

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.

Abandonment: A Basic Social Problem

Increasing frequency of abandonment and non-support cases in Moore County Recorder's Court was noted recently on this page, with the observation of court officials and others close to the problem that reciprocal agreements with other states about apprehending and trying non-support defendants had not been working out well.

Those who are most familiar with this situation, it was noted, feel that use of regular extradition procedures would on the average be more effective in the cause of justice. But there seems to be difficulty in obtaining county funds to send officers on trips to bring such defendants back here for trial.

The point we want most to get across now is that this problem is everybody's business—not only as taxpayers who must foot the bill for welfare payments to abandoned families (or for officers' trips to bring back irresponsible husbands), but also simply as citizens who should be concerned about whatever flaw or lack or sickness it is in our society that lies at the root of the matter.

For a man to abandon his wife and chil-

dren—especially when he knows they are dependent on him for food, clothing and shelter—appears to be a violation of something fundamental in human life. Indeed, it is fundamental in almost all life, since the male of many species of animals often shows much responsibility in the care of his mate and their young. And history tells us that the basic unit in human society is the family, a primitive organization from which spring the larger, more mature and more complicated organizations of tribal, then community and then national life.

Brought down to these bedrock terms, the very ordinary and now considered routine legal charge, "abandonment and non-support"—a charge that is made almost every week in Recorder's Court at Carthage—reveals a shocking breakdown in the social order, a disruption of normal life that has wide repercussions throughout the community, in a variety of ways, and so should be a matter for the thought and concern of all good citizens.

(Second in a series of editorials about the abandonment and non-support problem.)

Fortune Tellers And The New Law

Itinerant fortune tellers who have been operating in Moore County have felt the pinch of the new licensing law that was enacted for this county by last year's General Assembly. They have been denied licenses because they could not show residence of one year here prior to application. For other fortune tellers, however, the residence requirement has been met, the fee of \$200 paid and they remain in business.

Regulation of fortune tellers is a confused picture in this state. It is a matter for each county to determine, either through its own licensing laws or through a "local bill" passed by the General Assembly.

In our opinion, it is not enough to charge a high license fee and to require a year's residence and a record free from a felony conviction (for that matter, in how many cases could a fortune teller's record really be checked?). If we must have fortune tellers

among us, we think the fees they receive from patrons should be regulated by law.

The difficulty of bringing unethical fortune tellers to court is the heart of the matter. When some ignorant person pays a fortune teller large amounts of money voluntarily, usually no law has been broken. Often, for this money, nothing is promised, so fraud does not exist. Persons who hand over large amounts of money to fortune tellers also hesitate to make a legal complaint, through fear, ignorance, superstition or other such reason.

We must now wait and see how the new Moore County law works out in practice. Will there be, as the county has experienced in the past, spectacular cases of extracting money, legally or illegally, from patrons? Law enforcement officers and all citizens must be alert for signs of such developments. Any one who is duped should not hesitate to go to the police. The burden of proof of good citizenship is now on the fortune tellers themselves.

Ingenious Aid-To-Education Proposal

Speaking in New York Monday, after his inauguration as chairman of the National Citizens Council for Better Schools, Robert Heller—a Cleveland management consultant—advanced an ingenious plan to make possible Federal aid to schools without Federal interference with local control.

He suggested that taxpayers be permitted to deduct state and local school taxes on their Federal income tax returns. It was pointed out that this proposal would primarily benefit taxpayers in the lower income brackets.

The National Citizens Council for Better Schools, whose monthly newspaper comes to this office regularly—though we don't know how widely it is read by the public—is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 for school improvement over the nation. It is financed by foundations and corporation grants.

This proposal comes at a time when North Carolina is giving more attention to education, as evidenced by the remarks of Governor Hodges quoted on this page today. It has

been the Governor's contention for some time that more responsibility for schools, financial and otherwise, may have to be shifted from the State to local communities. If such a plan as that advanced by the Council's chairman should be put into effect, this trend, of course, would be greatly encouraged.

This Heller plan is a fascinating suggestion. It would: 1) provide for an expression of federal concern on the problem of education; 2) preserve the traditional right of local decision; 3) provide a means for greater financial assistance to less wealthy areas; 4) offer a means of taking full advantage of increasing individual willingness to be taxed for education.

There may be some serious drawback to this tax deduction plan for federal aid to education but for the life of us we can't see what it is. Mr. Heller seems to have hit on one of those ideas that astound one not only with their simplicity but with the fact that nobody has thought of it before.

Honoring Carl Sandburg

Here in the Sandhills, we are not so close to the Flat Rock home of Carl Sandburg, poet and biographer of Lincoln, as are residents of the upper Piedmont and mountain counties—but we join other newspapers and individuals of the State in paying tribute to this man who has made North Carolina his home and base of operations for the past decade and who has just marked his 80th birthday.

We go along with Henry Belk of Goldsboro in his recent suggestion that there ought to be a Carl Sandburg Day in North Carolina. Mr. Belk thinks such a day should center at the University of North Carolina and "upon that day all Tar Heels who have been touched and lifted by the poetry of the prairie town boy should have a chance to show their appreciation."

