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HOME AGAIN

When you have been away for as long as five months, going on six, it is quite an event to arrive back home again.

In my case, that feeling of excitement was increased by a surge of elation, not to say triumph. I had had a wonderful time cruising around over there, seen many beautiful things, met many fine and interesting people, but then, when I was all set to come home I suddenly got stuck. First an exasperating accident and then the ship's delay in sailing, because of the dockers' strike and then because of the fog, held me in Paris for many extra weeks. All these hazards overcome added to the zest of arrival.

And how good it was to step off onto the fine new station platform and see my dear friends waiting there for me.

"How's everything?" "Everything's fine!" that was the greeting, and, if it was one that could be exchanged only in America these days, that was something else again, something that, with the piney air in our faces and the sights and sounds of home around us, we didn't have to think of right then.

But, later on, it hits you hard. Everybody who comes here from overseas experiences it. There is a push of going places, of doing something, in the air. And it implies, of course, that there are places to go and things to do. You realize, suddenly, that that was one of the things that you found so depressing over there: there seemed to be no future in people's minds. Just to be able to get by with the present, just to be able to handle each day as it came, that was what counted.

But here: "everything's fine." This day, each day things are going well, plans are working out, and plans are being made for the days that lie ahead.

But there is more to it than that. With that vigorous forward surge of life in America, comes an extraordinary sense of ease and relaxation, of well-being. Over there, there is continual tension. It isn't because the Russians are a comparatively short distance away, with very little in between to slow them down. . . . Oddly enough, war talk is heard less over there than here. It is, I think, a state of nervous exhaustion, a hangover from the terrific strain of the war years in a people who are tired out and under-nourished, and who have lost so many dear ones and gone through so much that their interest in life has slightly dimmed. You feel they are near the breaking point.

It is America's job now, while keeping her own beauty and strength and gay good living, to breathe vigor and hope back into the rest of the world. Along with our food and clothing and our machines we must send the spirit that is America, this spirit that you feel when you come back home again from overseas. We must send it because, without it, the material things will be of small avail, and we must send it because, unless we share it with those in need, we shall not be able to keep it for ourselves.

And that is what makes coming home especially exciting these days. Because you are so overwhelmed with this thing that is America, this strong, generous, confident, gay spirit that you feel, like the freshness of the cool piney air in your face, you are so swept by its strength, that you know we must have a lot to spare. You know there is enough of it and it is strong enough to cover the world.

"Everything's fine" here. Well, everything can be fine there, too, if we have the faith and the will to make it so. —KLB

LET'S WORK FOR OUR PARK

The sight of town crews cleaning up Millen park, as result of the town board's decision to keep the park and aid its restoration to

beauty and usefulness, is a matter for true gratification.

It has been eight months since the matter of the park's restoration first came up, as the town board was about to return it to its original owner as a useless property.

During these eight months the townfolk have expressed themselves vigorously as desiring to keep their park, and one organization after another has gone on record as feeling this should be done. The Sandhills Veterans association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Chamber of Commerce and the Teen Age club expressed themselves strongly. Through a Chamber of Commerce committee, leaders of the Garden club, Bird club and Civic club said they felt their membership would be in accord with any move made in this direction. Letters, signed and unsigned, have been received and published by The Pilot, and when, in the press of other matters, The Pilot let the matter go for a while, phone calls, visits and letters kept bringing it back to life and to mind.

The latest straw in the wind was a letter written to "Citizens Anonymous" (Pilot, December 3) which suggested volunteer crews of workers to beautify the park. Another letter this week echoes that plan—one which, incidentally, was first offered by the Teen Age club as its members offered their services some months ago.

We feel that all of this feeling is spontaneous, genuine, and highly commendable, but that it needs a coordinating plan. The town board has taken the first step in cleaning up the property; a second step is necessary, that of formulating an overall plan for further work, or delegating this job to some responsible, individual or group. Foundation of the plan could be the survey made last June, on request of the board, by Paul Van Camp, consulting engineer. The survey has not been made public. It may include a map, topographical description or other material which should be valuable to the planners.

The town board might ask the Chamber of Commerce, or the Garden club to take this job over, with the idea that other interested agencies could work with them, under the plan, as time goes on.

