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ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

MEMBER
 NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION
 AND
 N. C. PRESS ASSOCIATION

FIRE CHASERS
 We are sure that all our citizens are proud of our fire and police departments for really going after the fire-truck chasers, and are heartily in support of the two arrests which have been made for this offense, and any others which may have to be made.

Ordinarily no one rejoices at seeing a fellow being get in trouble with the law, no matter how well deserved, but in this case the authorities' action can give nothing but satisfaction.

The satisfaction is enhanced rather than otherwise by the fact that practically every one of us has been guilty of the offense, acting on impulses heightened by a sort of mob spirit as everybody else within view lights out for the fire at breakneck speed. In such a situation the sanest, most law abiding citizen yields in spite of himself, while castigating himself mentally for his weakness.

The knowledge that there is an ordinance against it, and that the authorities are going to help all citizens to be mindful of it, even to the point of arrest, is highly comforting—especially when we reflect that it may be our house on fire next time.

CARRIER SERVICE
 The congested situation at the Southern Pines Post office, which with 813 boxes and no possibility of expansion is serving almost 1,000 families, is called to our attention by Mr. W. C. Hilderman, whose letter in an adjoining column states clearly a position we are sure is held by many.

He presents the cause of those who must stand each day at the general delivery window because no boxes are available, and suggests that the time is at hand for carrier service to be established here.

On consultation with Acting Postmaster A. Garland Pierce, we find that the local office has been officially inspected and found to meet the basic requirements for carrier service; that, as a matter of fact, the Post Office department is anxious to put it in; that it is awaiting only a strong expression of public opinion, with willingness expressed by householders to install the necessary mailboxes of door-slots at their homes.

Carrier service can then be begun, probably in three to six months, in sections both within and without the city limits in the area the post office serves; where streets are improved, street signs and lights have been erected and the area is 50 percent or more built up.

Mr. Pierce's position is that of one who wishes to serve the people insofar as they wish to be served, and he must have indication to present his superiors that the service is desired and desirable, before he can proceed. He suggests that some organized means of expression be found, as having more weight with the Post Office department. Failing that, letters or a petition should determine the issue.

Correspondence on file shows that the late Postmaster Frank Buchan tried to secure the service as far back as 1935, but an inspector found that "the people are apparently satisfied with the present arrangement" and action was dropped.

He tried again late in 1946, and the local post office qualified for the service. Mr. Buchan's final illness, drawing on at about that time, was probably the reason nothing more was then done.

There are some disadvantages to the service which, in all fairness, should be considered. Incoming mail which now goes immediately into boxes would, with carrier service, not be delivered until the following day (but those who prefer boxes may keep them, as alternative to delivery); local letters which now cost one cent in postage for box delivery would cost three (and some business firms with large mailing lists may be expected to object.)

There are numerous other de-

tails but, by and large, we are bound to feel the inauguration of carrier service would be a big step forward for the town, a convenience to many and a necessary concomitant of progress.

With the attainment of first class status one year ago, the Southern Pines post office became one of the few in the country of this rank in which "going for the mail" is everyone's daily stint.

There are many village attributes Southern Pines may retain, with charm and credit, even as she grows beyond village proportions. But there are some which become incongruous with growth, even as those of a lengthening lad whose mother still keeps him in curls and ruffles because they once looked so cute.

The Public Speaking

ABERDEEN BOND ISSUE
 Editor
 The Pilot
 Southern Pines, N. C.

Dear Editor,

Your editorial entitled, "Aberdeen Bond Issue," in this week's issue of the Pilot was so eminently good, that I hasten to express to you my sincere personal appreciation for it. You have done a great service to our cause in Pinebluff, and although I cannot speak officially for the citizens of Pinebluff, Addor and Silver Springs, I do feel that all of them are heartily in accord with my sentiments as to your fine support for our cause.

You might be interested to know that it inspired a protest meeting for the purpose of organizing a group to go to Carthage Monday afternoon and express our position at the time protests will be heard by the County commissioners.

Once again let me express my profound thanks for lending editorial influence of your very fine paper to help us in the cause that we feel is a noble and worthwhile one.

With kindest personal regards,
 I am
 Sincerely yours,
 W. LAMONT BROWN
 Pinebluff

To the Editor, The Pilot:
 I speak for many neighbors in expressing thanks and admiration for your editorial in last week's Pilot, which discussed the proposed school bond election in Moore county and pointed out the justice and practicality of the sustained fight for a grade school to be established in the Pinebluff community.

This school has been long and badly needed, and plainly deserved, by the children of Pinebluff and the neighboring communities of Silver Springs and Addor. Your declaration of sympathy and support doubles the already considerable determination of these united communities to continue and win the fight for their school. Your editorial is important additional evidence that the leaders, and indeed all thinking and fair-minded citizens of Moore county, are backing us and will see that justice is done us and our children.

