

THE PILOT

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"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep it as good a paper as Nelson Hyde has made it. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

The School Construction Plan

The proposal of the county Board of Education to carry out much needed school construction through a temporary raise in taxes ought, we believe, to be adopted. As a pay-as-you-go measure, it should appeal to our people who like to do things in a business-like way without piling up a big debt. Furthermore, the alternative, a bond issue, could not be large enough to raise the money needed, while it would entail paying interest of \$374,000 as well as election costs, an extra expenditure hateful to all thrifty citizens.

The sum proposed is large and, as such, is a sad commentary on the way we have let our schools run down. However, it is a fact that much of the new construction is for things that were never considered necessary in the old days. Eight cafeterias and eight gymnasiums are listed, for instance, as well as agricultural shops, home economics rooms and other things that had no place in the scheme of education when most of these schools were built.

There is little doubt that the needs listed by the board are valid, but some things will, of course, be more vitally needed than others. It will be possible to do the most necessary things first and it is to be earnestly hoped that in considering the plan each item will be judged on its merits. It will be a great pity if political pressure or personal or community influence creep in.

It will not be too easy to achieve fairness but we submit that that is the only way this large school expenditure should be tackled. For instance, it seems to be clear that the greatest need is for the Negro schools. Here in many cases, and especially in the northern end of the county, conditions are extremely bad. Not only are the buildings in bad shape, they are actually in some cases unsafe.

This is something that must not be allowed to go on, but we are faced, immediately, by the fact that these cases where the need is greatest are the very ones where political pressure is weakest. These communities, with the backward schools, pay less taxes into the county treasury than others and it is harder for them to apply weight, if weight is needed.

It will be up to us all to make sure that this school situation is taken out of the all-too-frequent political setting of such affairs, and decided not by weight but by merit. Those who will try to argue that because their community pays a large share of county taxes and therefore should have first crack at the school money, must realize that they are out of line. This is a question of the education of the future citizens of our democracy. We cannot allow it to be handled in any but a democratic way.

It cannot be denied that there has grown up some jealousy in our county between the northern and southern halves, perhaps especially in the school picture. The fact that both Southern Pines and Pinehurst have been special school districts has made for misunderstandings and occasional hard feeling. Though a reasonable enough arrangement for towns that include students of a wide variety of background and a good many temporary ones, it cannot be gainsaid that it has a slightly snobbish air. It ought to be dispelled as quickly as possible. Whole-hearted participation in the proposed plan, with no community trying to get the advantage of another, will go far towards reducing any foolish ideas of rivalry.

In fact, the proposal seems to offer a splendid opportunity to draw Moore County together in a common generous plan for all her children.

History and General McArthur

Although one can understand the political reasons which make the recall of MacArthur difficult, it is surely time that disciplinary action be taken against him. We cannot let one man, no matter what his rank, no matter what his prestige, endanger our relations with our Allies and materially increase the chances of a third world war.

The problem of dealing with meddlesome generals is one that has bothered a good many presidents, notably Abraham Lincoln. One of Lincoln's worst headaches was the case of his first commander, General John C. Fremont. This explorer of the West and popular hero used his position again and again to defy the policies of the administration. He was a former Republican presidential candidate and deeply involved in politics. Like MacArthur, an unapproachable man who surrounded himself with guards, the general dressed with the magnificence of a royal potentate and was subservient to no one. At the start of his service, without consulting Lincoln, he issued a proclamation about the border states that ran directly counter to government policy. Lincoln was obliged to countermand it, and the affair created such a stir that there was actually talk of impeaching the president and replacing him with Fremont. As a last act of effrontery, the general decided to receive

no bearers of dispatches so that if Lincoln tried to remove him he would fail to get the message.

As complicated was the case of General George Brinton McClellan. McClellan's supreme self-confidence fostered an inherent disbelief in the judgment of others. Like MacArthur, he trusted only his own intelligence, but unlike the commander of the U. N. forces, he consistently overestimated the numbers of the enemy. This error, plus a refusal to fight unless he was absolutely confident of victory, led to inaction which endangered the Union cause.

McClellan was a Democrat. It seemed almost as if he wanted the Union to fail to spite Lincoln and the Republicans. Because of the general's political affiliation, Lincoln was slow to recall him. He believed that the union of the two parties was as important as winning a battle, and he did not relieve McClellan until he had repeatedly proven his incompetence.

There is no need to point up the similarities of the two cases to that of General MacArthur. Both in the question of politics and temperament, there is a parallel. It is significant that Lincoln was forced to take a bold stand with his generals. As soon as McClellan and Fremont had thoroughly proved their failure, he put aside political expediency and recalled them. The courage that he showed by his decisive action was upheld not only by later developments but by his contemporaries.

The case of General MacArthur jeopardizes not only the safety of the country but the future of the United Nations and the peaceful development of the world. We cannot let the words of one arrogant, self-centered commander be accepted as the proclamations of an international law-making organization.

If President Truman is looking for a precedent in curbing General MacArthur, he would do well to get out the history books.

