

THE PILOT

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NELSON C. HYDE
Editor

DAN S. RAY
General Manager

CHARLES MACAULEY
Advertising Manager

Helen K. Butler, Virginia Creel, Bessie Cameron Smith, Charles Cullingford, Associates.

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THE MAN BEHIND THE HOME COMING

Some day when Azrael writes Finis for Talbot Johnson, and the newspapers attempt an obituary, they will leave unsaid a good many things that might have been said before the colophon is reached, marking the end of the story. So just in case anything might be overlooked later on, The Pilot offers a bouquet to Talbot Johnson before his vision is deflected and the heirs dictate copy for his tombstone.

The Scots had a great day at Bethesda last Sunday. It was a success from every angle. They drifted in in droves from all over the country, from states far away and from ones nearby; from the tidewater section and hill country they came. It would be difficult to estimate the crowd as folks came and went during the day, as both morning and afternoon services saw a shifting of faces with church and grounds overflowing until the rays of the setting sun lengthened towards the end of the late afternoon.

When Talbot Johnson summoned the Clans together at the 150th birthday celebration of the old church he undertook a huge task. The chairman of the Homecoming committee was far more than a genial host to a horde of people. He not only had the burden of a large correspondence, of arranging printed matter, of assembling the various clans and arranging a sponsor for each one, but was in general the unseen force that carried the affair both spiritually and socially.

The old country church has not lost its hold upon the people. The Scots returned in a body to the ancient ground where a century and a half ago older generations held sway over the lives and actions of the first settlers, and there the descendants renewed old friendships with acquaintances that have been worth while and of lasting interest and value. The Bethesda Home Coming was a highly successful affair and the many souls who derived both pleasure and profit from the religious and social contact from the old shrine will feel grateful to a man who helped make the day an outstanding one in the history of the church. So The Pilot in behalf of a multitude tosses a few posies to Talbot Johnson.
—H.K.B.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

This is National Newspaper Week, dedicated to the Freedom of the Press in general, to appreciation of its part in the upbuilding of America in particular. And as America means the small town as well as the big city, the county, the state, the nation, it means appreciation of your own paper—if it deserves it.

In letters made public in connection with National Newspaper Week, the President and the Republican presidential nominee cited the responsibility of the press for democracy's survival.

"Freedom of conscience, of education, of speech, of assembly are among the very fundamentals of democracy," said President Roosevelt, "and all of them would be nullified should freedom of the press ever be successfully challenged."

"I have little fear that freedom of the press will be abridged from external assault in this country. The danger is from internal corruption. If our press exemplifies a passion for truth and justice and fair play to all, it will avoid that spiritual paralysis and decay which are the dead-

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

THE UNITED STATES HAS ABOUT 30% OF ALL THE RAILROAD MILEAGE IN THE WORLD

THE EARLY GOLF BALL, THE "BRAMBLE," HAD BUMPS ON IT INSTEAD OF DEPRESSIONS

THE BUYING POWER OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FACTORY WORKER IS ESTIMATED AS 60% HIGHER TODAY THAN IN 1914

IN 17th CENTURY GERMANY, YOU HAD TO HAVE A LICENSE TO ROAST YOUR COFFEE

SPEEDING OUR DEFENSES! ONE U.S. AIRPLANE COMPANY RECENTLY BUILT A COMPLETE FACTORY—8 CITY BLOCKS IN SIZE IN ONLY 57 DAYS!

ly enemies of our free institution."

Willkie wrote:

"News, accurate and unbiased, is the daily need upon which a democracy feeds. Pervert the news and control the views of the press—those are the first aims in the would-be dictator's effort to undermine democracy. Lies and controlled propaganda is the stuff upon which dictatorships feed and grow fat. Freedom of the press is the staff of life for any vital democracy."

CAMPAIGN NOW IN HIGH GEAR

What history may prove to be one of the most important Presidential campaigns in decades is at last in high gear. The period of peace and quiet which followed the nominations seems to be definitely over.

During that period, there can be no question but what the Willkie candidacy suffered a slight let-down—his friends admit it, even as his opponents exult in it. But only the politically inexperienced believe that let-down was necessarily of any particular significance. Mr. Willkie was swept into the Republican nomination on the crest of a wave of almost unprecedented enthusiasm, similar to that which gave Mr. Roosevelt the Democratic nomination eight years ago. No one experienced in politics believes that enthusiasm could have been maintained undimmed from nomination day to election day. Willkie strategists deliberately planned the letdown, knowing that it had to come some time, and that the earlier it came the better off his candidacy would be. History is studded with dismal examples of candidates who brought their campaigns to maximum pitch too long before November—and, as a result, seemed to the voters as stale as yesterday's beer by election time.

On top of that, the Willkie campaign called for super-careful planning. Ordinary issues are of little moment today, with the national attention focused on war in Europe and defense at home. Mr. Willkie is not an "a-ginner." He endorses many New Deal policies in principle, even as he denounces many New Deal methods. And so, almost inevitably, it looks as if this campaign will focus down to two issues—one tangible, the other more or less intangible but of immense potential importance.

