

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.

Revive The Council of Social Agencies

Some years ago an organization existed in this town that functioned excellently and usefully. It was unfortunately given up and this was not because it wasn't doing a good job but because, as too often happens in such affairs, its original purpose was lost sight of. We refer to the former Council of Social Agencies. This organization ought to be revived.

Now wait a minute. This is not a suggestion to add another organization, doing another set of jobs, to the trillions that already weigh down the social structure; on the contrary, this is something that can reduce and simplify and make more effective work that is already being done.

The former council was made up of representatives—one apiece—from every agency doing welfare work, or charity, as it used to be called, in this area. The Elks were represented, the VFW, the Rotarians, the March of Dimes people, the Red Cross, and so on. All the churches joined in the effort. All these organizations delegated a member to be on the council. The group met only every two months, or perhaps it was every four months. It did no welfare work itself and inaugurated none: its sole purpose was to act as a clearing-house. By means of discussion and comparison of lists, as problems were laid before the council, and close cooperation with the county departments of health and welfare, overlapping of efforts was avoided, specific information was exchanged and, most important, it was possible to make doubly sure that no one who needed help was overlooked.

Since the council was abandoned, it has become only too clear that the overlapping and

"too much to too few" situation is again with us. This past Christmas contributed its share of the inevitable confusions that must arise when there is no coordination between people and agencies working to the same purpose. It seems that several families received baskets or toys from several people or organizations, while at least a few families received none. In the same vein of duplication, it would seem, were the two Christmas parties given by two separate clubs.

A single case taken from last year's Welfare Department records illustrates again the confusion and even waste that comes from uncoordinated efforts. A family of young children, plunged suddenly into tragedy, was so deluged with clothes and food by several independently operating agencies and individuals that they had to beg boxes and bureaus from the neighbors in order to have a place to put them. Later the tragic drama was forgotten, the food was eaten up, and the clothes had long ceased coming. But the children were still there and they had kept right on growing. The family, and the Welfare Department that helped them, through the taxes paid by the people, needed extra help just as much as ever.

There is nothing so fine as such outpourings of generosity in times of trouble; there is nothing better than Christmas giving to those who otherwise would receive nothing at that time of brotherly love. The power of good of such efforts is immeasurable: "it bleaseth him that gives and him that takes." The suggestion to reactivate the Council of Social Agencies is made with the sole purpose of making more effective this spirit of community goodwill.

Ku Klux Keep Their Hair - But Only

Warwhoops and burning crosses—tomahawks and white bedsheets—what a party that was Saturday night down near Lumberton!

You would have imagined that even the KKK would have thought twice before invading the territory around Pembroke, capital of North Carolina's proud Indian citizens. Bedsheets and dunce-caps are their truly appropriate costume, for the foolishness and impudent stupidity of this organization is beyond guess.

The Klan gathered Saturday night and so did the Indians, justifiably incensed over what they rightly considered intolerable interference with their individual affairs. The Kleig lights were turned on, the hooded speakers got set, the curiosity-seekers, of whom many came doubtless anticipating that the fur would fly, parked their cars and ringed the

enclosure. And then, with a preliminary business-like clicking-off of safety catches, all the Six Nations broke loose.

They shot out the lights, they peppered the cars, they took potshots, aimed just high enough and no higher, over fleeing white-sheeted forms. And, as the Pathfinder would have told it: "the night was made hideous with warwhoops."

Of course, we don't approve of violence. We're agin "vigilantes" and "Citizens Committees" and "posses" and "taking the law into your own hands." We're glad nobody got hurt Saturday night; we're glad no scalps were taken. Still and all, it must have been pretty fine fun to see the sheeted ones taking out over the countryside.

Let's hope the spirits of Crazy Horse, Geronimo, Sitting Bull and the other great warriors of old looked down from their Happy Hunting Grounds and took heart.

Some Thoughts On World Censorship

(From The New York Times)

A year ago this month the Associated Press, after one of its regular surveys, reported that there had been a "sharp increase in censorship" during 1956. A similar report made public yesterday revealed, as this newspaper summarized it that "censorship seems to have gained ground in 1957." This news is bad news. It is not true that what people don't know won't hurt them. What they don't know does hurt them. Censors intend it to hurt them. Governments that are proud of themselves don't have to bury their mistakes in the deep grave of silence.

Even in Russia censorship has its ups and downs. During the Moscow World Youth Festival, as it was imaginatively entitled, the censor let the bars down. When the world youths had gone home or proceeded to Communist China, censorship was restored. Other Communist countries follow the Moscow pattern with some variations.

Some non-Communist countries control the press in one way or another for their own purposes. Spanish and Portuguese newspapers are censored. Foreign correspondents in both countries file what they like but may be censored on the carpet if what they like is not what the Governments concerned like. Turkey, which seemed to be groping toward a more democratic way of life, imprisons or fines her own journalists, although no foreign correspondents have been assailed in this way. Egypt and Israel, about as diametrically opposite as two countries can be, each impose censorship for military and other reasons. The press of Communist China, North Korea and North Vietnam is under strong Communist control. In Latin America, Cuba and Venezuela represent a type of censorship that is intended to bolster the government in power.

