

# 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. Wherever 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.

## New Precinct Matter Should Be Pushed

Election Day last week was proof beyond all further proving that something needs to be done about the matter of splitting the populous Southern Pines precinct.

Voters went through the polling place at the fire station at a pace of two per minute for 12 hours on election day. The crowding was such that some persons had to stand in line for up to an hour to vote.

For the sake of the public and for the sake of election officials, a condition like this should not be allowed to persist.

A correction of the trouble is a relatively simple matter. The creation of another precinct only takes approval by the county board of elections. Pressure should be put on this group to take action before another election rolls around.

For some time a committee appointed by the town council has been studying this matter, including also in its study the matter of school district and township lines—all of which together forms a somewhat complicated picture in relation to Southern Pines.

For instance, residents in the southern part of Southern Pines (part of Weymouth Heights, the Country Club area and other nearby sections), as well as those living in Pinedene, vote in Aberdeen precinct. They are residents of Sandhills township, whereas all the rest of Southern Pines is in McNeill township.

One plan considered by the study committee, as we understand it, is to take the Southern Pines school district boundary lines as the boundary for two new precincts. The school district would be split down the middle, east and west, perhaps on Pennsylvania Ave., to create Southern Pines precincts 1 and 2, or however they might be named.

However, it is said, this plan is strongly opposed by at least some political leaders in Aberdeen precinct on the grounds that their precinct would be robbed of a goodly number of voters, because the school district line, between Southern Pines and Aberdeen, would then become the south boundary of one of the Southern Pines precincts.

In view of the fact that Aberdeen is growing, too, and will no doubt grow more when the former Amerotron mill gets back into operation, we cannot see the logic of this ob-

jection. Aberdeen is already the second largest precinct in the county in number of voters, and 1,242 persons voted in the Presidential election there last week, as compared to 1,668 in Southern Pines. It appears to us that Aberdeen precinct is heading into the same problem of too many voters as Southern Pines now faces and should be agreeable to easing the pressure by dropping to a newly created Southern Pines precinct a number from the north end of the present Aberdeen precinct.

It is very important that the public understand that the proposal is not to change township lines—which is a much more difficult process and would require action by the General Assembly—but only to change voting precinct lines, so that both the newly created Southern Pines precincts would be bounded by the school district line of which a full description now exists.

Such a unit could be split down the middle by an easily definable straight line that would run from Mineral Springs township to the Hoke County line and would probably follow one of the east-west streets in Southern Pines at the point where it would run through town.

A school district is an area of much more cohesiveness, community interest and natural grouping than a township, as may be seen from the fact that about all the contact many citizens in and around the southern part of Southern Pines have with Aberdeen is when they have to go there to vote or list their property for taxes. Such persons, under the new plan, would still have to go there for tax listing, but would be able to take part in political activity and vote in a precinct where they get their mail, have their employment, send their children to school and otherwise generally live.

We urge the study committee to bring a formal recommendation before the town council soon and we urge the residents of Southern Pines to get behind whatever sensible proposal may be worked out and to push the matter to a favorable conclusion before the county board of elections.

If there is obviously widespread support for such a proposal, we don't see how the board can turn it down.

## Hearings Point To Educational Problem

Various interpretations have been placed on information brought out during the Congressional investigation of desegregation in the Washington, D. C., public schools.

The District of Columbia's school superintendent is quoted as stating that the average Negro pupil there is about two years behind the average white pupil in educational achievement.

Some persons take this fact to mean that Negroes have a naturally lower mentality than whites—and therefore there should be no attempt to have them go to school together.

Then come others with information that leads us to believe this conclusion is not justified. A New York psychology professor says that the inferior general environment and the inferior schools that affect most Negro children cause them to score lower on intelligence tests at this time.

It has been pointed out that World War I Army tests showed Northern Negroes scoring higher than Southern whites. The professor concludes that segregated schools have cheated Negro children of a decent education.

Actually, there is no reputable scientific evidence that the Negro has an innate lower mentality than the white man. On the other hand there is no denying that, at this stage of the development and education of both races in the United States, there is a gap between the education achievements of the average students of both races.

The problem is intra-racial as well as inter-

racial. All schools—whether Negro or white or mixed—have the continuing problem of bright and dull students and their effect on each other as they go through the educational system in their various age groups.

It is remarkable how many observers in the South feel that the educational achievement problem can be settled simply by continuing rigid segregation. The concern appears to be far more with that than with how the achievement of the more backward group can be improved.

