

THE PILOT

Southern Pines North Carolina

"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.

Society And Bad Actors

Twice within about six months, law enforcement officers had to shoot a man at Carthage. Both were clear-cut cases of self-defense and the officers, as we see it, did the only thing they could do in a moment of crisis.

In the first case, last December, a man with a record of both anti-social behavior and mental illness was shot and killed after he had fired three times at officers who were called to the neighborhood by terrorized residents.

Last month's case paralleled the December incident to an amazing degree. A man with a long record of offenses against the law was threatening and abusing people in the area; officers were called; and the man advanced on the officers, cursing and wielding a swinging blade. Warning shots fired into the ground failed to stop him and he was then shot and wounded, but not killed, by an officer. He has now recovered and faces trial for assault with a deadly weapon and resisting arrest.

Both of the principals in the Carthage cases were Negroes. As we ponder society's responsibility for such persons—what might have been and what can now be done for them—we think also of Charles Gales, the Hoke County white man who beat his wife to death with a gun barrel in a cotton field while their three children looked on.

Gales is quoted as being disappointed at Governor Umstead's action last week in commuting his death sentence to life in prison. Before the commutation, the prisoner had declared he hoped "they will send me to an institution for my mind. If they can't have anything done for my mind, I would rather just go ahead and be put to death because I would never be any good to anyone in the condition I am in now."

On another occasion he told a caller at his death row cell: "I don't want my case changed, I will be better off to go to the gas chamber because of the physical and mental shape I

am in." Such statements were cited as evidence of the man's mental deficiencies and were a factor in the governor's action, but to us they sound like pretty good sense.

Now the question is: what will the state of North Carolina do for Charles Gales and for the man who came at officers with a swinging blade? Also: what might have been done for the other Carthage man whose attack on officers resulted in his death and who had previously been in a State mental institution for only a short while and had been released?

Since the dawn of history, there have been "bad actors" among the human race, despite the general efforts of people to be decent and law-abiding. Once thought to be possessed of demons and looked on as outcasts, such people now are considered a responsibility of society—all of us. Through the pressure of the Christian philosophy and through scientific studies of the workings of the mind, they are no longer considered beyond redemption.

North Carolina's great program of expansion and improvement in mental institutions offers hope, but there must be close cooperation with physicians, public health workers, welfare workers, ministers and all of us to assure that persons in need of mental treatment get it before their illness breaks out in criminal behavior.

There must be a new approach to mental illness so that eventually such people as Charles Gales will submit themselves for treatment as willingly as they would go to a dentist for a toothache—which might not be "willingly" but at least would not be interminably deferred by the incorrect assumption that nothing can be done.

In prison, Gales chose death if he could not get mental help. Whose fault is it that he didn't get such help long ago?

Tree Planting Along Highways

The Pilot will go along with Governor Umstead in his suggestion that the State plant trees along the rights of way of major highways to help beautify the Tar Heel landscape.

Here and there around the nation, there will be found roads along which some foresighted person planted trees 50, 75, or even 100 years ago. There is a special pleasure in driving on such roads—although the foresight of the tree planters usually did not extend beyond the concept of horse and buggy traffic and nearly everywhere that trees have been planted they are now too close to the roadway. Many such avenues of trees have been destroyed in order to widen roads and rights of way in line with modern traffic requirements.

Pines planted along highways in the Sandhills only about 25 years ago—at the edge of the right of way along the narrow two-lane highways that were then thought the ultimate in road building—have now become more a liability than an asset. They are growing up under power and telephone lines and have had to be topped so drastically that they are deformed and, in many cases, unsightly. Highway widening means that many such rows of trees will have to be removed altogether.

How a planting program now would affect highway conditions 25 or 50 years from now, we don't know, but it would seem that the State is safe in planting tree borders along new, dual-lane highways where the extremely wide edge of the right of way is so far from the road. On roads with narrower rights of way, the tree planting would undoubtedly help the billboard situation by screening much of the available sign area.

There might be other less-used roads with no apparent outlook for heavy traffic loads in

the future where trees could be planted as they now exist.

North Carolina already has a highway beautification program to which landscape experts have been assigned—a fact we learned when there was a ruckus hereabouts last year in connection with tree-trimming by power company crews on Midland Road and elsewhere. We were highly impressed by our conversation with one of these gentlemen and were interested to hear the extensive landscaping plans that are being made for the broad rights of way that border the newest highways.

