

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.

Support the Christmas Cheer Program

We urge generous support for Moore County's Christmas Cheer program—a county-wide coordinated effort to make Christmas a happier time for individuals and families who need help.

The names of persons who receive food baskets—sometimes, in the case of children, toys or other gifts—are provided largely by the Welfare Department whose case workers have checked the circumstances of each person or family and vouch for the genuineness of their need.

The program is well administered in the various towns of the county, reaching out into rural areas around the towns, by organizations or individuals who give many hours of volunteer work. In Southern Pines, this function is performed by members of the John Boyd Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, who for years have done a good job of it, receiving, in addition to gifts of food, old toys which members of the post repair if need be. Probably no other toys given at Christmas time in this area bring more pleasure than these once-

broken, outgrown or rejected ones that are distributed with the cheer baskets.

The program in Southern Pines needs cash as well as food donations in grocery store containers, because more food than the amount donated always must be bought to fill the 75 or more baskets that are prepared.

The Pilot believes in government-financed public welfare programs, and has tried to use its influence to extend and improve these programs, because private charity can never efficiently cope with or reach the needs of the aged, children, the disabled, the handicapped and others. But if modern Americans no longer have to be as much their brothers' personal keepers as in former days, there is still no substitute for personal generosity and personal attention to less fortunate persons.

The Christmas Cheer program provides this personal touch and any one can share in it by giving food, toys or money to the effort.

Air Rifles Are Dangerous Weapons

We commend the town council for authorizing an ordinance that will prohibit the firing of air rifles or BB guns within the town limits.

Here is the background of recent incidents that brought a demand for such an ordinance:

Street lights have been shot out; lights were shot out in an unoccupied home; lights on a tank at the National Guard armory were shot out (police have apprehended the boys); a window in a private home was hit and shattered; a BB gun was discharged at a metal bucket near which some children were playing and the shot ricocheted, narrowly missing the head of one of the children; boys shooting at squirrels, accompanied by barking dogs, outside a church while a service was going on, had to be reprimanded and sent away; and, worst of all, an air rifle was actually pointed and discharged from a distance, at a group of boys who had gathered for a Scout meeting.

Without an ordinance on the books prohibiting any firing of air rifles or BB guns in town, the police, though concerned about such incidents as those noted, can do little, unless there is property damage or some other offense against an

existing ordinance.

To comply with legal requirements, the new ordinance has to be advertised and come up for a public hearing, but it is good to know that it has been authorized and will be adopted as quickly as possible.

We urge parents to think twice before giving a child an air rifle or BB gun. In no case, should such a gun be given to a younger child or an older one who has not demonstrated a sense of responsibility.

Even if air rifles and BB guns are relegated to out-of-town areas, parents should instruct children not to shoot at song birds—which are protected by law—or at small animals like squirrels and rabbits who can be wounded but rarely killed with such weapons, simply causing the animal needless suffering.

It is a great American tradition that all boys become proficient in the use of firearms and the air rifle and BB gun have a legitimate function in the first steps of this process, but they should be used strictly in target practice and all the well-known customs in handling regular fire arms should be taught and observed.

The council's action will help, but the basic responsibility on control and use of air guns lies with parents.

Rural Diets in a Changing Society

Many Moore County rural families are making more money than they used to—or than their parents did—but they may not be eating as well.

This interesting aspect of changing rural and semi-rural life was brought out in this month's meeting of the county commissioners during reports made by Miss Flora McDonald, home economics agent, and Mrs. Eva Crawford, Negro home economics agent.

One of the commissioners questioned Miss McDonald as to whether rural fam-

ilies were raising a considerable portion of their food. She replied that with one or sometimes both parents working off the farm, in industry or other occupation, many rural families are buying an increasingly large proportion of their food. Nobody in the family has time or the energy to tend a garden.

