

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.

Good Precedent On Park Property

A step that we hope will be treated as a precedent by the present council and future councils was taken by town legislators last week in their vote to purchase a 40-foot strip of private property on the park block.

The council's action (with one dissenting vote) indicates that members do not approve encroachment by business on the park block, a point of view with which we thoroughly agree.

The park land is valuable and it may be a temptation to councils in the near or distant future to dispose of some of it for business purposes. Once some lots along Broad Street would be thus let go, however, the town wouldn't have a park. It would have the backyard of a string of business buildings.

Readers may recall that we didn't think much of putting even the town hall on the park property. What makes a town park a park is open, landscaped land, green with trees and shrubs and flowers, in contrast to the pavements and buildings around it.

Southern Pines is most fortunate that it has this park block, or nearly all of it, adjoining the business section. This shows the foresight of the donors who gave it long ago and the town officials who have maintained it intact.

Rather than dispose of any park property, we hope that officials will plan some day to acquire the entire block for the town. Future residents will thank us if we are determined now to hang on to the park.

Too Many People Leaving State

The U. S. Department of Commerce, in publicizing its "County and City Data Book" which is available to the public, points out that there has been an out-migration from North Carolina of 30,000 persons since 1950.

In this period, North Carolinians over 65 years of age increased 27 per cent. Practically no increase was recorded, however, in those aged 18 to 44. This, says the Department of Commerce, is the principal income-producing group who have been migrating with their families out of the state.

Presley Melton, manager of the Department of Commerce's Greensboro field office, draws this conclusion:

"It is evident that North Carolina has been exporting the State's most valuable asset—energetic and well educated young men and women. These young men and women would stay in North Carolina if they could find good jobs here. To keep them at home, there is needed an increased industrial expansion program, together with increased farm diversification."

This is not a startling new story to those who have been following Tarheel affairs in the past decade—but it is a situation that affects practically all residents of the state and deserves the attention of all thoughtful citizens.

No racial division is made in the out-migration figures quoted here. It would be interesting to know what proportion of the 30,000 persons leaving the state since 1950 were Negroes—and why they made the decision to go.

Georgia Revives McCarthyism

One of the most extraordinary documents that has come to our desk in a long time is a booklet titled, "Communism and the NAACP" which arrived with a covering letter on the stationery of the Georgia Commission on Education (complete with a reproduction of the seal of the State of Georgia thereon).

The letter states flatly that in the booklet—the second such one that has been sent out—is listed "the Communist affiliations of the national leadership of the NAACP." This material is said to have come from the Florida Legislation Investigation Committee. The letter concludes, somewhat mysteriously, "These materials should further contribute to your understanding of racial problems."

In the 101-page booklet, without a single word of explanation or documentation other than the brief citing of various letterheads, magazine articles and other such items, are listed more than 50 persons, most of them white, who have some connection with the NAACP, largely members of the organization's advisory "Committee of 100."

The persons listed include Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Archibald Macleish, poet and former Librarian of Congress; Dr. Frank P. Graham, former U. S. Senator and longtime president of the University of North Carolina; Van Wyck Brooks, literary critic and historian; such nationally known and respected clergymen as Harry Emerson Fosdick and Methodist Bishop G. Bramley Oxnam; Max Lerner, columnist and professor; and other distinguished and unquestionably loyal American citizens.

Beneath the names of these persons are listed what the booklet calls "incidents"—organizations they have belonged to, articles they have written and so forth, during the past 30 years. There is no evidence whatever that the organizations or articles had anything to do with Communism. They are simply cited, like a criminal record, and would be meaningless, in themselves, to the great majority of persons who might read the booklet.

The booklet is full of the type of smear that was used against Dr. Graham in the Smith-Graham Senatorial primary campaign of 1950, to the everlasting disgrace of North Carolina. One of the 37 "incidents" listed under Dr. Graham's name in "Communism and the NAACP" is, for instance, the fact that in 1938 he signed a letter for the Committee of Boycott Against the Japanese Aggression—certainly a thoroughly patriotic act—but the letter happened to appear in the Communist newspaper, "The Daily Worker." Dr. Graham

is or was a member of the NAACP's "Committee of 100" as were or are many fine American citizens—but the fact that he signed a letter that was published in The Daily Worker in 1938 goes into the Georgia Commission on Education's booklet in 1958 as illustrating a link between Communism and the NAACP!

Here are McCarthyism and "guilt by association" at their worst, revived and dressed in all their fraudulent finery, in the name of "understanding of racial problems," and by an official agency of the State of Georgia.

What a terrible disservice such a project as this which Georgia has undertaken does to genuine racial understanding and to the South! One expects to find ignorance and bigotry at the KKK level, but not, of all places, in the office of a State Commission on Education.

