

THE PILOT

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ARMY DISCIPLINE OR TERRORISM?

Several recent events, which must be classed as more than mere "incidents," raise a vital question concerning militarism in a democracy.

Most recent of these was the sentencing to 10 years and nine months in prison of one Private John Habinyak, Pennsylvania coal miner, who, after only two weeks in the army at Fort Bragg was charged with insubordination for refusing to clean his mess kit, refusing to pick up concrete blocks, for spitting on a mess hall floor and refusing to clean it up. These offenses—and offenses they certainly are—appear more childish than malicious, while the punishment meted seems both childish and malicious.

Earlier this month a disgraceful shooting scrape occurred between some Military Police and privates which ended in deaths of both soldiers and M. P.'s. From substantiated reports, this scrape resulted chiefly from an over-bearing attitude on the part of the M. P.'s toward the privates who were Negroes. Throughout the country reports of high-handedness of authorities and gross discrimination against Negroes in the Army lead to the conclusion that these were not isolated cases.

This type of "discipline" should not be necessary. It certainly is not apt to be tolerated at a time when the country's indignation is aroused against Hitler for very similar tactics within his own organizations. With all its importance, the Army should not be considered a thing in itself, above the laws and principles of our country and its people.

If the Army still defines "discipline" as obeying orders, it may be that some education is necessary into the meaning of the word "discipline," which derives from the Disciples of Christ. Such actions as those mentioned above seem to prove that, lacking an understanding and ability to achieve genuine discipline, it was necessary to turn to something approaching terrorism in order to secure obedience.

If we take our example from Christ's Disciples, then discipline is dependent upon mutual good will and understandings, not upon unquestioned authority and power to punish.

THE MENACE OF DEFECTIVE CARS

Attempts by State Highway Patrolmen to eliminate from the highways automobiles whose age and physical condition apparently constitute safety hazards will be successful only if there is cooperation from owners of such vehicles.

It is true, probably, that mechanical defects are contributing factors in many automobile accidents, although defective drivers are the roads' greatest danger. While every effort should be made to see that automobiles without proper lights, breaks and steering equipment are not allowed to endanger road traffic, care should also be taken that the owner-driver is not penalized too heavily. Many second-hand cars are bought, cheaply, in good faith but turn out to be in pretty sorry shape. The purchaser of a second-hand automobile may save himself a lot of woe if he will get some kind of guarantee concerning the mechanical fitness of his purchase. Then he will not, after having invested in a car, find himself forced to make all kinds of additional repairs to get the car acceptable to the Highway Patrolmen and mechanical standards.

A BROOM ON SIDEWALKS

On several occasions recently certain business men have remarked about the appearance of some stretches of sidewalk along the main business section of Southern Pines.

"Why can't these sidewalks be swept every morning?" they have queried, as if we knew the answer.

In a town with the beauty of Southern Pines, it does seem a shame that some of this beauty must be marred by accumulated trash on business sidewalks. To some extent, this must be the fault of those who carelessly let fly with papers, cups and trash, rather than using the large waste cans conveniently placed along the parking places. Also, there must be some blame on the individual merchant who does not see that the walks in front of his place are cleaned regularly.

With a new season approaching, it does not seem untimely to remind everyone that clean sidewalks mean an attractive city and an attractive city can mean a successful one. A good broom, a little elbow grease and a few minutes on the sidewalks each morning would help do the job.

HOPE THEY'LL BE HERE NEXT YEAR

For the first time in 15 years, Seaboard golfers will not spend Labor Day week-end, enjoying the golfing and accompanying pleasures of a week-end in Southern Pines.

Demands of National defense rail movements were given as the reason for cancellation of the annual tournament of the Seaboard Golf Association. While the sacrifice of a week-end of golfing is not a great one; in the United States it is such pleasures as these, enjoyed by groups of men with common interest, that keep us going, and ready to fight for such pleasures.