There is plenty of room at the park. A part could be left untouched as the Bird Sanctuary for which the park was originally established. Elsewhere, youth groups might want to build picnic tables and benches, a civic club might construct an outdoor fireplace. With the loss of the Aberdeen lake as a gathering place, many youthful activities formerly held there may be transferred to our park.

The Garden club may supervise some planting in suitable spots, and cuttings from some of the town bushes and plants may be placed there.

It took 20 years for Millen park to get into its present sad state. It will take more than a month or a season to make of it what the town would like.

With a good plan, continued interest and volunteer help, some day we should have a real beauty spot, one which we can show with pride to visitors—one to provide a pleasant and useful playground for young and old, in our own lovely bit of woods.

TOWN SIGNS
The recommendation of the mayor's committee on the town billboards, that the present billboards at Southern Pines' northern and southern entrances be moved farther from the town and smaller, neater signs replace them here, is as near to a meeting of minds as probably can be arrived at on this unexpectedly controversial question.

It should please both contingents—those who like the billboards, and think them effective, and those who think them repulsive and out of harmony with the town. Both sides can also quibble a little with the final recommendation but on the whole, satisfaction should result.

At least there is the feeling of something achieved, a forward step made—a thing which too often fails to eventuate when a matter is opened for full discussion by diverse elements. We congratulate all who met, aired their views and listened to those of others and even compromised a little in deference to others' wishes. Of such is progress compounded, albeit slowly.

However, the step just accomplished is but one on the path toward getting the right kind of signs erected in place of the billboards. The type of sign suggested by the Garden Club members, submitted in sketch form to the town board and studied by the mayor's committee, apparently failed to please the whole group. Many said they thought the signs too small, too hard to read.

So now comes the question: what kind of sign shall be placed in those vital spots, to give clear-

ly, effectively and characteristically the message of Southern Pines? Can a sign be selected which will please everyone?

We would suggest that at this point the mayor become a benevolent dictator, and select a group of no more than three whose taste he deems to be good, with the Garden club and business interests both represented.

We should like to see the members of this group look about with an inquiring eye, observe good types of signs now in use and, with the mayor sitting in an ex officio capacity, select one which is attractive, effective and in keeping with the town and the times.

Let's trust them to pick out something good and not worry them to death with talk.

The Public Speaking

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER

The Pilot, Southern Pines. Although anonymous I would certainly like to congratulate Mayor Page and the town board on issuing a definite statement regarding Millen Park, and to say to them that in my opinion their actions are well advised and most gratifying to a good many citizens.

There has been considerable criticism of the town board and the mayor "yapped" up and down the street, most of which was unjustified and due in a great part to ignorance on the part of the "yappers," and Mayor Page's statement in December 10 issue of the Pilot certainly enlightens us on one point, principally, that Southern Pines has more than one problem to solve, in taking care of the health and happiness of the citizens.

Personally I would be more than glad to join any organized action to help clean up the park and then keep it clean, and I don't mean just action, by word of mouth but physical labor with a "brush axe" or "cross cut saw" that any country boy knows how to use.

I am going to make a very determined effort to get in touch with the writer of the Citizen Anonymous letter of December 3 and see if we can't join in with that town crew when they start cleaning off Millen Park. A CITIZEN.

THOSE BILLBOARDS

Editor, The Pilot. I was delighted to see in last week's paper the story about the removal of billboards by law to at least 50 feet from the center of the highway. The Highway Commission in not enforcing this law for two years has been careless of its duty. But that such a law exists is wonderful news. It seems to me that placing these enormous billboards at intersections of the highways and at curves is a very dangerous practice. With one eye on the billboard and one on the road it's not surprising we have accidents.

Locally, it has always surprised me that the monster-size sign, advertising Southern Pines, at the south end of town just at the curve in Route 1 was placed where it is. The corner there is a dangerous one and many people I have spoken to have never seen the sign, which is an indication that they are watching the road and not the billboards. It would be to the common interest to remove this particular billboard.