Taxes—Now and How

A five percent retail sales tax was proposed last week by the Committee for Economic Development as one way, among others, to finance the mobilization effort and also keep the country's economy running on an even keel.

It will not be enough, this group of business leaders stated, to raise income and corporate profits levies, nor will the reduced government spending they also advocate contribute very much to the need. In order to provide the gigantic sum that makes up the country's budget, it will be necessary, also, to see that every retail sale transaction, excluding only those for absolute necessities such as food, fuel and housing, contribute its small share to the national treasury. So-called luxury items would be taxed higher, also, under this plan, as they are now.

This seems a reasonable idea, fully in keeping with the democratic tradition of this country. It is true that in its effects it will penalize the poor man more than the rich one, but that is something that life is already doing. Higher costs, to begin with, are already hitting the low income and the no income groups harder than those who are better off. We would be reluctant to go along with a plan that placed a sales tax on food. . . and we have a yearning to see children's shoes exempted, thinking how fast they wear out and are outgrown and how you can't go to school if you have no shoes. . . but in general the other items included in this committee's plan seem to us sensible.

Beyond this is the important point that a sales tax is directly visible, directly felt. The psychological effect it should have in educating our people to each one's individual responsibility for the welfare of the nation, in helping to maintain its economy as well as to build up its defense, would be immensely valuable.

As for the other items on the committee's program: higher income and corporate profits taxes will depend on what the traffic can bear; profits are towering in some industries and it would seem that they could stand considerable curtailment before investors would draw back. It is, of course, highly desirable that there should be government economy, along the line suggested by the Hoover Commission; especially, it would seem, in the field of veterans' affairs. However, care must always be taken lest economy curtail needed welfare work or those great government projects of conservation and development by which the natural resources of the country may be saved and immeasurably increased in value.

A Testing Time

The fact that the Red Cross campaign is still short of its goal is symptomatic of the times. This country is still short of its goal. That goal is not only the physical means to bolster our fight for peace, but the state of mind behind it on which depends the effectiveness of whatever we are to do.

As this newspaper has repeatedly pointed out, the great task before the United States is two-fold: We must remain Peace-minded while at the same time we build up our armed power.

The difficulties of this task cannot be exaggerated and, when we take note of the fact that this Red Cross campaign for funds is not going as well as it should, we are immediately faced with the whole problem. For in this organization of the Red Cross we have it in a nutshell: The Red Cross works for peace, but it is in time of war that it is most needed and most apparent. When we fail the Red Cross we are clearly showing that this critical role of getting ready for possible trouble while we work for peace is beyond us. We are showing that the American people cannot wage peace, and that they are not intelligent enough or persistent enough or patriotic enough to face the facts of life as it must be lived today to tread the difficult path ahead.

Are we such a people? Do we need scare headlines to spur us on to do our duty? The way we respond to the call of the Red Cross may well give the answer.

Grains of Sand

First through the line at the Bloodmobile Monday were **John S. Ruggles** of Southern Pines and the **Rev. O. J. Hagler** of Carthage. . . Proving that the "blood line" was one in which all differences were forgotten in the interests of one great cause.

Leaders and bitter opponents on the issue of beer and wine sales for Moore county, Messrs. Ruggles and Hagler joshed each other happily as they went through the medical exam together, and later as they lay on neighboring cots watching their blood flow into vacuum bottles for Korea.

The blood of one looked just as red as that of the other. . . In fact, there wasn't any difference at all. . . And it will go into the veins of fighting men at the front without any questions asked as to how they feel about issues at home.

With Our Students . . . Pretty little **Frances Cameron** is really having a busy time of it at Guilford college. . . She had the lead last winter in the campus production of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," and is rehearsing again, as the feminine lead in "Death Takes a Holiday" . . . She is social chairman of the Women's Athletic association, and as such is in charge of the May Day dance. . . She'll be dancing two roles, the Dew Fairy and an angel, in the May Day production, on the "Hansel and Gretel" theme. . . She's also a member of the campus social committee, which plans most of the dances and social functions, and has just been elected treasurer of the rising junior class. . . Whew, what a list! And those are just the things we heard about; no telling how many more campus jobs she has, and we just bet she's doing all right in her studies too.

Mickey Nicholson, a junior varsity cheerleader at Appalachian during her freshman year, was one of 30 privileged to try out recently for the coveted job of varsity cheerleader. . . Six were chosen, and Mickey was one of them, which means she has the cheerleader job as long as she stays on campus, with uniforms furnished by the college, also trips with the football teams, etc. . . Nice work!

Southern Pines readers of the Ladies Home Journal this month can see the beautiful face of a neighbor whom most of them do not know. . . **Mrs. David Anthony Drexel** is featured in a Ponds ad, which, incidentally, does not say she lives at Southern Pines—wish it did. . . Young Mrs. Drexel stays pretty close at home with her husband and young child, is not often seen about the streets—wish she were! . . . She's lovely.

