

# 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.

## Alfred B. Yeomans

It is doubtful if this town has ever had a more interested and loyal citizen than Alfred Yeomans.

This statement may come as a slight surprise to some, for, with the growth of the town in these past years there are doubtless a good many to whom the name of this fine man who died last week is unfamiliar.

But, even as we write these words, they do not carry conviction. For the influence of Al Yeomans—when he was building houses, landscaping gardens, when he was a member of the town board, head of the parks committee, president of the Library, organizer and head of the former music association, when, during those many years of his life here his name could be found in almost every group engaged in constructive work—that influence, so strong and far-reaching, whether in civic or cultural lines, has continued, we believe, to be keenly felt. Even when his life became restricted, his great interest in the people and the affairs of this town never waned.

It was the influence of a rare personality, a kind of personality that, one may sadly think, is growing scarce in this so-called progressive age. In him were combined the imagination of the creative artist and a vital, clear-cut power of thinking that was like a rock in its absolute integrity. He was honesty itself, forthright at times to the point of brusqueness, uncompromising in his judgments and convictions.

They were convictions strongly liberal in spirit. Quick to grasp the heart of a matter, from a practical angle, he was as quick to sense its implications from the standpoint of humanity. Injustice or intolerance roused in him a fiery imagination, while his kindly spirit responded as quickly to human need. Behind that calm, benign exterior lay a nature sensitive, imaginative, warmly friendly and deeply—al-

most fanatically—democratic.

It was a nature based on an unyielding optimism. Even during recent years, when he was increasingly restricted by arthritis, this optimism never failed him. Undoubtedly it was the source of his amazing fortitude; because his optimism lay far deeper than sheer courage. His attitude toward physical disability was one of humorous contempt, or boredom. This was something to be ignored and, of course to be overcome as soon as possible. Though 84 when he died, he acted always as if recovery lay just ahead. He practiced regularly on the violin and piano, an hour a day on each instrument, playing always and only the music of the great classical composers. He read book after book.

Asked once if he would like a television set, he turned the idea down with decision. "I've looked over some of the programs," he said. "I couldn't waste my time on it."

There was more than a little of the Greek Stoic in Alfred Yeomans—so strongly independent, so intolerant of hypocrisy or weakness. But there was none of the coldness of those stern old Greeks. In his love of his home and his hopes for it, in his deep faith in mankind and his vision of a world working together, living together, at peace—in all this there was much of the spirit of the founders of the nation.

But his twinkling eyes and his delight in fun and laughter, his love of children and his gentle charm for them—so that, lately, his most constant visitors were the children of the neighborhood—his devotion to beauty in music, in nature, in his love of the sea, his response to all that was courageous and fine in life, all this gave evidence of the wealth of warmth and human sympathy that underlay the character of Alfred Yeomans and made him beloved by all who knew him.

## Officials Back Open Meeting Law

We note with interest and approval that the State Association of County Commissioners in their recent annual convention included among their legislative recommendations to the 1955 General Assembly restoration of the guarantee of open commissioners' meetings.

It has never been exactly clear to us what happened when this guarantee, which was a part of the State statutes for many years, was stricken out in the last General Assembly, apparently without the knowledge or concurrence of many of the legislators. Whatever happened and for whatever reason, it appears certain that this fundamental assurance of open meetings will be re-written into the law—perhaps in even more forceful and definite language as a result of the airing of the question of open meetings has received in the past two years.

While the press has led the movement to restore a guarantee of open meetings, both for county boards and for committees of the General Assembly, it must be clearly understood that this is not simply a professional or technical

move by the press to aid reporters in gathering the news.

While access to sources of news is obviously of pressing and one might say selfish interest to the press, the guarantee of an open meeting of public officials is a guarantee to all of the citizens of whatever governmental unit is involved. The press visits meetings of public officials as the eyes and ears of the people. The right involved is the people's right, not simply the press's right, and as such calls for the support and interest of the people.

No doubt a recognition of this fact is responsible for the action taken by the commissioners of the state in voting approval of an open meeting guarantee to be written into law by the General Assembly. We commend these officials for their attitude and urge that the legislators from Moore County support this and any other effort made at Raleigh in 1955 to extend or strengthen the public's basic right not to be excluded from the conduct of public business.

