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FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1954



"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.

# **Highway Relocation Pressing Need**

The sympathy of this community went out last week to the husband and family of the young woman who was killed in a traffic accident at the corner of Indiana Avenue and May Street (No. 1 highway). The circumstances No. 1 highway off May Street. were particularly tragic and the death of this young woman who had been married only about six months reminds us again of the peril that is imminent constantly on the public roads.

While disregard of traffic regulations appears to have played an important part in the accident last week, such a collision points up need not only for personal caution and alertness on the part of drivers but for better highway engineering.

Running for many blocks through a closely built-up residential section of Southern Pines, No. 1 highway provides a traffic hazard that should be eliminated with all possible speed. Despite stop lights, blinker lights or stop signs at all intersections, there are numerous collivolving minor injuries or property damage. future.

Fortunately, to judge from a recent announcement by the State Highway Commission and the surveys that are being made here, tentative plans, at least, are being made to take

While it is not yet known or has not been revealed where No. 1 highway is to run in its new location, it is a foregone conclusion that wherever it is, it will be engineered so that intersections with it will eliminate the great hazards that exist along May Street.

There are other advantages, of course, in routing No. 1 to another location. Traffic noise and fumes will be eliminated on a long-established residential street. The highway will be removed from the immediate vicinity of the schools.

Given the fact that human beings are as prone to error and carelessness as they are, rerouting of No. 1 highway and elimination of direct cross intersections at whatever new losions along the highway-most of them in- cation is chosen for it will save lives in the

## The School Budget Controversy – I

The board of county commissioners and the commissioners say they have given the tentative 1954-'55 budget for building schools, school plants.

While the money requested for this purpose by the board of education and the trustees of tors in the controversy, we don't feel that we the two charter school districts in the county— can say who is right and who is wrong in the Southern Pines and Pinehurst-traditionally matter. runs more than the commissioners feel they can allow, never before this year has neither side yielded or compromised.

Following a joint session of the two boards last Friday in Carthage, after the county board of education had rejected the school budget allowed by the commissioners, the controversy goes to Clerk of Court Carlton Kennedy for arbitration. Either side may appeal his decision to a Superior Court judge and the outcome may be appealed again to the Supreme Court. This process has been instituted in several North Carolina counties this year.

The problem seems to be inherent in the re- it. lationship of school boards, who spend money

county board of education are, at this writing, county school system \$2,150,000 in the past five deadlocked in a controversy about school capi- years-more than the board of education said tal outlay funds-the money appropriated in a it needed for a 10-year improvement program when a county school bond issue was proposed cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums and other four or five years ago. The bond issue proposal buildings and for major improvements in was at that time rejected in favor of a pay-asyou-go program.

Even after a fairly detailed study of the fac-

The dilemma can only be solved by the people of Moore County in whose behalf both the board of education and the board of commissiners are, we believe, sincerely trying to act in good faith.

The board of education thinks that the people are willing to pay more taxes to get better school plants. The board of commissioners thinks people are neither willing nor able to shoulder an added tax burden.

Both bodies, presumably, have sounded out public sentiment and both are attempting to discharge their duty to the people as they see

A lesson for the two boards involved, the



## **City Manager Reports On:**

# **Town Cemetery Policies**

An analysis of income and ex- care" in order that the "perpetual penses in operation of Mount care fund" will produce enough Hope Cemetery, which is owned income to maintain the cemetery by the town, has been made by after all lots are sold. However, City Manager Tom E. Cunning- many municipal officials today ham, with the recommendation point out that few if any perpethat allocations to the perpetual tual care funds have ever been Tropical Paradise? successfully administered, since care fund be discontinued and that the price of lots be increased. The manager's recommenda-

cions constitute a compromise befunds materially. ween putting it on a completely self-sustaining basis—which, he reported, would increase the cost of lots 600 per cent—and the present system by which a large portion of the cemetery's cost is paid from general property taxes. Following is the manager's reomitted or briefly summarized: FINDINGS

and expenses of the operation of Municipalities.