Washington and other cities with integrated school systems are attempting to meet the problem with smaller classes, special help for poor students and a method of letting superior and average students advance at the pace suitable to them, without being retarded by the more backward pupils.

Such methods are also being used to advantage elsewhere in all-white or all-Negro schools, emphasizing that the matter is not simply a racial problem.

So, however schools may be organized racially, we do not feel that the nation is faced with an insurmountable problem—though it is a problem that challenges both educators and school patrons to think clearly.

And the first step in thinking clearly, in our opinion, is to think simply in terms of children, of whatever color, and how the educational achievement of each can best be improved. From this point of view, race hasn't much to do with the matter.

## Visitors Enjoy Special Events

Success of the Golf Carousel which was completed Sunday is a tribute to the Jaycees who took over the management of the unique three-course tournament this year, promoted it vigorously and brought to Southern Pines a large group of visitors who obviously had a good time and left with a favorable impression of the community.

Another group meeting in Southern Pines during the past week was the membership of the Supervisors and Directors of Instruction of the North Carolina Education Association who are reported much pleased with their conference. Coming from all over the state, members of this group returned to their home communities as valuable ambassadors of good will for Southern Pines.

We who live in Southern Pines sometimes do not realize how well impressed visitors are with attractions of the community and the Sandhills. One of the participants in the Carousel, speaking apparently out of a golden

glow of pleasure and amazement after playing the three local golf courses and taking part in the accompanying social events, asked: "Why don't you do this more often?"

There is nothing more heart-warming than to hear remarks of this sort from those who have been introduced to the Sandhills and suddenly realize they have been missing something.

Southern Pines has enjoyed playing host to the golfers and the school people this past week. We hope they all return, with or without the impetus of a special event to draw them here.

### PROGRESS

"Progress is not automatic; the world grows better because people wish that it should and take the right steps to make it better. If things are ever to move forward, some man must be willing to take the first steps and assume the risks."  
—Jane Addams.

## "You Anticipate Any Drop When You Take Off The Magic Button?"



## REASONS FOR CHOOSING PLANT SITES TOLD

### How Does Industry Judge A Town?

Current interest in Sandhills area industrial promotion has turned the thoughts of many residents of this area to how their communities measure up to qualities that business wants in places to locate plants.

Recently the Pilot reviewed some of these qualities in an article that also pointed out the enthusiasm, cooperation and friendliness of each individual can pay dividends of good will, sometimes in unexpected ways, in a town or area seeking new business.

The manager of a General Electric Company plant in North Carolina was quoted in the recent article. He had listed various qualities that are considered of prime importance in selection of an industrial site, leading off with adequate education, recreation and medical facilities.

### New Publication

The North Carolina Industrial News Letter—a new publication of the Division of Commerce and Industry of the State Department of Conservation and Development—recently published another and even more extensive list of factors that influence industry in its choice of a community.

The News Letter's list was the result of a University of Oklahoma survey that included some 500 manufacturers who had located plants in the Southwest. The factors in the list, are given in the order of their importance as indicated by the persons questioned.

It is interesting to note that subsidies or other incentives by State or local groups are at the bottom of the list, just as they were rated of low importance by the North Carolina industrialist.

### Factors Listed

- The list follows:
- Availability of product markets.
- Wages and salaries.
- Abundance of general labor supply.
- Availability and cost of raw materials.
- Labor's will to put out a full day's work.
- Workers' happiness and well-being.
- Cost of transportation of products to principal markets.
- Cost of transportation of raw materials.
- Abundance of skilled supervisory and professional labor.
- Cost of living.
- Time required for delivery of products to principal markets.
- Cooperativeness of other business people.

- Availability of building sites.
- Climatic conditions.
- Hospital, sanitation, education, and welfare facilities.
- Time needed for delivery of raw materials.
- Availability and cost of utilities.
- Plant rental or construction costs.
- General living conditions for key personnel.
- Insurance rates.
- Availability of business, information.

- Labor unions.
- Time required for delivery of machinery, equipment and supplies.
- Cost of transportation of machinery, equipment and supplies.
- Competence and stability of State and local government.
- Availability of prime contractors.
- Editorial policy, news coverage, circulation, of newspapers.
- Availability of subcontractors.
- Subsidies or other incentives by State or local groups.

## The Lady, The Hat, The Man

(From The Smithfield Herald)

No mere man can ever figure out why his lady buys the hat she does—and insists upon wearing it.