## The Grand Jury And The County Home

In reporting that the cost of operating the county home is excessive, in view of the number of persons cared for there, the new grand jury empaneled at last week's term of Superior Court confirms a conviction that has been a major contention of The Pilot in its investigation of the county home during the past year.

The grand jury's report did not undertake to recommend what steps should be taken to make the county home a more economical and more serviceable operation, but did recommend that a member of the board of commissioners be summoned to appear before the grand jury to discuss the problem. Details of what should be done about the county home presumably would be taken up at such a conference.

In the normal course of events, the next regular session of the grand jury will be at January's term of court for trial of criminal cases—and the members of that grand jury will not be the same persons who rendered last week's report. This time lag is unfortunate. We do not know whether it would have been possible for the grand jury to have completed its investigation of the county home last week, but it would have been in the public's interest to have pushed forward, so that the very strong influence of the grand jury's interest in this matter might have resulted in action months sooner than may now be the case.

While periodic questioning of members of the board of commissioners in recent months has elicited the reply that the board is "continuing to study" the county home situation, when the 1954-'55 budget was made up in June and July, the commissioners appropriated no less than \$15,000 for operation of the home in the current fiscal year which ends June 30, 1955. This amount is \$2,500 more than the \$12,500 given to the county home in the previous fiscal year's budget estimate. How a \$15,000 appropriation fits into the economy picture remains to be seen. With two months of the new fiscal year already nearly gone, there were last week only seven persons under care or residing at the

county home.

There is a possibility that if the grand jury is called for a special term of criminal court this Fall, it might be able to press ahead with the county home matter. If there is a special term, we urge that every effort be made by the grand jury to summon a representative of the board of commissioners and to make a recommendation, if they see fit, that will assure a more economical, not to mention a more humanitarian, operation of the home.

If completion of the grand jury's investigation must go over to the January term of court, the new grand jury at that time is required to follow through on matters left unsettled in the report last week.

The people of Moore County can be thankful that the all-important first step—recognition by the grand jury that something is wrong with the county home set-up—has been taken. It remains now for this or another grand jury to complete the investigation conscientiously, regardless of delays involved.

## Point Of No Return

The current emergency March of Dimes comes at a crisis in the operations of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The Foundation is caring for 67,000 patients stricken in earlier years, while attempting to meet the cost of increasing the nation's supply of gamma globulin and also to finance the polio vaccine study that may result in the final victory over the disease.

Even a few years ago, no one thought that the Foundation's program would amount to such a staggering cost. Yet no one thought either that the possible end to polio would be so nearly in sight.

Foundation leaders are speaking the unvarnished truth when they say: "National Foundation programs are at a point of no return. There can be no retreat except at unthinkable human sacrifice or postponement of polio prevention."

## His Good Work Lives On In The Community



ALFRED B. YEOMANS, who died Tuesday of last week, is pictured at the left several years ago when one of the library projects for which he had worked became a reality and a bookmobile was put into service. In the vehicle is Mrs. Dorothy Avery, county librarian, and at right is

Gordon M. Cameron, chairman of the board of county commissioners. Mr. Yeomans was a leader in library promotion and activities for many years and was the owner of an extensive personal library. Building in background houses both local and county libraries.

## Background of Segregation Decision

# Negroes First Came To State 1526, Now Form 26.8% County Population

The Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has just issued a 206-page mimeographed study, with charts and tables of statistics, dealing with the decision on school segregation handed down by the Supreme Court of the United States on May 17 of this year.

Titled "A Report to the Governor of North Carolina," the study consists of three parts—1, "The Background of the Court's Decision," prepared by Albert Coates, director of the Institute; 2, "The Text of the Court's Decision"; and 3, "An Analysis of the Legal Aspects of the School Segregation Decision and Alternates Open to North Carolina in the Light of That Decision."

The report was made at the request of Gov. William B. Umstead.

Because of the universal interest in the Supreme Court decision, in this area, The Pilot will in the next few weeks bring to readers portions of the Institute of Government report.

The report opens with a short history of the Negro in North Carolina, with pertinent facts about distribution of Negroes in the state and in the United States today.