Virtually any country that maintains defense forces and equipment must censor information that could be helpful to a possible enemy. Our own Government does this and in general newspapers respect the reasons. There is danger, however, that some facts may be suppressed not because they may

help a conjectural enemy but because they might reveal the incompetence of men in office. We need a constant vigilance at home.

The test of freedom of the press is not of course wholly one of freedom to criticize. Finally, we cannot too often remind ourselves that freedom of the press is not intended for the convenience of those who publish newspapers, control radio or television stations or in other ways disseminate news and ideas.

Freedom of the press is for the public, the whole public, and it is inextricably connected with all the other freedoms.

What's The Matter?

One of the shocking facts that has been given wide publicity during the current March of Dimes is that only half the eligible persons in North Carolina have taken Salk vaccine for the prevention of paralytic polio.

This very fact is used as a basis of appeal by the March of Dimes, as it is obvious that if only half the persons who could have the vaccine get it, a certain number of the unvaccinated will probably contract polio. This statistic alone is proof of the point that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis is a long way from the end of its mission.

It may be that some persons are still frightened by that bad serum incident that so tragically and unfortunately took place just as the Salk vaccination program began on a large scale. But the millions of healthy children and others who have had the vaccine are living proof that it can be given safely. And the record of vaccinated persons over the last two polio seasons shows that the immunization is remarkably effective.

Such gross neglect of this life-saving technique must mean that something is wrong somewhere: the information, the understanding about the vaccine and its use just haven't been reaching people.

Perhaps the powerful message of this year's March of Dimes will convince or inform many who have been ignorant or apathetic heretofore.

Stamp Of Disapproval



NCEA MAGAZINE CITES FACTS, FIGURES

Quoted Editorial Called Unfair

Three weeks ago, The Pilot reprinted on this page an editorial from the Raleigh News and Observer, titled "Know-how Made Sorry Substitute for Know Why," which quoted Dr. W. H. Cartwright of Duke University as placing much of the blame for our educational failures on professional educators. The editorial went on to say that teachers "have to learn so much about how to teach that they have little time in which to acquire knowledge to teach."

In rebuttal, the January issue of "North Carolina Education," which is the magazine published by the North Carolina Education Association, prints another editorial pointing out numerous figures about courses and teacher requirements.

Discussed Here

Both the News and Observer editorial and the answer to it were discussed by Dr. A. C. Dawson at the January meeting of the Southern Pines Parent-Teacher Association. Dr. Dawson agreeing with the NCEA magazine that the first editorial had not been fair or factually correct. Following is the "North Carolina Education" editorial:

Reprinted elsewhere in this issue of the journal is an editorial from one of our favorite newspapers. The paper is the Raleigh News and Observer. . . We make bold to take issue with many of its statements, hoping that we shall be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

Not In Context

The editorial disappoints us. In our honest opinion it was hastily conceived and hurriedly executed. It lacks the light of the whole truth, and uses statements, lifted from their context, as a bludgeon to clear the way for a reckless and irresponsible attack upon teacher-education, teacher-education institutions, and the graduates of such institutions.

The editorial quotes from an address delivered by Dr. William H. Cartwright, head of the Department of Education, Duke University. We have before us the entire speech, and we know, therefore, that the quotes are unfairly lifted from their context. They are, however, accurately quoted. In our opinion Dr. Cartwright himself is guilty of using ambiguous generalities when he should have employed a specific bill of particulars.

Sentences Quoted

The following sentences are taken from the editorial:

"They (the pedagogues) have turned the schools over

to educational technicians rather than broadly educated teachers. They have required teachers to learn so much about how to teach that they have little time in which to acquire knowledge to teach. Techniques have been paraded above learning. . . schools (are) staffed from the beginning with people who have studied 'education' and know or care about very little else."

Now, what are the facts? North Carolina requires a minimum total of 120 semester hours of credit for college graduation—or 40 three-semester-hour courses, each pursued for a period of one semester. Of these 120 hours only 18 can be described as "education" courses, according to the state requirement—six courses of the 40 courses. Of these 18 hours, six are spent in a study of the school as a social and educational institution; six consist of courses in psychology; and six in the techniques of teaching.

Requirements

The State requires an elementary teacher to have 44 hours of contents courses. These 44 hours consist of 12 hours of English, six of American history, two of government, six of geography, six of art, six of music, and six of health and physical education. The remaining 58 semester hours, so far as the state is concerned, are elective hours.

For the high school teacher preparing to teach English the State requires the same number

of hours in professional courses—18 hours—and a minimum of 30 semester hours in English—or ten three-hour courses. Thus 72 hours, or 24 courses, are elective courses.

