

In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. 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.

Guard That Optimism

When President Eisenhower addressed the nation on the outlook for 1954, his words were full of confidence. As he described it, the situation has taken a marked turn for the better and preparations for war may now give way to preparations for peace. In ringing tones he stated that the initiative now rested in the hands of the United States.

These were optimistic words and it is good to greet the New Year with optimism. Faith in the future, in man's ability to work out his problem of survival, may well play a major part in attaining that goal. Nevertheless, there remains a doubt as to whether the president's earnest generalities fanned the flame of hope or may not, instead, have caused it to flicker doubtfully. For when his listeners looked at the world about them they were bound to wonder on what he based his optimistic view.

The situation in Korea seems still to be volcanic, liable to erupt at any moment. If a stable truce is achieved, military experts warn that it may only release Chinese forces to move against the French in Indo-China. This would surely mean UN and US intervention to save this vital link in Asian defense. In India, relations are less good, it is reported, since the departure of former Ambassador Bowles and, especially, since the recent proposal to furnish arms to Pakistan.

Europe is in a state of dire confusion, with President Eisenhower's cherished NATO and European Defense Community apparently in danger. Secretary Dulles has threatened to pull out United States troops unless France agrees to the rearming of Germany and her participation in a European defense force. This statement has been called a bluff, and, indeed it is inconceivable that such a complete reversal of US policy should be contemplated, endangering the whole system of western defense and negating the enormous gains made in Europe since the end of the war. But to bluff is not an act of strength but of weakness and it is a direct contradiction of the president's claim of possession of the initiative. For it places the initiative in the hands of the French, leaving it up to this demoralized and divided nation to decide what the United States shall do in Europe.

Is the initiative ours in Germany? It seems doubtful. Chancellor Adenauer is assuming more and more control, cleverly playing the dangerously rising tide of German nationalism and dream of unity against all comers. Germany is growing stronger and stronger by the day; less and less easy to handle. Italy is a maelstrom of confusion, in which no initiative may be taken by outsiders. It is up to the Italians themselves to find a way out of their troubles and which direction that way will lead is anyone's guess.

As regards the great question-mark, Soviet Russia, all we can do, it would seem, is to hope that the score of atomic power will remain a tie. We know that Russia also has the H-bomb. If, as we are told, US policy is to be based on the power to retaliate, it is more than likely that in Russia a similar theory guides the military planners. That should mean peace, precarious but enduring, with both countries able to concentrate somewhat on their own economies. But here we must watch our step. A powerful body of opinion holds that Russia's aim is to win the battle for men's minds by capitalizing on the woes of the world. If this is correct, and it sounds likely, then in cutting down so drastically on the Point Four program, this administration is making a grave mistake. Only an idea can beat another idea and bombs or the threat of bombs will not stop communism. Only through the spread of the idea of peace and hope, through cooperation and understanding that is the heart of the democratic system can the idea of communism, as Russia spells communism, be beaten.

President Eisenhower made a major contribution to the cause of peace when he voiced his proposal to pool atomic energy for peaceful uses. It was a strong and a courageous move. But his optimistic appraisal of the present situation and his claiming for this nation of the initiative did not have a convincing ring.

The Old Tradition Still Lives

The old American tradition of "neighborliness" and mutual aid is said to be not as strong as it once was.

To a certain extent we suppose this is true—but this is not necessarily evidence of the deterioration of human goodness. Mostly, we reckon, it is due to a changing way of life in which people don't have to be so dependent on the assistance of their neighbors.

Striking current evidence that the old tradition of helpfulness is still alive in this area is the response to a recent appeal for funds and materials to be used in building a home for a Moore County widow and her nine children.

More than 20 neighbors of the Spencer Childress family, out from Cameron toward Carthage, started the good work by meeting and deciding that they wanted to do something to help, after the husband and father, a tenant farmer, died early in December.

Then, after a public appeal, more than \$1,000 in cash and more than \$1,200 worth of building materials were sent in within two weeks. That doesn't sound to us as though people are forgetting how to be neighborly.