The Public Speaking

About Golfcrest Contract To The Editor: This letter is addressed to the

Golfcrest.

was handled very loosely." He said that he was for this agreement when it was first made and that he was for it now.

citizens of Southern Pines. We believe that meeting our There was no definite contract water and hydrant obligations Mr. Newland Phillips. Our town council recently honored an oral out money to a private promoter agreement made about September whose expense for these facilities 12, 1951, by paying Mr. Phillips \$2,433.59 for 1,000 feet of six-inch presumably has been included in the price of his lots. pipe outside the city limits in

Our understanding is that the general policy for a private pro-Our usually talkative mayor moter is to absorb the cost of was strangely silent in his stand water and sewer lines, streets and on this agreement and wholly gutters in the price of the lots. lacking in leadership to protect Our city manager presented a the interests of the citizens of Southern Pines. This \$2,433.59 North Carolina which follow this North Carolina which follow this paid to Mr. Phillips represents the policy. He stated that this policy taxes from an average taxpayer is recommended by the League of in Southern Pines for the next 40 Municipalities. years, or the taxes of 40 taxpayers

Councilman Gilmore pointed for one year. Even though the out that the practice of absorbing money is paid from a surplus in development costs is borne by the water account, it is the taxthe promoters throughout the payers' money and should be apcountry. He spoke of a promoter whom he knew who followed this Councilman Blue said he felt standard policy from a small denorally bound to honor this vervelopment of 12 houses to large pal agreement with Mr. Phillips, developments of 1,000 homes, hough it was wrong in the first turning all facilities over to the place for him to make the agree-

town without reimbursement upment. If the water fund shows on annexation. a surplus at the end of June, we In view of these facts, our town believe that the moral obligation council makes an exception to an lies with the council to furnish

established policy, ignoring comwater mains and fire hydrants pletely the sound advice of wellinformed officials, and at the cost of \$2,433.59 to be spent outside not to a private promoter outside the city limits, with no assurance of annexation or the return of this

Councilman Patch, notably abneedless expenditure. sent from the last two important Citizens, think this over. Is it council meetings, stated that "this fair, just and ethical and in acerbal agreement made by the cordance with our councilmen's previous administration was oath of office? azy" and also admitted that "it TAXPAYERS.

Grains of Sand

plied to improving the town.

within the town limits to the citi-

zens without these facilities and

the city limits.

increasing costs, spending of funds S. D. Fobes of Southern Pines, failures, his final triumph and his by government officials, and na- writes from Hawaii, where he is accompanying sufferings. tional monetary shifts affect the beginning a two-year assignment | With most of the smokers Since municipalities are in the are unfriendly and that he "would quit, quitting, starting again, cutcemetery business and must care give his left kneecap and the nails ting down and going through all for the cemetery perpetually in out of the heels of my old shoes to the rigmarole that most every one way or another, it is suggest- get back to the States and never smoker has experienced at some ed by many that the allocating of again see a rainbow, or smell a time in his addiction to the weed. large sums of money to perpetual care funds be discontinued and apple etcetera." His opinion, no little inspiration. They are the city should receive its year- which would break a recruiter's authentic and, mercifully, he does port, with some of the statistics to-year return on its cemetery op- heart, is that Hawaii is known as not claim that quitting is easy. It

taxpayers bear as little of the who haven't been there. 1. At Council's request, I have burden as possible. This is rec-made an analysis of the income ommended by the N. C. League of when he can sleep at night and suffered. I was there?

the Town's Mount Hope Ceme-tery, with a view toward putting 3% return on a fund investment, night to 8 a.m. and sleeps all day. his addiction.

three weeks to a blow-by-blow John B. Cornwell, son of Mrs. account of his plans to quit, his

in the Navy, that the people there around The Pilot also trying to eration with the assurance that a tropical paradise only to those reminds us of a favorite line from a source we can't now recall at Maybe John will feel happier the moment: "I am the man. I

> get around in the daytime. He The series began with the editor "Smoking was as much a part of me as putting on my pants," he His address is: John Bancroft wrote. "It was second nature for Cornwell, ATAN, Box 7, VR 21, me to reach for the night table ed my eyes in the morning . . . There were many times when the smoking habit provided embarham News at Siler City, who is rassment, as, for instance, the widely known in newspaper cir-cles and also in this area through second of lighting up a cigarette at a Sunday morning church ser-Mr. Resch set a quitting or "Q" day a couple of weeks in advance. cutting down on smokes during that time. But when the day areditorial page of his paper, he has rived, "I could no more quit smoking than I could fly to the moon. The day was a busy one. And I kept lighting cigarettes and telling myself that tomorrow was another day. In the innermost reaches of my mind, however, some sort of signal kept telling me what a weakling I was. And I kept telling that signal to blow up like a Fouth of July Firecracker and go away." But before the day ended, Mr. Resch had won. He lighted a cigarette as he went to bed at 9:30 p.m.—and that was the last. The editor's final word: "The free advice that I give to anyone seeking a formula for quitting inprice of all lots by approximately cludes the admission that it is the toughest battle that a person faces about \$137 and five-grave lots if he has been a chronic smoker over a long period. "And I give a two-word formula that to me is worth all that I have ever read about the techniques of quitting-Be Stubborn."

on needs as they see them, and boards of county commissioners who appropriate money and set tax rates and by whom school demands are balanced along with other requests made from all departments of county government and all types of county services.