What a birthday, **Lloyd Clark**—Friday the 13th! Many happy returns! . . . And many happy returns also to **Hoke Dickinson Pollock**, who will be two on Saturday. . . **Harold A. Collins, Jr.**, 18 next Tuesday. . . and **Sandra Louise Younis**, two on Wednesday.

And congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scheipers**, married two years ago next Wednesday.

Some postcards on sale at Hayes Book shop, for the benefit of the Moore County Hospital auxiliary present a novel idea and definitely have their uses. . . Printed in attractive green with pine-needle ornamentation, they contain a map of a goodly portion of Southern Pines. . . You can send the postcard to a friend with your house marked on it, or at least where a motorist turns off Highway 1 to get where he wants to go.

Many's the time we have drawn crude maps in letters to expected visitors. . . They always got here all right, but in spite of our homemade maps, we fear, not because of them.

Noticed the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission was putting through a bill to have March 1 set aside as Dogwood day in North Carolina. . . We think it's fine to have our state flower thus recognized, but can't help wondering why March 1 was picked. . . That's a full month, or more, too early.

Except in an unusually early season the dogwood reaches full bloom here about the second week in April. . . And our experience is that it is a bit earlier here than in most other parts of the state.

The western and northern sections, of course, come in considerably later than the Sandhills with their dogwood blooms. We would have thought perhaps the eastern portions were earlier. . . Last week, though, a friend of ours drove in from Kinston, passing across practically the whole of eastern North Carolina on the

way. . . He said he didn't see a single dogwood tree in flower till he was well into the Sandhills.

This week is probably the loveliest of the whole year here, with all sorts of bloom reaching its peak. . . For the first time the feeling of full springtime is in the air. . . The trees are greening rapidly, azaleas beginning to flame out, the dogwood trees like snowdrifts in flight.

Another odd thing, though. . . Usually the Judas trees and dogwood bloom together. . . This year the Judas trees showed their purplish pink two or three weeks in advance. . . They are still in full bloom, for that wonderful contrast with the dogwoods which we love to see each year.

Spring comes piecemeal. . . It has already been here, and gone, for the fruit trees, and for many kinds of flowers, who are now in the early stages of their summertime, creating their fruit.

Still not too late for an April frost. . . So keep those fingers crossed.

At the Sandhills Kiwanis Club meeting at the Hollywood hotel last week, **G. C. Seymour's** name was drawn to answer the question for the weekly award of golf balls. . . As the dignified Mr. Seymour arose **Lewie Hallman**, president, fired the question at him: "What is wrong with this table today? You have 30 seconds." Mr. Seymour gazed at the table where President Lewie sat, flanked on either side by good-looking ladies in Girl Scout uniforms of a smart forest green (that day's program was on Girl Scouting). . . "Fifteen seconds," said Lewie. . . As the last second ticked off Mr.

The Public Speaking

April 9, 1951

The Pilot: In the final paragraphs of my letter on highway conditions which you published last week, you substituted the word "romon" for the word "moron." I said that "a tourist who has to be told by a sign 12 by 40 feet, and in letters two feet high, that he is in Southern Pines, is a dangerous moron." You said, "dangerous romon."

I hasten to correct this lest someone think my letter an unwarranted attack on those interesting people, the Romanys, or Gypsies; or even more likely, an attack on our good friends the Italians, through a misspelling of the name of their principal city.

The Romans have not been dangerous for some 1500 years, they're too civilized. Even Mussolini couldn't make them very dangerous. The Romanys have never been dangerous. On the other hand, the American moron is one of the most dangerous animals in captivity; he has the speed of the gas engine, the thick skull of the grizzly bear, and the hide of a rhinoceros. Death rides with him. And what's more, everyone is engaged in a conspiracy of selfishness and indifference to assist him in his lethal pursuits; the automobile manufacturers, the users of the rights-of-way of our highways, lenient judges, the slow red-tape processes of our laws, a careless public—everything and everybody except a handful of State Police struggling manfully against impossible conditions.

Yours truly,
STRUTHERS BURT

In Bygone Days

From the Pilot files:

TEN YEARS AGO

G. C. Seymour of Aberdeen is elected president of the Moore County Hospital board, succeeding **George F. Maurice** of Eagle Springs.

Bachelor Dick, owned by Mrs. **W. J. Kennedy** and ridden by **Mickey Walsh**, wins silver plate and top money in the first North Carolina 100-Mile event, held here over a period of three days.

A. L. Burney has withdrawn as nominee for mayor of Aberdeen in order to accept post on county draft board, succeeding **F. C. Shamburger**, who resigned.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Two Davis Cup Team players and other stars will participate in 13th annual United North and South Tennis tournament on Pinehurst Country Club courts.

Garden party given by pupils of The Ark nets \$330 for Southern Pines library.

John Warren Watson and **Richard Watson** issue invitations for a "pioneer party" to be held at their log house on Watson's lake.

Seymour spoke: "I don't see a thing wrong with that table. It looks fine to me."

What was the matter with the table was that the flags were wrongly placed, with the U. S.

flag at the president's left. However, "Give him the balls!" the members shouted Lewie did.

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