MANLY WADE WELLMAN
 Member of the Committee for Establishment of School Facilities in the Pinebluff Community, Pinebluff

MAIL DELIVERY HERE?
 To The Editor,
 The Pilot

My dear Madam:-
 I have several friends who came here recently to live, who have not been able to rent boxes at the Post Office, and I know of one who has been here since January, and is still unable to rent a post office box.

I notice that the "Post Office Ends Year of Growth and Wins High Rating," and in fact the article in the current Pilot states that the receipts for the past two years places it in the first class.

In view of the long waiting list for boxes, which I am told is constantly growing, I should like to ask just what are the chances for the Southern Pines Post Office to have carrier service in the town, at least. Carrier service, I am sure, is just what a majority of the residents in Southern Pines want, and if a petition to this effect signed by a large number of citizens, is what is necessary to secure carrier service, it is my idea that the Chamber of Commerce should take steps to have such a petition presented to the Post Office department, with a sufficient number of signatures to secure such service.

There is a large number of people who have to go daily to the general delivery window, and sometimes have to stand in line for quite long periods to get their mail and I am sure every one of these would sign a petition requesting that carrier service be

Grains of Sand

In starting our new column a month ago we got over-ambitious and congratulated some of our friends on happy occasions of their lives a month early. . . So we'll do it again now, for a double felicitation. . . It's July, instead of June, when we say "Happy Birthday" to Danny Frassinetti, who was 18 last Sunday. . . and "Happy Anniversary" to Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Dawson, Jr., married seven years ago Monday.

And here are some more happy birthday wishes. . . To little Jimmy Pate, Jr., and Andrea Bachman, born the same day. . . July 21, 1947. . . and Lyle McDonald, Jr., who also celebrates that day. . . Only he's a big boy now. . . A veteran of navy service.

Sure wish that snapshot we got hold of, of Game Warden Alex Fields and his most recent big fish, had been good enough to print. . . Though the photo left much to be desired (for photoengraving purposes) the fish did not. . . It's a nine-pound bass, a perfect beauty. . . Caught at Swan lake about a week ago. . . They say the water went down about two inches when that majestic fish left on the end of the warden's line.

From the letter file: "We sleep under blankets every night! Aren't I mean?" . . . You certainly are, Mrs. McCain! . . . Wish we could be at Montreat with you. . . However, we note that she left there to attend the Democratic convention. . . Bet things were hotter there. . . And here's a card with a picture of Alcatraz. . . Gave us kind of a start at first. . . "Having seen this (from a distance) have decided the paths of virtue had best be followed. Wednesday is a great day for us (arrival of Pilot) . . . PTX" . . . Thanks, Mr. Kelsey! . . . So glad you didn't write "Having wonderful time, wish you were HERE."

Initials are the bane of a newspaper person's experience. . . Always a trap for the unwary. . . And often even for the wary! . . . Our acting postmaster has at length (and most pleasantly) set us right on his name. . . A. Garland Pierce. . . For a long time we called him Garland F. Pierce. . . Then changed it to Garland A. (and the phone book backed us up in that) . . . And he says himself it matters little. . . That has always been a wandering A! . . . Anyway, we're glad to be right about it. . . Thanks Garland!

The late ABC Officer A. D. Jones was an example of the way owners of names often have to conform to popular usage. . . We always used the initials A. D. and he never said a word. . . And it's A. D. in the phone book. . . His fellow officers say he always signed his reports A. D. Jones. . . When he died, his obituary revealed his name as Adolphus Graham.

Seems that from boyhood he was called Dolph. . . And from that grew a misconception as to his initials. . . Which he himself adopted, without protest.

Which reminds us of a federal court trial we covered once, in which the defendant's name was Woodrow. . . What his last name wasn't matter. . . In fact, it didn't matter then. . . From beginning to end of the story we called him Woodrow Wilson.

Fascinating book, "George Horace Lorimer and the Saturday Evening Post," by John Tebber, now at the Southern Pines library. . . Or at least it will be back there as soon as we've finished our absorbed perusal. . . We haven't yet come across the names of Struthers Burt and James Boyd, both of whom shone brightly in the Post's firmament. . . But then, the book is concerned mainly with the political writings and topical news which the Post carried from the day Lorimer took over as editor. . . The name of our friend and fellow townsman Wallace Irwin keeps cropping up. . . One of the greatest of the country's political journalists and satirists.

instituted here.

