THE PILOT

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INTEREST IN YOUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

If the interest shown once a year in the Southern Pines Chamber of Commerce could be spread through the year, there is little that could not be accomplished for the town. Two hundred and seventy-four persons attended the annual banquet of the organization on Tuesday night of this week. Each year the crowd is increased over the year before. But what becomes of these citizens between times?

The Chamber of Commerce strives for constructive accomplishments. Many of its admirable projects are "put over" one hundred percent. Others fall by the wayside for lack of cooperation on the part of the townspeople. This lack of interest cannot be because the projects lack merit. They are all along lines of beautification, education, civic improvement, health, roads, increased business, religious, social and athletic activities. Is it lack of a civic solidarity, or is it the old story of "Let George do it?"

It takes more than a small group of public spirited citizens to do those things that need to be done in a progressive community. It takes the pull-together spirit, and it takes a reasonable amount of money. The local Chamber of Commerce does not ask for much; it deserves more than it asks for, certainly more than it receives.

Let's try to remember we have an active Chamber of Commerce during the eleven months and twenty-nine days that come between banquets.

RECORD BUDGET FOR NORTH CAROLINA

General Assembly this week received the recommendations of the Advisory Budget Commission for money to run the State of North Carolina for the next two years. The commission's report is featured by record high appropriations, three new tax levies, and the removal of the sales tax from basic foods.

Appropriations recommendations called for $70,178,171 for 1937-1938 and $70,240,975 for 1938-1939, as compared with 1935-1936 expenditures of $68,443,750.

New taxes on wines, gifts and intangibles to produce an estimated $1,450,000 yearly and an increase from $1,000,000 per year to $2,100,000 per year in "highway fund diversion" by application of the three percent sales tax on gasoline purchases of the state were recommended to increase revenue. Necessary items of food and meals sold in hotels, restaurants and other public eating places would be exempted from the sales tax.

A salary increase throughout the state set-up of "not less than ten per cent" should be given, the commission said. This, it said, would leave salaries of departmental workers still some 18 per cent below peak levels with those at institutions about seven per cent below one-time levels.

The budget should be studied by all taxpayers of the state. It is your money the legislature will allocate during the present session.

THE TRUTH OF THE OLD TROLLEY LINE

Rassie Wicker of Pinehurst should have been a newspaper man. He has a knack of making anything he writes interesting and informative. The other day The Pilot's little brother, the Sandhills Daily News, published a cut of the Southern Pines depot in the days of the trolley line between here and Pinehurst, showing a car waiting for the arrival of a train. Being young and not knowing any better, the paper said it was the only car the trolley road owned.

The Pilot is glad the News made the mistake. For it brought forth a most interesting story of the old road from Brother Wicker:

Editor, Sandhills Daily News:

Not that it matters, but just to keep history straight; the statement under the picture of the Southern Pines railway station says that the trolley car shown was the only one owned by the road. This is incorrect, as many who rode the "fresh air" combination freight and passenger car can testify. As a matter of fact, the railroad owned five cars—one passenger car, with a baggage compartment at the end, which is the one shown in the picture; another passenger car which was run between the hotels and the club house at Pinehurst; the combination car above referred to, which was used chiefly to haul freight from Southern Pines; a third passenger car which was held in reserve at the car barn, and seldom used, and finally, a "work car" with a high framework built on it, which was used for construction and repair.

It happens that I was working with the electricians at Pinehurst when the line was abandoned, and Owen Farrey, the electrician at Pinehurst; Seward McCall, the colored lineman, and I were sent out to cut the line. We took the old freight car to a point about opposite Donald Ross's house on Midland Road, and Seward McCall climbed up on top and cut the main trolley wire. As this wire was supported by guys attached to poles which were decayed, the whole line fell for several hundred feet back toward town, and we had to push the car back to where we could get the trolley on the wire.

Many of the old timers will recall the ludicrous spectacle of the freight car, which had tarpaulin curtains on the side, and which were seldom fastened down, as it wended its way to and fro; the curtains standing out and flapping in the wind.

The motorman on the Southern Pines run was one Elmer Isaacson, a Swede, and "Jack" Brooks, a brother of Mrs. H. W. Priest was conductor. Clarence Clendennin, who was about four feet tall, handled the express and mail. Owen Farrey was combination conductor and motorman on the car used between the hotels and golf course in Pinehurst, and John Bliss was motorman of the freight car.

—R. E. WICKER.

Pinehurst, January 11, 1937.

