

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.

A Town-Supported Public Library

Directors of the Southern Pines Library Association have decided to put before the town council the request that the town take over the institution and operate it as a public library.

The reason for this request is simple: the library can't make a go of it financially under the present system.

This is no particular adverse reflection on the people of Southern Pines. Few libraries anywhere, unless heavily endowed, can exist, thrive and grow on private funds alone. Public ownership and operation, with all taxpayers sharing the cost, is a logical method of operation.

Support of the library has devolved on a relatively small group of people. It is too much to ask that they continue to attempt to keep the library going indefinitely for the use of hundreds of other readers who contribute little or nothing to its cost. That is too precarious a method for both the library and the

public. More important, it results in preventing the library from fulfilling its potentialities in the community.

While the library has shown a steady rise in book circulation, it has steadily had to curtail book purchases because of lack of funds. It is a situation of more demand and less supply. This obviously can't continue without disaster for the library or an intolerable burden on its Association members.

Just what public ownership would mean as to taxes, we don't know. We are given to understand that it would not impose any great increase in the rate. We presume all this will be brought out when the request for assumption of public ownership is made to the council.

The library directors have acted wisely and for the best interest of the institution in making their decision. We trust that the council will also see the wisdom of the plan and will welcome the responsibility to rescue and maintain this valuable public service.

Mental Health Group Needs Support

During this nation-wide Mental Health Week, The Pilot recognizes the activities of the Moore County Mental Health Association and urges support of its current membership campaign.

The Moore County group is aligned with the National Association for Mental Health, Inc., which has brought the fight against mental illness to nation-wide attention in recent years.

The National Association has brought home to the American people the fact that "mental illness remains the nation's number one health problem," with 750,000 mentally ill persons hospitalized and 16,000,000 Americans suffering from some other form of mental disorder.

Local mental health associations, such as the one now conducting its fund campaign in Moore County, form the key to progress in

efforts for mental health. A local association provides a reliable source of information and assistance for the troubled. Here, organization and support have not yet reached the stage where operation of a counseling clinic—the long-range goal of the local group—is possible, but through the local association already hundreds of persons in Parent-Teacher and other groups have been given a better understanding of the importance of mental health and of some of the situations involved in or causing mental illness.

The physicians and laymen who are giving their time and efforts in the cause of mental health in Moore County deserve the appreciation of all our people. Any one interested in membership in the Association or in supporting its work should communicate with the campaign chairman, James S. Baird at P. O. Box 145, Southern Pines.

Humane Slaughter Law Should Pass

Adding its voice to the many that have been raised in recent weeks on behalf of humane slaughter legislation before Congress, The Pilot quotes herewith from an editorial in The New York Times which succinctly sums up the purpose and the status of this legislation:

"If you have beef, pork or lamb for dinner today you may be interested to know that the animal from which it comes was very probably slaughtered in a process so revoltingly brutal as to nauseate you if you stopped to think about it.

"There is no good reason why the American people should put up with the kind of needless cruelty practiced in most—though not all—of our slaughterhouses. It is a hopeful sign that, in reporting a moderate humane-slaughter bill, the House Committee on Agriculture noted that 'the volume of mail . . . on this subject is the largest the committee has ever received on any single matter.'

"This measure (H. R. 8308) recently passed the House. It is admittedly a compromise; but it does establish for the first time as national policy that livestock should be slaughtered

only by the 'most humane practicable methods.' It requires the Secretary of Agriculture to determine such methods, and it provides that the Federal Government shall purchase meat only from packers who use such methods. This kind of pressure should eventually force the entire industry to abandon present cruel practices.

"The House bill is now awaiting action in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, of which Mr. Ellender of Louisiana is chairman. Alternative measures to provide for additional 'study' of the situation are merely devices for delay and are entirely unsatisfactory. The humane slaughter legislation ought to be reported and passed as is. And after that, another mild bill (S. 2489) providing for humane trapping deserves equally favorable consideration, to put an end to the unspeakable agonies suffered by millions of fur-bearers every year in the merciless jaws of the steel trap."

The treatment accorded animals is said to be an index of civilization.

Can the United States be content to remain on a barbaric level in this respect?

The Highway Meeting And Local Needs

Last week's English Division highway meeting at the headquarters building in Aberdeen was an interesting aspect of North Carolina's new deal in highway administration—and we must say we like this out-in-the-open, question-and-answer method of doing business.

Certainly the meeting brought to attention, through press reports on the session, more information about proposed highway work and highway problems than has ever been publicly aired before.

