

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.

Chance to Learn about Mental Health

The Mental Health Institute to be held here on the nights of May 1, 2 and 3—reported in detail in a news story elsewhere in today's Pilot—should have wide appeal.

The topics on which authorities in each field will speak on the three evenings deal with religion, alcohol and physical health, in their relation to mental health—subjects that touch the lives of nearly all of us in a personal way.

The Moore County Mental Health Association deserves the gratitude of this area for making such a program possible.

While the Mental Health Association is in-

terested in the best possible treatment for victims of mental illness, it is equally concerned with a preventive program that opens the minds of men and women to the pitfalls in everyone's life that, with will and understanding, can often be avoided to prevent the dissolution of personality, the break-up of families, anti-social behavior and other mentally-rooted tragedies that we see about us in daily life.

The upcoming Mental Health Institute is a rare opportunity for residents of this area to gain a basic understanding of some of the most common mental health problems.

How're Your Car Lights?

Highway patrolmen in this area are putting special emphasis this week on checking automobile lights. They are checking cars themselves, and they are asking public cooperation in a unique program operating through the schools.

Children in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades were to take home slips this week and make a check of all the lights on the family car—and there are more of them than one might think on modern cars. Then the parent is to sign the slip, saying the defect if any, would be corrected as soon as possible, and the children were to take them back to school.

Sgt. J. S. Jones of Siler City, who heads Patrol activity in Moore, Lee and Chatham Counties and who asked all the white and Negro schools of all three counties to cooperate

in the lights checking program, says that for some reason automobile lights fail more frequently after severe weather with temperature extremes, such as we've had this past winter. He said he's found this to be true through many years of patrolling on the highways of the state. He said that most motorists who are riding along with a dead rear light, brake light, turn indicator light or even a dead headlight, don't know the light is faulty—but that this does not make that car any less of a menace to traffic safety.

The object lesson the light check will give thousands of school children throughout the three counties will be valuable, too, especially if parents cooperate willingly and let the children feel they have taken part in an important civic project.

What Pool Owners Should Know

In Chicago last summer, a four-year-old boy and a playmate were enjoying a splash party in a shallow plastic pool while mother, busy inside the house, periodically looked out to be sure the boys were all right. Suddenly she saw her son's small companion standing at the back door. "Jack's asleep at the bottom of the pool," he announced. The frantic mother dragged her son from the pool and tried desperately to revive him. By the time the fire department arrived he was dead.

This tragedy, plus others in both miniature plastic pools and large built-in ones, point up a relatively new, extensive, and fast-expanding hazard.

Private swimming pools, once reserved for millionaires, now bear price tags within the budget of many American families. Consequently they have sold at an astounding rate. In 1950 private pools numbered about 2,500. Today that figure has multiplied more than 100 times, giving us an estimated 300,000 pool owners. During the 1960's we can expect construction of a whopping 800,000 pools, mostly in backyards. In addition more than one mil-

lion tot-size plastic pools will appear in yards this summer.

Backyard pools present a special problem because they endow uninformed home pool owners with safety responsibilities previously relegated to trained, professional pool operators and life guards. The inability of pool owners to cope with their new duties has shown up in the increase of private pool drownings.

Some cities, alarmed by swimming pool hazards, have regulated pool construction and use. Such laws, for example, requiring a fence and prohibiting use after 10 p. m., will undoubtedly help prevent pool tragedies. However, the prime accident prevention responsibility must be the pool owners'. They must voluntarily set up and enforce certain procedures and rules regarding their pools, which apply not only to their own families but to neighbors who will share the pool. They should constantly supervise youngsters using small kiddie pools. It takes only a few seconds for a child to drown. And parents should always empty small plastic pools when children have finished playing.

Local School Study and the Public

A study the Southern Pines board of education is conducting will include, the PTA was told last week, not only the pros and cons of high school consolidation but also "just what the people of Southern Pines want in a high school."

That is commendable and the board should certainly be guided by what people want—but it is difficult for people to know what they want until they have the kind of information the board is said to be compiling: how consolidation has worked out for other schools comparable to Southern Pines in enrollment and academic standards, whether or not the curriculum could be improved or widened under consolidation, how such a move would affect the physical education program, and other matters.

So it would seem that there can be no accurate sampling of public opinion on consolidation until there is much wider knowledge in the community about the specific proposal of the county board of education (consolidation of Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen high schools) and about what such a move would mean specifically for the quality of education in Southern Pines.

We are pleased to see that the local board of education has asked the PTA to appoint four members to a study committee, to serve with four members appointed by the board and with three members chosen as committee leaders by a group of Southern Pines citizens

"SUFFICIENT INTEREST"

"... I am convinced American secondary education can be made satisfactory without any radical changes in the basic pattern. This can only be done, however, if the citizens in many localities display sufficient interest in their schools and are willing to support them. The improvements must come school by school and be made with due regard for the nature of the community. . . . Avoid generalizations, recognize the necessity of diversity, get the facts about your local school situation, elect a good school board, and support the efforts of the board to improve the schools."