For a man, a hat is simply something to protect his hair from the rain or cover the balding spot on top of his head. The nearest he is ever willing to approach glamor or color in his hat is perhaps a bright feather in the band—and usually he is too self-conscious to wear even that.

But his wife comes out in the oddest apparitions that he would not even consider a hat. One day it's the merest nothing—a rosebud imbedded in a fluff of gauze or a thin band of green leaves stretching from ear to ear. The next day she may load her head with a whole basket of fruit, including grapes hanging down to tickle the ear or a banana standing straight up like a fence post. Some hats are as flat as phonograph records, others have feathers standing up like antennae. Some hats look like a whole garden, full of flowers, while others look like a bandana wrapped around the head for a day of house cleaning.

### The Real Puzzle

But the underlying philosophy of the woman's hat is what really

### HIGHWAYS AND THE FUTURE...

"I can visualize a North Carolina with its highways wider and safer, with boulevards by-passing congested towns and cities but with easy access to them. These boulevards will be beautified with plantings of native shrubs and trees; they will be clean and our citizens will be proud to keep them clean. And the wayside junk and trash yards will be moved or hidden by patriotic owners on a voluntary basis or by law through an aroused citizenry."  
—Gov. Luther H. Hodges

## Grains of Sand

Hey Diddle Diddle  
(Second installment of Miss M. L. serial)

Miss Muffett II, whose last name is Leonard, (of the G. H. Leonard Jr. FFNC, you know) is being serenaded these days. By a cat. (Doubtless a descendant of the one in the rhyme: the one that played around with the fiddle.)

This cat is the newest feline to take up residence in the Leonard basement. That is, we should hastily say, the newest as of last Saturday. May be a dozen or so more in there by now.

A musical cat, is this newest cat, a pianist, in fact. Every morning he treads a delicate measure up and down the keys of the piano that occupies part of his domain. He doesn't pound bits of Prokofief and so on. No. This is a Mozart-Haydn cat. Soft tinkles, trills, minuets, these are the ditties he produces.

And who listens most intently? The Leonard Scottie, Miss Muffett II. At the first early morning grace-note, she is there, nose—or ear—pressed to the glass pane in the door through which she yearns her dark, Scottish soul to pieces after those hateful cats.

She seems charmed by the music that wafts up the basement stairs. The moans and yelps of anguish she emits in return have a softer, more melting note.

Keep on playing, Kitty; you may win her yet.

### Gently Does It

A group of old pals were whiling away the time with a game of poker. The betting was keen. Suddenly stepped in Fate in the form of a successful draw to an inside royal flush. The elderly player picked up his cards, took one look and fell dead!

Consternation. How should the news be broken to the widow?

Jake volunteered. "You gotta go easy, now, Jake," cautioned his friends. "You gotta break it gently, you know: tact and all that."

Jake drew himself up; "Tact," he said "is my middle name. Don't be worried. I'll do it just right," and off he went.

Reaching the house where the bereaved lady lived he gave a halloo: "Anybody home?"

A window was opened above and a face looked down. "Ye-es? What is it?"

"Are you the Widow Himmelstein?" calls up Jake.

"The name is Himmelstein," says the lady, "But I'm not a widow."

The old poker player looked up. "What'll you bet?" says he.

### Wrote Their Own Sentence

In Asheville last month, nine kids were caught firing off firecrackers. The law came down on them mighty hard—they thought. Here's the sentence: "Write out the legislative act prohibiting the crime, in your own handwriting twenty-five (25) times."

The act includes such words as: prohibition, pyrotechnics, dynamite and so on.

And there were FIVE HUNDRED (500) words.

Chief Newton here in Southern Pines is filing away this law (word by word) to have ready for the next kid who fools around with firecrackers.

"Many such violations of the law hereabouts, Chief?"

"Plenty. Too many," says he.

One reason the sentence was stiff may have been because Judge Sam Cathey, who pronounced it, had been himself blinded by a dynamite explosion a few years ago.

### Fascinating Fact

Under normal conditions, the average person in the North American climate takes about 17 breaths a minute.

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Published Every Thursday by THE PILOT, Incorporated Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor  
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Subscription Rates:  
One Year \$4. 6 mos. \$2; 3 mos. \$1

Entered at the Postoffice at Southern Pines, N. C., as second class mail matter

Member National Editorial Assn. and N. C. Press Assn.