The letterhead accompanying this booklet bears the names of the Governor of Georgia, the Attorney General, the Chairman of the State Board of Education, the State School Superintendent, the Chancellor of the University System, 10 Congressional District representatives or the Commission on Education and other state officials.

"Communism and the NAACP" is a sorry comment on leadership in Georgia today.

William S. Harrington

The Pilot, along with many other friends, mourns the death of William S. (Bill) Harrington who followed the printer's trade during a long lifetime, operating his own shop here for many years.

In this shop at his home on Bennett Street, Bill Harrington, assisted by his wife, worked in the tradition of the old, independent American craftsman, turning out skilled and conscientious work in a trade he had learned well over many years.

Mr. Harrington's answer to hard times and short hours in his chosen trade, back in depression times, was to set up a business of his own. The business prospered—a tribute to his ability and ambition at an age when many men who have worked for wages all their lives have given up any idea of independent business enterprise.

The printing shops of Mr. Harrington and of The Pilot have had long years of cordial relations. We feel that we have lost a good friend and we know that Southern Pines has lost a fine citizen.

"Ha! We Made Sure He Can't Lend You A Hand, Buster!"



NATURE'S AWESOME HANDIWORK

Mountains Offer Strange Sights

Going to the mountains for your vacation this summer? Writing in the Asheville Citizen-Times, John Parris, famed for his books and articles about Western North Carolina, lists some of the remarkable sights provided by Nature in that area. Pilot readers may want to clip this listing to help guide a vacation tour:

To roam the mountains is to see what the world was like when it suffered the travail and spasms of its youth.

This is particularly so in the Balsam and Blue Ridge mountains of Jackson County.

Here nature has built rock bridges and dammed lakes. She has moulded gigantic figures in stone.

Eons before Nubian slaves built tombs for the Pharaohs, she sheared a mountain in half to make an 1,800-foot high granite wall.

She gouged deep into the earth to release smoke from a smoldering fire.

Divided Waters

She divided the waters of a single spring between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

She channeled a river along a mountain crest and then sent it cascading 411 feet to form the highest waterfall in Eastern America and the seventh highest in the country.

She wrapped another waterfall in a rainbow that is almost ever visible.

Her first tool was a prehistoric ocean and when its waters receded she used glaciers to cut grooves in the earth's crust.

For instruments of polishing, she has relied on the icy waters of mountain streams, the wind and the rain and snow, and sometimes sleet and hail and lightning.

Best Map

The best map for locating and identifying them is the Western North Carolina-Great Smokies-Blue Ridge Vacation Map.

This is made easy both through the use of names and symbols. Once you have the map, locate N. C. Highway 107, then the crossroad village of Tuckasegee.

Turn north at Tuckasegee on Highway 281 and proceed six miles to Anvil Tongue, a great rock hanging over the Canada prong of the Tuckasegee River.

Ahead two-tenths of a mile turn right on a dirt road to Natural Rock Bridge spanning the prong, and Wolf Creek Falls.

Right from Tuckasegee on a logging road for three-and-a-half miles is the Smoke Hole where passersby often warm their hands in the vapor when the temperature is low.

Cherokee Legend

The Cherokee Indians used to say the smoke came from the townhouse of the Nunehi, immortals who dwell beneath the mountains and the rivers. South of Tuckasegee, N. C. 107 passes through and up a winding

gorge where the mountains overhang the river, houses perch precariously on the hillsides, and waterfalls—such as Grassy Creek Falls—spring from the mountain towards the highway.

Once out of the gorge, the traveler is in the land of lakes. The first is Lake Thorpe.

Beyond Lake Thorpe is the crest of the Blue Ridge. And there beside the road, right on top, is a gurgling mountain spring that divides itself.

Cashiers is the intersection of NC 107 and US 64. Here you can follow NC 107 for two miles, just beyond the entrance to High Hampton, and turn right down into Whiteside Cove.

Claim To Fame

Down in the cove is the community of Grimshawes whose claim to fame is that here once was the smallest post office in the United States.

To the right drops the massive cliffs of Whiteside Mountain. It is the highest in the east and has one sheer drop of 1,800 feet.

By turning right at Cashiers on US 64 and heading toward Highlands, the traveler comes to a toll road leading to the summit of Whiteside.

From the parking area just below the summit a trail extends half a mile to Devil's Courthouse, a jutting rock formation on the east side of the mountain.

Also on Whiteside is a spring that divides its flow of water between the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico.

Spanish Writings

There's a boulder on the mountain with mysterious Spanish writings that may have been the work of one of De Soto's Dons when they came through the area back in 1540.

The most impressive waterfalls in Eastern America are in the region.

The grandpappy of these falls is beautiful Whitewater Falls,

which has two levels. The upper falls cascade 411 feet.

Whitewater is reached by a good gravel road by turning off US 64 near Oakland, between Cashiers and Lake Toxaway.