The controversy as it stands is between only the county board of education and the commistioners. The trustees of the Southern Pines and Pinehurst units have made no formal protest to the commissioners of the money allotted to them, but it is understood that Southern Pines school officials are not satisfied with an allotment that will not enable them to complete and furnish the new "Phase B" unit of the high school for the school year beginning in 1955 nor to install dressing rooms and showers in the high school gym.

Yet, points out the county board of education, the Southern Pines unit is getting \$115.78 per pupil in capital outlay funds, according to the tentative budget, as compared with \$39.93 per pupil in the county school system. While construction of the high school here accounts for a large local allotment, the county board, as it did last year, continues to allege an inequity of money distribution, citing the fact that since the county took over the responsibility of building schools in 1936, the county system has received an average of \$22.86 per pupil in capital outlay funds, while the Southern Pines district has received \$41.04 per pupil and the Pinehurst district \$34.12 per pupil.

This is all incidental to the current controversy which is based on the county board of education's contention that it is not getting by the commissioners in the new budgetenough money to meet minimum needs, regardless of what is being given to the other units.

At last week's meeting, county school board members said that capital outlay needs in the county system were, earlier this year, figured at over \$1,000,000. They said they revised and cut their schedule of needs four times, ending up with a minimum figure of \$422,000, an amount they asked the commissioners for, prior to budget-making time. They were allotted \$269,000 when the budget was made up.

The commissioners set the tax rate at \$1.35 per \$100 of property valuation the same rate as last year. To give the county board of education its \$422,000 would require a tax rate of slightly over \$1.77. The commissioners based their whole rejection of the school board's plea on the fact they were determined not to raise taxes. One commissioner said he would be willing to take an oath that the county would collect more tax money at a \$1.35 rate than it would at \$1.77.

The board of education says flatly it can't meet minimum needs with the money it will have to work with in the coming year. The

press and the public does emerge from this controversy with clarity: there must be a much more detailed and much more complete presentation of school construction programs and budget problems to the public-not after, but before, money is allocated.

The Pilot recognizes the key role it and all media of information should play in an information process that would lay school needs and proposed plans before the public-so that first of all, the people would know what will be done with their money and can express their opinion on such proposals; and second, so that the board of education and the county commissiners can benefit from a public reaction that is based on specific proposals-not simply on the vague propositions of whether or not to raise taxes or whether or not the county is to have better school plants.

The board of education might gain public sympathy in their drive for an A-1 school system if the schools' needs and the proposed plans to meet the needs were laid before the public well in advance of budget-approving time.

Earlier this year, the county board of education did release for publication the outline of a school building program that ran to well over \$1,000,000, but the public was not informed what items went into the \$422,000 program that the board later requested from the commissioners as its minimum requirement for inclusion in this year's budget. A summary of the items in this program-which would have to be drastically cut under the \$269,000 allowed appears elsehwere in today's Pilot.

Likewise the commissioners' position might be more readily understood if reporters were called into a budget-making session and the public were informed of their problems rather than being turned away at the door with the plea, "We're in executive session, working on the budget."

Without public participation and public knowledge of the full facts, the controversy loses much of its significance.

Both the board of commissioners and the board of education are elected by the people to carry out the duties assigned to them and certainly the people can't vote on every issue that comes before the boards. Yet we see no answer to the dilemma in which county and city school boards find themselves almost every year, as regards school needs and the inability or unwillingness of the county to meet their requests, unless the people-on whose behalf all the business of both boards is supposedly carried on-know more about what is going on at Carthage and then show more interest and express more definite opinions on how and how much money is to be spent for schools.

it on a self-sustaining basis. ananlysis primarily for the one be necessary to operate the cemesignificant reason that a very never use our cemetery facilities. It is my belief that it is much ture of \$2,500 is necessary and Editor Quits Smoking more desirable from everyone's

standpoint to pay the complete cost of one's use of the cemetery when it is used, rather than to pay for it in the property tax forever. In addition, no tax supported facilities are provided for colored taxpayers and many white taxpayers desire to be buried at places other than Southern Pines. (Over the past five years, figures in the report show, cemetery total \$283.000. income amounted to \$9,520 and expenditures to \$17,255. The amount of the expenditures carried by the property tax, therefore, was \$7,735.)

It can be seen from the above the price of the cemetery lots table that the average cost to the would have to be increased aptaxpayers for the operation of the cemetery amounts to \$1,547 a year at the present time.