This is not to imply that highway folks previously have been secretive, as we have found them always cooperative in explaining projects or giving out information. We simply mean that such sessions as the one held last week, when county and town officials from four counties were present, with the press invited, bring out and put before the public a greater amount of information about road matters than has been the custom heretofore.

We got from the meeting a much clearer idea of the magnitude of the tasks faced by the highway folks. The necessity for them to evaluate requests and assign priorities was amply apparent. And we believe that the current highway administration is sincerely trying to do road work on the basis of established need.

So far as the two matters brought before the meeting by Mayor W. E. Blue of Southern Pines, The Pilot goes on record as according these requests our heartiest support.

Something should be done in the cause of both safety and sightliness at the Morganton Road-Broad Street-Old No. 1 highway inter-

section at the Shaw House corner. And the paving of West Pennsylvania Avenue Extension, running northwest from West Southern Pines, is an improvement long overdue.

Town officials have received a number of complaints about the Shaw House corner situation, where two streets, S. W. Broad Street and Morganton Road, enter the old highway on a curve, with highway traffic into Southern Pines having to turn left into Broad St. across a north-bound lane of traffic and, immediately thereafter, across the Morganton Road intersection.

Removal of No. 1 highway through traffic to the new parkway has alleviated the situation somewhat, but traffic on the old highway remains heavy and often fast.

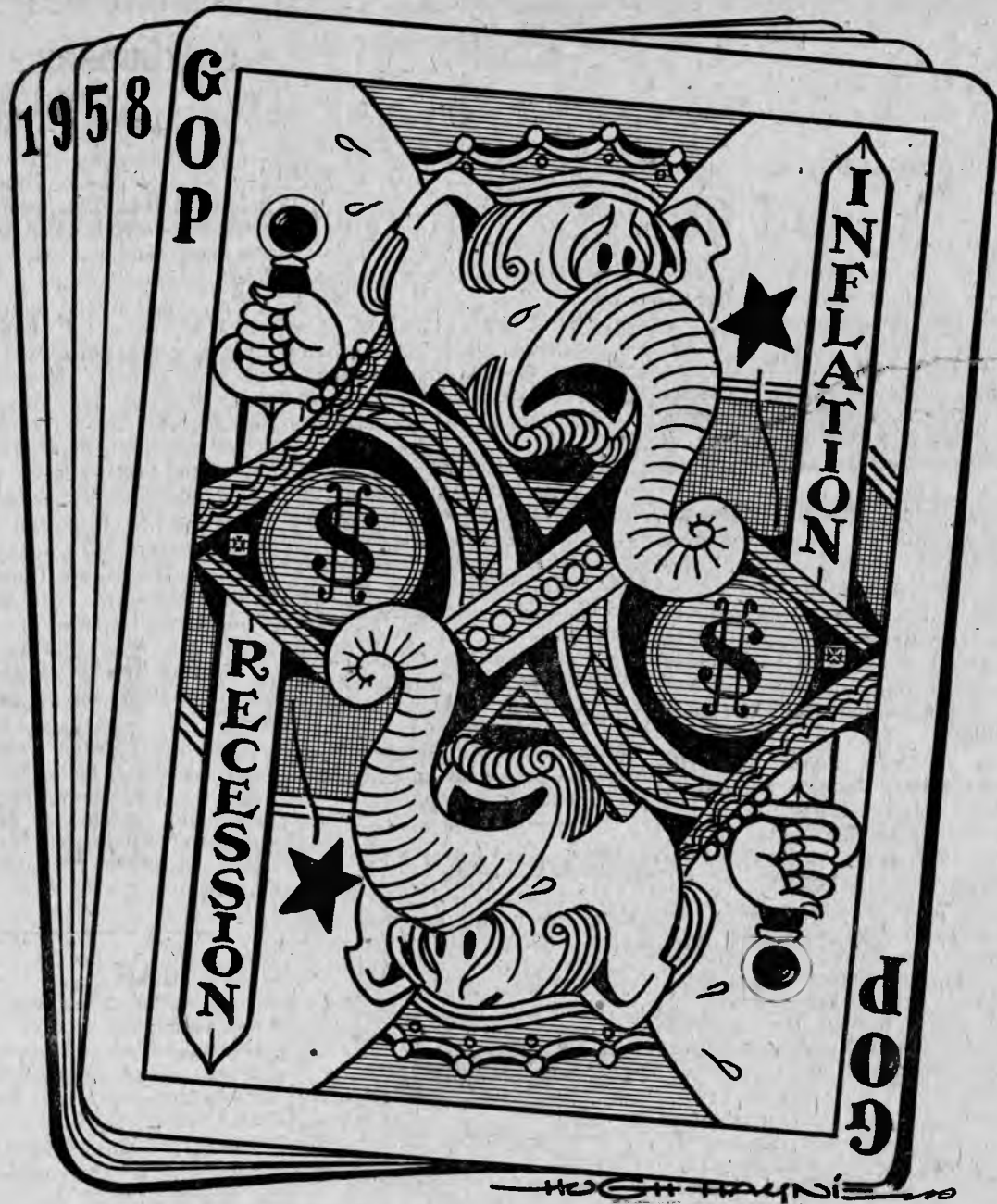
Coming into the intersection from the west on Morganton Road, there is poor visibility in either direction, creating another dangerous situation.