It is certainly to be hoped that a year from this Labor Day week-end, the normal labors of the world will have been resumed and along with them, the normal pleasures of laboring men. Southern Pines looks forward to welcoming back next year, come Labor Day, its friends of the Seaboard Golfers Association.

HUNTSMAN! HUNTSMAN! SPARE THAT HUNTSMAN!

At sunrise September first it will be legal in North Carolina to hunt and shoot deer, if one is provided with a hunting license, obtainable for a set fee upon application to the appointed agency having them for sale. "For sale" correctly describes the manner in which these licenses are issued.

The possession of a hunting license is proof only that the hunter has paid his share to help enforce the law against wanton waste of wild-life. This much is as it should be; but it should go further than that.

There is nothing in or on the license that assures the game warden or fellow-hunters that the holder is competent to shoot a gun or to be carrying it fully loaded through the forests where, this year particularly, there may be many soldiers, in pursuit of their duties, as well as other citizens who have a right to feel secure against the "chance-taking" hunter who shoots at any moving thing he sees.

Judging from reported "accidental shootings" in hunting seasons of the past, it would seem about time that steps were taken to make the possession of a hunting license proof that the holder is familiar with the type of weapon he is carrying, and that he is responsible enough to be able to tell the difference between a buck deer and a fellow human being.

It is not lawful to shoot a doe. All hunters know, or should know if they are allowed (by license) to hunt, that a doe does not have antlers. If the hunter is required to determine this fact before he shoots, what possible excuse can there be for his "accidentally" shooting his fellow?

All during the hunting season there will be many khaki-clad youths in this vicinity engaged in the business of learning to serve their country, and

GRAINS OF SAND

Overheard on a street the other day was a soldier quite obviously from some more northern clime, discussing with a newly made friend an experience he had had with "other than legal" liquor in the South.

"We got something this fellow called 'sugar-head,'" the soldier was explaining.

"Was it in a fruit jar?" his friend asked.

"Yep! In a mason jar. It was white, and boy! did it have a smell!"

"Did you drink it out of the fruit jar?" he was asked.

"We sure did."

"Well, you know, you've just begun to live when you start dringing 'white lightning' out of fruit jars," the casual southerner explained.

The Yankee soldier thought a moment, then exclaimed, "Well, then, I Have Lived!"

North Carolina writers and citizens are featured in a number of magazines this month. While we don't attempt to keep up with all of them, here are some we've run across:

Former Governor Clyde R. Hoey has an article in the *Kiwanis Magazine*—the speech which he made at the Atlanta Kiwanis Convention.

Former Southern Pines writer Hugh MacNair Kayler collaborates on an article about Archery in the current *Colliers*. Edith Harbour, editorial secretary for the *Raleigh News and Observer*, and book editor, does justice to Dr. Frank Porter Graham in an article in *Holland's Magazine*.

All of this about writers reminds us that very few people whom we've asked know that the late John Galsworthy, English writer famed chiefly for his Forsyth family stories, used Southern Pines and Aiken, S. C., as a setting for one of the Forsyth interludes, following a visit to this section back in the middle twenties.

This "V" for victory campaign of the British and their sympathizers throughout the world as a part of the fight against Hitler was anticipated by many years by a concern in the United States. A huge, red "V," enclosing the word "Victor," is the trademark appearing on products of the Animal Trap Company, makers, most appropriately, of mouse and rat traps.

While in Aberdeen the other day, we thought we recognized a friend of ours, who's supposed to be in Washington writing for the *Associated Press*, getting out of his car for a coca-cola. It was he—W. Joynes Macfarlan, former AP bureau chief in Raleigh, who was motoring through on a short vacation.

It was his dog, though, that at-

tracted our attention. The dog was apparently a perfectly normal black and white fox terrier—except that he had light blue eyes, so abnormally blue that at first glance, he appeared to have glass eyes.

Signed with a huge question mark and the caricature of a man with a furrowed brow a postal card message reached Postmaster Frank Buchan this week from Boston, Mass. The message was hand-printed in excellent letters, and Frank suspects the source. Here's how the card read:

"And now the ding-busted 'raw-dealers' have balled up the petroleum industry!"