DR. SYMINGTON REELECTED COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER

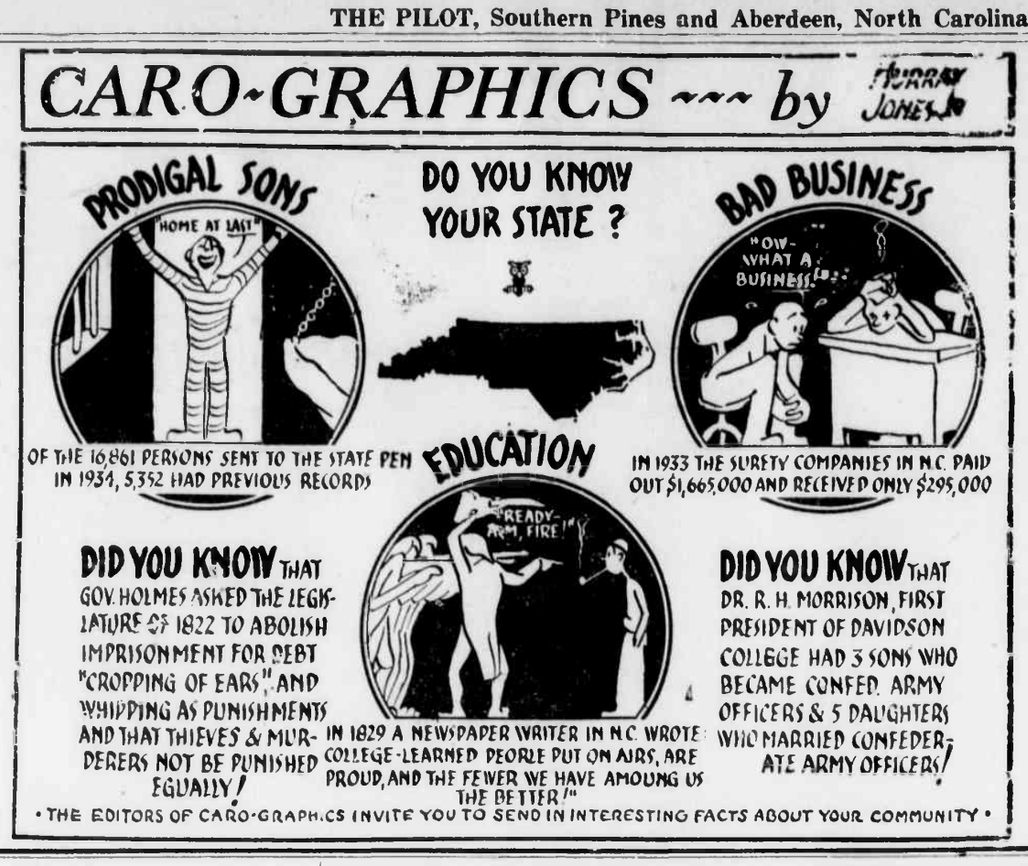
Dr. J. Symington, for a number of years Moore county's efficient health officer, was reelected to this office for another binnium at a meeting of the county Board of Education held in the office of the County Superintendent of Schools on Monday afternoon.

Miss Vysta Markham was reelected county health nurse, and Miss Margaret McQueen, maternity nurse.

Wilbur H. Currie presided over the meeting, which was attended by H. Lee Thomas, secretary, Clyde Shaw of Carthage and Dr. Charles Eckrson of Cameron. Dr. D. G. Stutz of Southern Pines and Dr. Robert L. Shepard of Pinehurst have been appointed to membership on the board, but were not present at the meeting.

SLOT MACHINE STOLEN

The Maness filling station at High Falls was entered during Monday night and a slot machine, said to contain $60 or $65, was stolen. Officers were working on the case Tuesday.



GRAINS OF SAND

We haven't been accustomed to many starlit nights of late, but when we did catch a glimpse of the dazzling heavens one evening, Venus in the west was bright enough to cast a shadow.

When the thermometer touched 70 as it did several days last week, a chorus opened up from the swamps and other low saturated places. The frogs were serenading their mates and announcing the approach of Spring.

They may have to make several more announcements before we look on their familiar utterances with any degree of certainty.

Now in the second week of January we see a lengthening of the days. Although every night brings a brief delay in each succeeding sunset, longer daylight is already noticeable. Our short winter will soon be over. More light will be available for the outdoor man. February brings a warmer sun, the trailing arbutus, daffodils and many of the flowering shrubs.

Santa Claus worked on more than an eight job when he made his last visit over the Sandhills. Here and there he dropped under a local Christmas tree a reward of merit to a good child that will be treasured long after many Yuletides have passed.

