

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.

Required Reading For Good Citizens

The Southern Pines League of Women Voters has issued congratulations on its booklet, "Town Survey," which was published recently and is available to the public at local stores.

About two dozen of the local ladies worked on the project, apparently with as much zest and energy as if they had been turned loose to clean up a long-vacant house or to cook dinner for several hundred hungry persons. They directed their inquiring propensities—a line of endeavor in which the ladies are said to excel—into town government, education, political organization, health and welfare services, clubs, organizations, history and population. They have emerged with a booklet that should prove of valuable specific use to persons seeking information about the town, as well as one of broad general interest to any citizen with a whit of interest in his or her community.

We think it is in order that county services which apply in Southern Pines have been listed and described along with the strictly municipal services. The county health and especially welfare departments play an important part in town life, yet they are usually considered and described only at the county level.

It occurs to us that this booklet or a similar compendium of information should be required reading, if not required study material, for every high school student. Perhaps there is some such instruction at the school and some of the material in the booklet, such as voting requirements and regulations, is certainly covered in school, but we think a detailed study of one's home community should be required of high school students and even of younger students on a simpler scale.

The preparation of this booklet alone qualifies the League of Women Voters, one of the town's youngest civic organizations, as one of the most valuable in terms of service to the community.

Bright Outlook In Medical Training

A report by The American Medical Association tells a heartening story of an increasing number of physicians and expanded facilities for medical education.

Highlights of the report include:

- The number of doctors is at a low ratio of one for every 730 persons, a proportion exceeded only by Israel, which has an abnormal number of refugee physicians.
- The nation's medical schools have record total enrollments and graduating classes and the largest freshman class.
- Ten new four-year medical schools are scheduled to begin operation and the training of doctors within the next five to six years, and three more are under consideration.

The report of progress bears out the opinion of many medical education experts that the big problem in the near future may be a shortage of well-qualified applications rather than a shortage of teaching facilities.

For that reason it is significant that the American Medical Association is advancing the following information for prospective physicians:

"Young people will be interested that only 21 per cent of the freshmen entering medical school last fall had "A" averages in their pre-medical studies, 69 per cent had "B" averages and 10 per cent had "C" averages.

"In other words, they don't have to be 'grinds,' bookworms or Phi Beta Kappas to get into medical school. Most young people who have the character, personal balance in qualities and a sincere desire to serve their fellowmen as physicians have an excellent chance of entering medical school."

Traffic Safety Program Saves Lives

Slow Down and Live, the northeastern and southern states' summer crusade for safer highway travel ended with a 12.2 per cent reduction in motor deaths or a saving of 594 lives.

The anti-speed program co-sponsored by Governor William B. Umstead and the governors of 23 other states from Maine to Texas, started during the Memorial Day weekend and closed with the Labor Day weekend. Highway fatalities throughout the region dropped from 4,262 for this year.

North Carolina reported a 16 per cent decrease. In all, 15 states showed death reductions this year. They were Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and New Jersey.

Speed played a part in nearly all of the seven traffic deaths recorded in Moore County this year. The lesson is clear, here as elsewhere: Slow Down and Live.

Thankfulness - And A Note of Warning

Thankfulness is the keynote of reactions we have heard to the hurricane whose swirling outer winds gave this area a frightening indication of the fury that blasted a swath of death and devastation from Haiti to Canada.

In this area where Nature is generally placid and kind—without extremes of cold (and we almost said "heat," too, but we'll let that pass so far as the summer of 1954 is concerned), floods, winds, earthquakes and other natural disasters, we have come to feel almost immune from the rougher natural elements that plague mankind.

As trees toppled or were lashed about in the gusts of Friday's storm and gale-driven rain whirled through the streets and beat on the sides of our houses, many must have felt, as we did, that man is still puny before the powers of nature. Compared to the havoc elsewhere, this area's damage was slight—and for this we all are thankful.

As always, people responded nobly in the face of a threat shared by all and workmen of power and telephone companies, town street crews, police officers and many private citizens who did what they could to help others and themselves provided many an instance of the goodness that exists in most people.

What many residents may not know is that, as Hurricane Hazel bore down on this ordinarily peaceful section, Red Cross and Civil Defense officials were organizing for disaster relief here, if needed.

The hurricane's effects stopped short of the disaster classification here—but it may serve as an eye-opener for some of us to have had such a close brush with potential disaster and to imagine what might have been the situation had one's own home and others in the community been wrecked by the storm, possibly with accompanying death or injury to the occupants.

Civil Defense forces of the county and town and the Red Cross were mapping their tasks in preparation for such an eventuality as the hurricane approached and were prepared to organize relief when the storm struck.

What such organization can mean to a community has been learned by the direct example of New England storm-struck towns and cities. The classic example in Worcester, Mass., where Civil Defense was highly organized and where a disaster drill was held only one week prior to the storm, is that these concerts are possible only if the support of the community is secured.

Support Music Association

The Pilot urges residents of this area to support the Sandhills Music Association whose annual membership campaign is now going on. The Association, a non-profit organization whose aim is to make good music available to audiences here, is now conducting its annual sale of season tickets to attractions that have been scheduled for the fall, winter and spring.