There are many towns in the United States smaller than our town in population which have had the benefit of carrier service for many years, and I am writing this letter hoping that you will be good enough to publish it and if possible start a movement that will give Southern Pines the carrier mail service that it should have, and the institution of which I am sure will eliminate the long waiting list now at the post office for boxes.

Sincerely,
 W. C. HILDERMAN
 Pine Cone Lodge,
 Weymouth Road

Claude L. Hayes Seen As Philosopher, Friend

AN EDITORIAL

Southern Pines last week in sorrow said goodbye to a valued friend and comrade of many years, Claude L. Hayes, a good citizen in the truest sense of the word, one whose contribution to the community was great, and whose going leaves a sad sense of loss.

The sense of loss, in fact, extends far beyond the confines of the town, for many who have visited here, or lived here for intervals of varying length during the past half century undoubtedly remember him well, and love the memory.

For many of them to whom his bookstore was verily the heart of the town, he represented Southern Pines; in him were rolled up the attributes for which they loved the town, the kindness, the cordiality, the friendly humor and the emphasis on things of the mind.

Now that he is gone, the stories of his quiet benevolences are coming out; the aid he rendered them in distress, in ways the limelight never discovered.

For one who knew him only a short while, this writer is perhaps presumptuous in attempting to write of one known so well to many better qualified to do so; and goes to the Pilot files to find the job better done.

Yes, it has been done by a master—and we can do no better now than to reprint two articles first published in November, 1946, when the golden anniversary of Hayes' Bookshop was just around the corner, and Mr. and Mrs. Hayes were also to celebrate their golden wedding.

Struthers Burt wrote about Claude Hayes, and his friend answered—both in the light vein of men who know and love one another; yet the serious note is there for all who read with their hearts as well as with their eyes.

BURT WRITES OF HAYES
 By Struthers, Burt, November 22, 1946:

This is an important week in the life of Claude Hayes, and therefore in the life of Southern Pines.

By happy coincidence, or rather, happy planning and foresight on his part, Claude is celebrating in the same week two major events; his Golden Wedding, fifty years as proprietor of one of the best book shops in the United States. That's half a century in both instances. Lots of men can't keep a wife that long; still fewer—a mere handful—can run a successful book shop for five decades. A first class book shop is a risky venture. People have to get used to it, and at first are shy. You have to lead them to it until it becomes a habit.

Claude, thank goodness, is a modest man. When you praise him he looks away, shifts from one foot to another, laughs, and makes some witticism, or tells an appropriate anecdote. He's as filled with appropriate anecdotes as Abraham Lincoln. He is a witty man, also a philosopher. But now I have him at an advantage. He doesn't even know I'm writing this. I'm going to shoot the works. And it's a labor of love.

I should know about book shops. I'm a writer, my wife is a writer, and now my only son, also a musician, and just back from the navy and the Pacific, is a writer, too. His first book will be published in the spring by Scribner's. That's three writers in one family, and writers know about book shops. Book shops are what sell the work of writers after the writer and his publisher are through with it. Only book shops can sell books. And most book shops are pretty bad. In the majority of small towns they are just half a counter in a drug store. For a town the size of Southern Pines to have a really first class book shop—I repeat, one of the best in the country—is exceptional. It's almost a miracle.

So you just accept that, Claude Hayes, God bless you, and don't come back with a wise-crack.

But then, you see, the proprietor of this book shop is an exceptional man. It takes one to run a first class book shop. I've said he was a philosopher. So he is. I've said he was a wit. So he is. I've said he tells pointed and amusing anecdotes. So he does. But he's also a first class critic. He reads the books he sells—most booksellers don't—and if one's good, he sends out those little mimeographed criticisms of his. If he tells you to buy a book, you'd better buy it. It's good.

Finally, he is that most necessary thing, a first class citizen; ever generous, but always hiding his generosity, behind every good movement and opposed to every silly one, a participant in, or, in the past, often one of the found-

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In Bygone Days

From the Pilot files:
TEN YEARS AGO
 Southern Pines voters in special election (321 to 182) favor bond issue for purchase of property next to post office for a civic center.

John D. Sitterson, Jr., is sworn in as a cadet at West Point.

Sandhills Kiwanis, meeting at the Southern Pines Baptist church, hears talk on the modern telephone by Norris Russell, of the Southern Bell company.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
 J. McN. Johnson, Bethesda Cemetery secretary and treasurer, announces plans for beautification of the cemetery with removal of the body of Walter Hines Page to a beautifully landscaped resting place.

The Kiwanis club, meeting at the Community building at Pinehurst, hears a talk by Frank Buchan on his trip to Seattle.

Four Boy Scouts are elected to the Fils d'honneur, honor organization, at the Campfire program ever generous, but always hiding his generosity, behind every good movement and opposed to every silly one, a participant in, or, in the past, often one of the found-