The editorials and news stories The Pilot has had recently about the efforts to beautify Southern Pines and preserve its natural assets are highly to be commended. The whole state is becoming more and more conscious of the historical aspects of its attractions, as well as its more obvious allurements for the tourist and new residents. Let Southern Pines retain its place as one of outstanding beauty and distinction among winter resorts of the United States. ERNEST L. IVES

Paint Hill Farm Southern Pines

In Bygone Days

From the Pilot files: **TEN YEARS AGO**

Mayor D. G. Stutz warns that no one should buy holly or other Christmas greens without making sure the seller has a permit from the Town of Southern Pines. Paul Dana of Pinehurst is awarded the 1938 Builders cup of the Sandhills Kiwanis club. First gymkhana held in new show ring at the Southern Pines Country club. The Rev. J. Fred Stimson and Miss Ellen Vale are judges.

TWENTY YEARS AGO
File missing.

Grains of Sand

Was there ever such a magic December. . . . As gently cool and sweet as spring. . . . There may be snow before this gets into print, but as it is written it is hard to get the Christmas spirit. . . . With flowers blooming right along with the tinsel and Christmas stars of the window displays.

Drove out Sunday to see Mrs. M. G. Nichols' camellia bush. . . . She says it is not as pretty as it was. . . . But to us it appeared a beautiful sight. . . . Filled with rosy blossoms. . . . We hear Bill Campbell has been enjoying camellias at his place too. . . . Roses are all around. . . . And at the O'Callagans' last week, strawberry blossoms were in bloom.

One little freeze this week took the temperature down to only 28. . . . Not enough to kill the flowers busy about their Christmas blooming.

There was great fun at the Elks' banquet for the football team last week. . . . Where everybody laid themselves out to keep the crowd laughing. . . . The team's serious work was over. . . . Now was the time for fun. . . . From the opening speech by Master of Ceremonies Don Madigan right on to the end.

Mayor Page told a joke which brought a roar. . . . It was about the birth of the new young British prince. . . . For whom, if a girl arrived, 15 guns were to be fired. If a boy, 30 guns would be fired. . . . And if nothing happened at all, they would fire Philip.

At the end, Supt. Philip Weaver, expressing appreciation for all that had been done, said, "You people here are grand to work with, and for. . . . And I hope to be working for you many more years. . . . if you don't fire Philip."

Somehow, we don't believe that is likely to happen!

And Ray Brown, end coach at Davidson, the very young and charming speaker of the evening, had a set of jokes too. . . . Some of which he brought right down to local personalities. . . . One which fetched a big laugh he pinned on Janet (Beauty Princess) Menzel and Gary (Galloping Ghost) Matlocks. . . . And concerned their first date, when Mrs. Menzel was supposed to have warned her daughter of possible dangers which lay ahead.

"If he wants to park after the show, and if he asks you to put your head on his shoulder, don't forget," said Mrs. Menzel, "that is where I will start to worry." . . . After a beautiful dinner downtown, a fine movie and an auto ride, all happened as she warned. . . . Only resourceful Janet (in the story) replied to Gary, "Suppose you put your head on my shoulder instead. We'll let YOUR mother worry."

Never underestimate the power of a woman!

The Moore County Farm Bureau has been running into trouble because its regular meeting night, the first Monday of the month, is also that of the Presbyterian church circles, and when the Mrs. goes to a circle meeting, generally the Mr. has to stay home. . . . At the last Farm Bureau meeting, held at Carthage December 6, it was decided to change the meeting nights to the second Mondays instead. . . . For that reason.

Some more appreciations for The Pilot's big Resort issue of last month. . . . Including thanks from Governor-Elect Kerr Scott, who received a complimentary copy. . . . "I enjoyed reading about your wonderful resort," writes Mr. Scott. . . . We hope he'll learn a lot more about it at first hand, when he is governor. . . . He can get here mighty fast, when he needs some relaxation. . . . Unless he will always be going back to Haw River on weekends!

Thanks also from Gen. Homer S. Cummings, who wanted an additional copy, for a friend. . . . And we appreciated, too, a personal visit from Mary Corbin, a colored friend, who came to get an extra copy to send her brother, William Martin, who lives in New Rochelle, N. Y. . . . "He grew up around here," she said, "and he knew all those old folks back yonder long ago. That list of people who gave money to build Old Bethesda church. . . . He knew almost all of them. . . . I know he will enjoy reading about them."