Establishing a half-price ticket for students who will attend concerts accompanied by an adult is a commendable move by the Association and should make it possible for a considerably larger group of young people to hear the vocal and instrumental artists who will appear during the concert series.

Like everything else that is well organized and presented to the public as an accomplished effort, the Music Association concerts are often free for granted. We must wake up to the fact that these concerts are possible only if the support of the community is secured.

INDIANS IN NORTH CAROLINA



INDIANS
... SHARE COLORFUL HISTORY WITH VISITORS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Cherokee band in North Carolina number over 3,700. They live in the Great Smoky Mountains.

All three of North Carolina's famous outdoor dramas feature Indians—"Unto These Hills" at Cherokee, "Horn in the West" at Boone and "Lost Colony" at Manteo.

This Is The Law

By Charles W. Daniel
(For the N. C. Bar Association)
LEGAL FEES

Did you ever wonder about the basis for a legal—or other professional—fee for services?

All of the following factors—approved by the North Carolina State Bar—are normally considered by a lawyer in setting a fee for a specific piece of work:

"(1) The time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved and the skill requisite properly to conduct the cause; (2) whether the acceptance of employment in the particular case will preclude the lawyer's appearance for others in cases likely to arise out of the transaction, and in which there is a reasonable expectation that otherwise he would be employed, or will involve the loss of other employment while employed in the particular case or antagonisms with other clients; (3) the customary charges of the Bar for similar services; (4) the amount involved in the controversy and the benefits resulting to the client from the services; (5) the contingency or the certainty of the compensation; and (6) the character of the employment, whether casual or for an established and constant client. No one of these considerations in itself is controlling. They are mere guides in ascertaining the real value of the service."

Many attorneys will attest that one of their most difficult problems is that of setting a fair yet adequate fee. From the imposing list of factors to be considered in this connection, the problem of the fee is indeed troublesome.

Texas Eyes The Fee

The State Bar of Texas has published the following lucid explanation of legal fees:

"When a lawyer saves a client from trouble or financial difficulty, the client knows only that he has been charged for 'advice'—a commodity oftentimes too freely given by us all. Often overlooked is the study, work and time the attorney has spent in order that he be in a position to give advice that can be relied upon.

"First, a practicing lawyer must have had six or seven years of academic education. This means at least three years of college work and three years in a recognized law school. Because the community at large has an interest in the qualifications and conduct of members of the bar, these minimum educational requirements must be met before examination for admission to the bar may be taken.

"During the three years of formal legal education, the law student attempts to read, digest, reconcile and understand from 10,000 to 20,000 separate cases, statutes, and monographs. He must draw from these an understanding of basic legal principles, of processes of legal reasoning, of methods of fact and legal investigation, and of court procedures which bring relief to clients. . .

"In both counseling and litigation, a lawyer must draw upon a wealth of precedent which he has attempted to store in his memory in order to apply one or more principles of law to the fact situation presented by his client. . .

STATE CD DIRECTOR SAYS

Hurricane Points Up Civil Defense Needs

Hurricane Hazel, ill wind that she was for Eastern Carolina, was a timely warning which may be a blessing in disguise, State Civil Defense Director Edward F. Griffin said this week in pointing out the lessons to be learned from the devastating experience.

"From the first warning that the hurricane would cut a destructive swath across the state, there was desperate need for three things which this agency has urgently requested," the director said, "three essentials to effective state-level operation, which were submitted early in September to the Advisory Budget Committee.

"Civil Defense, responsible for coordination of all services needed in disaster operation, must have (1) communications or control center (2) auxiliary power units throughout the state's several communications systems and (3) all "hams" (radio amateur operators) incorporated into an organized, state-sponsored radio network to serve as a pick-up to regular communications service.

"As proposed by Civil Defense, the Communications or Control Center, would enable all communications pertaining to disaster operation to funnel in to a central place. This would in no way supplant or take control of existing communications, instead it would tie together such diverse systems as the Weather Bureau, State Highway Patrol, National Guard, Radio Amateurs, the various public utilities and others. As matters stand—and as they stood at the approach of the hurricane—neither the Governor nor State Civil Defense has any one place from which to receive and disseminate vital information when normal means fail. A Civil Defense Control Center would fill this need.

"The hurricane's disruption of electric power service proved the vulnerability of the present communications system unless means are provided for auxiliary power. Prior to the storm, State Council of Civil Defense auxiliary efforts to procure communications units for key installations, hospitals and similar operations. The hurricane also proved the value of the state's radio "hams" in such an emergency. Plans long in the making are now nearly ready to submit to the Federal Communications Commission for approval of a Radio Amateur Emergency Service. This Civil Defense well organized state network and assisted by State standards and assisted by State Civil Defense. On a moment's notice, the valuable talents and equipment, be used in saving lives and property.

"The destruction of this recent storm will not be forgotten for a long time. . . but compared to what it isn't a drop in the bucket. All agencies involved did a good job as long as power and communications were available, but when those functions were wiped out, they had to sit and wait. Such immobilization can be avoided by proper preparations, which should be taken to the strength of this devastating warning.