The State, as we heard the story then, is concentrating on low-growing trees and shrubs which will beautify but not block a view beyond the right of way—especially where a pleasant view exists that can be seen from the road. We presume the Governor's suggestion takes this policy into consideration.

It is very easy for a newspaper to take a kick at outdoor billboard advertising, since both media are in competition for the advertising dollar, but The Pilot has long been on record as an advocate of highway beautification, including elimination of unsightly billboards and signs.

The Governor specifically mentioned this aspect of his beautification program in his recent statements. The newest highways, with their broad rights of way beyond which signs must be placed, take care automatically of much unsightly billboard advertising because the edge of the right of way is so far from the road. On roads with narrower rights of way, the tree planting would undoubtedly help the billboard situation by screening much of the available sign area.

Grammar Ain't Too Important

After reading an "essay on toads" allegedly written by Zebulon B. Vance, governor of North Carolina in the momentous years, 1862-'65, we are very graphically shown that spelling, punctuation and "correctness" are really minor considerations in writing.

Recently dug up and republished in The Smithfield Herald—one of the state's best non-daily newspapers, that comes to our desk each week—the little one-paragraph essay has since been reprinted here and there with admiring comments.

First, the essay, supposedly the great man's first composition as a schoolboy:

You told me to tell what I knowed about toads. Well, toads is like frogs, but more dignity, and when you come to thing of it frogs is wetter. The warts which toads is noted for cant be cured, for they is cronic but if I couldent get well I'd stay in the house. My grandfather knew a toad that some lady had trained till it was like folks, wen its master whistled it would come for flies. They catches 'em with their tong which is some like a long red worm, but more like littenin, only littenin haint got no gum onto it. The fli will be standing a rub-

bing its hind legs together and a thinking what a fine fat fli it is and the toad is sittin some distance away like it was asleep. While you see this fli as plane as you ever see anything all at once it aint there—then the toad looks up at you solum out of his eyes like he said, What become of that fli? But you know he et it. That's what I know about toads.—Z. B. Vance

If we could write as smoothly and naturally as that, picturing what we were talking about that effectively, we'd almost be willing to unlearn all the rules.

Commenting on the toads essay, The Greensboro Daily News sagely points out that such writing is not easy. A person has to come by it naturally, through a touch of genius with words and one's thoughts, or it has to be carefully and cleverly contrived to turn out simple and powerful.

In the Vance essay, you get a clear understanding of the personality of the writer and a wonderfully clear picture of what he is writing about—the toad, the fly and their behavior. The whole thing is real and human. Perhaps the conclusion could be that writing, like the toad that came when its trainer whistled, should be "like folks."

Grains of Sand

Staplia Gigantea

A rare cactus plant about which The Pilot carried an item about a year ago has been blooming again at Howard's Bakery. Mrs. M. L. Howard didn't know a year ago what the name of her unusual plant was or where the species originated. Since then a friend in Durham sent her a newspaper photo and clipping that solved the mystery—the plant is Staplia Gigantea, a native of South Africa. Its common name is Giant Star Flower. The type of plant is known as a "succulent."

The cactus has been blooming again and has been on display at the bakery. The two blooms on the plant, 10 or 12 inches across, are star shaped, their huge petals creamy yellow striped with purplish-red. An interesting thing about the flower, Mrs. Howard says, is that the petals unfold from a bud, stay out in star shape about a day, then curl around backwards, then unfold to star shape and finally fold back to bud form before the blossom dies.

If our camera is working all right, we will have a picture of the plant in The Pilot next week. In A Hurry

From a report of a case in Lee County Court, in which a man was fined \$100 for speeding 90 miles per hour near Sanford: "Upon questioning by Judge Teague, the defendant said he was a truck driver for a warehouse and that he had no reason for speeding except that he was going to Southern Pines."

Aren't we popular?

Fire Service

The new fire service law, under which property owners outside the city limits can get fire protection by the Southern Pines department only if they pay an annual fire service charge, has been the subject of much attention recently.

Frank Kaylor, resident fireman at the fire station and a member of the Southern Pines department for over 25 years now has to pay the fire service charge for a house he owns on Manly Ave., just out of the town limits.

Setting an example for other "outside" property owners, Mr. Kaylor—who in his time has helped fight many a fire in and out of town—has paid the charge, we are informed.

