

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.

Worthy Holiday Season Charities

Holiday season charities that we commend to readers are the Christmas Seal Sale of the Moore County Tuberculosis Association and the Christmas Cheer program sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

For the nation, this year's Seal Sale is the 50th that has been conducted. As we look back through the years, "TB seals" are recalled as very much a part of Christmas—an experience that is part of the memory of most persons now living.

In Moore County, the Seal Sale has always evoked generous support. The Association's record of assistance to sick people and their families, dating from many years ago when tuberculosis was a greater public health problem and a more harrowing personal emergency than it is today, has long commanded universal respect over the county. The Seal Sale has its own completely organized Negro division which is an outgrowth of the large amount of assistance given to Negroes since the Association was organized. For several years, the Negroes of Moore County have given \$1,000 or more, derived from many hundreds of small contributions, to the Seal Sale campaign.

Next Spring, the Association will conduct a free x-ray program over the entire county,

putting an added burden on its finances for the coming year. This calls for added generosity in giving to the Association now.

The VFW's Christmas Cheer program is very carefully organized. The families that receive baskets of groceries, toys and other gifts are those whose names have been provided by the county welfare department. Their need is certified by the department's investigations.

Containers for food donations are in local grocery stores, and toys for children in needy families may be left at the VFW post home. Members of the post will repair toys that are not so badly broken that they cannot be repaired—but there is not much time left to do the work. If toys are to be given, they must be given quickly.

Similar distributions of Christmas baskets are made annually to welfare-approved families in all areas of Moore County, handled in most communities by a civic club or other organization. Readers who do not live in Southern Pines and who want to help these Christmas Cheer efforts can find out through the welfare department at Carthage what group is handling the program in their community, if they are not able to obtain the information by inquiring locally.

Success Secret In Racial Relations

An Associated Press feature story from Louisville, Ky., stresses a point that The Pilot has often made in discussion of school segregation and racial relations: that a prepared community is a successful community in meeting the various crises that have been and will be created in the South by the court decisions that are continually extending the legal privileges of Negroes.

Integration of the schools in Louisville, the story points out, proceeded peacefully and satisfactorily—in contrast to other communities in Kentucky, Tennessee and Texas where violence flared and bigotry and mob action took command.

There are two striking facts to the Louisville story, the AP article points out—and by "the Louisville story" the writer means a full 20 years of conscious effort on the part of the city's press, the city's government and the city's civic leaders of both races, toward the improvement of race relations:

"1. The moves to improve the Negroes' lot were led on the white side almost exclusively by people who call themselves Southerners and who are descendants of Confederates.

"2. The Negro apparently has never felt any need to agitate, and thus there has been no hardening of racial prejudice in the community."

Mark Etheridge, publisher of the two Louis-

ville newspapers that have helped to create the "climate of opinion" that has allowed such great progress in racial relations, is a native of Mississippi. But it was in 1937 that he wrote his first editorial on the need to help the Negro.

As long ago as 1942, there were 60 Negroes on a planning commission for the future of the city, placed there by Wilson Wyatt, a mayor who foresaw the coming pattern of racial relations.

Towns and cities all over the South can take a lesson from Louisville. Sooner or later, all will face a race relations crisis of one kind or another—regardless of all such comfortable but in the end, we believe, ineffective bulwarks as the Pearsall Plan for the North Carolina schools.

Following the Supreme Court school decision of May, 1954, we said that it was time for wide-scale inter-racial communication and planning right here in Southern Pines and Moore County—yet little along this line has been accomplished.

While it is true that there has been no crisis here, such as an attempt at school integration, there is no assurance whatever that such a crisis, in education or in other fields, will not be faced in the future. To meet it successfully, we must be prepared—and inter-racial action and communication is the heart of any preparatory procedure.

Challenge To School And Parents

There is no doubt that to many the trial of Principal Irie Leonard seemed a strange affair and more than a little unfortunate. The offense itself, and the student misbehavior that led to it, seemed if not trivial certainly not very important. A student is out of line, is, as it would seem, insolently provocative and an adult in authority loses his temper and shakes him. A good many will be tempted to say: "So what?" or shake the head with the comment: "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

But it is possible to share those feelings and still have the conviction that there is something, indeed, that inclines to the belief that this so-called trial may have been a salutary thing. Depending, of course, on what follows.

We are not concerned, right now, with the principal figure who acted as many might have acted at that immediate moment. It is what lies behind; what brought about the immediate moment that calls for study.

To put it plainly: what is wrong when school discipline is such that eight boys are "hostile and defiant," to use the defendant's words; that a room is "in an uproar" during a talk presided over by the principal, the atmosphere such that he feels justified in striking, or at least severely shaking, a sixteen-year-old junior student in order to restore order?