So far as the sightliness of this intersection is concerned, every effort should be made to make the area of the old Shaw House—one of the town's most interesting attractions for visitors—as good looking as possible. The intersection is also one of the main entrances into town from the South, as the directional sign at the southern entrance of the parkway sends Southern Pines traffic into town by this route.

Beautification of the area and a safer, more efficient traffic control method at the intersection could and should go hand in hand.

Carrying out of any such plans appears to depend on the cooperation of nearby property owners—a cooperation which, it is hoped, will be forthcoming in the public interest.

"I'm Stuck—It Just Ain't In The Cards To Win"



BETTER NOT RUSH CAREER DECISIONS

Liberal Arts Education Defended

(From "Better Schools," a nationally circulated publication devoted to the interests of education.)

As the high school graduate and his parents cope with the college decision, the career question usually arises, and it is reasonable that it should. But career considerations are of limited relevance in choosing a college, and the limits should be respected. Career considerations should not be ruled out, but they should not be controlling.

Many parents fear that youngsters delay too long in settling on the one thing that they wish to do. But the opposite error is at least as common, perhaps more common: they close too many doors too soon, and fail to keep open a sufficiently wide range of possibilities. Most young people have potentialities in more than one direction. No one has the wisdom to know precisely which of these potentialities should be encouraged and which left uncultivated; no one is wise enough to say that some of the doors open to the young person should be closed at this early stage of his career. The great strategy with young people is to keep their development sufficiently broad so that when they become mature enough to make a choice, it may be a choice among many significant possibilities.

Full Range

This is not to say that it is wrong to make career decisions early. Many distinguished and creative men have made early decisions. It is simply to say that indecisiveness is not to be deplored. The young person has the time and opportunity, of which he will have little later on, to scan the full range of human activity, review his talents, and come up with a variety of choices.

One of the great arguments for a liberal arts education is that it enables the young man or woman to move in any of a great variety of directions. Parents bent on a vocational course for their boy or girl are apt to think of a liberal education as an experience that fills the youngster with ornamental but useless cultivation—admirable, no doubt, but a waste of time. Nothing could be wider of the mark.

Basic Fields

A liberal arts education enables the young man or woman to range widely over the fundamental fields of knowledge. These fields are basic to all effective use of the mind, and must precede all sound professional education. These are the fields that equip a man not only to be a more intelligent wage earner but a more valuable member of the community. They are the fields that aid a man to understand himself, to comprehend the world around him, and to be worthy of the responsibilities democracy thrusts upon him.

Every young person should expose himself to as much of the liberal arts as is possible within his limitations of time and money. If he concentrates narrowly in his vocational specialty, he may be slightly more marketable in the first year of his working life, but this is by no means certain. In any case, the proper role of college is not to prepare him for the first year of his working life. It is to prepare him for an adult lifetime.

More Important

Job skills will be only a part of the equipment which he will need for that voyage. And any job skills he acquires in college may be out of date by the time his career is in full swing. Much more important will be his capacity to use his mind effectively, his understanding of himself and of human relationships, his comprehension of his heritage and the world he lives in.

The more able the young person, the more insistent he should be upon the liberal arts ingredients in his education. The fact that he will go on to advanced work in a special field is added reason to receive a broad exposure to the basic fields of knowledge.

In the transition from high school to college most young peo-

ple are ready to take a long step in the process of growing up. They are prepared to put behind them a whole world of adolescent fads and fancies and to assume a more adult role. They arrive at college ready to adopt new attitudes, new values, new ways of looking at the world.

Such a time of rapid growth is immensely important in the life history of the individual. The youngster may take great strides toward maturity in a short space of time. He may also stumble and take some rather bad falls. If he is emotionally immature or at the mercy of impulses and traits which he cannot control, it may be important that he be assisted through this period by friendly hands (not necessarily those of his parents).