Chapel Hill is okay (you see, when you mention Sandburg, you start to write and think in the American language). We have a memory of Sandburg in Chapel Hill addressing the graduating class of 1942, weaving his magic patterns of words even in a type of speech where stiltiness is a pervading characteristic.

It was in the open air and the poet, addressing young men who were soon to change from cap and gown into uniforms, created, in that early year of the war, such an atmosphere of both foreboding and faith, of stress and calm confidence, that for the first time the full meaning of the conflict—its meaning for youth, especially—was brought home to our understanding.

After the ceremonies, in the warm evening, we sought out Mr. Sandburg to satisfy a long held ambition to shake his hand. With us was a friend whose right hand had been cut off at the wrist. When this friend was introduced, Mr. Sandburg, without a second's hesitation, put out his left hand instantly, firmly and warmly, without batting an eye, and apparently without even glancing at the stump where the right hand should have been. But he had seen and understood.

What Mr. Sandburg said then was good, too: "It was kind of you to speak to me." Thus he put himself in the position of the one to benefit by the encounter, further erasing any embarrassment that the handicapped man might have felt. So, in the instinctive reaction of an instant, does greatness of heart and spirit show itself.

On Carl Sandburg Day, if it should be held, all the school children of the state should be assembled in their respective buildings and, for an hour or so, somebody should read from those marvelous books: Smoke and Steel; Slabs of the Sunburnt West; Good Morning, America; The People, Yes.

Some of them—how many we don't know, but we'll bet it's more than you'd think—would go out of those gatherings with their first understanding of what poetry is: a magic pattern of words creating the mystery of beauty, and changing the world—trees, flowers, wind, water, sky, streets, buildings, animals and most assuredly people—so that it is never quite the same again.

"Bouquets, Pshaw! You've Got A Gun To Fight Communism"



GOVERNOR TELLS ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GOALS

State Seeking Better Education

Continuing our first-of-year attention to the subject of education, a subject which is in the minds of many persons over the State and nation. The Pilot quotes here-with from Gov. Luther H. Hodges' recent television and radio address, detailing some of the things North Carolina is doing or ought to do to improve education in this State:

It is readily apparent that a great many more dollars will be required in the years ahead simply to maintain our present educational standards, and to provide the additional teachers and classrooms for the thousands of new pupils entering the public schools each year. This does not take into account any improved or new program to raise our educational standards and performance. During the present year, State expenditure per pupil for the nine-months' school term is \$153. For each \$1 increase in per-pupil cost, the State puts up to \$1 million dollars.

We must also recognize that in some respects, especially in classroom facilities, we are far short of meeting present minimum needs. A recent survey of school building needs shows that several schools are forced to operate double shifts to take care of enrollment and more than 36,000 children are now being taught in improvised classrooms.

These are problems which must be solved. But instead of talking about them in Washington, D. C., we are trying to do something about them in North Carolina.

Loan Fund

A loan fund of approximately \$300,000 has been put into operation for prospective teachers. A practical industrial training program at high school level, to meet modern needs, is being implemented with an appropriation of \$500,000. In 1957, salaries for teachers were increased 15 per cent, to make the average annual pay for school teachers in North Carolina \$3,644.80 for the nine months' term.

With this increase, the average teacher's salary in North Carolina is higher than the average in the other Southeastern states, with the exception of Florida. Unfortunately, we still rank far below the wealthier states in the Nation in average school teacher pay; but we must keep in mind that North Carolina ranks 44th in the Nation in per capita income.

Financing

The 1957 General Assembly wisely provided for the appointment of a special study committee to look into the entire problem of public school financing. This Committee will study the resources we have available at the State and local government level to meet our public school needs, in line with ability to pay. It is my sincere hope that the Committee will have ready for the 1959 Assembly a program which will give our schools and our teachers adequate financial support and one which will receive the wholehearted approval of the people of this State.

A further accomplishment in our educational program involves the public school curriculum. I know that many of you have, at times, had questions in your own mind as to whether our schools have been giving the proper emphasis to the right subjects. And further, should our schools, particularly at the high school level, afford more opportunity to the specially talented students to advance to their full potential, rather than simply meet the curriculum standards prescribed for the average student.

All of these questions will be the subject of a special curriculum study made under the su-

pervision of the State Board of Education. This study is made possible by a grant of \$50,000 from the Richardson Foundation, and is especially timely in view of recent international developments emphasizing this Nation's relative weakness in important scientific areas. Many prominent citizens are now telling us what a few lonely prophets in the past often said: that our public schools should be places of more study and more learning, and less play.

Looking briefly now at the field of higher education, we foresee an even greater percentage increase in student enrollment than in the public schools. We have nine State-supported colleges, with the three-unit Consolidated University occupying a justly famed and beloved role in the life and progress of our State.