**First Came, 1526**

Negroes came to North Carolina in 1526 as slaves with Spanish settlers in the Cape Fear region. They came with settlers from Virginia into the Albemarle region during the 1650's. In the Concessions of 1665 the Lords Proprietors of the Province of Carolina encouraged slavery by offering fifty acres of land to any settler bringing a Negro slave "above the age of fourteen years."

Around eight hundred Negroes were living in the colony by 1700; fifteen thousand by 1750; one hundred forty thousand by 1800; three hundred sixty-one thousand by 1860; six hundred twenty-four thousand by 1900; one million by 1950.

Negroes were thirty per cent of the population by 1775; 29 per cent by 1800; 36 per cent by 1860; 38 per cent by 1900; 25 per cent by 1950. Thus the Negro percentage has decreased slowly but steadily for the past seventy years. Around 361,000 of North Carolina's Negroes or 34 per cent, live in urban areas with a high degree of segregation, and 685,000, or 66 per cent, live in rural areas with a low degree of segregation.

**26.8 Per Cent Here**

The Negro population varies by counties in North Carolina—from ten in Graham county to forty-nine thousand in Mecklenburg; from less than one-fifth of one per cent of the population in Graham county to 63.9 per cent in Northampton.

In Moore County, the percentage of Negro population is 26.8 per cent, the study shows.

**Negroes In The U. S.**

The fifteen million Negro population in the United States varies

by states—from two hundred fifty seven in North Dakota to one million sixty-two thousand in Georgia; from 3-100ths of 1 per cent of the total population in North Dakota to 45 per cent in Mississippi.

Four and a half million Negroes are scattered over thirty-one states. Ten and a half million are concentrated in eleven southern states, including: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas; six border states, including Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, and Oklahoma; and the District of Columbia.

Over four million Negroes in the northern and western states, or 93 per cent, live in urban areas with a high degree of segregation, and three hundred thousand, or 7 per cent, live in rural areas with a low degree of segregation.

### Many Leave South

The Negro population in the United States is growing in numbers and declining in percentage. According to the author of "The Negro and the Schools," published in 1954:

More than one million Ne-

groes left the South between 1940 and 1950. The region's gain in Negro population was less than 150,000, the smallest since the World War I decade, while outside the South the Negro population rose by two million. Most of the non-Southern increases were recorded in seven states—Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan in the midwest; New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in the northeast; California on the west coast; and the District of Columbia. In 1909 one one American Negro in eight lived outside the South, but by 1950 the proportion had risen to three in eight and the ratio was still increasing.

In the South this trend was reversed, and the Negro became numerically less important. Between the turn of the century and 1950, the increase of white population in the South stood at 18 million, ten times the Negro increase. But between 1940 and 1950, the white increase of 4.5 million was 33 times as great as the Negro gain.

## EXTREMES TO BE AVOIDED

### For A Peaceful Integration

(From The Smithfield Herald)

Many are the unanswered questions as North Carolina begins to study the school problem created by the anti-segregation decision of the U. S. Supreme Court. But the state's leadership seems to have reached one definite conclusion. We are going to preserve the public school system in North Carolina. Among responsible citizens there is no talk of resisting integration of white and Negro schools by abolishment of public education.

Thomas J. Pearsall, chairman of the 19-member advisory committee appointed by Governor Umstead to map a course of action under the Court's ruling, declared at the committee's first meeting in Raleigh Wednesday, "The problem has to be met so the public school system can be preserved."

Governor Umstead talked of establishing "a policy and a program which will preserve the State public school system by having the support of the people."

The official attitude so far is good, though the major tests of wisdom are still to come.

The people of the state can contribute much to the solution of the school problem if they avoid wishful or unrealistic thinking and face realities.

It is wishful thinking to regard the Supreme Court decision as a meaningless gesture of goodwill toward the Negro and to assume that somehow we can find "legal" ways to keep our segregated school system intact. Make no mistake about it, the Supreme Court decision is the law of the land. The end of segregation is coming.

