

THE PILOT

Published Each Friday by THE PILOT, INCORPORATED Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941—JAMES BOYD, Publisher—1944

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Subscription Rates:
One Year \$3.00 6 Months \$1.50 3 Months 75c

Entered at the Postoffice at Southern Pines, N. C., as second class mail matter

Member National Editorial Association and N. C. Press Association

Keep "C. B." On the Job

C. B. Deane, Eighth District representative, has made a real place for himself in Congress through hard work and conscientious action. He grows more valuable with each successive term and we anticipate that the voters will keep him on the job.

He won the Democratic nomination in 1946 with a close majority of 354. In the ensuing term he so improved his position that in 1948, unopposed, he rolled up a solid districtwide majority over his Republican opposition more than four times greater than two years before. He did this by careful attention to the needs of his district and by a sensitivity to its divergent elements which enabled him well to express their will.

He is being opposed in the primary this year by W. E. Horner, Sanford newspaper publisher, who contested him so closely before. We think a great deal of Mr Horner and look on him as our friend, but think he should know that, from where we sit, things are different now. Mr. Deane, whose vote in Southern Pines and Moore county four years ago was small, has won our respect and friendship and we see no legitimate reason for ousting him.

He has become a leading proponent of federal economy. He has taken the farmer's cause to heart. He has been assiduous in his attendance at congressional sessions, thorough in his committee work. He has put in many hours of study on national and international problems; no one hearing him can doubt the seriousness he brings to his job, nor the thoughtfulness with which he acts.

While a liberal, he is of conservative cut suitable to his constituency of small and medium-sized towns and rural districts. His friendly spirit and easy approachability have made him "C. B." to many who once voted against him but who are now proud to call him their friend.

Local Representation

With April 16th, the deadline for the filing of candidates for county offices, fast approaching, Southern Pines should look sharp or it will register another lost opportunity.

For some years this paper has urged the need for a man from this town as commissioner on the county board. This is not to deprecate in the least the long and conscientious services of the present incumbent, Thad Blue, who filed once more last week. But Mr. Blue has served our people long and faithfully and, it is reported, would not be sorry to relinquish the hard job of county commissioner. It is more than probable, too, that he would be in full agreement with others who feel that, his own interests being predominantly rural, it would be fitting for a man more representative of the business and resort interests which characterize this locality to take over for a while.

Looking back over the past years of Moore County affairs, a few points stand out which might have been handled differently and, we believe, better, had there been more progressive leadership. One is the matter of Knollwood Field. With air travel such a factor in resort business it would seem that a policy of the greatest possible promotion of local airlines would be in order. While Knollwood Field has presented some difficult problems, handled conscientiously by the county board, it can hardly be argued that they have shown any enthusiasm for promoting this needed service to the Sandhills. In fact, decidedly the reverse.

Another point where, in the estimation of many, too conservative and outdated methods were employed: when it was decided to have a reevaluation of county property, the best business opinion hereabouts was that the only efficient and fair way was to get a professional appraiser. The cost seemed high but many felt that, in the end, it would be as economical and the only satisfactory method. It is generally conceded, now, that this should have been done. The present method, in the hands of local amateur appraisers, which took 17 months to finish, cost the county almost as much as the other would have, and complaints are legion.

The third point deals with county services: health, welfare and so on. These are things in which every citizen is vitally concerned, yet it is the exception to find anyone who knows or cares much about them. This shows a lack of appreciation of public relations that is out of date; it shows also little realization of the worth of citizen assistance in carrying on these services; this, despite the fact that most of the forward steps taken, at least in the field of health in the county, have been brought about through the influence of local groups acting on their own initiative.

The present situation where the commissioners have almost let slip the opportunity to secure a desperately wanted health center because they decided they could not find the needed \$15,000 to \$18,000 which would constitute the county's contribution, is a case in point. A more aggressive and forward-looking outlook on the board might give the needed leadership to take

advantages of such opportunities for progress. We are citizens of Southern Pines, but also of Moore County. We contribute a goodly share of county taxes. It is time that we found a man from this progressive, business-resort-minded community, to take our share of responsibility in county affairs.