Why? Why have these boys been disciplinary problems for three or four years? Why are they "agin the government," as they obviously are? Why are they so immature, behaving like children? Further, what has been done to get this group out of the groove of troublesomeness that they seem to be in?

It is interesting to note that most of the group aren't members of teams. In last week's editorial we commented that it was probably a mistake to have the principal also the head coach. Economically perhaps a necessity, it is one that should, we believe, be rectified and that could be rectified by a town that cares as much about its school as Southern Pines does. We doubt greatly if a principal who is also the coach can show the widespread interest in every pupil that is the first object of the

head of the school. Inevitably, we would think, his mind will turn towards those whom he coaches, who are, as a rule the most responsive, the most obviously rewarding of his students, as well as those he necessarily knows the best. His interest in these students is bound to have an adverse effect on any others, not primarily interested in sports, or poor material, who may be the chip-on-the-shoulder members of that easily rebuffed, sensitive, looking-for-trouble teenager group.

As the case was going on in Carthage Monday, we were struck with the similarity in the boys on the stand. All were at ease, quick-witted, assured; yet there was an immaturity about them that fitted their immature behavior. There was the impression that not one of them knew where he was going in the least; that none had any particular feeling either for or against principal or school. In fine, that here was malleable material, material ready to be helped or harmed. And ready now.

Every parent has come up against such feelings about his children, and probably every school teacher, too. Certainly all parents will agree that in them lies the first responsibility to see the challenge of their children's needs and work to answer it wisely. This must also be the response of a fine teacher and a school to such a challenge as that posed by the participants in this incident.

We believe the community will be watching now to see how things go on and that watching will be good for all concerned. We believe that the school will take under truly earnest consideration a problem that has, apparently, defied such efforts as they have given it for a good many years. They will study whether, in truth, athletics are too prominent in the school life; and whatever else in which they may be at fault and that could have contributed to the recent trouble.

If all concerned will look upon this incident as a challenge which must be met—which, we know, is one reason why those who instigated the case brought suit at all—then maybe it will have been worth the controversy and considerable anguish it has caused.

"Greetings!"



The Public Speaking

'Beautiful Southern Pines'
(From two of the school supervisors who visited here recently.)

To the Editor:

We enjoyed our visit so much. The meeting of Supervisors was a good one, but even if it had not been, the trip to your town would have been entirely worth while just for the pleasure of enjoying your beautiful trees. How have you managed to preserve your beauty spots in these so rapidly changing times?

Your Chamber of Commerce, or whoever is responsible for the beauty of the town, must be a most sensitive group of people.

I wish more citizens of our once lovely little North Carolina towns would go to see your beautiful Southern Pines and profit thereby.

ANNE HOLDFORD
(School Supervisor
Edgecombe County)

To The Editor:

Recently I attended a state conference in Southern Pines. My stay was made most enjoyable by the beauty of your town. The trees—holly, dogwood, magnolia and pines—were indescribably lovely.

I am deeply grateful for people of a town who plan and preserve such loveliness for others to share and enjoy.

MARGARET B. KORNEGAY
Goldsboro

Validity of the Bible

To The Editor:

In Rev. Martin Caldwell's review of Werner Keller's book, "The Bible As History," Rev. Caldwell says, "The validity of the Bible does not rest on whether the events recorded in it are historically true or not. The value of the Bible lies in the fact that the events it records are religiously true."

Well now, Rev. Caldwell—about 1920 a commission of 25 leading clergymen of the Church of England was set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury to study and report on Christian doctrine, "with a view of demonstrating the extent of agreement within the Church of England." The Commission sat for 15 years. They certainly submitted a unanimous report, but so far from demonstrating the extent of agreement, it showed that these learned divines disagreed on almost every important point of doctrine!

What a change of face from the days when Tom Paine and thousands of others were persecuted for daring to doubt the teachings of the Bible!

Equally appalling was "A New Commentary on the Holy Scriptures," edited by Dr. Gore, Bishop of Oxford, which was the work of 61 leading scholars of the Anglican Church. Miracles were put down to the semitic habit of exaggeration, and the manifestations of the Day of Pentecost were ascribed to "psychological phenomena" producing some form of hysteria!

To such extremes are the clergy forced in their efforts to run away from the great fact of mediumship, which demonstrates that the miracles were nothing but psychic phenomena occurring in strict accordance with the natural laws, and that the prophets, the apostles and Jesus himself were mediums of outstanding degree. All this shows the extent to which the Church has fallen away from its original conception of the Bible as the "infallible word of God."

Now, Rev. Caldwell—in view of the above facts, what do you mean when you say, "The value of the Bible lies in the fact that the events it records are religiously true?"

REV. TOM O'NEILL

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WORLD NEEDS GOOD MUSIC

The International Language

In an article appearing on this page last week, Dr. Benjamin Swalin, director of the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra, pointed out that cultural values are permanent, that the potentialities of the human mind are "virtually illimitable" and that it is unworthy of America to be represented in foreign lands by the vulgar and banal music which forms a large part of the music heard in this nation today and which also makes its way overseas as representative of American culture and taste.