Under Own Power

But under normal circumstances, parents will not wish to interfere with this process of growth. Every intervention by them is an invitation to return to an earlier and more dependent role, a reinvasion of the web that the youngster should have broken out of. To the extent that parental pressures are successful, growth will be minimized. If the youngster is to move to a new level of maturity, it must be under his own power.

Going in the Not-Raising-Hog Business

(From The Tar Heel Banker)

Sometimes it takes a bit of humor to comprehend how silly we're being in our attempts to solve our problems. Here's a letter written by an Arizona farmer to his U. S. Senator regarding a part of the government's farm program:

"Dear Mr. Senator: My friend Bordeaux over in Pima County received a \$1,000 check from the

Government this year for not raising hogs. So I am going into the not-raising-hog business next year. What I want to know is, in your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to raise hogs on and the best kind of hogs not to raise? I would prefer not to raise razorbacks, but, if that is not a good breed not to raise, I will just as gladly not raise any Berkshires or Durocs.

"The hardest work in this business is going to be in keeping an inventory of how many hogs I haven't raised. My friend Bordeaux is very joyful about the future of this business. He has been raising hogs for more than 20 years and the best he ever made was \$400 until this year, when he got \$1,000 for not raising hogs. If I can get \$1,000 for not raising 50 hogs then I will get \$2,000 for not raising 100 hogs.

"I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 hogs, which means I will have \$80,000. Now, another thing: These hogs I will raise will not eat 100,000 bushels of corn. I understand that you also pay farmers for not raising corn. So will you pay me anything for not raising 100,000 bushels of corn not to feed the hogs I am not raising? I want to get started as soon as possible as this seems to be a good time of the year for not raising hogs.

"P. S. Can I raise 10 or 12 hogs on the side while I am in the not-raising-hogs-business—just enough to get a few sides of bacon to eat?"

Grains of Sand

Super Progress
Gadgetry (if there is such a word) never ceases.

While people-like us are sitting on their porch steps watching bees work over the azalea flowers and feeling more or less at peace with the world, somebody is thinking up another fiendish way to make life easier, yet at the same time a great deal more complicated; for simple souls.

The fruit of some such gadgeteer's efforts was illustrated in a New York department store ad in Sunday's papers: an electric fire lighter.

Can you beat that? It's a ring of metal on a handle. You plug it in and the metal gets red hot and lights your wood fire "every time."

Well, reckon some folks would like it. For our part, we wouldn't swap a few lightweight splinters for any fire lighter that was ever manufactured.

Questions

Sets you to wondering. Where would you keep the electric fire lighter—on the hearth along with poker and tongs? You'd probably have to have a new baseboard outlet installed within reach of the fireplace. Would you hang the gadget from the mantel like a broomstraw hearth brush? Or would you keep it furtively hidden away, so nobody could see it? If you left it out, wouldn't you get sick to death of explaining to visitors what on earth it was? And, of course, they'd want a demonstration—even in summer. They'd say it was marvelous, all the while looking at you as though they thought you a mite touched. Which is exactly what you would be.

And suppose, some time, the lighter didn't work. As with anything mechanical, there's always that risk.

Big Moment

Picture a beautifully clad hostess, guiding her guests to the living room for coffee after a lovely dinner. The fire is laid, but not lighted, on the hearth. The big moment has arrived.

A dutiful husband, dressed for the purpose of our fancy in a well tailored dinner jacket, stoops to plug in the Little Gem electric fire lighter and hands the precious instrument to his spouse. Guests gaze in awe.

Milady flicks the switch, bends gracefully to apply Little Gem to the awaiting paper, kindling and logs. She smiles mysteriously. The rite that will make her unique as a modern hostess is about to be performed.

But—nothing happens. Nonchalantly, she clicks the switch again, glances to see if it is in the "on" position. Little Gem stays cold and lifeless.

Ruined Evening

Then, to climax the humiliation, some oaf steps forward with a match. The fire blazes up, Milady, blinking back tears, excuses herself and flings Little Gem in the garbage can. The evening is ruined.

The first of May is a poor time to write about fire lighters anyway. Let's forget the whole thing.

Really Fresh

It's being told how one of the winter visitors to the Sandhills stopped at a roadside stand in the country to buy eggs.

The woman in charge told him that they were sold out but that her husband had gone to get more. The buyer then asked if she were sure they would be fresh.

This really amazed the woman who at that moment saw her husband come rapidly out of the henhouse.

"Well," she said, "he's a-runnin', ain't he?"

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