Based on the present price of the cemetery lots, the following come necessary for the cemetery would be the total income from to become completely self-sustaintheir sale:

Sections D and E at \$25 (425 lots), \$10,575; Section F at \$300 tinue the contributions to the perand \$250 (111 lots), \$30,450; Sec- petual care fund and plan to earn tion A at \$150 and \$200 (29 lots). \$4,900; Section C at \$100 (16 lots), becomes inactive, from other cem-\$1,600; Total income from sale of eteries and newly priced lots to lots, \$47,525.

from grave opening fees is \$200 a cemetery lots would have to be ear.

If the next 100 year period can follows: be assumed to be the life of the presently developed portion of the cemetery, the following would be the total income and expendi-

tures during this period: Total income (all sources), \$67,- tery might be to increase the 525; less amount for perpetual price of the single grave lots to care, (present rate 25%), \$11,881, \$75, increase other sections com-\$55,644; Total expenditures at parably, and to discontinue allo-\$2500 a year, \$250,000; Total cating funds to the perpetual care amount to be carried by the prop- fund. This would mean that the erty tax, \$194,356. An analysis of the above will portion of the cost of operating show that during the next 100 the cemetery. The comparative

price of the cemetery lots and the lows: present assignment to the perpe-

annual cost to the taxpayers will be approximately \$2,000 for the be \$75; Section F, \$300 and \$250, operation of the Town Mount to be \$350; Section A, \$150 and Hope cemetery.

cemetery on a self-sustaining basis, it is necessary to set aside

I and allocating 25% lot sales to the He's with Air Transport Squadron believe the Council requested this fund, the following income would 21, attached to flight planning. tery on a self-sustaining basis. It large percentage of our taxpayers is assumed that while the ceme- Navy 14, FPO, Fan Francisco, Cal. and a cigarette the minute I opentery is active, an annual expendi-

> when the cemetery is inactive an annual expenditure of \$1,000 is necessary.

Perpetual care fund, \$33,000: annual income at 3% \$1,000; annual expenses after cemetery becomes inactive, \$1,000. Total income from sale of lots necessary for: 1. Perpetual care

fund \$33,000: 2. Annual operating expenses, first 100 years, \$250,000; In order to put the cemetery on

completely self-sustaining basis including 25% perpetual care fund designed to produce \$1000 a year after cemetery becomes inactive, proximately 600%.

(Income at the present rate would bring in \$47,525, Mr. Cunningham's figures show, while ining would be \$285,150.)

If it were decided to disconenough profit, after the cemetery maintain the inactive cemetery

The average annual income satisfactorily, the price of the increased approximately 500% as

> (Income necessary without the perpetual care fund would be \$237,625, the report shows.)

A compromise move in the direction of a self-sustaining cemevear.

taxpayers would still carry a

years, based on the present sale price of the lots would be as fol-

(This would make present and tual care fund, the average proposed prices of the lots, respectively: Section D & E, \$25 to \$200, to be \$300; Section G, \$100

to be \$200.) Theoretically, in order to put a The analysis of income and ex-

some of the income for "perpetual be as follows:

Editor Al Resch of The Chat-

his work with the Boy Scouts in Occoneechee Council activities, vice . . .

has quit smoking, after puffing two and a half packs per day for 30 years.

In his personal column on the been treating readers for the past

Total expenses first 100 years, \$250,000; less: income from fees (\$20,000) and income from lots (\$82,475), \$102,475; total cost to taxpayer, \$147,525.

With the above prices, the average annual cost to the taxpayers would be approximately \$1,450 a year or slightly more than the

amount that would be necessary to maintain the cemetery after it becomes inactive.

CONCLUSIONS: To put the town cemetery on a completely self-sustaining basis would require an increase in the 600%, making single grave lots about \$1650. Without a perpetual

care fund these prices would have to be \$125 and \$1500. Cemetery lot prices for single grave lots at \$75 and multiples in-

creased accordingly, and discontinuance of contributions to the perpetual care fund would result in present day and future taxpayers carrying about \$1,000 to \$1,450 of the cemetery maintenance each

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** 

Although the matter of subsidiation of the cemetery is clearly a matter of public policy, it is believed that the operation of the C. G. Council cemetery on a self-sustaining basis is desirable. However, the

price of the lots necessary for this appears high. It is recommended that we discontinue allocations to the per-

petual care fund. It is recommended that the price of the cemetery lots be set at the prices indicated below: Section D and E, \$75; F, \$350;

A. \$300: C. \$200. An ordinance setting these rates

will be considered by the council penses on the above prices would at its regular meeting August 10.

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