The second part of Dr. Swalin's article appears below, including his suggestion for an annual world series of symphony concerts and other musical events. Thus he notes, music, which is an international language, would become an instrument of peace, good will and understanding.

Dr. Swalin has brought either the North Carolina Symphony or the Little Symphony to play in Southern Pines for the past several years in concerts sponsored by the Sandhills Music Association.

His article continues as follows:

Aspiration is one of the most important manifestations of life itself, and the desire to learn and know is innate with man. And one of the primary tasks of edu-

cation is to subordinate our so-called "likes" and "dislikes" in the attainment of high, rational and esthetic objectives.

Somehow I cannot help but feel that man possesses an innate esthetic urge. He admires a gorgeous sunset. He longs for a cottage by the sea or a cabin in the woods, and he seeks to build an impressive home, church or school. Even before the dawn of civilization, there is evidence to show that man has had a great sense of form.

Almost Everywhere

Good music, like oxygen, is in some quantity almost everywhere. It is not only a great human and social art, but it is a complex and technological science and one of the large mechanized industries of the nation. It pervades the spirit of Christmas and Easter. It is heard in public schools, homes, churches, concert halls and theatres. It is requisite for dancing and war; and it has become a major study in colleges and universities throughout the nation. Every radio program demands a maximum of music and a minimum of talking—and this is an era in which there appears to be a heavy over-emphasis on the spoken word.

Good music is a significant type of thinking that ennobles and inspires man; and it constitutes virtually the only international language in the world today. As such it should be used as a factor for peace, good will and understanding among peoples. Like education, science and na-

ture, it should belong to all the people.

The citizenry of North Carolina should take increasing pride in the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra; and, if they are to merit it as their great human instrument, they should support it vigilantly, for everything that grows must be nourished.

Last season, the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra gave 107 performances and reached 140,000 children in 67 free, educational programs. The orchestra, furthermore, travelled 8,000 miles, visiting small, remote and rural communities as well as the larger urban centers. Symphonic art can become in North Carolina that great artistic and spiritual expression through which the people of North Carolina may be able to interpret greater things than they can as individuals.

In All Countries

As an antidote to deterioration of human relations in the world, I should like to reiterate a suggestion which I have already made to the head of the Cultural Division of the United Nations: that we have, under the sponsorship of the Cultural Division of the United Nations, an annual world series of symphony concerts and perhaps, subsequently, performances by choral, operatic and theatrical organizations, to be given in all countries of the world as an instrument of peace, good will and understanding among peoples.

We should also consider the necessity for the establishment of a world parliament, world court, international police force, reasonable press guarantee, a unification and logical development of the world's spiritual resources, international monetary controls, logical trade exchanges; a logical development and equitable distribution of the world's material resources, especially food; a judicious limitation of the world's population, at least in certain countries and on a temporary basis; and the prohibition of war.

If one doubts that there is money for all these things, let me remind him of the cost of war for even one day.

Need Ideas, Actions

We need fearless men and women who are thinkers and artists. We need men and women with great ideas and determined actions who will serve their country in peace with the same fervent idealism that they evince in war.

Let us give thanks for all of the felicities that we receive and enjoy—for citizenship in this greatest of all nations, for the sunrise and the sunset, the mountains and the sea, the perfect form of the child when it is born, and for the great language of music.

Grains of Sand

Honest Candidates

It's no secret that many of the magnificent words uttered by candidates for public office are products of other minds—or at least of other typewriters—than their own.

Pete Ivey, director of the News Bureau at Chapel Hill, tells about the professor at the University who quoted a couple of candidates.

One office-seeker, the professor said, got up, made a long speech and concluded by saying: "If you can't vote for me, vote for the person of your choice."

Then, to illustrate the hazards of the ghost-written speech, the professor told about another candidate who spoke for an hour, then closed his notes and said: "Now for a few words of my own."

Another Dog Story

But this one was told in church.

Dr. Craig told it recently in a graceful introduction of the Pine-

hurst High School Glee Club to the congregation at Pinehurst. (The club sang two anthems.)

This is the story:

A little boy had a mongrel pup and asked his father to give him five dollars so he could enter the puppy in a dog show.

Said the father, "Son, you know Ruffy is a nice little dog but I just don't believe he would ever win a prize."

"Oh, Dad," said the little boy, "I don't expect him to win a prize. I'd just like him to have a chance to meet some nice people."

The glee club appeared to enjoy the story, and so did the congregation. Even though the clergyman made it quite clear that it was the latter who were being given an opportunity to meet "some nice people."

How Fast?

The average ant is capable of crawling 12 feet a minute on a fast track, according to officials of the Bronx Zoo.