"With that fella H. Hickkies hoggin all the gas—Great Jumpin Jehossaphat!—How mi gonna git to Suth-earn Spines, Nawth Cal-ina?"

CORRESPONDENCE

TIME TO FIGHT MURDERERS

To The Editor: Among all the arguments as to whether we should go to war or not against the destroyers and ravagers of humanity, against the monsters who in the most brutal manner are killing millions of mothers, their children, and relatives, yet, putting them to death by slow torture, I have seen no arguments that touched on the really humane, unselfish, Christian aspects of the situation.

All, or nearly all, are for expediency and for our own selfish present and future interest and welfare. What man with even a spark of bravery can stand by and with a craven heart see innocent people, mothers and children, cruelly attacked and tortured by a band of gangsters while debating in his mind as to his own safety or welfare!

Well, we have been and are doing just that, we have apparently lost our self-respect, we certainly will lose our immortal souls by holding back, quibbling over what is best for our country or our own families, eternally waiting, hesitating, vacillating in a most cowardly manner while whole nations are being wantonly destroyed.

We fatuously cannot see that the longer we delay the harder the battle will be and the worse for our future. Let us then go in at once, secure the highly strategic places of great importance for the throttling of the murderers of humanity. It is full time we got down to business and gave up our vacillations, hesitations and splitting hairs about what may or may not be international law.

The only way to fight fire is with fire itself. The only way to fight murderers is to get there first.

—THOMAS B. SMITH

Southern Pines.

Pinehurst Paragraphs

Miss Ehrhardt Honoree
Mrs. Herbert Ehrhardt, Jr. entertained Thursday evening with a bridge party at her home in honor of her two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Henson Maples, a bride of June, and Miss Dorothy Ehrhardt, bride-elect.

Guests besides the honorees were Misses Rhoda Wilkinson Carolyn Beebe, Helen Ruth Cole, Lorena Montesanti and Mrs. Lewis Johnson, Mrs. Hubert McCaskill, Mrs. Travis Wickler, Mrs. Norman Calcutt, Mrs. Myron Barrett and Mrs. Eugene K. McKenzie. The honorees were presented guest prizes and high score prize was won by Mrs. McKenzie.

On Tuesday afternoon Miss Dorothy Ehrhardt was honor guest at a tea given by Mrs. Aaron Leon Catal at her home in Troy.

Entertain at Supper

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Swaringen entertained at a picnic supper at their farm on the Carthage road Monday night. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gouger, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Sally, Mr. and Mrs. Casper McDoqald, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Conant, and Misses Vera Harrington and Lucille Brooks.

Miss Ruth Putrelle of Sedgewfield, has arrived and is at the Teacher's Club, Hazelwood. She is a George

their paths no doubt will cross those of the hunters of game. There can be no chance-taking this year, under these circumstances, by the "too-anxious-to-shoot" type of hunter. If this kind cannot exert enough self-discipline to forego his hunting this year, then appropriate steps should be taken by State Game Commissioner and his wardens to see that only responsible hunters are licensed.

visiting the Harbison family in Morganton. Mr. Harbison will finish his course at Duke University Summer School Friday and join his family.

Miss Carolyn Beebe of Baltimore is the guest of her aunts, Mrs. J. M. Hagood and Mrs. Blanche Weacott.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Potter Stockton have returned to their cottage, Stockholm, after a month's motor trip through the New England states. Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Moore gave a miscellaneous shower at their home

Tuesday evening for Mr. and Mrs. Walter Morgan, who were married recently.

Miss Rhoda Wilkinson and Miss Norma Renfrew of Providence, R. I., are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene K. McKenzie.

Mrs. R. L. Daniels and Mrs. E. J. Barker of New Bern arrived Monday and are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thon-trip through the New England states. as R. Cole. Miss Virginia Daniels has been the guest of Miss Betty Reed Cole for two weeks.

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Re-opens—September 2, 1941