How can it be said, then, that the requirements are such as to prevent a prospective teacher from acquiring knowledge to teach? How can it be said that "techniques have been paraded above learning?" How can it be said that our schools are staffed "from the beginning with people who have studied 'education' and know or care about very little else?"

Courses Listed

We have before us the catalog of a well-known teacher-education institution. A teacher of English and graduate of this college will have taken the following specific courses in English, in addition to courses in modern language, biology, mathematics, physical education, psychology, and the social studies; one full year of English Grammar and Composition, one full year of a survey of English Literature, one full year of a survey of American Literature, one course in Advanced Composition, two courses in Contemporary Literature, and one course in each of the following: Shakespeare's Comedies, Shakespeare's Tragedies, Advanced English Grammar, the Fundamentals of Speech, and Public Speaking.

The evidence here presented leads this editor to conclude that the editorial in one of our favorite papers was, for sure, hastily conceived and hurriedly executed!

The Public Speaking

Better Quarters Needed For USES Representatives

To The Editor:

It is my opinion that the attention of the Town Council, individually or en masse, should be immediately called to the "visiting" headquarters of the North Carolina Unemployment Insurance Commission. The crying need for desirable working quarters cannot be ignored or escaped. A visit on any Thursday morning, between 10:00 and 12:00, will be sufficient proof of this fact. It appears that little appreciation is being shown for the services of these USES representatives who trek over here from Sanford every Thursday to accommodate the local persons qualified for unemployment insurance. It is a deplorable situation.

If the town cannot rally and

improve this situation, then it is a disgrace to the community. Do you suppose the town realizes how much money is kept in circulation due to the unemployment checks received weekly? I doubt it. It would be interesting to compute this.

This letter is sent to you in the hope you will print it and some interested persons will come forth with a few suggestions. It would seem there are a number of available vacant spaces which might be available. I understand plans are being made for offices for these workers to have space in the new town hall. But we should not need to wait so long to correct this situation.

If my services can be used to work out this problem, they are available, gratis.

Very Sincerely,
(Miss) NELL C. WILLIS
Southern Pines

Grains of Sand

By WALLACE IRWIN
(Guest Columnist)

When my little Cocker spaniel was small as dogs can be, she needed a midget dog house just to grow up in. To save both time and money, I took the advice of a Setauket neighbor and sent to a firm, whose name I'll fake as the Greater Peoria Portable & Adjustable House Company, and explained that I wished a small kennel for a pup which, grow as she might, could never get to be more than 15 inches long. Estimate the cost, please and oblige.

Time elapsed, and the dog began to grow so fast that I wasn't sure she'd go into anything smaller than a packing case, but still no answer from the Greater Peoria Adjustable; until one soft summer morning came a sizeable envelope postmarked Peoria, and this is what the faultless typing declared:

"Dear Sir: We are highly gratified to receive your courteous inquiry as of Feb. 12, and in response we enclose plans and specifications of a late design which, we feel sure, will fit your purpose. The drawing-room is 38 by 24, finished in Florentine style weathered oak. The dining-room is Tudor of approximately the same size and the finish is Colonial (Mercy on us!) The bath is complete with sunken tub, needle shower and electric massage as are 4 baths on the second floor. There are 11 bedrooms, all smartly decorated, or done to suit the owner's individual taste. We are sure you'll enjoy the 40 ft. swimming pool.

"For pantry, kitchen and wine cellar, see Pamphlet D, enclosed with color scheme supplement"

. . . And so on in a folder capable of holding 2 Chicago telephone directories. A modest little letter at the end completed a row of figures with the statement, "\$47,000, without alterations. (Possibly you will be interested in our Florentine garden with decorative cypress hedge.)"

Reading, I made appropriate remarks, while homeless Surprise barked appreciatively as I bedded her in a slightly used whiskey barrel; then I roughly calculated the amount of U. S. postage the G. P. P. & A. had wasted through the dreamy error of some office bobby-soxer who had imagined that I was ordering a Beverly Hills country residence instead of a very little dog house for a very little dog. . .

And that gets me gradually around to what I'm driving at. Every day, except Sunday, the postman brings us pounds of waste basket fodder. Page after page of highly illustrated material coaxing you to buy what you don't want and never asked about. Our railroads are getting curvature of the spine carrying what you never asked for and the bill is on you.

Everybody's asking Congress to do something about something, and here's my contribution to Bedlam. Why not make it more expensive to send advertising matter through the mail? Get out an advertising stamp tax, or some other form of legal persecution. Give the morning mail a strict treatment for girth control. Then, maybe, if you had written asking about something you really want to buy, or know about, you'd get something sounding like an answer.

One of Teddy Roosevelt's parables: "And the skipper said to the unruly mate, 'All I want to hear out of you, Mr. Scroggins, is perfect silence, and darned little o' that.'"

And my apologies to Sears Roebuck & Co. whose catalogue is our family oracle.

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