Cock Robin Tightens His Belt

Last week this section and much of the state experienced its first real snow in two years. Following the custom of Sandhills snows, this one vanished under next day's warm sun, but while here it was heavy.

It seemed much deeper than the official figure of a little over one inch. It was drifty and powdery and, next morning, shone like diamonds. This is one of the miracles of nature in which our pinelands may legitimately take special pride: the crystal world that appears, once or twice a winter, after a snowfall or freezing rain. It might be a mistake to advertise this unique Sandhills fairyland, but it is well worth seeing.

The first snow of 1954 was accompanied by bitterly cold weather. Folks shivered and shook, dogs sat on the steps and refused to take off for their morning constitutional; as for the birds, they vanished. Not one was to be seen and the woods were silent. And why not? There was little incentive to venture forth: every bit of food was covered deep in snow, every berry or seedpod frozen hard. Wise birds pulled in their belts and moved where they were, and those that weren't wise froze their toes and sometimes their whole selves and went hungry, too, except where bird-lovers had swept the snow off the feed trays and put out more food.

The snow came so suddenly that, most likely, some such good providers may have been caught with no seed on hand. A lesson not to be forgotten. One snow may well be followed by another and the cold weather is far from over. Seed in the hand is guaranteed to bring more than two birds in the bush, come next cold spell.

For two or three days, last week, the hedgerows were deserted and the woods were still. Then slowly life began again. Thrashers, che-

winks, sparrows, of course, juncos, cardinals, mockers were soon thick in the shrubbery; robins were calling along the swamps and the Carolina wren's teetering whistle dropped from the tallest pines. As Saturday's bright sun penetrated the chill, the air was suddenly full of hallelujahs.

Times and attitudes are changing—but the Childress appeal and the response to it are evidence that we can't yet write off neighborliness and helpfulness as forgotten qualities of human nature.

(Note: Contributions to the fund are still welcome and needed. Address the Childress Building Fund, Carolina Bank, Carthage, or Mrs. E. Monroe, Cameron, Route.)