The fire department was consulted and favored the new law, before it was adopted by the council.

Proposition At End

We have never been overly sympathetic with the supposed rule that a sentence should not be ended with a preposition and were pleased recently to run across a disquisition on this subject in a letter to the Chapel Hill Weekly from John P. McKnight, a member of the staff of the American Embassy at Rome, author of "The Papacy" and a gentleman whom we heard with pleasure and intellectual fervor when he addressed Tar Heel newspaper folks at the Press Association Institute in Chapel Hill last winter.

Mr. McKnight cites Fowler's "Modern English Usage" where the preposition at the end business is called a "cherished superstition" and where Jonson is quoted: "Prepositions follow sometimes the nouns they are coupled with."

But most amusing is Mr. McKnight's effort in which—inspired by a poem of Morris Bishop that does something the same thing—he contrives to get eight prepositions at the end of one sentence.

Leading up to this feat, he invoked an imaginary situation in which a man is having some excavation done under his house. The opening to it is small and he sends his small son down to inspect the work, rather than go himself. While the boy is down, something falls off the roof and the father takes alarm and hollers for the boy to get out of there. The boy who has seen and heard nothing, calls back:

"Pop, what do you want me to come on up out from down in under for?"

Give Us Time

Maxine Swalin told us a story a while ago, illustrating the moony sentiment musicians feel for their favorite instruments.

It seems she and her husband, Dr. Benjamin Swalin, director of the state orchestra, were staying in the same hotel, when on tour, with the great cellist, Piatogorsky. The concert artist had a new cello, with a huge tone about which he was much excited. Betty Short, viola player with the orchestra, heard him playing it in his room and crept in to listen. When he stopped, she asked:

"Mr. Piatogorsky, have you tried the cello out in a big hall yet?"

"Oh no," said the cellist, "Not yet. We're still on our honeymoon."



Tobacco Harvest In Full Swing Over Area

Harvesting of tobacco is in full swing throughout this area where the "golden leaf" is the chief money crop.

Pictured here is H. W. Doub, Aberdeen business-man, standing in one of the finest non-irrigated fields of tobacco in this section, part of 17.3 acres on Mr. Doub's Deerfield Farm" five miles out of Southern Pines in Upper Hoke County.

Tenant families on the

farm, which has about 165 acres under cultivation, are Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Atkins and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Underwood.

Moore County Farm Agent E. H. Garrison, Jr., said this week that a survey of crop conditions throughout this county shows tobacco in remarkably fine shape after recent rains. The crop was threatened with serious damage as the result of prolonged dry weather, but, said the

farm agent, "has come back much better than we expected."

Moore County, Mr. Garrison thinks, can look forward to a "good average crop."

The two Moore County tobacco markets, Aberdeen and Carthage, along with other Sandhills Belt markets, Sanford, Ellerbe and Fuquay-Varina, are due to open Wednesday, August 25. (Photo courtesy The Sandhill Citizen, Aberdeen)

We Can't Turn Back The Clock

Withdrawal From UN On Red China Issue Would Disrupt Peace Effort

By James P. Warburg In The New York Times

The majority and minority leaders in the United States Senate have declared that if Red China is admitted to the United Nations they will advocate withdrawal from that organization. The issue thus raised is nonpartisan. It challenges Republicans and Democrats alike to support or repudiate a proposal which affects the future of every American family. The following facts may serve as a point of departure:

The first aim of American post-war policy has been the creation and strengthening of the United Nations as a universal organization for the preservation of world peace. The bloody sacrifices of the Korean war were made to preserve its authority in restraining and punishing aggression.

In addition, the United States has taken the lead in seeking to form, within the framework of the United Nations Charter a coalition to halt the encroachment of Communist imperialism. The United Nations is a universal organization—not an anti-Communist association. The Soviet Union and some of its satellites are members. One satellite—Czechoslovakia—joined as a democracy and is now under a Communist dictatorship which came into power by means no more and no less legitimate than those by which the Mao regime seized power.

Red China can be denied membership in the United Nations

only if it is found to have disqualified itself by aggression. Not all of the non-Communist member-nations agree that such is the case; some hold that Chinese intervention in Korea was provoked by McArthur's march to the Yalu; others feel that Red China can qualify by agreeing to just settlements in Korea and Indochina. The decision is up to the majority.