Two of Tom Kelley's girls came out of their gateway the other day with twin Scotties. The four of them were setting out for a walk. Looking over the quartet it was hard to tell who was getting most out of the arrangement.

A few years ago the Kelley children lost their pet Sealyham through vandalism. Hopeful little girls followed many hopeless clues. Kindly old Santa Claus may have been out of Sealyhams, but he finally assuaged their woes by slipping under their Christmas tree two black puppies to fill the vacancy caused by the loss of one beloved white one.

"Ain't you gonna play de radio none?" asked Aunt Malissie when she came in with the announcement—"Yo' clothes am done."

A flip of the radio switch and a dissatortation of how to be beautiful poured into the room. "Is 'dat man jes' talkin' to hissef?" She was told he was talking to anyone who cared to listen and that now she could hear the news. Over 3,700 killed and more than a million injured on the highways of the country during 1936 was the appalling record that reached her ears. The eyes of the negress bulged. "Is dey killin' de people like dey did d hogs and cattle when dey thot dey hab too many ob 'em?" She was assured no effort was made to kill people, but that they were only accidents. It was hard for her to reckon accidents involving more than one or two participants.

Like the old negro, an accident is something we all soon dismiss. But if disease wiped out two entire cities the size of Fayetteville and crippled one fourth of the population of North Carolina the incident would linger in our minds as something impossible to ever forget.

"Man's a vapor
Full of woes.
Starts a paper
Up he goes."

The mail brings a little booklet, "Founding a Country Newspaper 50 Years Ago." It is written by an old newspaper man from the oil country who began his career with a Cottage Army press, inked with a hand roller or each impression and just large enough to print one page of a seven column newspaper. With a capital of nearly three hundred dollars, his other possession added up to cases and stands and a variety of worn type, and a small job press. The crude young country editor saw his paper live and flourish for 50 years, and before retirement became a special writer for metropolitan papers. J. P. Herrick became well known to many of the Pennsylvania and southern New York state people who were active in the famous oil fields and the lumber industry of the vast pine and hemlock forests.

A would-be newspaper man encounters a different world today when he makes his first contact with a print shop. Where the stage coach meant the only means of transportation, news was slow in traveling. So the man in search of copy moved about on foot, gathered what he could from the local doctor, the tavern keeper, wool and cattle buyers, local politicians, the barber and the millinery store, an excellent news source. No Associated Press news, no radio flashd out last minute world happenings.

Six of the employes of the old shop became owners and editors of country weeklies. Success was measured much the same then as now. Whether conditions are any more satisfactory today would be a debatable question with some of the old timers.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The Beechwood Corporation to Catherine B. Murphy, property in Mineral Springs township.

J. Polakavetz and wife to D. L. Brown and others, property in Bensalem township.

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Vass Woman's Club Has "Home" Program

Members Hear About Choosing Rugs and Caring for Floors at January Meeting

The January meeting of the Vass Woman's Club was held on Friday evening at the home of Mrs. D. C. McGill with Mrs. McGill, Mrs. P. A. Wilson, Mrs. N. N. McLean and Mrs. B. M. Corbett as hostesses.

The American Home departments of which Mrs. G. W. Brooks is chairman, had charge of the program, and interesting household hints were given in response to roll call. "How to Choose the Right Rug," was presented by Mrs. C. J. Temple and Mrs. R. G. Rosser's subject was "The Care of Floors and Woodwork."

A letter of thanks from the State Industrial Farm Colony for Women for a Christmas remembrance from the club was read, and the club voted to pay immediately its financial obligations for the year.

A delightful social hour followed, during which progressive anagrams was enjoyed. A dainty prize was awarded Mrs. Corbett, holder of high score, and to Mrs. S. R. Smith was presented "the booby," which proved to be a tray heaped with lovely gifts, a shower given by club members in honor of her birthday anniversary the following day. After these had been opened and admired, the hostesses served delectable refrshments.

Mrs. M. M. Chappell joined the club, and Mrs. W. T. Cox and Mrs. C. I. Calcote were present as visitors.

SMALL BOY LOSES HAND AS DETONATOR EXPLODES

David Singleterry, ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Singleterry of Hemp, is in the Moore County Hospital, suffering from severe injuries resulting from an explosion from a dynamite cap, which he mistook for a firecracker. His face is badly marred and the injury to one hand necessitated its amputation.

Singleterry, a worker in the Pinehurst Silk Mills at Hemp, had recently moved to a new house about a mile from town. The former occupant of the house had left behind him a number of dynamite caps, and it was one of these that the young boy got hold of.

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