The tangible issue is that of administration. Willkie backers believe that he could get more for each defense dollar than could the present White House group. They believe he could steer a course which would be fairer to all the diverse interests in this country today—worker and capitalist, farmer and manufacturer, little businessman, reliever, etc. And only the blindest supporters of the New Deal fail to see that it has made many grave mistakes in the administrative field, even as it has made great advances in bringing before the people problems

Grains of Sand

There are two newly elected presidents in the DuRant family of Southern Pines who are not concerned over a November election. Bob has been made president of the Student Body of the Southern Pines High School, and his brother Dick of the Sophomore class of the Maxton Presbyterian College.

Tuesday, October 1st, opened the deer season in McNeill and Sandhills townships. Soon after the stores had opened a car drew up to the curb at Bakers Food Store with two fine young bucks tied to the running

boards. A crowd soon collected to look over the spoils of the early morning hunt. George Colton and Archie Ferguson were the Nimrods responsible for the kill.

which must eventually be solved. The intangible issue is that of the third term—of one man's indispensability. Mr. Willkie has been hitting that issue hard, and some of the experts believe that it may turn out to be the decisive issue of the campaign. No man, says Mr. Willkie, is vital to the country—and once the idea gets around that one man is indispensable, it will be just a matter of time before dictatorship follows. To Mr. Willkie, there is no personal fight in this—he doesn't charge the President with dictatorial ambitions. He simply points out that once the precedent is established—or, putting it another way, the old third-term precedent is demolished—we will have, in principal, accepted a government of men as against a government of laws.

That was the theme which dominated Mr. Willkie's Coffeyville address, opening gun of his campaign. And it has dominated his other prepared addresses made since, even as it has dominated the little two-minute off-hand talks he has made in dozens of towns.

Mr. Roosevelt bases his candidacy on his record—on what he regards as great New Deal attainments. His answer to the third-term argument is that there can be no dictatorship here so long as the people possess the ballot. His recent speeches have been moderate in tone, and have been generally well received. They are not driving speeches—apparently he thinks there would be no point in his making a campaign tour, inasmuch as he and what he stands for are well known to the country. On one point, all are agreed—the President was never in finer form when it comes to his radio presence and delivery.

Who will win? One of the weekly picture magazines recently asked a group of well known Washington correspondents and commentators that question, and all but a few hedged. Too much can happen between now and November, they said, to make a safe prediction possible. They were about evenly divided in giving the edge at present to either Mr. Roosevelt or Mr. Willkie.

D. H. TURNER REAL ESTATE OFFICE MOVES TO PILOT BLDG.

Turner's Real Estate and Insurance Office has moved from the Carolina Theatre Building in Southern Pines to The Pilot Building.

Mr. Turner reports the following rentals: Mrs. Winnie J. Dodge house, 80 South Ashe street to J. R. Gandol of Montreal, Can.; Mrs. Dodge's house on North May street to Lieut. William W. Potter; Mrs. E. W. Merrill's house on East New York avenue to Mrs. S. P. Bennett; The Chiswell house at 11 East Massachusetts avenue to Lieut. Choller; The Condit house, 47 West Vermont avenue to F. K. Roache, and Herbert Cutter's house, 34 Illinois avenue to Lieut. H. E. Brakke.

On more than one occasion Sandhills people have found themselves connected with the picture section of "Life" magazine. In a recent issue Life tells the story of the Debutante Ball in Raleigh, in picture and prose. Sue Ann Milliken and Jane Musser of Southern Pines were among the debutantes in attendance with Dick DuRant, J. S. Milliken, Jr., and Chris Page Shamburger among their marshals.

With the heat of summer vanished and the days showing a tinge of autumn in the air, the local prognosticators scare some of us into thinking Fall will descend harshly, bringing frosts earlier than usual, weather conditions below normal, and that winter will lay a ruthless hand upon us, or in other words we are in for a long hard winter. For every prophet who sings of woe and the worst to come, there is generally another type who offsets the gloom. Prof. Selby Maxwell, the meteorologist and weatherer man of note slays the severe winter theory by saying: "We are going to have a bountiful Indian summer in 1940. The woods will be a riot of colors for a long time, and lovers of the out-of-doors will find the 1940 season as enjoyable as any they have ever seen. Farmers are going to like the lack of frost."

"During the next four weeks warm

winds from the Caribbean sea and the Gulf of Mexico will blow strongly towards the north, carrying warm tropical air over the whole Atlantic seaboard. The cold winds that normally begin to blow at this season will be weak. The tropical air that covers so much of the country is going to be a rain carrier too. It will lay the foundation for an excellent autumn weather will carry right through into 1941."

That ought to help those who had the heart-bowed-down over premature low temperatures and fear of a dismal winter. To sell their products to the people in this far-flung land, national advertisers spent \$148,713,036 in newspapers in 1938—a large amount than in any other medium of advertising.

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Southern Pines

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