

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.

Keep the "Little League" Going

We commend the newly formed "Little League" for the support of all good citizens, so that it may keep going as planned by its sponsors, and not drop as so many good things have dropped here in the past.

It is probably inherent in the nature of a seasonal town such as this that it is hard to keep a project moving from one year to the next, no matter how good a start it has had. Experience of other towns with little-league baseball, however, is to the effect that it takes time to get it really established, and that it needs community support all the way.

No matter how enthusiastic small boys are about such an activity in which they may take part, they cannot get along without plenty of adult cooperation. The adult leaders who have got the teams going here are due all credit. They are also due plenty of help, and lots of support in the form of spectators at their games.

Those who go out to the games will not only see a good show, but they will also have the satisfaction of playing an active role in keeping the enthusiasm high and helping the teams on to bigger and better things. There are plenty of goals ahead—firm local organization, followed by organization in the Sandhills and affiliation with the State and national pattern to provide a full measure of participation to the local boys.

To give our American boys the full benefits of a real American sport is certainly a worthwhile goal. The pleasure and rewards of such a program for the nine-to-13-year-old group has been proved over and over in other towns of the State and nation under the "Little League" plan. It has a good start here now—let's keep it going.

Honor For Hemmer Well-Deserved

No honor won by any of our friends has made us happier than that which came to John Hemmer of Pinehurst at the National Press Photographers' convention in June.

In awarding him the Joseph A. Sprague trophy for the most outstanding contribution to news photography in 1950, his fellow photographers paid honor to one who has done a superlative job not only in 1950, but for many years in the past.

In combining the dual role of N. C. state photographer and official photographer for Pinehurst, Inc., John Hemmer has made each serve the other well, with benefits accruing to both. His services to the Sandhills as a whole, not just Pinehurst, rate an award of some sort on their own. His work has kept him in constant action in this area and all over the State, turning forth a stream of pictures which have made his credit line one of the best known in the land. His realistic view of the uses of publicity, his knowledge of what editors want and can use and his reliably superb craftsmanship lift his work far up beyond the usual level of "public relations" per se.

His likeable nature, genial personality and willing service far beyond the line of duty have done even more. A Brooklyn-born Irishman, he has become one of the finest interpreters and salesmen of the Sandhills and of North Carolina. An artist of the non-temperamental variety, he is a willing and energetic cooperator, never pushing himself or looking for glory. His surprise and humility on receiving the Sprague award were typical of John Hemmer, and prove again how well he deserves it.

North Carolina is fortunate to have him, and we of this area are lucky that he calls the Sandhills "home."

A Cooperative Affair

Unless the decent, informed and influential leadership of a community, county or nation are on the side of a law, there might as well be no law, for it will be flouted by good and bad alike and law enforcement officers will find their task an impossible one.

This fact of human nature is, of course, a safeguard against foolish laws, and laws passed for the benefit of private interests or fanatic causes which have nothing to do with the greatest good of the greatest number.

When, however, a necessary and important law is receiving this cavalier treatment through selfishness and shortsightedness—which are also, unfortunately, facts of human nature—public opinion must be definitely stirred through positive action.

This is what the Sandhills Kiwanis club is endeavoring to do in securing the cooperation of all civic groups of Moore county in the observance and enforcement of the highway safety laws.

It is doing this through the medium of a highway safety program and resolution presented for the consideration and approval of all the clubs, calling not only for the personal cooperation of each member, but for each club's full

support in swinging public opinion to the side of law and order on the highways.

The death, damage and disaster caused daily on North Carolina highways by disregard of the law, as revealed by John A. Paet, chairman of the State Advisory Committee on Highway Safety, speaking at the Kiwanis Club meeting of June 27, is an appalling toll.

Judge J. Vance Rowe, in introducing Mr. Paet, spoke from his heart in saying, "This is a problem which calls for Solomon's wisdom." Moore recorders court, of which he is judge, along with other courts of this State is clogged with cases bearing witness to this daily disregard of the law.

Though law enforcement officers may do their best under the circumstances, it is well known that the cases brought into court represent only a fraction of the total of violations. Also, once the arrest is made, that is often where their difficulties really begin.

It is a frightening condition which will continue until each driver using the highways regards their safety as his personal responsibility.

In bringing this about, civic leadership as represented in such groups as the Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions and Jaycee organizations can prove itself as worthy of its trust. They will never have a better opportunity.

Cooperatively, they have the power to bring to highway safety the strong, united public support which it requires.

Until this is done the accident toll will continue to cast war casualty lists in the shade; laws will be flouted, law enforcement officers will not be able to get on with the job and more and better laws will not be passed.

Investigating the China Lobby

Nothing more has been heard, to date, of the proposal to investigate the so-called China Lobby. It is too soon to know whether the idea has been abandoned or whether it is planned to carry it through, but it is to be hoped the latter will be the course chosen. So much has been hinted about the China Lobby that it has become a matter that, for the peace of mind of the country, if for no other reason, it should be thoroughly aired.