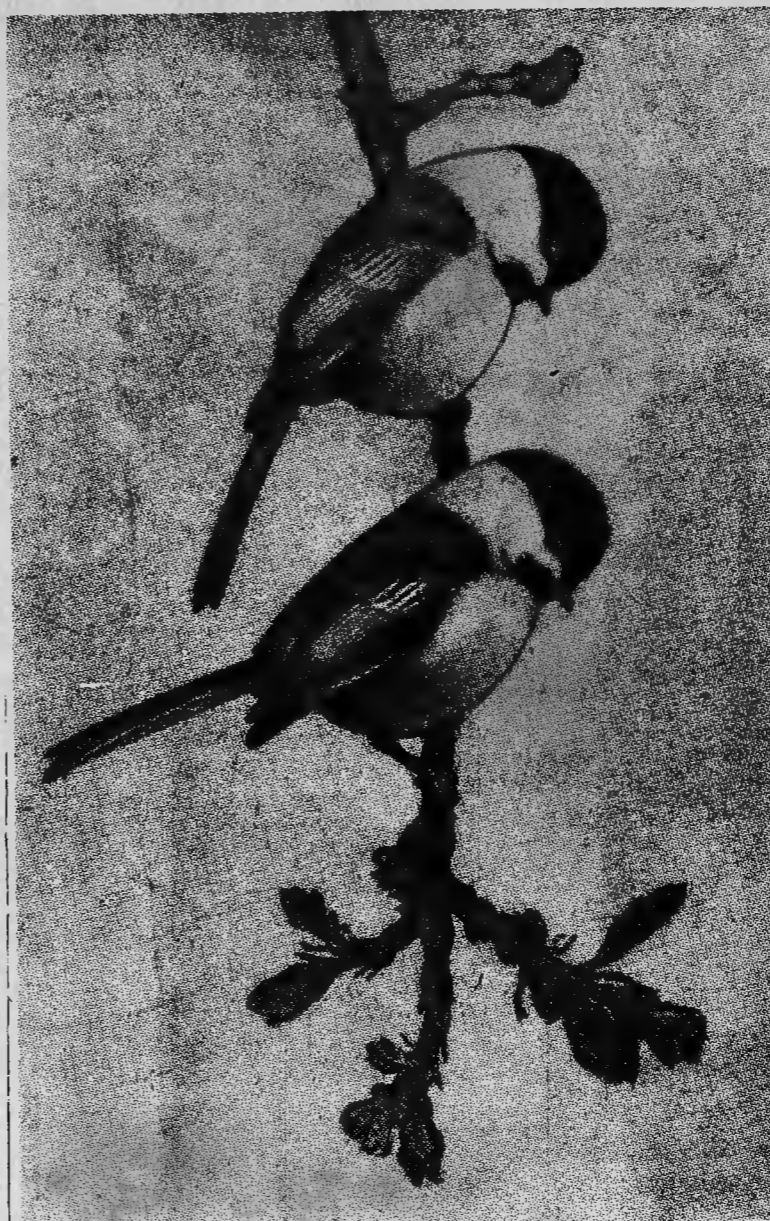
Overhaul For The Oldster's Bill

There is not a bit of doubt that the president was right when he said that the great majority of old people are better off and happier if they can keep on working. Eisenhower wants to change the present law to increase benefits to unemployed old people, but, more important, allow them also to earn more money without forfeiting all benefits.

It is a sensible and a humane idea, but the problem is a complicated one. While the present system of a definite retirement age frequently works a great hardship on an individual and may also be depriving the nation of valuable services, it may have the opposite effect. It may save the individual's pride, as his ability as an employee is failing, and it may clear the track of hide-bound, incompetent oldsters to give place to new young blood.

It is true that the right retirement age varies with the individual. But how could an adjustable system ever be administered? Who would decide and how? It is probable that the old-age retirement system is firmly established and is, on the whole, salutary, but President Eisenhower's suggestion that old people still go on working, part-time, or however they can, without forfeiting their entire benefits, is a step in the right direction. This law needs to be overhauled in line with the findings of psychiatry and the longer lives and better health which modern medicine has brought about.

In Cold Weather: Feed The Birds!



WILD BIRDS HAVE A HARD TIME when cold weather comes. These Chickadees, perched on their spring-like pussy-willow, had to tighten their belts along with Cock Robin and the rest of the feathered tribe during the recent snowfall. Even when snow is absent, freezing cold ices water and seeds, makes living a tough job. Sandhills bird-lovers are helping with seed trays and pans of warm water on cold mornings.

1954—Year Of The Big Hope

Long Fight On Polio Continues

The case for the fund drive in the fight against polio was presented at the meeting of the Sandhills Kiwanis Club last week by Mrs. Phillips Russell of Chapel Hill, director of organization for the state society. Addressing the club at its luncheon meeting at the Holly Inn in Pinehurst, Mrs. Russell, in compelling words, backed by clear-cut facts and figures, issued a ringing challenge to her audience "to make this year of 1954, the Year of the Big Hope, into the Year of the Big Reality," when, through the intensive testing program to be undertaken, the conquest of the dread disease may be finally achieved.

Introduced by H. Clifton Blue, county drive chairman of the Merch of Dimes, as "one of North Carolina's most outstanding citizens," Mrs. Russell's address gave strong confirmation of such high praise. She has been at the head of the state's fund raising drive for 10 years and a working member of the organization since 1942, when the North Carolina organization was established.

She has seen it grow from small beginnings to its present size with a budget of a few thousand dollars to the present one of nearly two million; she has seen the change in attack from one purely of treatment to the past few years' inclusion of education and research and training of medical personnel, to last summer's test inoculations of Gamma Globulin and on to the current plans for testing the new vaccine with its life-giving hope of prevention of the disease. Mrs. Russell's vivid picture of the 16-year fight against polio was in itself a striking illustration of personal devotion and intelligent leadership.

Facts given by the speaker were distinctly encouraging. They included a drop in death rate from polio from 11 in 100 cases to six in 100, the training of countless workers in physical therapy, the results of the research carried on all over the nation, with four centers in North Carolina. Incidentally, Mrs. Russell pointed out that to date, this state's funds have gone exclusively for treatment, with no contribution to the research program which has been carried on by the national association and by private foundations and individuals. This situation must change, the speaker said, when this coming summer the state will be called on, along with others throughout the nation, to aid with the great program now being drawn up to put to the test the vaccine produced by the research from which it has benefited.