Miss McDonald made this interesting point: it's true, she said, that you can buy a can of tomatoes more cheaply than you can raise that many tomatoes, but if a family is growing tomatoes, they grow and preserve a lot of them—more than they can afford to buy, or will buy, if they are getting canned tomatoes at a store.

"They make the money, but often they use it for something else, not for food," she said.

Mrs. Crawford said that she had made a survey of 500 4-H Club members and found that only 33 of the families represented by this group of young people had family cows.

This lack of milk in the diet of rural residents also came out in a survey of 110 Home Demonstration Club members. Only 25 per cent of them, the Negro home agent said, bought milk.

Mechanization of farms seems also to be a deterrent on home gardens. As one of the commissioners pointed out, and as confirmed by the home economics agents, one of the reasons given by rural families for not having vegetable gardens is that they can't get anybody to plow up the ground in the first place.

The new pattern of rural life, in which farm income is supplemented by industrial income, is, we think, basically sound and had done much to raise the standard of rural living in Moore County and throughout the State and the South.

Undesirable side-effects of this revolution in rural living—such as the food habits pointed out by the home economics agents—will be corrected in time. In 4-H Clubs and Future Homemakers classes in schools, girls are learning good dietary practices and will, we hope, when they have homes of their own, put more of their income into food and less into payments on TV sets and other luxuries. And the home economics agents themselves are evidently trying to raise the dietary standard of these families—who are by no means all rural families, many of whom eat extremely well—in a time of changing customs everywhere.

"Hello, Ike? If You Think You Have A Dollar Problem..."



'AMERICA'S FOLK-TYPE ART FORM'

The 'Western'--Symbol of Change

From the Chapel Hill Weekly

The saying grace of the western hero is his gun. It is the deus-ex-machina, the symbol of masculinity, the hero's key to individuality—a quick and potent agent of death or sustainer of life" says Martin Nussbaum in the October issue of "Social Forces," edited at the University here.

The adult western is America's folk-type art form, "the first to have features of universality," says Nussbaum.

The English had their Elizabethan theatre, the Greeks, their sculpture, the Spanish their Flamenco dancing, and finally, the Americans have their "adult western."

Writing on "Sociological Symbolism of the Adult Western," Nussbaum says that this form permits emotional identification in "our culture." With six features of recurring ideas or emotions that have produced this form, he implies that the western is "universal enough to be appreciated by a wide range of people as the

answer to their current problems."

1. The western is a symbol of foreign adventure to us. The days of the wild and woolly west are bygone days and few living persons have experienced them. The land of the west is a heroic land.

2. The westerner is a "universal-type hero." Like Davy Crockett, the pioneer, or like an idolized baseball player, such as Babe Ruth, but more than these, the western hero is faceless and can be any man who wants to go out and brave the elements.

3. The western man is a "loner." He is independent and individualistic. "Togetherness" may be the keynote today, but the western hero can move at will and drift with the winds, the wind and the tide. He is not tied down, there are no apron strings attached.

4. The western hero has an unbreakable contact with nature. He is like primitive man, and knows how to live with nature. He sees nature as she is and does not see things as a by-product of nature.

5. The western man is a combi-

nation of good and evil. Modern man is complex and does not see the absolute extremes of good and evil, but finds a middle road between the two. So does today's westerner. He incorporates the "inadequacies," "psychoses," "emotions" and "fears" of modern man.

6. Finally, the gun is the most important feature of the western hero. Not only the gun itself, be it rifle, six-shooter or sawed-off carbine, but the way he uses it is important. The gun is fascinating; it is the mediator in all situations; it, finally, solves a difficult situation when all other methods have failed.

Nussbaum says that the "adult western" appears at this time of modern man's advances when the world is moving at such a fast pace in developments and progress, "where his inventions and machines are speeding ahead of him and getting out of control," in a revolt against rationalism and reason.

"Social Forces" is a quarterly journal of scientific and social interpretation published by the University of North Carolina Press. Editors of "Social Forces" are UNC Kenan Professor of Sociology Rupert B. Vance and Dr. Katherine Joehrer.