Roadside Improvement Pays

The Greensboro Daily News has been making an editorial study of the state and its needs under the title: "N. C. And What Can Be Done About It." Last point brought up was the matter of roadside advertising. Says The News:

The tourist business in North Carolina approaches \$200,000,000 a year. We have the natural scenery and are bound to reap a sizable harvest of tourists. But are we doing more to attract them or repel them? Our roadsides are scandalously neglected. Billboards and automobile boneyards line them. Why should motorists drive from New Jersey, say, to North Carolina to see the same outdoor advertisements they could see through the smoke of burning garbage in the Jersey meadows without leaving their own bailiwick?

Pointing out that "the state gets only the piddling sum of around \$15,000 for this sacrifice of its scenery," the News cites the "Model Mile" as a movement full of hope and concludes that such roadside improvement "will pay off not only in dollars but in patriotism, for a state that takes some pride in its looks is more likely to inspire and receive the love of its own people."

There will be general endorsement of these sentiments in this locality. Since the days when Struthers Burt headed the move for the abolishment of roadside advertising, giving great encouragement to the local effort, to last year's action by the Garden Club and the Chamber of Commerce asking for replacement of the town's billboards by smaller, more attractive signs, this town has, except for a very few people, strongly favored the cause. Unfortunately, the town board has not followed up these recommendations and the matter has been tabled.

There are three words that stand out in the News' editorial. They are "billboards" and "automobile boneyards." This town qualifies on both counts. When you consider that we are one of the tourist centers on whose direct behalf the News is making its plea, and that both these objectionables stand at the very entrance to our town, the case against us is pretty severe.

It would appear that it is high time for this community to take action in this matter, and insist that the town billboards be replaced by smaller more attractive signs, and that the automobile dump at its southern end be eliminated or else planted out. If, at the same time, some encouragement could be given the filling station owners, there, to make their buildings and lots more attractive with plantings of shrubs and trees, that entrance might eventually become one of the prettiest approaches to any town in the state, instead of, as it is now, one of the least attractive.

Opportunity Missed

The country is still waiting for the president to say something about peace. Thus far he has confined himself to the stark announcement that work on the hydrogen bomb had been started, following it with endorsement of Secretary Acheson's statement that the United States would stand pat on the Baruch plan and reliance on force. Though the situation has undergone a revolutionary change with Russian attainment of the atomic bomb and our decision to continue the arms race, our policy remains exactly the same.

In this crisis in the cold war, both Britain and the Soviet Union have stolen a march on us. Churchill, acting with his usual boldness, sparked his election speech with the proposal of a new approach on the highest level in an effort to end the threat of war. At their recent election, the Russians went down the line for "peace," Molotov climaxing the speech-making with his statement that communism and capitalism "can live together in peaceful economic competition." "The Soviet Union," he said, "is interested in lasting peace."

No one would be so naive as to be greatly impressed by these Russian statements, but there is no getting around the fact that they represent a sudden change in tactics, while they are a clear indication of the state of mind of the Russian people. At an election time, leaders tell the people what they want to hear. The Soviet speeches show that, more than prosperity or world leadership or even communism, the Russian people want peace.

That is something, we submit, that an alert leadership should seize hold of and capitalize on to the limit. It is difficult, indeed, to understand the president's silence. To put the thing on its lowest level, it is impossible to see what harm it could have done to couple the announcement of the hydrogen bomb with a strong reaffirmation of this country's desire for peace, of the fervent hope that the bomb would never be used. The fact is that we cannot afford such omissions. The peoples of the world know that, in the opinion of most experts, we used the atomic bomb when it was not necessary and when, now, with no mention of the UN, with no qualifying words of peace, we announce construction of a bomb many times more destructive, we are on shaky ground. There is danger that we will wipe out memories of earlier proposals and find ourselves, in the eyes of the world, in the war-mongering camp where Soviet propaganda is always trying to put us.