Actually, while there may well be fire behind this smoke of talk of the China Lobby, it may turn out, like the Wedemeyer report, to be a very minor blaze. This report and all the talk that went on about it, the accusations and denials, is a puzzling phenomenon. The tale was that it was suppressed by General Marshall and the administration, presumably because it disagreed with their ideas and plans. But in the first place, the report was not suppressed, but most of it was released in 1949 in a government report, and all of it was obtainable from the government Bureau of Documents. And, more important, the report itself did not disagree with the administration's estimate of Nationalist China, being extremely critical of Chiang and his regime which Wedemeyer, again and again, called corrupt and incompetent.

The China Lobby is reported to be backed by a group of Chinese and Americans who favor Chiang, and who have supported his cause with large sums of money spent to influence politicians, the press and businessmen of this country. There have been persistent stories that huge sums of private capital have been sent out of China and, in fact, the Wedemeyer report speaks of this flight of Chinese funds from the country. Alfred Kohlberg, importer of Chinese textiles, is said to be the man behind the China Lobby, while, of course, strongly favoring support to Chiang are such influential Americans as Henry Luce, Senator Styles Bridges, the McCormick and Hearst press and many of the group who backed MacArthur in the recent controversy.

If there is a secret sinister lobby at work to influence key men in the government along certain lines, that's bad business and the sooner it is brought into the open the better. But, it must be recognized that if the China Lobby is investigated it could create a precedent: other so-called foreign lobbies would be subject to investigation. There would, we believe, be little harm in this were it not for the embarrassing fact that it is a tit-for-tat affair. If the Chinese and the French and the British have lobbies working over here to influence our government, it goes without doubt, for instance, that a great deal of money and effort was spent by government, church, or private individuals, on last year's Italian elections. The fact that the government of the country is on our side and welcomes any help in combatting communism among its people, makes it certain that our efforts are enthusiastically received but they are a lobby, nevertheless.

On the whole, we have a feeling the China Lobby will not be investigated, and not only because of the power it wields and the lofty personnel that comprises its membership. Though a thorough airing of the matter would be highly desirable, the risk of its turning out to be a political boomerang may seem too great to appear worth taking.

Well Worth the Trip

With the opening of the 11th season of "The Lost Colony" on Roanoke Island last Saturday night, and of the second season of "Unto These Hills" this Saturday at Cherokee, Tar Heels and their visitors from other states have renewed opportunity for the inspiring and unforgettable experience of seeing one or both of these great plays.

We urge that all who have not seen them make a special point of doing so. For those who have, a return visit will be found deeply rewarding.

We see no real reason why they should not run on forever, for each year brings its newcomers, also its fresh crop of schoolboys and girls who should see them as an important and enjoyable part of their education.

Grains of Sand

Sitting at our desk at The Pilot office, we travel all over with our friends who are more footloose. . . . And it seems that a lot of them recently have broken loose from their moorings and are skipping high, wide and handsome over the face of this old world.

All in one day came cards from three who are gadding about in England. . . . Millie Montessant's card shows Grappenhall village and church, and a charming sight too. . . . And from Kate and Talbot Johnson comes a color card of the Houses of Parliament, sitting sedately beside the rippling Thames. . . . The Johnsons had just reached London from a place not so sedate—gay Paris itself—and we're sure it was a gayer place while they were there.

We're looking forward to a word (in Scotch) from Sadie McCain, if she can spare the time from her studies at the University of Edinburgh. . . . We can't help thinking how all of these folks from the Sandhills must upset some people's preconceived notions of American tourists abroad, and what ambassadors of good will they all must be.

From George and Jessica Shearwood, who operate the Shearwood Travel Service at Pinehurst, comes word that many Sandhills folk are seeking other sands. . . . In Maine, Florida, Bermuda, on the Pacific coast, at Waikiki Beach, in Brittany and at the fashionable resort of Estoril, near Lisbon, haven of fugitive royalty from many lands. . . . Some day we'll set out for far places, too. . . . In the meantime folks, just send us a postcard!

Everything readable is in digest form now. . . . We have just become acquainted with the Children's Digest, a clever idea and a neat little magazine. . . . Printed on special light-green-tinted paper said to be easiest on the eyes.

How come we made its acquaintance is that we heard Glen Rounds had a story in it. . . . And sure enough, he has, with illustrations too. . . . It's "Ol' Paul and His Camp," an excerpt from his book "Ol' Paul the Mighty Logger," a classic for youngsters and for grown-ups too.

In writing for youngsters Glen is proving all over again the thesis that the way to do it successfully is not to write down to them. . . . Give them credit for imagination, and intelligence too.

Manly Wellman does that, too, in his juvenile books. . . . And did you notice how the plot of his "Raiders of Beaver Lake," came true (in many major points) down on Drowning Creek last month?

You may not know it but Southern Pines is making a real contribution to the North Carolina show world, in the miniature show staged by a group called The Rhythmettes. . . . Their 60-minute show of songs, dances and jokes can rank right up there with the professionals and in fact, it IS professional. . . . Since its formation two or three months ago, the show has been in demand for dances, conventions and private parties and they can, and do, command a nice fee.