George Mason's 'Sacred Rights'

Today, December 15, is Bill of Rights Day, observing adoption of the first 10 amendments to the U. S. Constitution 168 years ago.

On this page last week mention was made of George Mason of Virginia (1725-1792) who wrote for Virginia a Declaration of Rights on which the later "Bill of Rights," or first 10 amendments to the Constitution, was modeled, and who fought vigorously for the inclusion of such a Bill of Rights in the Constitution.

Mason died at Gunston Hall, his estate on the Potomac River, now restored and open to the public, less than a year after the Bill of Rights amendments were adopted.

Notable in the will that he left was a noble statement on liberty, in the form of an admonition to his sons:

"I recommend it to my sons from my own experience in life, to prefer the happiness of independence and a private station to the troubles and vexation of public business, but if either their own inclinations or the necessity of the times should engage them in public affairs, I charge them on a father's blessing never to let the motives of private interest or ambition induce them to betray, nor the terrors of poverty and disgrace, or the fear of danger or of death deter them from asserting the liberty of their country and endeavoring to transmit to their posterity those sacred rights to which themselves were born."

A2c DONALD D. WALTER, USAF Misawa Air Base, Japan

(Ed. Note: A2c Walter, a native and former resident of Southern Pines, is the son of Mrs. S. D. Fobes of this community.)

Grains of Sand

Christmas Cheer
Well, here comes the National Safety Council with some of those releases that take the bloom off the nicest times of the year:

"How many persons will die in fires during the Christmas holiday?" one story begins, with further details too gruesome to relate.

Another starts: "Christmas suggestion for the man who has everything—almost: Buy him an auto seat belt..."

Wouldn't that look great under the Christmas tree?

Simple

Crime, says Sir Sydney Smith, a British authority, is "simply the normal development of unchecked primitive instincts."

And the reason for mounting juvenile crime, he thinks, is failure by parents to control children.

Crime asserts Sir Sydney, is "not an abnormality but a form of human conduct."

It's up to parents, therefore, to decide what "form of conduct" their children's lives are to follow.

We can't believe it's that simple—but it's refreshing to hear somebody NOT being profound and complicated about juvenile delinquency.

Goose Pond Time Again

Here's a reminder to both newcomers and oldtimers that it's time to visit Gaddy's goose pond (official name: Lockhart Gaddy's Wild Goose Refuge) near Ansonville again to see the amazing sight of 12,000 to 15,000 Canada geese and ducks, many of them so tame that you can walk right in among them and feed them bread and corn.

A tip: feeding time is around 3 to 4 p. m.—and that's a sight! A truck drives back and forth on a hill dumping off bushels and bushels of dried corn on the ear and thousands of the big birds flock to the hillside from the water and nearby areas to polish the corn off in short order.

There's no better place to take a gang of kids for an afternoon's outing.

Refreshing

The Rockingham Post-Dispatch, of which Isaac S. (Ike) London is editor, remains the most refreshing weekly newspaper in the state and we suppose in the nation for that matter.

Ike breaks most of the rules and customs of writing and making up a modern newspaper but ends up with a paper that is more readable than most.

We just came across a corner of a Post-Dispatch front page we tore off back in October because of two items that caught the eye.

Up in the top right-hand corner of the front page ("ear," it's known in newspaper parlance) where conventional papers sometimes carry the weather report, circulation figures or an exhortation to Buy Christmas Seals or Support the March of Dimes, this notation appears:

"A Rockingham man who went to a Charlotte night-spot says the music was so bad that when a waiter fell down with a trayful of dishes, six couples got up and started to dance."

Right under this is a two-column headline in capital letters, in the right-hand top or "lead story" position:

NO COUNTY COURT UNTIL OCT 18, SO REJOICE, YE PURE IN HEART

Not 10 other editors in the United States would have had the guts to write and print a headline like that. Rejoice, Rockingham, in your Post-Dispatch editor.

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