This is poor leadership. It is very bad public relations and, in this cold war, public relations are extremely important, especially in dealing with Russia.

Grains of Sand

Some extraordinary eloquence was observed in a program staged recently by the Sandhills Kiwanis club, when the scheduled speaker could not appear and the Kiwanians were thrown on their own resources.

Several members were handed slips of paper bearing subjects on which each was to discourse for five minutes. All responded with a will and the club had the pleasure of hearing the following unusual speeches:

"If I Were President of a Bank," by Dr. William C. Holland, pastor of the First Baptist church, Southern Pines; "If I Were a Minister," by Paul Dana, Moore County Hospital business manager; "If I were in the Insurance and Real Estate Business," by I. C. Sledge, of Pinehurst, Inc., and "If I Were President of the United States and Had Five Minutes to Speak to John L. Lewis," by Dr. E. M. Medlin, Aberdeen dentist.

They really had some potent suggestions, too.

In the Mailbag: From Mrs. U. G. Bower, Box 484, Washington, D. C.—"The Pilot is a very welcome guest each week, and I read it from beginning to end as soon as it arrives." . . . Thanks, Mrs. Bower. . . . And we know your old friends here will be glad to have word of you and to know you are keeping up with the news of your old home town.

Many of the soldiers now stationed at Fort Bragg had parts in the recent excellent movie, "Battleground," rated as one of the finest war pictures ever made. . . . One who played in the film was Sergeant Monshower, who is living in Southern Pines with his family.

The picture told us many things about the Battle of the Bulge we hadn't known before. . . . Veterans of that terrible struggle of December, 1944, in and around Bastogne say that it adhered well to the truth. . . . The freezing weather with snow on the ground and air filled with fog, the foxholes in which men and officers alike took refuge from the pelting enemy planes.

Two unrealistic details were noted. . . . Walter Topping said the scene in which the men bore gas masks, many of them throwing the masks away, didn't ring true with him, as to his recollection no gas masks were carried. . . . and John Ponzer got a wry laugh at the scenes in which the men warmed themselves at a little bonfire, and mail (including the home town papers) was distributed. . . . No fires were allowed, and no mail reached that grim battle area.

Both Walter and John were majors, but it was foxholes for them, too, for weeks on end right along with their men.

Most realistic scene, it seems, was that in which, after handbills fluttered down from German planes holding out surrender inducements, the battered old Sarge gathered up a few and made for the woods.

At every showing of the film, appreciative laughter in the audience at this scene marks the Bulge veterans.

A photo mural dedicated to men and women who lost their lives in World War 2 was recently unveiled at the Sears Roebuck store in Fayetteville. . . . It is said to be an unusual and splendid specimen of photographic art. . . . The mural, composed by Bill Belche, Fayetteville photographer, consists of five sections, with figures almost life-size showing a nurse, a paratrooper, a soldier, an airman and a WAC. . . . Models were selected from military personnel stationed at Fort Bragg, as were also some color bearers and color guards completing the picture.

When the bell in the Pinehurst Village Chapel tolled for Sunday service recently, John Meneely, a winter visitor, winced. "Hm-m-m," he hm-m-m-ed, "a Meneely bell, if I ever heard one, and off key, too."

Meneely has a keen ear for bells. The Meneely family has been making bells since the days of Paul Revere, and John Meneely can recognize a Meneely bell as surely as a hound man can sort out the individual voices of his hunting pack.

Sure enough, investigation disclosed that the bell in the Village Chapel had been cast in the family foundry. What's more, Mr. Meneely was right when he suspected it was off key.

Then Robert Hobson Campbell, a bell expert, was brought in and he discovered that the hammer was resting against the bell casing, producing a rather discouraging buzzing sound to the trained ear.

Campbell took the bell's tongue out of its cheek and now the Village Chapel carillon chimes sweetly over the Sandhills again and John Meneely is at peace with the world.

Quick action by Southern Pines volunteer firemen on two alarms last week kept both blazes in the category of "very minor."