"We hope that the people of the state will understand what they need for future protection, that the necessary steps may be taken to avoid a repeat performance," the state director concluded.

NEW LOOK AT SCHOOLS NEEDED

Books, Study, Discipline - All Only Road Toward Education

(Ed. Note: Harry Golden of Charlotte, editor of "The Carolina Israelite," a unique newspaper composed largely of essays by the editor on a multitude of varied subjects, thinks the quality of education is declining generally throughout the nation, despite the vast improvement in school facilities and the development of new and supposedly more effective educational methods. Widely sought as a civic club speaker and widely read by subscribers to his newspaper over the country, Mr. Golden is a colorful and opinionated man whose viewpoints are enjoyed by persons of all religious faiths and who has established a unique place for himself and his newspaper as advocates of inter-faith understanding and tolerance. The Pilot does not think that temporary education is open to so sweeping an indictment as that laid down by Mr. Golden in this essay, but we feel that educators must recognize and attempt to remedy the dangers he points out.)

There has been a tremendous amount of new school construction, but the magnificent buildings and elaborate facilities have far outstripped the actual processes of education. Often it appears as though the public ceremony dedicating the building is the all-in-all, since nothing else is "constructed," "renovated," or "repaired." It's like moving into a \$50,000 home with holes in your shoes and no desire or resources to get them half-soled. In the end the beautiful new high-school building stands there, in all its glory, as a mockery to the boys and girls who enter most of whom can just barely read and write. In this elaborate construction we are, of course, trying to keep abreast of our business community—bigger and better facilities all the time.

This works very well in private enterprise, but in education, it's something else again. For one thing we do not "follow" it to its logical conclusion. When a large corporation puts up a magnificent building, it does not turn the edifice over to executives making \$3,200.00 a year. The janitor gets that. For another thing there is a direct connection between "bigger and better" facilities and expanded production and distribution of goods and services, whereas there is no such connection whatsoever in education. Education all you need is a few benches, a desk, a chalk, and a blackboard, some chalk, and a teacher, everything else is "the fixins."

The big problem which faces us today in education is fairly simple. No one reads books any more. This may seem like an oversimplification to you, but I don't think so. The high school boys and girls no longer read any books. It is appalling. Today you can stand before a group of high school seniors and tell them the basic tales of our language; the stories out of Dickens, Verne, Hardy, Conrad, Hugo, Dumas, and Bulwer-Lytton, and they stare at you as if you had just dropped down from the planet Mars. The students (sic) are required to read one book a semester, but they can usually catch something on TV, and that's that. They are also required to read one thousand lines of poetry—which wraps up their little ole credits—and away they go; bubble-gum and all.

This is not the fault of the teachers. The teachers are not permitted to do their job. Our entire system of education needs an overhauling. A magnificent building is all right, but it will never produce educated men and women. Only teachers can do that, and they can do it (and they have done it) by candlelight if need be.

And so at long last we have run smack into something, (education), that we just cannot buy—or phony up in any way—frustrating, isn't it?

Is it presumptuous of me to challenge the entire idea of "progressive" education? I believe that someday the educational system will wake up to this danger of letting them do what they want. What nonsense. Did they really believe that they can replace the school teacher with the authority to tell them what to do? Today it's a huge joke. You watch them running from class-room to class-room, loaded down with books, and it's all a fake. They know nothing. Nothing at all. If you doubt my word, I dare you, go into a class-room of high-school seniors in your own town and ask them five questions:—1. Who was the Marquis de Lafayette? 2. Who was Jean Valjean? 3. Name four members of the United States Supreme Court? 4. Who was the first man to circumnavigate the globe? 5. What do we call the series of letters written by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison which helped bring about these United States of America?

If you get more than three percent correct answers, let me know, and I promise to push a peanut with my nose from Charlotte, North Carolina to Atlanta, Georgia.

They know nothing. No one reads books anymore, and the teachers are helpless. The teachers are paid twice as much as they are worth, as babysitters, which they are; and they are paid half as much as they are worth as teachers, which the system does not allow them to be.

What amazes me is that the late philosopher John Dewey gave us this plan of "progressive" education, although it is only fair to state that the idea went off on several tangents from Dr. Dewey's original plan, but basically not even a thousand John Deweys could improve on a system which had been developed during three thousand years of man's search for knowledge. There are no short-cuts! In economics you start with—the land. In education you start with—a book. Nothing else can do it for you; not even TV, movies, Hopalong Cassidy, ninety million comic books a year, slopping around with paint brushes, or letting them do what they want. Letting them do what they want belongs in the insane asylum. Half of them can't tell you the name of the governor of their state, let alone, letting them do what they want!

It is a great tragedy. A tragedy for the students, a tragedy for the teachers, and a tragedy for those of us who have read a book. It is most certainly part and parcel of the current drive against intellectualism. When all of these uneducated boys and girls come out of school, they somehow carry with them (Continued on page 7)

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