Growing Field

Under legislation enacted at the last Session, the State will give further financial assistance and encouragement in the development of community colleges. This is a growing field which should interest the larger towns and cities.

Further, the State has authorized the establishment of a second Technical Institute in the State. This will furnish courses in engineering and related subjects to meet modern demands.

The tremendous challenge and opportunity confronting us in the field of higher education make ever more necessary the wise use of our resources, proper apportionment of available funds, and planning ahead with sound and intelligent vision; and the Board of Higher Education, working with our fine colleges, will try to achieve these goals.

TO HELP MAKE 1958 HAPPY AND HEALTHY

Seven New Year's Resolutions

Women can play an important role in safeguarding the health and hearts of their husbands in the year ahead, according to Dr. John B. Hickam of Duke, president of the North Carolina Heart Association.

Pointing out that the family breadwinner is more vulnerable to heart disease, Dr. Hickam has suggested that wives follow these seven New Year's resolutions to help their husbands to a happy and healthy 1958:

- "I resolve that in 1958, I will—
1. Persuade my husband to stop worrying about 'symptoms' which may or may not indicate heart disease, and to clear away doubts by consulting a doctor;
2. Serve food that will give proper nourishment without adding excess weight, remembering that overweight overworks the heart;
3. See to it that he gets plenty of rest, to ease the workload on his heart;
4. Encourage him to exercise regularly and moderately so that he can keep physically fit;
5. Get him to agree to take an adequate vacation, to quit going to the office on Sundays and holidays, and, if possible, to stop him from bringing work home at night;
6. Do all within my power to let him enjoy peace of mind and to help him avoid tensions and anxieties; and
7. I will set a good example by applying all these rules to myself, maintaining the good health and good spirits that are so vital to my job as homemaker."

The Public Speaking

Expresses Appreciation To The Editor:

Through your newspaper I would like to thank the people of Southern Pines for their support in our Christmas mail appeal. The contributions they sent enabled The Salvation Army to provide Christmas gifts at the Veterans Hospitals, our Mountain Mission and the Home and Hospital for Unwed Mothers, located in Durham.

ROBERT ROSE
Divisional Commander
511 E. Morehead St.
Charlotte, N. C.

Grains of Sand

Doornail Is Still Dead
It appears that others besides GRAINS have puzzled over the derivation and meaning of the phrase: "dead as a door-nail." J. Donald Adams, who writes the grand page, "Speaking of Books," in the New York Times Sunday Book Review, quotes a correspondent of his as follows:

"This correspondent volunteered a little light on the possible origin of the old saying, 'dead as a door-nail.' He points out that door-nails were and are, driven over their heads into the door jamb, and the holes left by the sunken heads filled with putty to be painted over, thus leaving no trace of any door-nail. He suggests that carpenters are more to be relied upon in this matter than grammarians."

Mr. Adams quotes another reader of his column as claiming that one of the first uses of this phrase is to be found in Shakespeare's "Henry IV," (Part 2, Act 5, Sc. 3) where Falstaff exclaims "What! Is the old king dead?" and Pistol replies: "As nail in door!"

But another reader found the quote farther back than that, in a poem dated 1350, about the hunting of a deer. The poet hunter writes:

It happened that I hitt hmy
Be-hynde the left sholdire.
Dede as a dornayle
Was he fallen.

That first man has a plausible explanation. Still and all, we're not satisfied. "Dead as a door-nail" is an intriguing phrase. There must be more to it than that.

Comparison

Ike London, veteran Rockingham editor, makes an astute comment in the Rockingham Post-Dispatch which he edits:

"Back with Christmas in 1937, we recorded no less than six children injured by firecrackers in Hamlet. . . That is a good law, banning firecrackers now. But just think of the 'progress' in the last few years—for instance, we've outlawed firecrackers and developed the hydrogen bomb."

Jail Is Better

A man who some time ago started observers in Recorder's Court at Carthage by answering, "Fifteen head at the last count I made," to the question, "How many children do you have?" again exercised his originality before Judge Rowe on Monday of this week when he chose to remain in jail rather than submit to the problem of going home and getting back to court Saturday morning.

In jail for the previous week, awaiting trial on a charge of being drunk and threatening his wife with a knife, the man protested ignorance of why he had been confined and innocence of the charges. His wife was not in court Monday, having previously notified the clerk she could not be there, requesting a continuance of the case to Saturday.

Judge Rowe, perhaps because he, too, has raised a large family—though not THAT large—seemed to feel some sympathy with the defendant's predicament as he faced nearly another week in jail.

"All right," said the judge, "you go on home now and be back here Saturday morning."

Immediately the smiling defendant's face fell. "But how can I get back up here Saturday?" he asked plaintively. "No way to travel. . . all that way. . ." His voice faded off.

"Would you rather stay in jail than go home?" inquired the judge in a tone of disbelief. Again smiles: "Yes, sir. I like it here. Yes, sir. I'll stay."

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

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

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Vance Derby News Editor
Dan S. Ray Gen. Mgr.
C. G. Council Advertising
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Composing Room
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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.