented by Mrs. Verner Z. Reed, Jr., of Pinehurst and Newport, R. I., in addition to which a purse of \$150 goes to the winner, \$35 to the second horse and \$15 to the third.

Third on the card is the Southern Pines Steeplechase, a private sweepstakes of \$10.00 each, for four-year-olds and upwards, four-year-olds to carry 150 pounds, five-year-olds 157 pounds, six-year-olds and upwards 162 pounds. Non-winners in 1934 and 1935 allowed five pounds. This race, two miles over brush is for amateur riders only.

Hunter Trials

The day will be a full one for horse lovers. The committee, comprising Almet Jenks, chairman; Nelson C. Hyde, Noel Laing, Verner Z. Reed, Jr., James W. Tufts and P. S. P. Randolph, the racing secretary, decided last week to have hunter trials in the morning on a course laid out inside the race course, and entry blanks for the trials have also been mailed out. There will be two classes, one for thoroughbreds and one for non-thoroughbreds, with suitable trophies for the winners. The course will be approximately one mile in length, with some ten fences, the horses to be judged on manner of going, hunting pace, etc.

Work on the new course has been progressing rapidly during the past week, with a large force of men hard at work erecting the brush jumps, rolling the timber and brush courses and mowing the inside hunter trial course.

Many of the leading hunt race horses in the country are expected to be among the entries in the brush and timber races, and assurances have already been received of a big entry in the hunter trials.

George St. John, Pioneer Hotel Man Here, Dies

Began Operation of Piney Woods Inn in 1895 and Was Annual Visitor

With the death of George St. John at the home of his son Charles in East Orange, N. J., on Saturday passed the last survivor save one of the group of pioneer hotel men of Southern Pines.

The brothers, Charles and George, began the operation of the old Piney Woods Inn in 1895, and for thirteen years made it one of the best known hotels in the state, doing much to forward the interests of Southern Pines. In 1905, with Charles' son Leon, they leased Oak Hall, now the Southland, and from there they went to Hendersonville to operate the St. John.

Surviving the deceased, who was 84, last September, is an older brother, Joseph; two sons, Charles and George, and two daughters. For years Mr. St. John during the month of February paid an annual visit to Southern Pines as the guest of C. T. Patch.

A Friend of All



BION H. BUTLER Engaged in Conversation With a Former Slave.

Adventurous Days Preceded Mr. Butler's Coming to Sandhills

Traveled 14,000 Miles to Get Story of Oil Wells in Russia

BY IDA BRIGGS HENDERSON

(Reprinted from Charlotte Observer of Sunday, June 4, 1933.)

Bion H. Butler, beloved dean of the Sandhill's host of newspaper men and literati, needs no introduction to the people of North Carolina. For forty odd years since he left newspaper work in Pittsburgh to make this state his adopted home, this man has labored for the good of North Carolina.

As editor of *The Pilot*, live little paper of the Sandhill section, besides through other newspapers scattered over a wide territory, Bion Butler has indeed told the world about his section as few other men have. He has had the hardest part—laying the foundation work, the creating of public sentiment in favor of the pine woods of Carolina, the writing of words across the sky that has resulted in establishing Pinehurst and Southern Pines as nationally known resorts; where not only tourists go to spend a while, but others who, having once gone there, have been caught by the lure of the lovely long-leaf pine country to build homes for themselves.

Since Mr. Butler discovered the beauty of the rolling Sandhills, handsome hotels, attractive shops and homes, many of them really palatial in their architecture and appointments, have sprung up like magic under the shadow of the glory of the long leaf pines whose slender needle-like leaves give out a healthy aromatic fragrance. Here, too, has been formed a Writers' Colony where nationally renowned writers and authors spend their winters—these claim that they live there because they have found conditions ideal for writing—not too far from the largest literary center, New York, and situated in an atmosphere of quiet peace conducive to soothe the sensitive nerves of those who do creative work.

Also, the peach farmers of the Sandhill section which now acknowledges few superiors in the peach industry, gratefully claim that Bion Butler encouraged and advised them in their initial endeavor to establish their large peach farms which have become the chief commercial asset of the several counties which compose the Sandhill region of North Carolina.

However, the efforts of this versatile
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Tributes

From Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus: Please convey my sympathy and condolence to family of Mr. Butler. His fine service to state and community will long be remembered.

From Murdoch M. Johnson, Member South Carolina Legislature; former North Carolina State Senator: Am immeasurably grieved at news of death of Bion Butler. He has lighted more burdens, settled more difficulties and gladdened more hearts than any man I know. The Sandhills and Moore county have lost their best friend. A great pen is silenced, a great heart is still.