It's one of the smartest combinations of professional and amateur talent you ever saw. . . . The leading light is Pat Starnes, who, though only 22, has been a professional dancer for years, studying with New York's topnotch teachers and appearing in musical comedy, night clubs and as a Rockette at Radio City's Music Hall. . . . Love and marriage brought her to Southern Pines to live, but she's not about to give up her dancing.

She's trained a chorus line just like the Rockettes. . . . Those cute little local girls, amateurs all, step, tap and kick with beautiful precision. . . . It may not be Radio City but it's pretty darn good.

Pat herself does a couple of solos and believe us, folks, that gal can dance and she really looks beautiful while she's doing it.

The other professional member of the show is a newcomer to Southern Pines. . . . A sparkling little character named Wanda Saylor, who moved here not long ago to make her home with her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Roko Kaleis, and has a job now with the telephone company.

She is as brunette as taffy-haired Pat is blonde. . . . In cowgirl costume she plays a wicked accordion, and sings western songs in a gay style all her own. . . . She claims to be "just a plain country girl" but there's nothing countryified about the way she puts her songs and that vicious personality across.

She's done a lot of professional radio work, formerly in a duo with her sister, who is now married and living in Chapel Hill.

Other leading lights of the fast-moving little show are our own Dot Chava, who sings, looking and sounding lovely, as always. . . . and Duke Whiting, that precocious young 'un, who emceeds the show in a smooth broad-comedy style.

The chorus line at present consists of Barbara Peterson, Carolyn Chatfield, Barbara Page, Billy Jean Addor, Georgeanne Austin, Frances Cameron and Bobbie Dean Phillips of Aberdeen. . . . They have several changes of costume and look cute in them all.

Bobby Dean is withdrawing for the next few weeks, as her obligations as Miss Aberdeen for the N. C. Junior Chamber of Commerce state beauty contest are taking up a good deal of her time, and will take up more.

The other night we went along with the Rhythmettes when they staged their show for a party given by officers of the 503rd MP battalion, Fort Bragg, for their Colonel Cox who was being transferred. . . . Other "civilians" along were Mrs. Chan Page, whose daughter is in the chorus line, Sue Hall and Betty Jean Hurst. . . . We had determined that, if applause lagged, we would be a "claque," but our efforts weren't required. . . . The spectators ate the show up, and beat their palms right off applauding.

Stars Pat, Dot and Wanda were called back again and again. . . . And the officers kidded right back. . . . Duke, so that pretty soon he was ad libbing at a great rate. . . . He's a fast one with an ad lib. . . . They never got the best of him.

The officers were a hospitable bunch. . . . After the show was over, nothing would do but that the "show folks" and their friends must stay a while and partake of the bounteous buffet spread on several tables. . . . The party was due to go on all night, they informed us, as some had to move out at 3 a. m. and others at 9 a. m. (for duty guarding the President on his trip to Tennessee). . . . We didn't stay that long, but we did stay long enough to decide that the 503rd (which currently has a contingent of MPs on duty here) is tops, and that its officers are the best folks ever.

Most of them have served at overseas posts. . . . They are widely traveled, highly trained and terribly proud of the splendid record of their battalion in World War 2 and on occupation duty since the war. . . . When you see a member of the 503rd, you're seeing an inheritor of a great tradition of service on the side of law, order and the true American spirit.

This was the Rhythmettes' second appearance at Fort Bragg. . . . The first time, they put on their show as a service for the boys at the Station hospital. . . . They made a tremendous hit, and will return by special invitation some time this month.

They have a booking agent now, and next fall and winter will be going over the state to fulfill professional engagements, and will also be available for conventions and parties here. . . . Offering not only topnotch entertainment but serving as good-will ambassadors par excellence for their home town of Southern Pines.

The Public Speaking

NSLI INSURANCE

To the Pilot. The Congress passed a law, which became effective with the President's signature May 25, 1951, providing for a new form of government insurance for new members of the Armed Forces who have joined since the Korean war, and stipulates who are eligible for the new form of government insurance and the terms and conditions and so on. Considerable publicity has been given to the bill.

However, very little publicity has been given to the fact that the law also has provisions affecting Veterans of World War 2. This provision is that holders of NSLI insurance, who have not converted it to a permanent form, and are still carrying such insurance as term, especially those veterans who were carrying their National Service Life Insurance as term and have allowed such term policies to lapse, will not be allowed to reinstate their NSLI IF THE ORIGINAL TERM PERIOD OF EIGHT YEARS HAS ELAPSED; or, if the insurance had been extended as term for an additional term period of five years and the policy had been allowed to lapse during said

five-year term period and the five-year period is now over. I am writing this so that the matter of expiration of term periods, either eight years or five years, can be brought to the attention of every Veteran of World War 2, in order that he or she may, if such NSLI has been lapsed, reinstate it before too late. Sincerely, L. T. AVERY

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