Both trucks went out each time. The first alarm, at 1:10 p. m. last Friday, was occasioned by the flaring up of some grease in the kitchen at Highland Pines Inn. Damage—none.

The second, at 9:15 a. m. Wednesday, took the firemen to George Nanopoulos' place on West Pennsylvania avenue, where an ancient wooden icebox on the back porch had in some manner become ignited. Since the building and those close to it on each side are all frame, and are among the oldest in Southern Pines, the danger potential was high. The firemen worked fast. Damage—little or none.

Visitors who enjoyed this week: Mayne Albright and pretty wife Frances, from Raleigh, dropping by for lunch on their way to visit a friend at Mid Pines. . . . Bill Polk, Greensboro News editor, and wife Marion, a charming Canadian girl, driving down "just for fun" to stay overnight at a tourist home (Colonial Inn). . . . Mrs. J. L. Rannie, of Ottawa, who with her husband is in Southern Pines for the first time since their honeymoon 35 years ago. They came this time because friends from Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. George Chubb, are to be here several weeks. All are at Highland Lodge. The Rannies' son, a young war veteran, is owner and editor of the Beamsville Express, lively Ontario weekly.

The eighth annual statewide Garden Club Pilgrimage of the Garden club of North Carolina is now in progress. Fayetteville, the historical Queen City of the upper Cape Fear, will be hostess to the Pilgrimage March 30 and 31. Headquarters will be the American Legion Memorial home, 311 Green street. Hours both days 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. Tour agenda include fine gardens, old homes and historic churches.

"It is a pleasure for the Fayetteville Garden Club Council to sponsor this tour, and we extend to our friends and neighbors everywhere a most cordial invitation to visit with us. We are looking forward to a large attendance from our District. Fayetteville is the only city in the Seventh district represented in the State Tour," writes Mrs. A. D. Humphrey, publicity chairman.

The Public Speaking

To the Pilot.

It was with a sense of deep gratitude and appreciation that I read the beautiful editorial article in last week's issue of The Pilot in connection with the sudden death of John Wilcox, of Carthage. In his untimely and seemingly uncalled-for passing, Moore county and the state of North Carolina have lost one of their outstanding and leading citizens.

It was my good fortune to have been a very intimate and dear friend of John Wilcox for the past 34 years. During all those years, we witnessed terrific changes, but no one ever witnessed any change in the almost heavenly character of John Wilcox. Through all those years, during which I saw him almost daily, except during the war years, I never knew him to utter an unkind word against anyone, and on the other hand I've never heard of anyone, at any time, having spoken an unkind word of him, a record he could well be proud of.

His extreme kindness, honesty, and unbounded generosity and loyalty to his friends and county were unlimited. I've even heard it said of him countless times, "Well, John is just too big hearted." All his many friends will miss him—miss him tremendously. Out of our deep respect for and memory of him, we all must just try to follow in his footsteps, and by so doing be better men.

JULIAN T BISHOP

Citizens Anonymous

To the Pilot.

I agree with the writer of the article in the paper last week. The Chamber of Commerce is to be congratulated on its recently issued folders for visitors.

However, besides leaving out your lovely Library, it also failed to mention the Civic club which with its luncheons, book reviews, colored pictures of your gardens and its informal Open House on Friday afternoons has added much enjoyment to many of us here for the winter.

Sincerely,
CITIZENS ANONYMOUS

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RADIO ANNOUNCER George Ansbro: "Throat irritation certainly doesn't go in my job. I smoke only Camels. They're right for my throat—cool and mild. And Camels have the flavor!"

SALES DEMONSTRATOR Madeline Ostrow: "I talk to thousands of shoppers. When I smoke, I have to think of my throat. Camel is my cigarette—so mild!"

YES, CAMELS ARE SO MILD that in a coast-to-coast test of hundreds of men and women who smoked Camels—and only Camels—for 30 days, noted throat specialists, making weekly examinations, reported

Not one single case of throat irritation
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