It is proposed that if we do not like the majority decision we should withdraw from the world organization. The advocates of this course are obviously aware that Red China's membership in the United Nations would not materially affect the balance of power. (Even on the Security Council—which is not at issue, because the United States could block Red China's admission—two Communist vetoes would be no more obstructive than one.)

Senators Knowland and Johnson apparently have in mind two objectives: To punish Red China for aggression by denying it a valuable privilege; and to keep open the possibility of a Nationalist reconquest of the Chinese mainland.

It is open to question whether membership is an advantageous privilege or a renunciation of self-interest entailing the assumption of burdensome obligations. If it is a renunciation, Red China's acceptance of the restraints and duties imposed by the U. N. Charter would further the interest of all nations desiring to preserve peace. If membership is deemed a privilege and, as

such, is granted to Red China by the majority in spite of our contrary view, why should we deny ourselves a benefit merely because we believe that it has been undeservedly conferred upon another nation? This would be childish behavior unworthy of a great nation.

Core of Dissension

The primary motivation of the Knowland-Johnson proposal is apparently to keep open the possibility of a Nationalist restoration. If so, it is high time that this question be openly faced and debated; for here lies the core of the dissension which threatens the anti-Communist coalition.

Our European allies recognize that a balance of power in Asia can be created only with the assistance of the presently uncommitted peoples and that their allegiance will not be won so long as the anti-Communist coalition toys with the idea of restoring all or any part of the past. Britain has been slow, and France even slower, to accept the fact that only a graceful retreat of the colonial powers and generous support of Asian independence will halt the tide of Communist imperialism. But if our European friends have been reluctant to relinquish long-held possessions, we have been even more reluctant to relinquish recently acquired misconceptions. Among these, the most dangerous and the most stubbornly held is the notion that we can turn back the clock in China. If China is freed from Communist dictatorship it will not be by Chiang Kai-shek or by foreign intervention. Our allies know this; so do the uncommitted peoples of India, Burma, Ceylon and Indonesia.

If we follow the Knowland-Johnson course we shall destroy both of the structures we have been trying to erect. We shall undermine the United Nations as once we undermined the League. We shall wholly disrupt the anti-Communist coalition in Europe as well as in Asia. We shall isolate ourselves in a world in which isolationism has become an illusion. We shall put our nation on record as believing in the democratic process only so long as that process is given its own willful way.

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McCarthy And The Senate

(From The Smithfield Herald)

Why is Senator McCarthy a disgrace to the Senate and to America?

He has persistently used the great power granted him as a means of ruining the reputations of citizens with unfounded accusations. He has shown an utter disregard for truth as he has employed the "big lie" technique of dictators to achieve his goals. He has flouted the processes of democracy. He has sought to stamp out dissent in America by branding those who oppose his ideas and his methods as traitors to their country. He has sown fear and suspicion and distrust among the people of the nation—activity that is indefensible any

time, but especially indefensible any time, but especially indefensible in a time of international crisis.

If all this isn't enough to qualify McCarthy as a disgraceful senator, there is more to the case against him. A Senate committee has raised serious questions about some irregular financial operations engaged in by McCarthy. But McCarthy, who insists on punishment for those who refuse to answer questions he raises, gives no answers to the committee which investigated his own shady transactions.

Certainly, the Senate as well as the voters of Wisconsin must accept responsibility for the McCarthy abuses of legislative power. The Senate is responsible for safeguarding its own integrity from those who debauch it. The Senate is so responsible constitutionally and morally.

Certainly, the Senate should pass the resolution offered by Senator Flanders to censure McCarthy.

More than that. The Senate should do what Mr. Flanders originally proposed (before the political strategists of the Republican Party toned him down). The Senate should strip McCarthy of his investigating committee chairmanships.

More than that. The Senators would be doing their duty under the Constitution if they ousted McCarthy from his Senate seat.

Not The First

Recently, The Pilot said that Miss Saradee Davis, who became associated with Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church July 1, is "the first full-time education Southern Pines Church."

We are reminded by an old-timer that around 25 years ago, during the pastorate of the Rev. E. W. Serl at the Church of Wide Fellowship, a Miss Ruth Sargent was associated with that church and not only was she an educational director—although we don't think she was called such at the time—but she also entered the pulpit and preached in the absence of the pastor.