The Big Hope
It is the plan, Mrs. Russell said, to test three groups of children. From 700,000 to one million second-graders throughout the nation will be given the vaccine,

AW, SHUCKS!

Something new in advertising technique is to be seen this week, in the streamer stretched over Broad Street calling folks to go to the Chest X-Ray Clinic. It says: "NO UNDESSING." Nothing for the TIME-LIFE crowd in this story, not to mention LOOK. And someone asks: how will they know if the buttons that show up are outside you or inside you?

with first and third graders acting as control groups. If those vaccinated show resistance to polio in greater proportion than those who did not receive it, that will be considered proof of its efficacy. The tests will start about Feb 8 and be completed, it is hoped, by June 1. Participating communities will be chosen in every state, with probably from three to five in North Carolina.

The speaker emphasized the magnitude of the undertaking, calling on her audience to be "ready to help."

"This is a very big thing," she said, "and it will need the efforts of everyone of us to be successful."

Mrs. Russell said that last summer when Gamma Globulin was given in large quantities in Western Carolina, teams of volunteers performed inestimable service in carrying out the program. This type of community action must be repeated on a much larger scale, she said, if this year's plan is to be successfully carried out.

"It is estimated," she said, "that around three million shots of the new vaccine will be given: three to each child. That task can hardly be accomplished without the help of an army of volunteers, or without state as well as national money. North Carolina has been on the receiving end," she said, "in that none of our funds have gone for research. We have benefited by the national work and now is our chance to do our share."

Moore County raised \$7,000 in '48 and it is hoped to increase this amount substantially in the current drive in line with the added amount expected of the whole state. Last year the state contribution was about \$1,235,000, with at least an added \$300,000 to be raised, it is hoped, this year.

The challenge presented in Mrs. Russell's remarks was taken up by Norris Hodgkins, president of the Kiwanis Club. Thanking the speaker for her inspiring address, Mr. Hodgkins said he felt sure all present were ready to do their share in the work that lay ahead. With Clifton Blue acting as drive chairman, the county's share of the fight against polio is carried on by the local chapter of which Paul Butler is county chairman.

The Public Speaking

Auto Insurance Cancelled

To the Editor: Where is the justice of the law with respect to law-abiding citizens?

The state legislature passes a law that makes it most advisable to carry automobile insurance. What are they going to do to prevent the insurance companies from canceling a policy without reason and without an explanation of their action?

I know of a local case of a law-abiding lady of irreproachable character with automobile insurance carried by a large well-known insurance company over a period of years. Suddenly the company canceled its policy without cause, although the policy holder had not been in an accident, had not had any claim, and had not been arrested for any lawlessness.

What can the decent citizens of this state do when confronted with a situation of this kind? If a law can be passed to make a driver carry insurance, why does a law not require the company to keep in force the policy of a person with no adverse record? What is the answer?

A. R. McDANIEL
Southern Pines

More On Dog Problem

To the Editor: Mrs. Marsh and I attempt to keep marauding canines off our property. By using red pepper, most of the nosing about has been stopped, but why should citizens who pay their taxes and attempt to have an attractive garden be forced to spend time and money keeping out dogs?

Of course, if all dogs were on

tether from dark to dawn it would help greatly, but apparently some dog owners expect their dogs to dig up enough food around Southern Pines so as to save them expense of feeding.

Until some solution has been found, I expect it will be impossible to have a clean, attractive town.

While on the subject of animals, when is the police force going to do something about the gray squirrels which infest this town? They do a great deal of damage.

J. R. MARSH
Southern Pines

North Carolina growers produced a commercial apple crop of 873,000 bushels in 1953, some 57 per cent smaller than 1952's record crop of 2,053,000 bushels.

United States exports of grain are expected to continue downward during 1954 as a result of large supplies in major importing and exporting countries.

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