From U. L. Spence, State Senator, North Carolina: Am profoundly grieved at the death of your distinguished citizen and my lifelong friend. I extend my condolence.

By Frank Buchan, Postmaster, Southern Pines: Regardless of wealth, poverty, creed or color, Bion Butler had abiding faith in humanity. He refused to see anything but the good in everybody. Those of us who for so long have sought his advice on all our problems, and found it so easy to confide in him, will miss him much.

From Struthers Burt: Am so deeply sorry at your news. I do not know what we will do without Bion. He was like one of his own well loved pines.
From Thad S. Page, Secretary to U. S. Senator J. W. Bailey: Deeply grieved to learn of Mr. Butler's death. The Sandhills section has lost one of its soundest men. My deepest sympathy to members of the family.
From Superior Court Judge F. Donald Phillips: Please convey my sincere sympathy to family.
By D. G. Stutz, Mayor, Southern Pines: The passing of Bion H. Butler, who for thirty years was a pioneer in the development of Southern Pines and Moore County, comes as a distinct shock to the town and surrounding communities. He was a friend to both the white and the colored and the entire community mourns its loss. He
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Bion H. Butler, Editor of Pilot, Aged 77

Ends Lifetime of Devotion to His Profession and Service to His Community.

FUNERAL ON SATURDAY

Bion H. Butler, editor of *The Pilot*, associate editor of the Sandhills Daily News, leader in the development of the Sandhills over a period of nearly 40 years, died at his home, Valhalla, on the outskirts of Southern Pines shortly after one o'clock yesterday morning. He had been in ill health since last fall, but had continued to the end his editorial duties, dictating from his bedside when unable himself to write.

Mr. Butler had devoted half his lifetime to the "Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina," the slogan carried on *The Pilot* masthead. The fame of this section throughout the world is due more to him than to any other one person. His going is a community loss, and an irreparable one. And beloved of all, it is a personal loss to the thousands who called him friend.

Funeral Saturday at 3:30

Mr. Butler's body will lie in state at the home all day tomorrow, Saturday, where his friends, both white and colored, may call. The services will be at 3:30 o'clock at the house, with the Rev. J. Fred Stimson officiating, assisted by Dr. T. A. Cheat-ham of Pinehurst, the Rev. E. L. Barber of Aberdeen and Father Dillon. Burial will follow at Old Bethesda Cemetery.

The following have been asked to serve as honorary bearers: Leonard Tufts, John R. McQueen, J. R. Page, Henry A. Page, Sr., Dr. William C. Mudgett, J. M. Windham, Union L. Spence, Arthur S. Newcomb, M. G. Nichols, James Boyd, George T. Dunlap, Claude L. Hayes, C. T. Patch, Dr. A. H. McLeod, Dorsey G. Stutz, M. C. McDonald, G. C. Abraham, O. H. Stutts, Robert L. Hart, Stacy Brewer, R. S. DuRant, M. H. Folley, G. C. Seymour, Henry McCoy Blue and W. H. McNeill.

The active bearers will be Nelson C. Hyde, Charles W. Picquet, J. Talbot Johnson, Rassie E. Wicker, Harry Goldsmith and John G. Hemmer.

A favorite song of Mr. Butler's, heard by him in Mexico years ago, "Flee as a Bird," will be sung at the services by the following: P. Frank Buchan, S. B. Richardson, Shields Cameron, T. A. Kelly, Dr. L. M. McBrayer, J. B. Gifford, D. S. Packard, Willard Dunlop and A. L. Adams.

Born in 1857

Bion Butler was born on June 28, 1857 in Brookville, Pennsylvania, the son of Lieut. Col. Cyrus Butler and Elizabeth Butler. His father fought through the Civil War. He attended Pittsburgh schools at an early age, afterwards going to the military school at Titusville, Pa., where at the age of 12 he learned to set type. His early inclinations were toward newspaper work, and at 19 he established the *Courier* at DuBois, Pa., to this day a thriving paper. He later became affiliated with the *Pittsburgh Times* and it was during this connection that he was given the longest individual newspaper assignment up to then, that of the study of the development of the oil industry in Russia.

His complete and thorough report of his studies in Russia, led to his becoming a special writer on the oil, coal and other industries of Pennsylvania, for various newspapers. And it also started the wanderlust which led him to all parts of the North American continent in his zeal for information and news. One cold day in Pittsburgh he wandered into the railroad office and asked the agent for a ticket. "Where to?" "Any place that isn't cold," Mr. Butler said.

Moves to Tennessee

He was given a ticket to Knoxville, Tennessee, and for some time worked on the *Knoxville Courier-Journal*. Later he went west, visited Mexico, *(Please turn to page 4)*