A 10-mile road from US 64 to Whitewater passes four other falls—Horse Pasture, John's Jump, Thompson's and Rainbow. Rainbow is 200 feet high.

Rock Formations

There are several rock formations in the county resembling figures.

Of these, the most impressive is four miles east of Sylva on US 19-A. It resembles an Indian lying on his back along the crest of the Plott Balsams and is north of the highway.

There are some who say it is Judaculla, the Paul Bunyan of the Cherokee. Judaculla was the mythical god of the Cherokee Indians and his home was in the Caney Fork Balsams, three miles left from East LaPorte.

There above East LaPorte on the Milas Parker farm is Judaculla Rock, whose soft sandstone is covered with mysterious tracings which never have been interpreted.

Mythical Giant

Cherokee legend relates that the marks were made by Judaculla, the mythical giant, in leaping from his home on the mountain top to the creek below.

And east of Cherokee on US 19, just as the road begins the climb up Soco, there on the right—hanging like a grim prophecy above the highway—is the perfect nature-carved head of an Indian.

Yes, nature has carved away at the terrain of Western North Carolina and left many oddities as well as magnificent attractions.

And to roam the mountains is to see what the world was like when it suffered the travail and spasms of its youth.

atha

Grains of Sand

Speech Differences

A Cornell University professor of phonetics has figured out 10 different speech areas of the United States and has also discovered that, as to speech habits, it doesn't matter greatly where a person lives as an adult.

What counts, the professor says, is the speech a person learns as a child from other children. Readers may recall the excerpts printed in GRAINS some time ago from Ashley Cooper's dictionary of Charlestonese (example: "Sex: three less than noine") and maybe also our own attempt to compile a few definitions using some Sandhills pronunciations.

The professor, we believe, would have a tough time checking on word usage and pronunciations in the Sandhills, because of the variety of accents here, including those of children with Northern parents and Southern playmates—a combination that results in some strange speech mixtures.

Disappearing

Commenting on the professor's investigations, The Richmond News Leader deplores the fact that regional speech differences are disappearing. No reason is ascribed for that, but probably the main reasons are the influence of TV and radio and the large number of inter-regional marriages that took place as a result of the mobility of young people: young Southerners going North to seek their fortunes and young Northerners coming South with new industrial and business enterprises.

It's A Crime!

Speaking of speech and words, we like this statement made by James Thurber in an interview during which he said he is dedicated to defending the English language against the decline it has suffered in this century and particularly since the end of the last war: "If we went out into the streets dressed the way we talk, we would be arrested for indecent exposure."

Academic Report

A news release in the mail a couple of weeks ago reported that J. Vance Rowe, Jr., had attended a fishing school at Nags Head. We used the item in The Pilot.

We've just this week learned that the sender of the release got his "J" and "S" twisted. It was J. Vance Rowe, Jr., had attended versally referred to hereabouts as Judge Rowe because of his many years on the bench of Moore County Recorders Court, who attended the school.

Judge Rowe said this week that he'd had a fine time and, to boot, had caught a big fish, while at Nags Head.

We were still curious however, as to why Judge Rowe would go all that way to a fishing school.

Then he explained: he has a farm pond that he knows is full of bass and bream, but they're hard to catch.

So—what better way to catch them than to go to school to learn how?

We haven't heard yet how successful Judge Rowe has been since his return.

Tip to the judge: if you still can't catch those bass and bream, send the fish to school to learn how to bite. Maybe that's where the trouble has been all along.

Well-Informed

It's easy to spot a well-informed person. His opinions are just like yours.

School's Out

Now that school is out, reports a parent, educational problems are really hitting home.

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HAVE A SAFE VACATION!

Dangerous Summer Driving

By BILL CROWELL

Vacation travel is one of the state's chief industries, with our vast network of picturesque highways and thousands of vacationers exploring the countryside and seeing North Carolina first.

But, judging from the experience of past years, many of the vacationers already on the road and many of the others getting ready for the takeoff will die in traffic accidents. Still others will be crippled. Families will be broken, and grief will enter many an otherwise happy home.

Disturbing picture, isn't it? The great tragedy is—these deaths and injuries are unnecessary. A little more time given to planning before the takeoff . . . a little more alertness and attention to safe driving rules along the way . . . would bring these vacationers home safe.

But vacation travelers are usually in a hurry to get where they're going. They are not willing to spend that "little more."

They pile the car full of vacation miscellanea, plan a grueling schedule, hit the road ready to do or die.

Sometimes it's die! You can help stop this mass suicide. It's simple. You can refuse to be a part of it.

The formula for a safe trip doesn't cost a thing. Plan your journey ahead of time . . . allow plenty of time for leisurely driving . . . pack safely . . . stay alert every minute you're on the road . . . obey traffic laws and the dictates of common sense and courtesy.

That's it! If you follow it, you'll have a safe, sane, and enjoyable vacation . . . one that won't cost you your life.