It is unrealistic thinking to anticipate an abrupt ending of segregation, and an immediate integration of white and Negro schools in every community of the South. Make no mistake about this: Laws and court rulings can't chart new courses, but they can't force the people to go racing down those courses at break-neck

speed. The end of segregation is not likely to come in any community faster than most of the people of the community are able to adjust themselves, psychologically, to acceptance of the new way of life.

The problem of integration will vary from community to community, from county to county, from state to state. Where the Negro population is large, the pace of integration will not be fast. In areas where there are few Negroes, the end of segregation can be accomplished immediately without much difficulty.

For example, in a mountain county of North Carolina where there are fewer than 100 Negro children in school, the changeover will not likely be accompanied by tension and delicate situations. In Johnston County, where the Negro population is between 20 and 25 per cent of the total population, the problem will be troublesome as it will be to the east of us, where there are counties with more Negroes than whites.

Looking at North Carolina as a whole, we may wisely conclude that "gradualism" must be the answer to the question of approach. But we must make sure that our "gradualism" does not mean "stallingism." To plead for time only with the purpose of stalling and avoiding compliance with the Supreme Court ruling will surely be to invite a wave of court cases and to increase the tension between the races. The extremism of the staller is to be avoided as much as the extremism of those who would force an abrupt ending to segregation.

The Supreme Court in May was wise enough to refrain from immediate issuance of decrees for enforcement of its segregation decision. The Court, we may reasonably conclude, will continue to be wise enough to recognize the necessity for a peaceful transition to an unsegregated school system by the methods of a sincere gradualism.

## The Public Speaking

### Letter To Mayor Clark

To the Editor: The following is an open letter, the third of a series, to the Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines.

Mr. Mayor: Recollections, reflections, rumors or what have you, about our so-called whiskey or A. B. C. Store:

Some time before we had a whiskey store a widely known citizen got the idea that such a store would be a good thing for our town. Quietly he sought and obtained the approval and promised aid from our Governor. A resolution or "something" was to be made on a certain day. A tentative board was formed in Southern Pines to receive the "glad tidings" from Raleigh.

However, according to the story told me by the man with the original idea, the politicians heard of the "coming event" and took control of the tentative board, leaving him not the chairman he wanted to be, nor even a member of the board itself. He was out in the cold and all alone. When he learned, about 11:00 p. m., that he had been eliminated from the board he immediately telephoned the Governor and related what had happened. Thereafter, our dreams for lower taxes from the whiskey store profits were "gone with the wind."

Later, arrangements were made for our town to have an A. B. C. store but the total profits went, of all places to Wilson County! This was, according to our widely known citizen, a "staggering" blow to the politicians here but they did not give up the ship. Finally arrangements were made which gave Moore County, and not Wilson County, all the profits from our very own whiskey store.

As a pacifier, the Moore County A. B. C. Board continued to rent the old Maze Building, owned by our town, for about \$125.00 per month, the only revenue the town received plus the possible services of its night watchman to answer our police telephone. This, we were informed, was a most "generous gesture" on the part of the A. B. C. Board for our town's protection.

Now let us take a look at the record. According to the press, Moore County received from the A. B. C. stores during the last fiscal year approximately \$180,000, more than half of which came from our own A. B. C. store. How much of this money did we get? Believe it or not \$841.00! This as of April 1st, 1954. Yep, \$841.00.

Gosh, Mr. Mayor, why in the name of something or other did you not take a "stand" with the A. B. C. Board for the benefit of our taxpayers, telling the Board that our citizens are tired of getting only "the crumbs from their banquet table"?

Let us see what you did do in our behalf to show the leadership expected from our mayor. Without public discussion it appears that you grabbed at the insignificant "take-it-or-leave-it" 10 per cent offered by the Board, like a drowning man would a straw!

With this total lack of leadership manifested by you, it is believed you should resign as our mayor and do it now.

A. R. McDANIEL  
Southern Pines

### Letter To Mayor Clark

To the Editor:

Enclosed is an open letter to the Honorable L. T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines.

Mr. Mayor: The citizens of Southern Pines have endured this hot weather long enough.

When you took your oath of office, you assumed responsibility, whether you realize it or not, for the welfare and well-being of the citizens of the community. Now look at this weather. That's all the proof I need. You should resign.

INDIGNANT

## The PILOT

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