DR. JAMES B. CONANT
In "The American High School Today"

who attended a county-wide consolidation discussion meeting at Aberdeen recently.

This group of 11 is expected to work closely with the board of education as it continues its consolidation study and will form a kind of link with the public, both as to what the committee is learning and what the public is thinking.

The board and the committee will not be working in the dark. There are numerous studies of school consolidation and the functions of high schools in all kinds of communities.

We are encouraged that a citizens' committee will work with the board of education and feel that the sum of their efforts should add up to a sensible solution for Southern Pines. And we hope that the two groups can move along fast enough with their investigations so that the public can be given their findings while interest in education is still strong.

L. V. O'Callaghan

The death of Leo V. O'Callaghan last Friday recalled to longtime residents of Southern Pines his long career of community service before his retirement from public life more than 10 years ago.

Mr. O'Callaghan had the distinction of serving for more than 20 years in each of three public service posts: on the town board of commissioners (plus one two-year term as mayor); as fire chief; and as Democratic precinct chairman.

Because he retired from public life more than 10 years ago, many younger residents of the town are unaware of his remarkable record. And we expect that there are newcomers to Southern Pines—persons who may now occupy positions of leadership in the community—to whom the name of Mr. O'Callaghan is altogether unfamiliar, so completely did he drop out of public life.

His record of service stands, however. Though perhaps taken for granted at the time, his contributions to Southern Pines—steadily and generously given—will long be remembered.

"Well, If It Fits, Why Don't You Wear It?"



RADIO FREE EUROPE:

'Help for Today, Hope for Future'

During their recent trip to Europe, Mr. and Mrs. Voit Gilmore of Southern Pines visited, in Munich, Germany, the headquarters of Radio Free Europe, the private, anti-Communist network supported by American contributions to the Crusade for Freedom. Mr. Gilmore, a member of the North Carolina Board of Conservation and Development, made the trip in connection with the State's industry hunting efforts.

Because the local couple had visited Radio Free Europe, the Crusade for Freedom sent The Pilot an explanation of this unique organization's work — work in which all Americans, with no matter how small a contribution, are privileged to help:

Radio Free Europe is now in its tenth year of sending undistorted broadcasts to the Soviet-dominated countries of East Europe.

A private organization supported by American contributions to Crusade for Freedom, Radio Free Europe sends factual news and information to 76,000,000 people in five Soviet-dominated countries: Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

Since 1950, RFE has grown from a one-transmitter station into the free world's most powerful and influential network broadcasting to the captive countries. A system of 28 transmitters in West Germany and Portugal now carry almost 3,000 program hours each week.

Some of the factors which indicate RFE's effectiveness, in an area which would otherwise be monopolized by Communist propaganda, are:

Heavy News Coverage

Ten minutes of objective news about free world events and developments behind the Iron Curtain are broadcast every hour on the hour. In addition, there are programs of news analysis, political commentary, religious services, music, drama, sports, medicine and entertainment. The programs contain material that is banned by the Communist-controlled radio and press.

Current Events

Events of vital importance to all those living under Communist domination are featured by RFE. The Berlin Crisis, the Geneva foreign ministers' conference, the Communist slaughter of Tibet, the appearance of anti-Communist books such as "Dr. Zhivago," and other events which are distorted by the Kremlin, are presented in their true light.

New Programs

In order to strengthen cultural ties between the free world and those forced to live under Soviet domination, RFE recently instituted a series of programs in collaboration with the European Cultural Center in Geneva. Another new series, called "Radio University," offers courses in con-

nection with the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium.

Audience Increase

Large-scale studies based on interview with hundreds of refugees show a steady increase in RFE listeners. Of those interviewed, more than three quarters said that they had listened to RFE regularly (more than twice a week). Over one-third said they had been daily listeners.

An important factor in the increase of RFE's audience is the rise of radio ownership in East Europe. Radio sets capable of picking up RFE broadcasts have increased almost a million since 1958. There are now over 9,000,000 sets in the captive countries.

Communist Attacks

RFE is attacked by the Communists more than any other

Western network broadcasting behind the Iron Curtain. Since May 1954, the Reds have attacked RFE over 7,000 times in East Europe alone.

Audience Reaction

Perhaps the best indication of RFE's effectiveness comes from its listeners. As a Polish listener told a Western reporter: "I have but one wish and that is that the people of Radio Free Europe are given thanks from its listeners for working for us. We assure them that this is important work is a great help and hope for us in our heavy life; it is a help for today and a hope for the future."

Contributions to RFE may be sent to Crusade for Freedom, c/o local postmaster or to its headquarters, 345 East 46th St., New York 17, N. Y.

The Public Speaking

'Young Barbarians' Find Movie Brutality Amusing

To the Editor:

Permit me to relate an incident that occurred at a recent performance of a motion picture entitled "They Came to Cordura," a story of the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1916. The picture is so superbly directed and acted as to create the illusion of reality. Gary Cooper, as Major Thorn, has to endure several days of torture, physical and mental, with a detail of half-crazed mutinous soldiers in a mountain desert. Near the very end, in full view of his soldiers, who make no effort to help him, Major Thorn is dragged behind a runaway hand car, bumped over the ties and ballast of a railway roadbed until, mercifully, he becomes unconscious. The mutineers think him dead, and the performance is so realistic that the audience can hardly be blamed for thinking that the bruised, battered, bloody human form they see is that of a corpse.