Carthage has produced an inventor. . . . James D. Tyson, Jr., has a patent pending on a cardboard device which will carry four sanitary cups or ice cream cones without spilling the contents. . . . He is reported to have 3,000,000 on order, with a plant operating at Elizabeth City. . . . He is the son of Mrs. Ida D. Tyson of Carthage.

John Hemmer, official photographer for Pinehurst and also for the state news and advertising bureau. . . . And incidentally, one of our favorite people. . . . was elected president of the Carolinas Photographers association, at its meeting at Pinehurst Sunday before last.

This was the 10th annual meeting of this association of serious workmen, news photographers of both North and South Carolina. . . . John, dean of news photographers in this area, is a past president of the New York Press Photographers association, and, as an expert with a camera and also as a likeable person of ability and versatility, certainly deserves this new honor. . . . He and Emerson Humphrey, of Southern Pines (staff photographer of The Pilot, a former Hemmer pupil and associate) were hosts to the Carolinas Photographers meeting.

We share with our friend Francis Stubbs an inability to distinguish clearly between the New York Daily News and the Mirror (he was asking us the difference the other day, and we were no help to him!) . . . John was a staff photographer on one before he came south. . . . Now his son is taking pictures for the other. . . . Just which, we don't remember!

According to John Senior, John Junior is much the better photographer of the two. . . . He must be good.

Capt. George Shearwood, hunting publicity for Pinehurst the other day (a rainy day, it was), inquired concerning the progress of a couple of quail hunters who had been at their hunting on Julian Bishop's quail preserves all week. . . . He found his hunters home in front of the fire and asked them if it was because they didn't want to get their feet wet. . . . No, he was told, it was because the quail didn't want to get THEIR feet wet. . . . "Quail are so fussy," was his headshaking comment.

Help seal the door against tuberculosis by buying Christmas seals.

At Local Churches

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
New York avenue at South Ashe Bible school, 9:30 a. m. Worship, 11 a. m. Youth choir 6 p. m. Training unions, 7 p. m. Worship, 8 p. m.

Scout Troop 224, Tues., 7:30 p. m., faculty meeting, Wed., 7 p. m.; prayer circle, Wed., 7:40 p. m.; choir practice Wed. 8 p. m. Missionary meeting, first Tuesdays, 8 p. m. Businessmen's supper, second Thursdays, 7 p. m.

EMMANUEL CHURCH (Episcopal)
East Massachusetts Avenue - Rev. F. C. Brown, B. A., E. D. Church school, 9:45 a. m. First Sunday, Holy Communion, 11 a. m. Other Sundays, Holy Communion, 8 a. m. Morning prayer, 11 a. m. Wednesdays, Holy Communion, 10 a. m.

CHURCH OF WIDE FELLOWSHIP (Congregational)
N. Bennett at New Hampshire Rev. Tucker G. Humphries Sunday school, 9:45 a. m. Worship, 11 a. m. Story-Telling hour for children 9 to 12, 6:30 p. m. Teen Age group, 7:15 p. m. Fellowship Forum, 8 p. m. Circle meetings, second Thursdays. Missionary meeting, third Thursdays. Women's society, fourth Thursdays.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
St. Anthony of Padua (Cor. Ashe & Vermont) Rev. Herbert A. Harkins, pastor Rev. C. F. Hill, assistant Sunday Masses 8 and 10:30 am. Weekdays 8 a. m. Confessions are heard on Saturday, and the eve of Holy Days between 5:30-6:30, 7:30-8:00. Women's Discussion club Wednesday. Men's Discussion club Thursday, 7:30 p. m. at the rectory.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY
East New Hampshire Service and Sunday school 11 a. m. Service Wednesday, 8 p. m. Reading room open Wednesdays and Saturdays 3-5 p. m.

BROWN MEMORIAL CHURCH (Presbyterian)
South May at Indiana Rev. Thompson E. Davis, Th. D. Sunday school 9:45 a. m. Worship service, 11 a. m. Women's auxiliary, 8 p. m. Monday following third Sunday.

Fashions To Give Gifts To Wear

- LEWIS BAGS
- FOWNES GLOVES
- MARVELLO PEARLS
- BERMUDA SWEATERS
- GLAMOUR GIRL HANDKERCHIEFS
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