It is almost incredible, yet a simple fact, that three youths guffawed loudly at this exhibition of raw courage by a leader at the point of collapse from fatigue even before he takes this final beating. They ceased to laugh only when rebuked by some one in front of them. Quite

possibly some smart Alec will come forward to explain to stupid persons such as I that neither parents nor society have cause to worry. Yet I simply cannot believe that it is quite normal for the callow to be so callous. I do not want to be told by some know-it-all that the mere passage of a few years can transform young barbarians, with sensibilities little above the anthropoid, into intelligent, high-spirited adults, qualified to recognize courage and to help choose, or even become, the leaders of our nation.

In Southern Pines we have no slums, nor do we have the gangs that slums breed. But is it entirely true to say that we have no vestige of the same kinds of juvenile thinking, or lack of thinking, or lack of feeling that characterize the youthful gangsters of big city slums? Isn't it a bit strange that the sons of respectable middle class parents, reared in a clean little country town, can scoff at the representation of decency and courage, and find brutality amusing, exactly as do the young gangsters of our big cities?

Parents who want to do something about it can find the means to do so. But will they work at the job?

DONALD G. HERRING
Southern Pines

ON GROWING OLD

Be with me, Beauty, for the fire is dying,
My dog and I are old, too old for roving,
Man, whose young passion sets the spindrift flying,
Is soon too lame to march, too cold for loving.

I take the book and gather to the fire,
Turning old yellow leaves, minute by minute,
The clock ticks to my heart; a withered wire
Moves a thin ghost of music in the spinet.

I cannot sail your seas, I cannot wander
Your cornland, nor your hill-land, nor your valleys—
Ever again, nor share the battle yonder
Where the young knight the broken squadron rallies;

Only stay quiet while my mind remembers
The beauty of fire from the beauty of embers.

—JOHN MASEFIELD

Grains of Sand

Alston House Lore

Isaac S. (Ike) London, editor of the Rockingham Post-Dispatch, attended the April 9 reception at the historic Alston House in Deep River Township, given by the Moore County Historical Association for Mrs. Charles Cannon of Concord and Philip Alston Stone of Oxford, Miss., a descendant of the original Col. Philip Alston who owned the house when it was the scene of a skirmish in the American Revolution.

Mr. London, an authority on the history of Richmond County, of which Rockingham is the county seat, and adjoining areas, noted in the Post-Dispatch after the visit that he was especially interested in the reception because "Colonel Alston was a half-brother to the grandfather of my grandfather, J. J. Jackson of Pittsboro." (How many of us could say who the half-brother of our grandfather's grandfather was?)

The Rockingham editor relates some hitherto unpublished lore about the historic house and its 1,000-acre plantation which became the property of Gov. Benjamin Williams in 1798.

Gen. William Henry Harrington, Mr. London relates, sent two wagon-loads of cotton seed to Gov. Williams and the Governor, writing to thank him, said: "I have instructed my Foreman to pitch the crop in hills four feet equidistant." This, notes Mr. London, would look queer to farmers of 1960.

Canal Plan Recalled

Also noted by Mr. London was an 1816 proposal for a canal from the Yadkin River across lower Montgomery County eastward to tap Deep River near the Alston House, to provide water transportation to Fayetteville for produce from the mountains. The proposal never became a reality. If it had, the landscape might have become considerably changed near the "House in the Horseshoe" in the big horseshoe bend of Deep River.

If the area, which is still pretty wild and lonely, had become a junction point between canal and river, and so a center of commerce, it could well have seen the development of a community there—in the process of which, of course, the "House in the Horseshoe" might have been torn down, and lost to "Progress" as so many other old places have been.

Young Novelist

Many persons at the reception met with interest 20-year-old Philip Alston Stone, a Harvard student whose novel, "No Place to Run," was published by Viking Press when he was 17 years old. His fellow-townsmen at Oxford, Miss., Nobel prize-winning William Faulkner, has praised the book. The young man's visit to the Sandhills has stimulated a flurry of sales of the book locally.

'Noted Author Big Hit'

A copy of the Daily News of Jacksonville (N. C.) arrived in the office the other day with a front-page headline, "Noted Author Is Big Hit at Book Fair," and above the headline was a three-column photo of Glen Rounds of Southern Pines entertaining a group of children, showing them on a big blackboard "how to draw, in one easy lesson."

The story begins, "He's got a scraggly moustache and a couple of his front teeth are missing. He talks with a Western drawl and his brand of humor is the kind that sneaks up on you when you don't expect it."

"He's Glen Rounds, well known writer and illustrator of children's books and one of the biggest hits of the current Jacksonville Book Fair at City Hall Auditorium. . . ."

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